

## God Speaks

**Acts 3:18-26** But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. 22 Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' 24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. 25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' 26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

**Big Idea:** God sent Jesus into the world to be our perfect Prophet.

### **A Word about Prophets**

[SHOCKER: The Universe does not explain itself.] Prophets are God's mouthpieces. They speak for God - they communicate His revelation. Prophets are necessary for humans because they tell us what we otherwise wouldn't know. They tell us what we can't deduce or reason or discover in the universe. Prophets give us God's interpretation of existence and his interpretation of us. When God speaks through His prophets, He reveals His requirements for us along with his reasons, purposes, grounds, means, ways, and ends to us so that we can actually understand who we are in relation to Him. God uses prophets to teach, to reprove, to correct, and to train His people.

**Event + Interpretation = Revelation**

### **A Word about Jesus**

There are many reasons that God sent Jesus into the world. Among them was the obvious fact that humanity has rejected God's prophets. Humans have exhibited from the beginning that we don't like what God has to say to us. We don't like looking at the world through His lenses; we would rather look at the world through our own lenses. We also don't think he has told us enough to satisfy our curiosity about the world. We think that what He hasn't told us is as important, if not more important than what He has told us. God sent Jesus to be His final word to humans.

**Hebrews 1:1-3** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 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.

Jesus' Notable Teaching:

Matthew 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount), Matthew 10 (Being on Mission with Jesus), Matthew 13 (Parables of the Kingdom), Matthew 18-20 (Questions & Answers), Matthew 23-25 (Olivet Discourse)

I AM statements in John:

1. I am the bread of life (6:35, 48, 51)
2. I am the light of the world (8:12; 9:5)
3. I am the door of the sheep (10:7, 9)
4. I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14)
5. I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
7. I am the true vine (15:1)

What Jesus did that no biblical prophet ever did before:

1) Said "Amen" before he made his statements

**Matthew 18:3** Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 13:17** For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

2) Referred to God as his Father

**John 10:27-33** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32

Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

*3) Said he existed before he was born*

**John 8:54-59** Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

*4) Equated listening to himself with listening to God*

**John 14:8-10** Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

*5) Pointed to himself as the fulfillment of what all the prophets spoke*

**Matthew 5:17-18** Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

**John 5:46-47** For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

### III. A Word to Us

*Truth Matters*

Do you love truth? Are you a diligent pursuer of truth or are you content to build your life on opinion and speculation? Do you think that facts matter? Do you think there is such thing as right/wrong, black/white or is everything grey?

*We Need Correction*

Are you correctible? Are you teachable? Are you always right? Are you ever wrong? Do you always have to have the last word? Are you convinced that you are always the smartest or wisest person in the room? Are you always doing the talking? Do you really listen, or are you just waiting to talk? Do you ask questions or do you simply make assertions?

*God is Truth*

Are you committed to the truth that God has revealed in the Scriptures? Do you value human reason and emotion above the logic and passion of heaven? Do you spend significant time considering God's perspective and interpretation of your life?

*We Can Repent*

Do you repent? Do you search out your wrongs, do you identify your idols, and do you confess your sins? Do you make excuses for yourself and put conditions on your obedience to God? Do you humble yourself and cry out to God for mercy?

*We Can Trust Jesus*

Do you trust Jesus? Do you believe that He forgives our sins through His death and resurrections? Do you believe that He can change you? Do you believe that he can restore you and care for you? Do you believe that you can trust him with the "fine china" of your life? Do you think that there is anything that Jesus can't take from you in this life that can't be exchanged for something better in eternity?

**John 8:31-32** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

God sent Jesus into the world to be our perfect Prophet and to set us free with His word.