

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,

In the beginning, God spoke the universe into existence. Everything He created was good.

The crown of his creation, mankind, was very good.

Made in his image, mankind had:

- holiness,
- reason,
- the ability to make choices and
- **the ability to communicate through speech.**

This is clear from the early chapters of Genesis when we are told that Adam named all of the creatures that God had created.

After the Fall, when God was seeking the man He called out, **“Adam, where are you.”** And Adam responded by offering his excuses for what he had done.

The stories of Elohim were passed down through the generations:

- How he created,
- How we rebelled,
- How He promised to redeem us.
- How he called a people to be his own that they might be the light of the world and a blessing to all the nations.

The rams' horns allowed speech to be shouted and amplified.

Then symbols were developed to represent speech and increasingly sophisticated media for its dissemination.

When mankind was dispersed after the confusion of language at Babel, many variations in language and, naturally, writing, began to develop.

We know that in the 15th century BC Moses wrote Genesis through Deuteronomy and the Hebrew people had an established language for the preservation and dissemination of God's Word to his people.

God communicated through prophets and angels and had his words written down and preserved for all the generations to come. This was done painstakingly, by hand, one letter at a time for millennia.

Then came the printing press — which changed everything, igniting renaissance, revolutions and the Reformation.

Things stayed the same for hundreds of years.

Then came the telegraph (1837),

followed by the first commercially successful typewriter (1868).

Then Alexander Graham Bell said, "**Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you,**" and once again, everything changed (1876).

Then came:

- the phonograph (1877),
- the radio (1895),
- silent movies (1915),

- movies with sound (1927),
- television (1929) and
- the cassette tape recorder (1962).

Then came:

- the IBM Selectric typewriter and cordless phones.
- the personal computer and the software to operate it. And again, everything changed.
- the internet and the World Wide Web (1989) and again, everything changed.
- the iPhone (2003), and again everything changed. A rice farmer in Thailand walking his water buffalo through a paddy has one hand on the plow, and the other on his smartphone, checking in with the Bangkok exchange about rice futures.

At one point a long time ago, a message could be disseminated only as far as you could shout.

Now, we can tap in a sequence of numbers on a touchscreen and talk or text to anyone, anywhere, at any time.

And this is a brief history of communication.

What is important for us to consider here today is that **God communicates!**

God did not create us and then leave us to fend for ourselves.

From the very beginning he created us to be in relationship with him. And we all know ***how vital communication is to relationships!***

In Eden, Adam and Eve loved the sound of God's voice.

Only after they had grasped for equality with God by eating the forbidden fruit did they hide from him.

God spoke to them with mercy by banishing them from the Garden. He did not want people to live forever in a world spoiled by sin.

He provided for them but also spoke mercy by promising that if they trusted in Him, death would be a doorway to eternal life with God; a restoration of the perfection of Eden.

That sin and destruction, however, was now part of the world; it was now in our very DNA. And so, God had to continue to communicate through his messengers.

- The people would turn away from God.
- He would call them to come back.
- They would turn away.
- He called them back. Over and over again!

What we have here is not a failure to communicate!

But that **we don't heed** the message that God is sending us.

We can see this same problem played out in almost any human organization.

Here's an example.

Memo from Director General to Manager: Today at 11 o'clock there will be a total eclipse of the sun. This is when the sun disappears behind the moon for two minutes. As this is something that cannot be seen every day, time will be allowed for employees to view the eclipse in the car park. Staff should meet in the car

park at 10:50 a.m. when I will deliver a short speech introducing the eclipse, and giving some background information. Safety goggles will be made available at a small cost.

Memo from Manager to Department Head: Today at 10:50 a.m. all staff should meet in the car park. This will be followed by a total eclipse of the sun, which will disappear for two minutes. For a moderate cost, this will be made safe with goggles. The Director General will deliver a short speech beforehand to give us all some background information. This is not something that can be seen every day.

Memo from Department Head to Floor Manager: The Director General will today deliver a short speech to make the sun disappear for two minutes in the eclipse. This is something that cannot be seen every day, so staff will meet in the car park at 10 or 11 a.m. This will be safe, if you pay a moderate cost.

Memo from Floor Manager to Supervisor: Ten or 11 staff are to go to the car park, where the Director General will eclipse the sun for two minutes. This doesn't happen every day. It will be safe, but it will cost you.

Memo from Supervisor to staff: Some staff will go to the car park today to see the Director General disappear. It is a pity this doesn't happen every day.

So, God spoke to his people through:

- His Word,
- Angels,
- Prophets,
- teachers,
- parents,

- priests,
- rabbis,
- friends, etc.

And often, in the end, they just wished they would disappear, so they could do what they wanted to do.

So, finally he changed the way He communicated.

Jesus solved this communication problem for us by coming down from heaven to live among us, experience what we as humans experience, and clearly convey the message of God's love by his words, deeds and love for us.

He spoke the Incarnation And so was born the Son

His final word was Jesus He needed no other one

Spoke flesh and blood So He could bleed And make a way Divine

And so was born the baby Who would die to make it mine!

Talk about a creative act of communication! Everything changed. The world got turned upside down. God's arrival on planet Earth in a little Jewish settlement south of Jerusalem was the pivotal, hinge-point in human history. The writer of Hebrews continues...

Hebrews 2:1–3

Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard,

lest we drift away from it.

For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable...

how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

You see why it's so important that we listen to God"

First, we must not **"drift"** away from what we've been taught. It is so easy to drift.

The image that comes to mind is a rowboat on a sunny afternoon. And you're lying in it on some cushions. You're on a broad, slow river, and a rope is loosely tied to the dock.

You doze. The continual tug of the current loosens the rope. After a while, you're out on the river, drifting. It's so slow that it's imperceptible. And when you wake up, you're just feet from a waterfall with a 60-foot drop! Yikes! This is the image of the danger the writer is trying to communicate.

We must remember who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for us. This is a theological rope that keeps tethered to the dock of salvation. We must not stray from it — the "it" being that Jesus is God, that Jesus is God's last and final revelation, that Jesus is superior to any prior communicative act of God!

And second, we will lose out on so much if we **"neglect so great a salvation"** that God has provided for us in Jesus Christ.

Don't lose out on the joy of your salvation by **"neglecting" to heed!**

God wants us to pay greater attention to what we have heard. For in His word we find truth and that truth sets us free!