

Sept. 2-78 so. may - A.m -

THE COMPLETED PUZZLE

Hebrews 1

INTRODUCTION:

Young Minister was left to baby sit with small son while wife attended meeting at church. Frustrated minister was working on and having difficulty preparing a sermon and entertaining the child at the same time.

He found a puzzle map of the world and said, "Here Son, see if you can put the world together. When you finish it, we will walk down town and I will buy you an ice cream cone."

Positive that it would take the boy an hour --

Surprised - 10 minutes and the puzzle was all finished! How did you finish so soon? Well, said the boy, "There was a picture of Jesus on the back. When I got Jesus right, I had the world right."

V. 1 - God has given us many pieces to show us how the world should be. Prophets gave us brief pictures, but Jesus, revelation of God, gives us the complete picture.

"God" - What word could be more fittingly to stand at the head of this Epistle - 1st line, the foundation, "In The Beginning God".

In a variety and multitudeness revelation in a -- "In many ways"
"In many parts"
spake in times past.

Bishop Moule of Durham says "No part of the Holy Scripture is ever really out of date."

Therefore, as we take this wonderful portion of Hebrews and listen to what the Spirit saith to the Saints, and to the church, we receive a profound message of the person of Jesus Christ.

What Great Truth:

V. 8 - Jesus Christ is God

V. 2 - Jesus Christ is Son

V. 6 - Jesus is Lord of the bright company of heaven

V. 10- Jesus is creative originator of this universe

V. 12- Depths of space are folks of His vesture.

Jesus is eternal - the same.

The 1st theme is not the church but the Lord Jesus.

Here is the message straight to the restless heart. Come back to the center - nothing can serve as a substitute for this - to behold his Glory - consider him.

Hebrews thought it was dangerous to come near to God - thought it would be fatal to come near God.

Terrified Monarch said to his wife, we shall surely die, because we have seen God. Judge 13:22.

Three things - no proof is needed.

1. There is a God.
2. God has spoken.
3. The Scriptures were divinely inspired.

Hebrew Christians recognized God existed, believed God spoke to Moses, Prophets, and the Scriptures say thus saith the Lord.

We are prone to read the Scripture and pass our eyes over the verses without the truth impressing our minds.

Sundry Times -

1st God's former communications were made by several parts, by detached parcels.

By broken fragments here and there, now and then a voice was heard from heaven.

A prophet arose and gave one idea, Amos cried for social justice, Isaiah grasped the Holiness of God, Hosea realized the forgiving love of God - Each has his part.

Heavenly truth sealed - mere occasional drippings. There was nothing complete.

All the light given to Adam, the Patriarchs, the Hebrews by angels and prophets; by ordinances, still man was left sighing - "watchman, what of the night?"

God's final word was revelation of Jesus. We have the entire. No longer just the drippings of truth, the dimness of the way is changed to light, no stumbling.

2. Second thing about Sundry Times is "that of slow and gradual development".

This was true of God's communications to the fathers in Old Testament.

First communication to Adam to those made to Noah period of 1000 years
silence.

Following Patriarchal age nearly 1000 years.

From Moses to Malachi another 1000 years. Very slowly God parceled out
revelation.

One prophet after another raised up - one portion, then something in
addition.

30 successive prophets spent their energies upon Judiasm.

The glorious Gospel was filled up in one age - nearly all the Apostles
were living when the New Testament was finished.

It was given at once - not at Sundry Times. The doors were opened, and
every man can understand the will of God.

Viel for ages concealed the mysteries of grace - Christ at once tore
away and we received the full blaze of a perfect revelation.

Superior excellence of the Gospel may be seen in the mode of its communication.

God not only spoke in Sundry Times - But in Divers Manners.

Various, complex, sometimes obscure, a few promises.

Promise in Garden - that the seed of woman should bruise the serpents head.

Wrapt up in a mystery.

The covenants entered into - figures, types, symbols were not always plain to all.

The ark of Noah - a New Testament type of Christ - not understood by ancients.

