



an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!” (Galatians 1:8-9). There will not be another divine revelation given beyond the message of Christ.

Conclusion

I once had the opportunity to speak to an individual who believed God personally speaks to people in various ways today. This person believed that after our salvation God and the Bible will tell us what we should and shouldn't be doing. When we examine the Scriptures, however, we find that God instructs us THROUGH the Scriptures. There is no need for further revelations today, because the message of Christ has been completely delivered to us in the Bible.

Notice the words of the Hebrew author one more time, **“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...”** (Hebrews 1:1-2). It used to be that God spoke **“in many portions and in many ways,”** but the author only notes one way He communicates with us today. Therefore, we should not wait for God to whisper in our ear, because He has already spoken to us in His word. We should not attempt to find God in our dreams, we should search for God in the Scripture. We should not look to those who have claimed to have interactions with angels, but we should constantly be interacting with the Bible. The Lord does speak today! Are we listening?



man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:11-12). Paul made it clear that his message was NOT from any earthly source, but from the prophet of God. He got it from Christ!

Jude wrote in his epistle, **“contend earnestly for the faith which was ONCE FOR ALL HANDED DOWN to the saints”** (Jude 3, emphasis mine). There is no need for God to speak directly to individuals today, because the faith of the saints has already been delivered to them. Paul made it clear that **“even if we, or**

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Welcome Visitors

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THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

February 9,
2014



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

Does the Lord Speak Today?

By Andrew Dow

Many people throughout history have claimed to have contact with the divine. Muslims teach that Muhammad received a divine revelation from a pair of angelic beings. Mormons likewise claim that Joseph Smith experienced a supernatural revelation from God. Even many who believe in Jesus claim that the Lord speaks to them today. What are we to do with these claims? Are we to assume that the Lord has spoken to all of these individuals, or are we to dismiss them? As always, let's examine what the Scriptures say concerning the matter.

God Spoke Through the Prophets

The epistle to the Hebrews begins by saying, **“God... spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways”** (Hebrews 1:1, NASU). From a Biblical worldview this cannot be refuted. It is clear that God once spoke to His people through the prophets. While it may be easy to think of prophets as those who *foretold* coming events, the Biblical prophets did a great deal of *forthtelling* (speaking forth) the message of God.

Moses and Aaron provide an example of a prophet's relationship to God. One of the excuses Moses made before the Lord was, **“I have never been eloquent... for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue”** (Exodus 4:10). The Lord remedied this issue by providing

Aaron, Moses' brother, to speak on his behalf. The Lord said to Moses, **“You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth.... Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and you will be as God to him”** (Exodus 4:15-16). Later the Lord tells Moses, **“See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet”** (Exodus 7:1). Aaron would speak on behalf of Moses in the same way that a prophet would speak on behalf of God. This is the pattern we see throughout the Old Testament. When God communicated with His

people He would call on a prophet to speak for Him.

Although God spoke through prophets, it would be all too easy for someone to claim to be speaking for God when they were not. Does a simple claim mean that a prophet spoke for the Lord? Moses addressed this issue in Deuteronomy 18.

The prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. You may say in your heart, “How will we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?” When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

The difference between those who are true prophets and those who are false prophets is simple: The words of the true prophet will come to pass, because they are the words of God.

Read through the Old Testament and notice how frequently prophets make the claim, “Thus says the Lord,” or something like it. However, notice further that when they spoke the words of the Lord, everything came to pass just as they said it would. There can be no doubt that **“God... spoke long ago in the prophets”** (Hebrews 1:1)

God Speaks Through His Son

Notice again the words of the Hebrew author, **“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets... in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...”** (Hebrews 1:1-2). Do you recall the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 18 regarding the difference between the true and the false prophet? In that same context Moses writes, **“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him... ‘and I will put My words in his**

mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him” (Deuteronomy 18:15). There is a general sense in which every true prophet of God following Moses fulfills this prophecy, but none fulfills it so well as Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-26; Acts 7:35-39).

The people recognized that there was something prophet-like about Jesus. Some people had assumed that Jesus was **“John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets”** (Matthew 16:14). Perhaps this was due to the way he spoke: **“When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority and not as their scribes”** (Matthew 7:28-29). He spoke as if He was speaking a message directly from God. That's exactly what He was doing, and the people were right to assume He was a prophet of God.

Before He died, Jesus spoke these words to His disciples, **“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works”** (John 14:10). This statement was bold. Jesus made it clear that He wasn't making up His message. Rather, He was receiving it all from God. Jesus, by making these claims, was calling Himself a prophet of God and opening Himself up to be examined by the same test that Moses presented in Deuteronomy 18. Had Jesus' words come to pass, or had He failed to properly speak for God? The saddest point in the Bible is when God's people put to death the truest Prophet who was ever given. The irony is made clear when Jesus is resurrected from the dead, confirming that His message was truly from the Lord.

What About Today?

As we've already seen, **“God... in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...”** (Hebrews 1:1-2). It is pertinent to note that we are currently living in “the last days.” Notice carefully that the Hebrew author referred to **“THESE last days”** (Hebrews 1:2, emphasis mine). The days that we are living in are the last ones before the second coming of Christ, the general resurrection, and the final judgment. Therefore, we find ourselves living in the “last days.”

With that being said, the Hebrew author tells us that God is still speaking to us **“in His Son.”** The message that Christ preached in His earthly ministry and the message that He continued to teach through His apostles is the same message that God expects us to hear and obey today. Paul told the Galatians, **“For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from**

