

## GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND IS STILL A COMMUNICATING GOD

*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, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

### **A. God talks amongst himself**

Genesis chapter 1 – quick review of creation focus on:

*Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.*

### **B. God spoke directly to his people**

Adam and Eve

*Genesis 2:16-17 - And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

*Genesis 3:8-15 - And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

*Genesis 3:22 - Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever*

Noah

*Genesis 6:13-14a - And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood.*

Abraham

*Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

- God initiated communication
- God knew the hearts and knew these people were seeking him and he made himself real to them.

### **C. God communicates through signs and wonders**

Noah – Rainbow

*Genesis 9:12-17 - And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."*

Moses Calling – Burning Bush - Exodus 3:1-10

Israel – Pillar of Cloud and Fire - Exodus 13:21-22

Gideon – Fleece

*Judges 6:36-40 - Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will*

*save Israel by my hand, as you have said.” And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, “Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew.” And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.*

- God often confirmed His message with visible signs.
- There are well over 100 recorded instances of signs, wonders, miracles, visions, dreams, symbolic actions, or supernatural events though out the bible.

#### **D. God communicates through angels**

Hagar -Abraham’s wife, Sarah’s maid servant in Genesis 16:7-13 – interesting because Abraham who God talked to, took matters into his own hands. God makes a promise to Hagar for her Son Ishmael by way of an Angel.

Gideon

*Judges 6:12-23 - And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.” And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.”*

Mary

*Luke 1:26-38 - In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”*

- God frequently used divine messengers to deliver His word.
- 30 distinct counts involving Angels delivering a Message from God
  1. Announcements (births, callings, future events)
  2. Guidance (what to do next)
  3. Warnings (danger, judgment, correction)
  4. Encouragement (fear not, God is with you)
  5. Revelation (explaining visions and prophecy)

## **E. God communicates through dreams and visions**

God explicitly states that dreams and visions are legitimate ways He communicates:

*Numbers 12:6 - "If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."*

Jacob (son of Isaac - grandson of Abraham) has a vision about his future

*Genesis 28:16-17 - Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*

Daniel vision of the end of days in Daniel chapter 7

*Daniel 7:13-14 - "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."*

Joseph (earthly father of Jesus)

*Matthew 1:20-21 - But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

And in the last days as it is discussed Joel and in Acts (2:17) it says:

*Joel 2:28 - "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."*

- God sometimes communicated while people were asleep or through supernatural revelation.
- Over 70 instances in the bible of communication with dreams and visions

## **F. God communicates through prophets**

- For most of biblical history, God's primary method of communicating with His people was through prophets whom He raised up and sent with His message.

*Amos 3:7 - "For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.*

Nathan - confronting David - 2 Samuel 12:1-14

Isaiah - often called the "Messianic Prophet" because he contains more detailed prophecies about Christ's birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and kingdom than any other Old Testament prophet and this was 700 years before Jesus was born!

Jeremiah – the new covenant through Christ

*Jeremiah 31:31-34 - "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

- God often spoke through chosen spokespersons.
- There are well over 100 individuals in the Bible who are described as prophets who clearly spoke God's message to others.

## **G. God communicates through Jesus Christ**

The Word Became Flesh

*John 1:1-14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,*

*he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

### The Supremacy of God's Son

*Hebrews 1:1-4 - 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, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

- Jesus is God's clearest revelation of Himself.
- Jesus is the Word of God wrapped in flesh.

### **H. God communicates today - Application**

#### Through Scripture

*Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God[a] may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

#### Through the Holy Spirit

*John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

*John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

Through preaching and teaching

*Romans 10:14-17 - How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

Through fellow believers

*Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God*

Through circumstances and God's providence

*Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

## **Closing**

- God never communicates today in a way that contradicts Scripture.
- God's Word Does Not Change  
*Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever."*
- God's Nature Does Not Change  
*Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."*
- God's Character Does Not Change  
*James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

The Bible's overall emphasis is not on the method of communication, but on whether people listen and obey when God speaks.