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Hebrews 1:1-2

Reading Heb. 1:1-2 God it says spoke at various times and in diverse manners in time past. In what it calls the last days, that is days comparatively recently for the writing of the book of Hebrews, He has spoken by His Son. God spoke. That is a statement which could be taken as summarizing the Christian's attitude toward the Bible. God has spoken! And the anti-Christian attitude could be summarized by the exact opposite statement: God has not spoken. Of course, the difference between these two can be pushed back still further, ~~is~~ to Is God dead, or in other words, Isn't there any God or is there a God who is real?

What is God? Is He like a great statue somewhere? that you go over and look at and go over and measure, you look at it and try to find out about it and it will stay perfectly still all the time for you to examine? Or is God one who does things, the one who speaks, the One who controls all things. The One whom you cannot examine except He permits you to examine Him; the One who has done all that is important; the One who has given us this Book as His Word!

Now whichever way you start on this vital question is going to determine your attitude toward the Bible. I don't know as I like to say it quite that way wither. I might say it this way: If you assume that God cannot speak, if you assume there is no God who does things that will give you an entirely different attitude toward the Bible than if you don't assume that. Go to the Bible and say, Here it is. What does it say? It says, God spoke. Look at the beginning of it, what does it say? It says, God created the universe. It says God made man. It says man disobeyed God and that man fell. From this you learn that there is a God who controls things, a God who speaks. A God against whom we have sinned but a God who in wonderful mercy has provided a way of exacpe from sin.

A century ago there were men who went to this book in a different way. They said, We don't believe there is such a thing as a God who speaks, a God who says things, a God who does things. Where then did this book come from? How did this book come to teach such things? So they said, We'll have to make up a theory to account for it. So they began making different sorts of theories and these theories were held by a few scholars and a few of their students - not a great number of them. But there were a sizeable number of these theories taught by different scholars who objected to the idea of a God who does things. Then at about 1860 to 1870 two or three of these scholars worked out a system of explaining how the Bible came into existence as a purely human book, a purely human product. This system they worked out was written out in beautiful clear, cogent German by a noted German scholar, Prof. Jullius Wellhausen. Since that time it has been known as the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis. Wellhausen published this in 1878.