

The book of Hebrews is written quite differently than most New Testament letters. Very little is given by way of an introduction. No authorship is mentioned, and even the audience is a bit vague as you consider the text alone. Furthermore, because of the rich language, constant Old Testament references, and sermonistic delivery, Hebrews can present itself as an intimidating book to study.

Hebrews 1:1-4

An Introduction

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

It's sometimes stated that God doesn't speak like He used to, but if He did, then many more would believe. However, while it's true that God doesn't necessarily speak like what is seen in the Old Testament, He still speaks to us today. And, the manner in which He has chosen to speak to us is much more personal and profound than that of long ago. The real question is, *Are we listening?*

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW has God "spoke" to you throughout your life?

HOW can you be certain of God's voice in your life, today?

WHY do you think God has chosen to speak in different ways over the course of time?

DO you think God speaks in a particular way today?

WHAT prevents us from hearing the Lord speaking to us today?

Hebrews 1:1-4

An Introduction

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

OBSERVATION

According to vs. 1, how has God chosen to speak?

In these “last days” how has God spoken to us? (vs. 2)

According to vs. 2, what has God appointed His Son as, and what does the verse say He has done through Him?

How does vs. 3 describe Jesus, and does the same verse say he has done?

Where does vs. 3 say Jesus is now?

What two comparisons are made in vs. 4?

INTERPRETATION

What contrast does the author make regarding the Biblical timeline and how God has spoken (in vs. 1 and 2)?

What does the author mean that God has spoken at “many times” and in “many ways”?

When are the “last days” mentioned in vs. 2?

Jesus is described in seven different ways in vs. 2-4. What significance does each one convey regarding who He is?

Heir (vs. 2)-

Creator (vs. 2); consider John 1:1-5, 14; Colossians 1:15-20-

Radiance of God’s glory (vs. 3)-

God’s exact imprint (vs. 3)-

Upholder of the universe (vs. 3)-

Purifier of sins (vs. 4); consider 2 Corinthians 5:21-

Seated at the right hand of Majesty (vs. 3); see Philippians 2:8-11-

Why do you think the author sets a course in his letter to establish the preeminence and Lordship of Jesus in its first verses? Consider 5:11-6:1 and 12:25 for insight.

How might knowing the supremacy and preeminence of Jesus, and that He has spoken to us, serve as a strong encouragement in the midst of trials? Consider 10:32-34.

APPLICATION

Do you believe God has spoken to you? What are the implications of what He has told you?