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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Today we begin a study of the marveous book of Hebrews.
- We begin with Verse one:

Hebrews 1:1

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

- The penman whom God inspired to write the words of the epistle is unknown to us.
- The truth is that only God knows for certainty.
- There is evidence that favors the apostle Paul.

- This epistle was written to **Jewish Christians** who were considering **returning to Judaism.**
- The Hebrews writer logically proves that they would be leaving **the superior way** and returning to **an inferior religion.**
 - Let us notice **the following truths:**

1. Jesus is superior to the prophets
(**Hebrews 1:1-2:18**).
2. Jesus is superior to the angels
(**Hebrews 1:3-2:18**).
3. Jesus is superior to Moses
(**Hebrews 3:1-6**).
4. Jesus is superior to Joshua
(**Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13**).
5. The high priesthood of Jesus is superior
to the priesthood of Aaron
(**Hebrews 4:14 - 8:6**).
6. The new covenant is superior
to the old covenant.
(**Hebrews 8:7-10:39**).

7. Faith

is then defined
and
illustrated.

(Hebrews 11:1-12:2)..

8. Exhortations

and

warnings

are given.

(Hebrews 12:3-13:25).

- The Hebrews writer reasons with the Jewish Christians, not to leave the better way for the inferior way!
- That will also be our goal in the following weeks.
- Is the author right?

• PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

- To establish the truth that Christ's way is superior to that of Judaism.

- In order to do so the Hebrews writer establishes the following facts:

- **Christ provides a:**

1. **Better Covenant**

Hebrews 7:22

2. **Better Promises**

Hebrews 8:6

3. **Better Hope**

Hebrews 7:19

- 4. Better Priesthood
Hebrews 7:20 - 28
- 5. Better Sacrifices
Hebrews 9:23
- 6. Better Possession
Hebrews 10:34
- 7. Better Country
Hebrews 11:16

- 8. Better Things
Hebrews 11:40

9. Better Blood
for sacrifice

Hebrews 10:4, 12

10. A Better Resurrection
Hebrews 11:35

- **Moses introduces us**
to the book of Genesis
with these majestic words:

- **“In the beginning God
created the heavens
and the earth”
(Genesis 1:1).**

- The inspired writer of the book of Hebrews opens his epistle by telling us that the God of creation communicated with man:
“**God, in the old times spoke unto the fathers and prophets**”
(**Hebrews 1:1**)

- Unlike the gods created by men's hands, the one true God is an intelligent being who in His wisdom and power can communicate with His created beings.

- The gods created by man have heads but they cannot think,
 - They have ears but they cannot hear the pleas of their worshipers,
 - They have eyes but they cannot behold the sacrifices which are offered unto them,

- **They have mouths**
but they cannot speak
to those who worship them,
- **They have hands**
but they cannot feel,
- **They have legs and feet**
but they cannot walk.
- When man creates a god
he has complete control over it
 - **(Isaiah 44:12-20)**.

The Folly of Idolatry

- Isaiah 44:15

- A person uses part of a tree for fuel and part of it for making an idol.
- With one part he builds a fire to warm himself and bake bread; with the other part he makes a god and worships it.

(GNB)

The Folly of Idolatry

- **Isaiah 44:16**
- **With some of the wood
he makes a fire;**
- **he roasts meat, eats it,
and is satisfied.**
- **He warms himself and says,
"How nice and warm!
What a beautiful fire!"**

The Folly of Idolatry

- Isaiah 44:17

- **The rest of the wood he makes into an idol,**
- **and then he bows down and worships it.**
- **He prays to it and says,**
 - **"You are my god, save me!"**

The Folly of Idolatry

- Isaiah 44:18
- Such people are too stupid to know what they are doing.
- They close their eyes
 - and their minds
 - to the truth.

- **The one true God of the Bible**
(**Ephesians 4:6**)
is not like the gods
created by the hands of man
because:
 - He is all **powerful**
(**Genesis 17:1**),
 - Present **everywhere**
(**Jeremiah 23:24**)
 - Knows **all** things
(**Hebrews 4:13**).

- **HEBREWS 1:1**

**God, having of old time
spoken unto the fathers
in the prophets
by divers portions
and in divers manners,**

- The living God
has always communicated His will
to mankind in order for
His creatures to be able
to serve and worship Him acceptably.
- **How did God accomplish this?**

1. Directly

**10 And the LORD
...called as at other times,
Samuel, Samuel.**

**Then Samuel answered,
Speak; for thy servant heareth.**

**11 And the LORD said to Samuel,
Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at
which both the ears of every one that
hears it shall tingle.**

(1st Samuel 3:10-11)

2. Put the word in a prophet's soul.

- **Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name.**
- **But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones,**
- **and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.**
(Jeremiah 20:9)

- Prophets were **the counselors of God** to the people.
- Long ago Amos had said:
"***The Lord God does nothing without revealing his secrets to his servants the prophets***"
(**Amos 3:7**).

- God revealed to **Noah** that He would bring the flood.
 - To **Abraham** and **Lot**, that He would destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.
- To **Joseph** the 7 years' famine in Egypt,
- To **Moses** its plagues on Egypt.
 - To **Jonah** the destruction of Nineveh.

