

## *“Today, If You Will Hear His Voice. . .”*

### The Voice of Jesus Superior to the Voice of the Prophets

1. A major thread running through the entire book of Hebrews is the idea that God now speaks to the church in far superior ways than in times past, because it is through Jesus Himself, that the Father now speaks;
2. **Heb 1:1-2**—Paul begins the first chapter of the book of Hebrews with the declaration that God now speaks to His people through His Son; the voice of Jesus is better than the voice of the prophets;
3. This is saying that the church at Jerusalem is in a much better place than anyone living in the Old Testament, that they are in a more favored situation, because they have Jesus Himself representing God, and speaking for God, not just mere human prophets!
4. But this privilege of having Jesus as Prophet also carries grave responsibilities--
5. **Deut 18:18-19**—Neglecting the words of prophets always brought serious consequences; the Old Testament is filled with stories of what happens when the words of the prophets were ignored, taken lightly or rejected:
6. Jesus was that Prophet who was to come, like unto His brethren and rejecting His words carried stiffer punishment than rejecting the words of human prophets before Him;
7. Therefore, the warnings and appeals scattered in the book of Hebrews to the Jewish converts in Jerusalem to remain faithful to the new covenant and not draw back to the old covenant ceremonialism because it was expedient, convenient, were not to be taken lightly, because these were the words of Jesus;
8. Now, Paul presents some very systematic and powerful arguments to show why it is serious business to reject the words of Jesus:
  - a. First, he shows that Jesus is greater than the angels and greater than Moses
  - b. Why does Paul present arguments to show that Jesus is greater than the angels and Moses?
  - c. This is necessary to support his argument that if those who disobeyed the words of angels and the words of Moses were visited with sore punishments, how much more will those who disobey the words of Jesus Himself be visited with greater punishment?

### Jesus Better Than Angels

#### 9. Jesus greater than angels in Hebrews 1

- a. **Heb 1:4**—being made so much better than angels as He had obtained a more excellent name than they;
- b. **Heb 1:5-7**—Jesus is the Son of God while the angels are mere flaming ministers (servants); angels told to worship the Son even after He became flesh, lower than the angels
- c. **Heb 1:8**—Jesus called God by the Father
- d. **Heb 1:9**—Jesus anointed above his fellows
- e. **Heb 1:10**—Jesus called Lord by the Father; He also created all things
- f. **Heb 1:13**—No one but Jesus has the privilege of sitting at the right hand of God

## The Voice of Jesus Superior to the Voice of Angels

10. **Rejecting the voice of Jesus is more serious than rejecting the words of angels**—after showing that Jesus is greater than the angels, Paul explains that rejecting the voice of Jesus was more serious than rejecting the voice of angels:
- a. **Heb 2:1-4**--Paul illustrates this point powerfully by referring back to the time of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai;
  - b. (**Deut 33:2; Acts 7:38, 53**)--angels played a direct role in the giving of the Law, and disregarding the words of angels resulted in sore punishment for those who were disobedient to their words (a reference to the slaughterer of many who broke the Ten Commandments at the time of the worship of the golden calf);
  - c. Paul argues that greater punishment awaits those who reject the words spoken by Christ Himself and confirmed by those who heard Him
    - i. **Dan 9:27**--for 3 ½ years, Jesus Himself preached the gospel to the Jewish nation, and then His disciples continued the work of speaking the words of Jesus for 3 ½ more years until the close of Jewish probation in 34 A.D.;
  - d. The sad result of rejecting the words of Jesus is seen in the following words of Jesus Himself:
    - i. **Mat 23:38** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.
    - ii. **Mat 7:23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
    - iii. **Mat 25:41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
11. Paul's appeal therefore to the Hebrew converts in **Hebrews 2**: Think twice about reverting back to Judaism because it is tantamount to refusing to heed the words of Jesus which carries greater punishment!
12. In a roundabout way, Paul also presents an incentive to the Hebrew converts to remain faithful to the new covenant by saying that the giving of the Law written in tables of stone by angels in the Old Covenant has been superseded by the writing of the Law by God Himself in hearts and minds (**Heb 8:8-12**)
- a. How could the Hebrew converts refuse an offer like this?

