

What If We Lived In A Silent Universe?

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for Sunday June 1, 2008
Hebrews 1:1-4, 8-12

“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2—NRSV).

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2—KJV).

Some of the best news we can receive is “God spoke.” We do not live in a silent universe, where people must try to figure out everything on their own or trust fallible human authorities.

Because God spoke, we know the origin of all that exists. We know the inherent worth of every human being, because God spoke and told us that He created people in His image (Genesis 1:26, 27). Because God spoke, we know He loves the world He created (John 3:16). Because God spoke, we know He loves righteousness and hates wickedness (Hebrews 1:9). God spoke, so we know right from wrong; our conscience and right reason affirm the truth of God’s law and our obligation to obey God in everything.

God did not speak only once or simply send down a list of laws from a mountaintop. God spoke many times in a variety of ways through the biblical prophets so we would be sure to get His message. The Bible records God’s mighty acts, each one demonstrating His loving character and everlasting concern for justice and mercy. God’s words and actions show that He keeps His promises. To prove the depth of His love and faithfulness, God also spoke by His Son, who lived, died, and rose again to cleanse us of sin and grant us eternal life. Because God spoke, we know Jesus “sustains all things,” sits “at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” and prays for us (Hebrews 1:3; 7:25). © 2008 by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Questions for Further Thought or Class Discussion

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Think about your answers to the questions below before your Sunday school class meets, discuss in class, or use for further study. In some cases, I do not always write the questions to have a definitive right or wrong answer. In most cases, the questions should encourage everyone to think about how to apply biblical truths to their daily lives. Before beginning to answer the questions below, read the entire Scripture lesson in your favorite translation or compare translations. Write your thoughts in the space provided and take them to your Sunday school class for discussion.

1. Compare Romans 1:19-20 with Hebrews 1:1-2. What excuses do some give for not believing in or listening to God? What might God say to them if they give Him these excuses at the final judgment?
2. What difference does it make in a person’s life if he or she does not know that God has spoken? What difference does it make in a person’s life if he or she ignores the fact that God has spoken and the words God has spoken?
3. What things can happen in a nation that disregards the fact that God has spoken and what God has said? How does this affect their laws, their courts, and their schools?
4. How did, and how does, Jesus teach us about God (see especially Hebrews 1:3)?
5. How does Jesus differ from the angels, and why is this important to us?

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