

## God Speaks Anew in Christ

Have you ever had the experience of trying to explain something to someone and it seemed that every way you tried that you could just **not** get the person to respond or to take appropriate action? A friend of mine had lost an eye in a childhood accident and wore a glass eye as a result. He was taking a course on communication and during this course, he was role playing the part of a supervisor that was trying to convince another person to wear his safety glasses on the job. He had tried all the standard arguments about it being the rules that the government has that we must abide by, that the Company really did care about the workers, and that it was for the person's own good. All of these arguments were countered by the person who was playing the role of the employee. Finally, the "supervisor" said, as he discreetly remove the glass eye, "Well, I tell you why I wear my safety glasses it's because I no longer have a spare." With that he set the glass eye down on the table right in front of the "employee" and with that he ended the argument.

In a similar way, God had been trying to get through to people the message of Who He is, the message of His character, His nature and the message of His infinite love for mankind.

**HEBREWS 1:1-3** Ever since the creation of man, God has been in the process of revealing Himself and His nature to man. He started out doing this with Adam and Eve as He would come to them in the cool of the day and walk with them in the Garden of Eden. After the Fall and the subsequent break in fellowship caused by sin, God started establishing a growing and ever increasing revelation of Himself to mankind. He used various means and events scattered throughout history to do this revelation. Sometimes the revelation was more direct in that He used prophets to speak to the people.

Much of God's dealings with mankind was concentrated in the descendants of Abraham, whom God chose for the purpose of providing a better revelation of Himself. This better revelation was culminated in the person of Jesus.

First, we are told that God spoke to us by Jesus. We can see from this then how Jesus is the "Word of God." He is the means by which God communicated to us.

Second, Jesus is described as the Son of God. His earthly life was initiated by direct action of God through the Holy Spirit. He had no earthly father but was born of the Spirit.

The third point is that Jesus has been appointed heir of all things. He is the ultimate owner of everything. In Psalms 24:1 we read that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein.

We also see that Jesus is the Beginning of all things in that God made the worlds by Jesus and, as such, He is One with the Creator. This "oneness" is further seen in the description of Jesus being the "brightness" or "radiance" of God's glory. Jesus is what radiates from God or goes out from Him and is, therefore, inseparable from God. This is like saying that Jesus is the express image of God.

Jesus is the "upholder" or "sustainer" of all things which indicates that He is the energy that holds everything together by the power of His word through which God spoke everything into existence.

All these things and attributes describes the One that took upon Himself the job of getting rid of our sins. Since He is that great and powerful, then we can be confident that He is able to accomplish the task of purging our sins and providing purification for sins. When He had accomplished that, then He took the place (or seat) of honor in Heaven indicating that the work was finished and that He is truly Lord of all.

**HEBREWS 1:4-9** The author of Hebrews started out establishing that God's revelation to us in Christ is more complete than His revelation to us by the prophets of old. He now moves to establish that Jesus is also greater than the angels because of His relationship to the Father. In verse 5 God declared "Thou art My Son" which was never said to an angel.

Since Jesus is greater than the prophet and greater than the angels, then what should be our response to Him and to his message?

Just as the Psalmist (Ps 89) observed that God is greater than all things spiritual and physical, we find that Jesus is greater than any son of Adam or other created being.

**HEBREWS 1:10** God reveals Himself in Creation, but the revelation we have from Jesus is greater than that revelation since He Himself is greater than the Creation. This verse is written concerning God the Son Who existed even before creation and is indeed the Creator. Since God the Son is the Creator, then He is superior to all created things.

**HEBREWS 1:11-12** The superiority of Christ to all things created will be validated as those things decay and change while He remains the same and endures eternally.

**HEBREWS 1:13-14** We see the superiority of Christ to the angels by whom God revealed Himself in times past since it is only God the Son to Whom God the Father promise to put all things under. While we see Jesus as Lord and serve Him, the angels are to serve us who will inherit salvation.