## Jesus Greater Than Moses

### 13. Jesus greater than Moses in Hebrews 3

- a. **Heb 3:3**—Jesus has more glory than Moses because He built the house of God
- b. **Heb 3:5**—Moses was faithful in God’s house as a servant, but Christ as a Son over the house of God

## The Voice of Jesus Superior to the Voice of Moses

14. **Rejecting the voice of Jesus is more serious than rejecting the words of Moses**--after showing that Jesus is greater than Moses, Paul explains that rejecting the voice of Jesus was more serious than rejecting the voice of Moses:

- a. **Heb 3:7, 13, 15; Heb 4:7**—In chapter 3 (and 4) of Hebrews, Paul again warns the Hebrew converts in Jerusalem against refusing to heed the words of Christ; this warning is repeated four times and cannot be taken lightly without suffering dire consequences; **“Today, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts. . .”**
- b. **Heb 4:1-2**—the Israelites heard the gospel preached to them by Moses but profited not from it because of stubbornness and unbelief; likewise, the Jewish Christians are urged to take heed because the gospel was preached to them by no other than Jesus Himself and to reject His voice would bring sorer punishments,
- c. **Heb 3:16-19; 1 Cor 10:11**—The Israelites who perished in the wilderness in the time of Moses as an example of what happens when the heart is hardened (through unbelief) against His voice;

15. **Heb 4:14-16; Matt 11:28-29**—**“Come boldly to the throne of grace...”** are the words of Jesus Himself, as compassionate and merciful high priest to the tried and tempted Hebrew converts in Jerusalem;

- a. To return to the temple and its services meant refusing this gracious invitation to receive benefit from His atoning work in the heavenly sanctuary
- b. It was repeating the same mistake the Israelites made by refusing to enter Canaan because of unbelief

It is those who by faith follow Jesus in the great work of the atonement who receive the benefits of His mediation in their behalf, while those who reject the light which brings to view this work of ministration are not benefited thereby. The Jews who rejected the light given at Christ’s first advent, and refused to believe on Him as the Saviour of the world, could not receive pardon through Him. When Jesus at His ascension entered by His own blood into the heavenly sanctuary to shed upon His disciples the blessings of His mediation, the Jews were left in total darkness to continue their useless sacrifices and offerings. The ministration of types and shadows had ceased. That door by which men had formerly found access to God was no longer open. The Jews had refused to seek Him in the only way whereby He could then be found, through the ministration in the sanctuary in heaven. Therefore they found no communion with God. To them the door was shut. They had no knowledge of Christ as the true sacrifice and the only mediator before God; hence they could not receive the benefits of His mediation. **GC 430**

## The Old Covenant Superseded by the New Covenant

16. But why does Paul focus on angels and on Moses in the first part of Hebrews?

- a. **Angels**—had to do with the giving of the **Law**
  - b. **Moses**—had to do with the giving of the **gospel** (**Heb 4:2**; to Moses were given the instructions to build the sanctuary)
17. Moses and the angels together represent the entire Old covenant dispensation which had been superseded by the New covenant of which Christ is Mediator and which is also so much better; therefore, to revert back to the Old covenant was simply a foolish, unprofitable and stale proposition!
18. The main point of Paul’s thesis in Hebrews is this:
- a. Drifting back to Judaism and old covenant ceremonialism was equivalent to rejecting the appeals of Christ Himself and would be extremely dangerous to do!
  - b. Doing so would also be missing out on the great benefits offered in the new covenant!
    - i. **Heb 8:6**—the new covenant was based on better promises with a better Mediator with a more excellent ministry
    - ii. **Heb 8:10-12**—the law to be written in the heart and the sins and iniquities to be remembered no more; relationship with God would be more intimate (“they shall all know me. . .”)
    - iii. **Heb 9:13-14**—the blood of bulls and goat and the ashes of a heifer only sanctified the flesh, but the blood of Jesus, purifies the mind and the conscience
    - iv. **Heb 10:11-14**—the offering of sacrifices could never take away sin but the once and for all sacrificial dying of Jesus perfects them that are sanctified