- The revelation of the prophets **always fitting their message to the age,** never letting it be out of date.
- One of the most interesting things is to see how time and again the prophets are characterized **by one idea.**

- We see in Amos
"a cry for social justice."
- In Isaiah
the holiness of God.
- In Hosea the wonder of the
forgiving love of God.
- Each prophet grasping
a fragment of
the truth of God.

- But with Jesus it was different.
- He was not a fragment of the truth;
- he was the whole truth.
 - In him God displayed not some part of himself but all of himself.

- The prophets used many methods.
 - They used the method of speech.
- When speech failed they used dramatic action
 - The prophet had to use human methods to transmit his part of the truth of God.

- But it was different with Jesus.
- He revealed God by being himself.
- Colossians 2:9
For in him dwells
all the fullness
of the Godhead bodily,
(Jubilee Version)

- The prophets were the friends of God;
- But Jesus was the Son of God.
- The prophets grasped part of the mind of God;
- Jesus was the mind of God.

- Sometimes God worked through dreams

- Daniel 7:1

**In the first year of Belshazzar
king of Babylon
Daniel had a dream
and visions of his head
upon his bed:
then he wrote the dream,
and told the sum of the matters.**

- Sometimes,
God used visions
Ezekiel 37:1-3 (KJV)

1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

- Sometimes,
God worked
Through angels
Genesis 19:15

**And when the morning arose,
then the angels hastened Lot,
saying, Arise, take thy wife, and
thy two daughters, which are
here; lest thou be consumed in
the iniquity of the city.**

- Sometimes,
God worked
by voices

1 Kings 19:11-12.

- The Lord Speaks to Elijah

And he said, Go out and stand on the mountain before Jehovah. And, behold, Jehovah passed by, and a great and strong wind tearing the mountains and breaking the rocks in bits before Jehovah! Jehovah was not in the wind. And after the wind was an earthquake, but Jehovah was not in the earthquake.

19:12 And after the earthquake was a fire, but Jehovah was not in the fire; and after the fire came a still, small voice.

- **HEBREWS 1:2**

**Hath at the end of these days
spoken unto us in his Son,
whom he appointed
heir of all things,
through whom also
he made the worlds;**

- God speaks to mankind today
but not in the same way
as he did in olden times.

- When you read the Old Testament you are reading the Word of God.
- Open the book of Genesis and read the majestic tale of creation and the flood.

- Follow that with the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob;
- Then the hammering of the Law,
- The sweet singing of the Psalmist.

- The homespun wisdom of the **Proverbs**,
- The delicate tenderness of the **Song of Solomon**,
- The marvelous mysteries of **Ezekiel** and **Daniel**.

- All of it is of God,
but all of it
is incomplete.
- It never brings us
to
the conclusion.

- But when you open the pages of the **New Testament** you find that all the Old merges into **one voice,** the voice of the Son.

- The visions, voices,
and angels
by which God spoke
in the Old Testament
are merged into
one complete story
in
Jesus Christ.

- Therefore,
God's word
to man
has been
fully revealed
in the Son.

- There is nothing more to be said.
- Jesus Christ is God's final word to man.

- Therefore, the word through the Son is greater than that through the prophets because it includes and surpasses all they ever said and did.

- It is also greater because the Son forms the boundaries of history.

- The writer says,
"Whom he has appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."

(Hebrews 1:2)

- In that phrase,
"the heir of all things,"
he is looking
not only to the **past**
but
into the **future**
as far as the
eye of man can see.

- He stands at the beginning of the past,
- As well as the end of the future.
- For he is the creator of the worlds.

- All things come from his hands,
- Nothing began or exists but for him.
- Jesus makes this claim himself to the astonishment of the Jews.
 - He said, "Before Abraham was, I am," (**John 8:58**).

- Some 50 years ago Sanford University built one of the first linear accelerators.
 - It is some two miles long.
 - What is it for?

- Scientists had hoped that it would pry the lid off the secrets of the universe.
- They are trying to find what makes the universe 'tick,'
- What holds it together.

- And as man probes deeper into the secrets of the universe
 - He discovers more and more that he is confronting the mystery of an untouchable force.

- What is that force?
 - Scientists have never named it,
in fact they cannot name it,
- But the Scripture does.

- The Scripture says that force is Jesus Christ,
- He is the secret behind everything that exists.
- Because in the final analysis his word is the superior force.

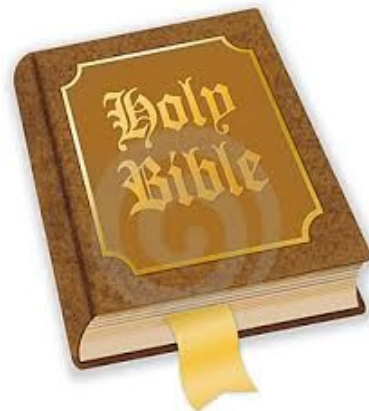
- In Jesus
God has entered
humanity,
- Eternity has invaded
time,
- And things can never
be the same again.
 - That is the
everlasting message.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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