

God Speaks, Message One

An Unchanging Message

Scriptures: Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

God speaks.

He did not have to speak, but He has.

In all that He has spoken, His single message is His plan of redemption which finds its culmination in Christ.

Introduction:

Has someone told you something, only to come back later and change their story?

In thinking about this question, some people's minds may immediately go to politicians.

You have heard the joke, "How do you know when a politician is lying? His lips are moving."

Obviously, this doesn't characterize all, or perhaps even their message when speaking to different groups to accomplish certain goals.

By contrast when God speaks, He has only one message, which is always applicable to everyone.

As One whose very character and nature is holiness and truth, God cannot lie.

As the sovereign creator and God over all things, there is no one to whom His message does not apply.

Whether speaking through the world He has made, through His written Word, or through the incarnate Word – the Lord Jesus Christ – God's message is clear.

He has made mankind for relationship with Himself, that we might know, love, serve and glorify Him.

Though our sin separates us from God, His plan from the beginning was to reconcile to Himself those who would place their faith in God's provision for redemption – Jesus Christ.

I – God has revealed Himself from the beginning.

Since the beginning of the world, God has spoken to man.

Though God speaks through creation itself, He didn't simply create the world and then hide, leaving man to figure out the world and his place in it.

Rather, from the beginning, God took the initiative to reveal Himself, His ways, and His purposes to man.

He spoke to Adam as he walked and lived in the garden.

He spoke to Moses from the burning bush and later, according to **Exodus 33:11**, face-to-face.

Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

God spoke to the prophets, by His Spirit, commanding them to write down His words so that they might pass to future generations **2 Peter 1:20-21**.

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

God spoke to them in various ways at various times **Heb. 1:1**.

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

The thing we must remember in all of this, however, is that God is the One who took the initiative.

His words are what He communicates to man **2 Timothy 3:16**.

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

We should note in today's passage that Jesus is acknowledging "Moses and the Prophets" (the Law and the Prophets) as God's authoritative revelation.

Don't overlook, however, both the fact that God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to man, and that from the beginning God's message to man has pointed toward a single goal, as we will see in the latter part of this verse.

Application: Have you taken time to consider that the God of all creation has taken the initiative to speak to man to reveal Himself, His character, His ways, and His plan?

We know that the Bible is God's divine revelation of Himself to us.

Because God does not change, His word has not changed, nor will it change.

The question is: Does the way you value, read, memorize, and meditate upon the Word of God demonstrate that you recognize this incredible reality?

II – God's revelation has always pointed to Christ.

God's revelation of His redemptive plan began seemingly small - a promised seed that would come from the woman **Genesis 3:15**.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Over time, that revelation unfolded and become clearer.

The promise would come through Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then Judah, then David, etc.

To read **2 Kings** and see the miserable failure of all those "sons of David," one could certainly wonder how God's promise would be fulfilled, but it was not yet fully revealed.

Even at the end of the Old Testament, the readers of Jesus' day were looking, hoping, longing for that one who would come to deliver Israel, God's people.

When would the one come who would fulfill the promise to Abraham and bring God's blessing not only to the Jews, but to all people?

The disciples who walked along the Emmaus Road with Jesus knew God had promised a Messiah who would "redeem Israel" **Luke 24: 13-35**.

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.

18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"



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19 And he said to them, **“What things?”** And they said to him, **“Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,**
20 **and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.**
21 **But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.**
22 **Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,**
23 **and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.**
24 **Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”**
25 And he said to them, **“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!**
26 **Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”**
27 **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**
28 **So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,**
29 **but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.**
30 **When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.**
31 **And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.**
32 **They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”**
33 **And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,**
34 **saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”**
35 **Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.**

They were hoping Jesus was that Messiah, yet it seemed their hope was lost.

It is here that Jesus, far from giving them some new or different revelation, showed them the fulfillment of what God had spoken from the beginning.

The text says Jesus began with Moses and the prophets and "interpreted" for them how all the Scriptures pointed to Him.

Paul uses this same word in **1 Corinthians** for the interpreting of languages.

Jesus showed these followers (and us) that God had been speaking from the beginning about His plan to redeem lost man to Himself through Christ.

Now, through Christ, that plan was coming to pass.

Application: God has no "Plan B."

His plan from the beginning has been to redeem to Himself those who would trust in Christ as the only means of salvation, through repentance and faith.

For some, their need is to acknowledge their own sin and Christ as the only Savior, bowing their hearts before Him in repentance, faith, and surrender.

For those who have trusted Christ, however, our responsibility is to speak to others that which God has spoken from the beginning.

We don't need a new message.

We have to speak boldly and clearly the message of reconciliation with God through Christ.

This is both the message and mission we have been given **2 Cor. 5:18-20**.

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



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Take-Aways

God is a God who speaks

God who reveals Himself,

His character

His purpose

His plan

From the beginning, that which He has spoken has been clear and consistent – He will provide for lost man a sinless redeemer that will reconcile God and man.

He has done this in Christ.

In the weeks to come, we will see not only that God speaks, but how He has spoken and how all that He has spoken points us to Christ.

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II – God's revelation has always pointed to Christ.

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