## Jesus Speaks from Heaven

19. **Heb 12:24-25**--Paul concludes his thesis by saying that the voice of Jesus carries more authority now because He is speaking not from the earth but from heaven! All the more reason for not ignoring it and taking it lightly!
- a. it is the blood of Jesus “speaking” to us from heaven—the blood of Jesus speaks to us of better things than the blood of Abel, because while the blood of Abel cries out for vengeance (**Gen 4:10**), the blood of Jesus speaks of forgiveness and pardon
  - b. the blood sprinkling—a reference to the atoning ministration of Jesus in heavenly sanctuary which results in the forgiveness of sin
  - c. Reverting back to Judaism means refusing the benefits of the blood of sprinkling;

## If Any Man Hear My Voice. . .

20. **Rev 3:20**—In the meantime, **Laodicea, the last church, is invited to hear the sweet words of Jesus from the second apartment of the sanctuary in heaven;**
- a. The invitation from Jesus to Laodicea **to buy of Him, the eye salve, gold tried in the fire and the white raiment** is given as He is about to close His ministration in the heavenly sanctuary--which is all the more reason for not ignoring His words!

- b. Jesus is speaking to Laodicea from the Most Holy Place and the result of ignoring that voice is being spewed out of His mouth (cut off from among His people)
21. The throne of grace Paul wrote about in the book of Hebrews was actually located in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary at the time of the writing of Hebrews;
- a. **Rev 4:1-5**—the throne John described at the time of the writing of Revelation in 99 AD is the same throne of grace Paul described in **Hebrews 4:16!**
    - i. ***“The seven lamps of fire burning before the throne of God”*** places this throne of grace in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary at the time of the Paul and John;
  - b. Since 1844, the throne of grace has been in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary;
  - c. In **Dan 7:9**, Daniel was given of vision of God’s throne moving to this apartment in 1844, at the termination of the 2300 prophetic years of **Dan 8:14**; In **Dan 7:9-10**, the throne of God is described with flaming wheels as it moves to the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary; in **Rev 4**, the wheels are not mentioned because the throne of God is stationary in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary;
- 22. From this new location, Jesus is offering full and final release and rest from sin though His final atonement—the full application of the new covenant promise, the blotting out of sin**
- a. This benefit cannot be received while Adventists are drawing back to the first apartment of the sanctuary and advocating a first apartment gospel—sinning and being forgiven and sinning again. . .no final cleansing of sin! No character perfection;
23. Today, if we hear that voice, we are to gladly receive His words instead of hardening our hearts as the Israelites and the Jews did in the time of Moses and Paul; we are to follow Jesus by faith in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary
24. Laodiceans today are warned not to compromise as did many Hebrew converts in order to be more acceptable and more agreeable with unbelieving Jews;
- a. Truths discovered by the pioneers of the church of Laodicea (Seventh-day Adventists) at a great sacrifice and cost to themselves must not be allowed to trail in the dust, marginalized or labeled “errors” (the sanctuary, the investigative judgment, the three angels messages, etc.)

A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner or sign which makes us a distinctive people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed it was not the best policy in securing success to our institutions. This distinctive banner is to be borne through the world to the close of probation. **2SM 385.**

25. The question is, are we going to learn from the mistakes of the Israelites and the Jews or are we going to repeat them?

26. Today, Jesus speaks from the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary; how can we hear His voice if we are not familiar with the His work in that apartment?