

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 7 (February 10-16, 2013)

The older I get, the more I understand about the supremacy of Christ. The humbling truth is that I have nothing without Him. This week we will explore some scriptures that teach this wonderful concept.

Sunday -- February 10 (Hebrews 1:1-3)

The unidentified writer of Hebrews begins by discussing the various ways God spoke to His prophets to produce the Old Testament (v. 1). He used visions, parables and word pictures to communicate His message to them. They wrote with different literary styles as they put His words in writing. Some used poetry (Psalms); others used narrative (Jonah); still others used prophecy (Isaiah). Some passages taught the law (Leviticus); others taught ethical and moral principles (Deuteronomy). Even within these books, some messages were to encourage; others were to warn. The Old Testament is completely true, but no single passage contains complete truth. The hope of the coming Messiah is the theme of all 39 books, but each prophet received **only a part** of the mystery. We will see how the New Testament brings the complete message of Christ in tomorrow's devotions.

Monday -- February 11 (Hebrews 1:1-3)

"In these last days" usually refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In verse 2, however, the phrase refers to **all** the time since the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and the subsequent founding of His Church at Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-13). The current age in which we are living originated that day and is known as the "Church Age," the "Day of Grace" and the "Day of the Gentiles." **His word is final** (v. 2)! He created the universe and He is the "heir of all things." Other similar verses declare Him to be "the Alpha and the Omega" (Revelation 1:8), "the First and the Last" (Revelation 1:17), "the Author and Perfecter (Finisher) of our faith" and "the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22:13). He is our All in All! Every promise in the Old Testament has been fulfilled by the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 1:18-22). Because we humans are limited to time and space, we haven't **seen** the fulfillment of all prophecy, but we can completely trust the One who will bring it all to pass.

Tuesday -- February 12 (Hebrews 1:1-3)

We have already seen that Jesus is the Creator of the universe and the "heir of all things" (v. 2). Verse 3 teaches us that He is also "sustaining all things by His powerful word." That makes Him The First and The Last and The Middle! The same verse declares Him to be the "radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being." I do not believe that we will ever see God the Father because He is a Spirit (see John 4:24). We are allowed to gaze upon Him, however, by looking at His Son (see John 14:9). Jesus is to the Father what rays are to the sun. We cannot stare at the sun because of its brightness, but the rays from the sun provide warmth and light to us. Neither can we look upon the face of God, but we see and feel His love through Jesus who became our Savior by willingly laying down His life on the cross. After declaring, "It is finished" (John 19:30), "He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven" to intercede for all believers (see Romans 8:34). Glory to His Name!

Wednesday -- February 13 (Hebrews 1:1-14)

Because Jesus is the Creator, Sustainer and End (Heir) of the universe, He is greater than anyone or anything. That becomes the theme of the rest of chapter 1. We learned in Week 1 that He also is the Creator, Sustainer and Finisher of our **salvation**. As the Good Shepherd, He laid down His life for us; as the Great Shepherd, He guides and teaches us daily; and, as the Chief Shepherd, He will give us the Crown of Glory when we meet Him in the air. Jesus is far greater than angels because they were created by Him and for Him. In contrast, **He** is God's Son (v. 4-5)! In the rest of the chapter, God compares the power and glory of His Son to that of the angels (v. 6-13). What is the purpose of angels? They were created to **worship Him** (v. 6) and to **serve us** (v. 14). Don't miss the verb tense in v. 14. Angels "serve those who **will inherit** salvation." That means that we are protected even before we publicly give our hearts to Him, because He knows from the womb who will receive Him and who will reject Him. He is awesome!

Thursday -- February 14 (Hebrews 2:1-4)

Today is Valentine's Day so I will relate this text to the subject of love. God warns us, in view of His power discussed in Chapter 1, to focus on Him and His promises so that "we do not drift away" (v. 1). Many couples get so caught up in making a living that they don't take the time to grow in knowledge of and love for one another. They simply **drift** through the relationship that should be given top priority. Christians are often guilty of the same mistake with God. Worldly concerns keep us from daily Bible study and prayer times. It is not that we turn our backs on Him; we just drift away from the love and devotion we felt at first (see Revelation 2:4). God's eternal promises should be the anchor that keeps us from drifting (see Hebrews 6:19). Be sure that you are anchored to the "Rock that won't roll!" Show God and the special someone in your life that your love is current, fresh and real!

Friday -- February 15 (Hebrews 2:1-4)

Continuing with yesterday's study, God warns us that He is serious about His plan of salvation. Angels accompanied our Lord when He gave The Ten Commandments to Moses (v. 2). These rules were binding even though they were given primarily to show us how much we needed a Savior (see Romans 5:20-21). Now that we are living under **grace** and now that His Holy Spirit lives **in us**, we should take this Gift of salvation even more seriously than did the Old Testament saints. Many live their lives in ignorance (or neglect) of His marvelous Gift! The plan of salvation was clearly articulated by our Lord in John 3:16 and has been confirmed in us who have believed the Apostle's teachings (v. 3). Miracles were prevalent during the beginning of The Church Age (Acts 2:43) as a testimony to His power. Even now, God shows His love in ways that cannot be explained in human words. I pray that you have spiritual eyes to see and spiritual ears to hear. He is actively at work in His Church using gifts distributed to His people according to His will (v. 4)!

Saturday -- February 16 (Hebrews 2:5-9)

In today's text, the unidentified writer of Hebrews gives the first of four reasons why Jesus **had to** come to earth as a human being. He starts by informing us that we, not angels, will rule with Him during the Millennium (v. 5). They will continue to worship God and serve us (see Wednesday's devotions). We were created lower than the angels for our earthly existence, but someday, we will judge them (see 1 Corinthians 6:3). God placed everything under the control of man (see Genesis 1:28), even though we do not see this at the present time (v. 6-8). Our eyes must be on Jesus who also came to earth "a little lower than the angels," **but now** He is "crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death" (v. 9). In effect, His death paid the wages of sin (Romans 6:23). This was the "Day Death Died!" **He came to earth to restore man's lost dominion!** Praise Him today for His marvelous Gift!