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While preparing for last Wednesday's Bible study in Hebrews, I decided to explore some of the quotes from the Old Testament the author used in making the point that Jesus is superior to angels. Admittedly, in some of them it's hard to see how the author got the point he was making, so I decided to do a little research on the internet.

A lengthy article in Wikipedia entitled "Old Testament prophecies quoted in the New Testament" began with, "According to modern scholars, there are no Old Testament prophecies about Jesus." It then ended with the following statement.

"What is the rationale for distorting the scriptures so flagrantly? Well, the answer, of course, is obvious: the gospel writers were desperate to prove that their man Jesus was the Messiah who had been promised in the Old Testament. Since there really were no prophecies of a virgin-born, crucified, resurrected Messiah in the Old Testament, they had to twist and distort to give the appearance that Jesus was the long-awaited one."

Obviously the author and/or revisers of the article swam in the swamp of liberal theology, and not the unpolluted waters of conservative biblical scholarship. Another website stated that scholars have found over 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. I really don't know how many there are, but the problem in discerning them comes from the dual nature of most prophetic statements.

When writing the Psalms, David was primarily expressing the joys and trials of the life he had been given by God. Included in his writings and songs, however, were promises concerning not only the sons who would follow him on the throne, but, perhaps not even fully understood by him, the Son of David who would reign forever.

Likewise, the prophets delivered messages that were contemporary in nature, and were primarily related to the impending judgment and restoration of the nation through which God would bring the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It's doubtful that even they understood all the implications and veiled prophetic statements they were delivering.

The writer of Hebrews helps us understand all this by making it clear that the prophets spoke in many portions and in many ways to the fathers. Those piecemeal prophetic statements were then all brought together, and made sense, when God spoke His final word to us through His Son.

Obviously, Wikipedia is not the final word.
God Bless, Rick



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SUNDAY'S COMMUNION MEDITATION

by Chris Luzio

A couple of weeks ago, the Wednesday night Bible study group began looking at the book of Hebrews. Being our first look together at this book, it of course meant that we needed to take a few minutes to consider the audience, the occasion, the message, and the author of the book. For this particular book, the text does not make it clear exactly who the author is. While many believe it was the apostle Paul, there is some evidence against that line of thinking.

One evidence is that the writing style is distinct from Paul's other writings, in fact, it is unique among the styles in the rest of the New Testament. And that is something that is made very clear to me in just the first three verses of Hebrews. In these verses, the author uses around 60 Greek words, but four of them are found nowhere else in the New Testament. See if you can catch them as I read, but keep in mind that the English translators often used multiple words to convey what in the original language was expressed in only one word. Kind of like how the Germans have a single word to convey a complex idea, for example, the feeling one might have that their biological clock is running out and it is time to settle down, which in German is a word: *torschlusspanik*. Anyway, here are the first three verses of the book of Hebrews:

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..."

First of all, take a moment to soak in all that the author opens with in this book, the opening lines on what is a treatise on the awesomeness of Christ. Literally, take that moment, when you hold the elements of communion in your hands... holding symbols of the flesh and blood of God's Son, the one who purifies us of our sin, who is now sitting down at the right hand of the Father, his work completed.

Take a moment to appreciate that God did not leave us to our sin, but entered into a covenant relationship with Abraham, with Israel, and with us... in "many portions" and in "many ways." That's two of those unique words, by the way... "many portions" and "many ways." But God wasn't satisfied with the variety of ways in which He spoke to His people, no... He had something bigger in mind... something awesomer. He had His Son. Jesus, the Son of God, the Creator of the universe and of time, itself, came to us in order to die... for us.

(Continued inside)

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

STATISTICS

Worship 117
Offering \$4,616.80

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-9/29/19

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Greeters | Rhonda Luzio |
| Visitors' Stand | Rick & Janet Polley |
| Communion Meditation | Chris Luzio |
| Ushers | Rick Polley |
| | Duane Carrell |
| | Chad Formea |
| | Paul Hunley |
| | Bob Williamson |
| | Kirk Polley |
| | Gary Gredzieleski |
| WORSHIP NURSERY | |
| Toddlers..... | Kelly Donaldson |
| | Cooper Formea |
| Infants..... | Erica Blakley |
| | Nicole Moore |
| | Anna Hunley |
| | Sunday School |
| Toddlers..... | Rhonda Luzio |
| Infants..... | Elizabeth Wright |
| | Kristin Polley |

The Hidden Word

ZEPHANIAH 3:9

"For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder."



