

Devotional from Pastor Ho
April 28, 2021

Hebrews 1:1-2, *“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”*

The letter to the Hebrews opens with a characteristic contrast between the old days and these “last days.” These “last days” are the days in which the Son himself serves as messenger of God’s word, beginning with Jesus’ ministry on earth and continue through our days until his future return. Whereas in the past God spoke “at many times and in many ways” by many prophets, in our days he speaks continuously by his Son and his “apostles” (which literally means “the ones sent from” the Son), represented by their written words in the New Testament. That God now speaks by the Son doesn’t mean the words by the prophets are now obsolete. Rather, with the coming of the Son, the last days are the days the prophetic words are fulfilled. Even though those words have been fulfilled, they have not lost their values. Instead, through those words, we are reminded of God’s manifold indictments to our fathers in the faith, “that we might not desire evil as they did” (1 Cor 10:6), that we might cling ever closely to Jesus for salvation.

The first chapter of Hebrews continues to introduce the Son, especially his superiority to the angels. By the time we get to chapter 2, we are immediately confronted with the answer to the question, “So what, if God has spoken to us by his Son in these last days?” Answer: We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it (2:1). The logic is that, if violations against the words by the prophets received “just retribution,” how much more will the punishment be if we neglect “such a great salvation,” founded by the Son, attested to us by those who heard, testified by God’s signs and wonders and miracles, and accompanied by the gifts of the Holy Spirit (2:2-4). The intent of the author is to encourage his readers and, by extension, us to hold fast to “such great salvation,” because by his word and his sacrifice, Jesus by whom God has spoken to us and also our high priest “is able to help those who are being tempted” (2:18). He saves us not only when we first believed, but also every time temptations come our way. His grace sustains us when we overcome, but especially when we succumb.

Prayer: God our Father, thank you for speaking to us by your Son, because only he can save us from our sins, and he did. In his name. Amen.

何牧師的靈修

2021年4月21日

希伯來書 1 章 1-2 節：“神既在古時藉著眾先知多次多方的曉諭列祖，就在這末世藉著他兒子曉諭我們；又早已立他為承受萬有的，也曾藉著他創造諸世界。”

給希伯來人的信以古時與這“末世”之間的典型對比開始。這“末世”是兒子當神話語的使者的日子，從耶穌降臨在世上傳道開始，一直延續到他再來的時候。過去，神藉著眾先知“多次多方”的曉諭，在我們的日子裡，他持續的曉諭我們，藉著兒子和“使徒”（字面意思是兒子“那裡派來的使者”），以新約的書面文字來代表。神現今藉著兒子的曉諭並不意味著先知的話現在已經陳舊廢去了。相反，因著兒子的來臨，末世的日子就是先知預言實現的日子。雖然先知的話已經實現了，它們並沒有失去價值。反而，通過這些話，我們被提醒關於神對我們信心裡的列祖的控告，“叫我們不要貪戀惡事，像他們那樣貪戀的”（歌林多前書 10:6），使我們為救恩更加緊地抱住耶穌。

希伯來書的第一章繼續介紹聖子，尤其是他指出他比天使更加優越。當我們進入第二章時，我們即刻面臨一個問題的答案，“如果在這末世神藉著他兒子曉諭我們，那又如何呢？” 答案是：我們當越發鄭重所聽見的道理，恐怕我們隨流失去（2:1）。這邏輯是，如果乾犯悖逆先知所傳達的話得到“該受的報應”，那麼如果我們忽視如此“大的救恩”，是由兒子建立的，有那些聽見的人給我們證實，又有神蹟，奇事和百般的異能，加上聖靈的恩賜向我們證明（2:2-4），懲罰不知要加上幾倍。作者的目的是鼓勵讀者，並進而鼓勵我們，抓緊“如此大的救恩”，因為通過他的話語和他的犧牲，神藉著他曉諭我們的耶穌以及我們的大祭司“能搭救被試探的人”（2:18）。他不僅在我們最初相信時拯救了我們，也在每次誘惑臨到時拯救了我們。他的恩典托住我們，無論是當我們克服誘惑時，更特別是當我們屈服於誘惑時能再站起來。

禱告：神我們的父，謝謝你藉著兒子曉諭我們，因為唯有他能從我們的罪裡拯救我們，而他已經完成了。奉他的名禱告。阿門。

何牧师的灵修

2021年4月21日

希伯来书 1 章 1-2 节：“神既在古时借着众先知多次多方的晓谕列祖，就在这末世借着他儿子晓谕我们；又早已立他为承受万有的，也曾借着他创造诸世界。”

给希伯来人的信以古时与这“末世”之间的典型对比开始。这“末世”是儿子当神话语的使者的日子，从耶稣降临在世上传道开始，一直延续到他再来的时候。过去，神借着众先知“多次多方”的晓谕，在我们的日子里，他持续的晓谕我们，借着儿子和“使徒”（字面意思是儿子“那里派来的使者”），以新约的书面文字来代表。神现今借着儿子的晓谕并不意味着先知的的话现在已经陈旧废去了。相反，因着儿子的来临，末世的日子就是先知预言实现的日子。虽然先知的的话已经实现了，它们并没有失去价值。反而，通过这些话，我们被提醒关于神对我们信心里的列祖的控告，“叫我们不要贪恋恶事，像他们那样贪恋的”（歌林多前书 10:6），使我们为救恩更加紧地抱住耶稣。

希伯来书的第一章继续介绍圣子，尤其是他指出他比天使更加优越。当我们进入第二章时，我们即刻面临一个问题的答案，“如果在这末世神借着他儿子晓谕我们，那又如何呢？”答案是：我们当越发郑重所听见的道理，恐怕我们随流失去（2:1）。这逻辑是，如果干犯悖逆先知所传达的话得到“该受的报应”，那么如果我们忽视如此“大的救恩”，是由儿子建立的，有那些听见的人给我们证实，又有神迹，奇事和百般的异能，加上圣灵的恩赐向我们证明（2:2-4），惩罚不知要加上几倍。作者的目的是鼓励读者，并进而鼓励我们，抓紧“如此大的救恩”，因为通过他的话语和他的牺牲，神借着他晓谕我们的耶稣以及我们的大祭司“能搭救被试探的人”（2:18）。他不仅在我们最初相信时拯救了我们，也在每次诱惑临到时拯救了我们。他的恩典托住我们，无论是当我们克服诱惑时，更特别是当我们屈服于诱惑时能再站起来。

祷告：神我们的父，谢谢你借着儿子晓谕我们，因为唯有他能从我们的罪里拯救我们，而他已经完成了。奉他的名祷告。阿门。