The bondage of descendants of Jacob in Egypt and deliverance by Moses typical of redemption of Gospel - not understood.

The sacrifices and blood of the temple - a shadow of Jesus on Calvary - not understood by Jews.

The prophecies intended to point to the divine purpose of Christ - a mystery.

Superior - excellence of the Gospel is seen in the instrumentality by which it was delivered! The prophets were men of like passion and infirmities.

Moses committed serious sins, Elijah had his failings, Jonah was not guiltless, David was a sinner, Isaiah was a man of unclean lips, and so with all the rest. Instruments, imperfect, and fallible, servants, no superhuman excellence.

V. 2 - But in "these last days God has spoken to us by His Son". Not an inferior creature, but a co-equal son, the Gospel was given.

The final word of God - The Last Word!

Aged married couple engaged in heated argument. Finally the woman emphasized her point.

The aged gentlemen appeared to have learned through experience to patiently await his turn.

When he was ready to present his side to the argument, the woman, simply satisfied that she had made her point, disconnected her hearing aid. Thus she had the last word!

Everyone likes to have the last word -

Before investment ~~-one~~ seeks advice of expert

one sick advice of expert.

Important for us Jesus is last word from God! Universe centers in Christ.

This means the outermost, the extreme, last in time or in place.

The last word - the logos was in fellowship with God. This is the person in whom God gave His final revelation to the human race. The Divine agent!

The early revelation, the earthquake, the tempest, the still small voice - the thunderings on Sinai, the angelic visitor of Jacob, the many portions, the fragmentary parts, limited to a tea cup size, as the child on promotion day said to the teacher -- my, I wish you knew enough to teach me in the second grade!

In Jesus we have the steady shining of the pure ray of Glory.

It was no new thing for God to speak, He spoke often, now he is speaking

in entirely new way.

The revelation is complete and everlasting.

Spoken to us - we ought to listen!

This separates Christ from all others.

"Jesus Christ (Super Star) and wide spread concepts of Christ today are nothing short of blasphemy!

Film on Christ to be made by Danish film maker plans to include a bank robbing Jesus riding a motorcycle in the nude and making love to Mary Magdaline in a house of prostitution - this is blasphemous outrage.

Never make Christ lower than that of the New Testament.

Christ was perfect.

Christ was and is a source of blessedness.

Christ was manifest in the flesh.

Christ accomplished His eternal purpose - the last and better covenant.

What were all the bloody sacrifices and ordinances of Moses time without the great sacrifice of Calvary?

Without the cross all is dark and indefinable.

The Gospel of Christ is the finished matter. Adams eyes and hopes were centered upon it. Worshippers today look back upon it, and are invited to the throne of God.

Dim twilight of the morning is now.

Full blaze of noon day sun.

The laws on stone are now written on tables of mens hearts.

What a matchless book the Bible revealing not only God but ourselves!

Are you possessor of this indispensible and precious Jesus the gift of God?

Great City a small boy by the name of Fred and his sister were crossing the street when a car struck the girl and seriously injured her.

Ambulance quickly carried her to a hospital some 3 miles distance where they tried to save her life. Fred was shy and did not understand how to help, but he anxiously waited in the hall and timidly asked the doctor when he had an opportunity if there was anything he could do to help.

The Doctor said, "She must have a blood transfusion, if we hope to spare her life".

"Could I give her my blood?" Fred asked.

"If the type is right." The Doctor checked the type and made the transfusion.

Later the Doctor walked by the table where Fred was lying. After being assured that his sister would probably recover he asked, "Doctor, how long will it be before I die?"

He gave his blood for his sister, believing that it would certainly take his own life.

This is a great picture of love.

Jesus gave his blood that we might live. He died for us. He is God's last word to us. Don't you love him.

Brethern, I love Jesus. I want to exalt him. Love him. Serve him. Don't you?

No one needs to say - oh that I knew where he might find him. Or show us the Father and it sufficeth us!