--Lee Zimmerman hospitalized for treatment of cellulitis.

--Rick Polley and family at the passing of his mom.

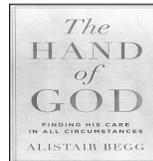
BAN APPROVED

A ban on businesses involved in the sale or production of recreational marijuana in Chatham was approved. Speaking as a school nurse, Tina Huber argued a strong case for the ban before the village board.

MEDITATION CONTINUED

But Christ didn't just speak to us on behalf of His Father, he showed us God... he showed us his Father, because, as the author of Hebrews puts it, Christ "is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature." Here are two more of those one-of-a-kind words, the "radiance" of God's glory and the "exact representation" of God's nature. Jesus said, "anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father," but the author of Hebrews describes Jesus as radiating all of the glory and all of the character of God. Because Jesus is God, Jesus exudes the love of God for us, and he did this most importantly, and most finishedly at the cross.

There certainly aren't enough words in English, Greek, or even German... not enough words in all the languages to express the supremacy, the majesty, and the amazitude of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a one-of-a-kind Savior. He is the only sacrifice needed to cleanse us of our sin and, as such, the only one who can make us right with our heavenly Father. At this time, let us remember all that he did for us, and let us remember why he did it.



"The mosaic of Joseph's background also provides us with a striking reminder of the impact a father's life has on his children. Jacob was not a good model of integrity. He did poorly when it came to decisiveness. He was slow when it came to action. He tended to avoid issues rather than face them. But God chose to use this imperfect father to raise the boy He had chosen to redeem His people from famine through his experiences in Egypt."

All adults are invited to join us Sunday at 6:30 as we begin taking a look at what it took to get Joseph to Egypt.



Jr & Sr High Girls

The High School girls retreat scheduled for September was combined with the upcoming Jr. High retreat on October 11 & 12. It is an opportunity for girls to disconnect from media while reconnecting with peers and scripture. It is a "digital detox" if you will for a couple days.

Some informative workshops on the schedule including appropriateness of social media apps, healthy relationships, dangers on online dating, healthy bodily choices and using your spiritual gifts. There will be plenty of worship and games mixed in throughout your study time together. The cost is \$45 per person and you can register on the LSCA website.



In case you missed some of the announcement on Sunday, 22 of us from CCC traveled to St. Louis to pack food for starving children around the world. The organizers of the event were so happy we made the trip to help with this important project.

Together, with the others in the shift, we packed over 66,000 meals in a two hour timeframe. The meals consist of a dried vitamin powder, dried vegetables, soy and rice. It is packed in a tightly sealed bag, boxed and then delivered to the people in need. We all were touched by the experience and plan to do it again next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy first day of Fall! Before we know it, we will be gathering for our annual Thanksgiving dinner and then all of the Christmas activities that follow. Our classes, both Sunday School and Youth Groups, are off to a great start. In particular, I have really enjoyed discussions in the mornings with the High School students. We are looking at the book, *7 Reasons Why You Can Trust The Bible*, and it is deepening our confidence in the Word of God He has set before us.

Outside of the normal meeting times, here are a few activities you can mark down in your calendar. Details will be forthcoming as we get closer to each event.

- Pumpkin Creek Farms: All students through 5th grade are welcome to go out for lunch then to Pumpkin Creek Farms on Sunday, October 20th after church.
- Masquerade Murder Mystery: Last Fall we did a murder mystery that was so much fun! This year, on Saturday, November 2nd, we will have another one here at the church. Keep your evening open!
- Paintball: Anyone interested in playing can join us on Saturday, November 9th for our annual paintball event. We usually play in the morning and are home by the early afternoon.



Practice at 5:15 this Sunday for those involved with the Christmas play. I hope you are excited about the parts you received! Don't forget to bring a snack!