

Hebrews 7.14

God Who Speaks

God is a God who speaks. And when He speaks He calls us to hear and to obey... There is much confusion in this world and in the church about the revelation of God. To whom does God speak? And just how plainly? And WHY does God speak to us? God speaks to us in His word, by the Spirit of Christ... And what is more, His word is the very arbiter of all truth. Anything that denies the word of God denies the God of the Word. He will never speak contrary to His revealed word, and He will always fulfill every word He ever spoken to us. Because at its heart, the revelation of God to us is the revelation of God FOR us...

I. GOD SPEAKS FOR US

- A. It pleases God to provide evidence for our hope and our confidence
- B. It was evident to the prophets, through the Word of God that
 - 1. Messiah was to come from Judah

a. Unexpectedly and not in splendor

Isaiah 53:2–3 (NKJV) ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

2. Splendor would come in its time

Isaiah 4:2 (NKJV) ² In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped.

3. Splendor because Messiah was to be born to the line of Kings.

a. Clearly of the Davidic line

Isaiah 11:1 (NKJV) ¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Jeremiah 23:5 (NKJV) ⁵ “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

Jeremiah 33.14-18

C. When He makes a promise to us, when He speaks His word

Amos 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

1. He will always give us reason to understand it,
2. and to believe it

D. The Spirit of God will help us with these reminders and gives us the faith to believe what is not yet seen.

John 14:26 (NKJV) 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 things that I said to you.

II. GOD SPEAKS TO US

A. In Both Plain Truth and Mystery

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

1. Note this: The law and the testimonies

B. Of Judah, nothing was written about the priesthood - God did not reveal this twist to His plan... His secrets are His own to reveal or not as He sees fit... therefore knowing this:

1. It is our duty to seek to understand all that we can
2. It is our duty to recognize that some things we will not/cannot understand
3. It is our duty to DO everything that we DO understand...

III. MYSTERIES HIDDEN OR REVEALED BY GOD

A. The Word of God was given with ample clues but we did not always have eyes to see them nor ears to hear them.

1. 16 times we are told in the NT those "who have ears to hear" should hear... It is a simple expression with deep and profound meaning. It is the Lord who has given us spiritual ears to hear what we can

Isaiah 50:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ "The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear

To hear as the learned. ⁵ The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.

2. On THIS side of Calvary God has made His truth much plainer for us

1Corinthians 2.9-16

3. Firstly - our spiritual hearing itself is a gift from God
4. Secondly - God is still at work through His Spirit and the Word to give us understanding and wisdom.
 - a. Knowledge of God
 - b. Through the Spirit
 - c. Freely given
 - d. "That have been given" - implying that there are still things that have NOT been given.
5. Third - the knowledge of these things is not common to merely physical. It is spiritual
6. Fourthly - those without spiritual life cannot comprehend spiritual things nor spiritual truth
7. Fifth - as those who belong to God, with spiritual life and discernment given BY God, we can both judge the truth of things AS WELL AS

expect that those around us will judge us and our understanding wrongly.

8. Last - this is all part of having been given the mind of Christ.

IV. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND SIN

A. There is a deep and fundamental connection between sin and spiritual blindness, and sometimes the reasons for our misunderstanding, or our ignorance is simply sin.

B. God ALONE is God

Isaiah 44.6-8

C. Ultimately He will punish us with idols if we persist in giving His glory to another

Isaiah 44.9-20

D. Worship of false God's makes us blind and deaf

Psalms 115.3-8

Psalms 135.15-18

E. But even followers of God can have seasons of blindness.

1. Perhaps we neglect to take in the Word
2. Perhaps we do not obey what is plain and clear (pretending that the dark and hidden parts prevent obedience on the plain and sunny parts)

3. Perhaps we have had wisdom but have fallen into sin and have thus been led to folly...
F. The word of God is given plainly but sin blinds us to its meaning and right application

Isaiah 28.7-10

G. The word of the Lord is given and we often think that we can rightly see and apply it on our own strength, apart from God's Spirit and presence... but without His involvement, we will NEVER see it aright.

Isaiah 28.11-13

H. The determination to continue in the way of sin will blind you permanently...

Jeremiah 13:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Hear and give ear: Do not be proud, For the Lord has spoken. ¹⁶ Give glory to the Lord your God Before He causes darkness, And before your feet stumble On the dark mountains, And while you are looking for light, He turns it into the shadow of death And makes it dense darkness. ¹⁷ But if you will not hear it, My soul will weep in secret for your pride; My eyes will weep bitterly And run down with tears, Because the Lord's flock has been taken captive.

I. The judgments of God may perhaps bring us to repentance

Ezekiel 12:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ² “Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house. ³ “Therefore, son of man, prepare your belongings for captivity, and go into captivity by day in their sight. You shall go from your place into captivity to another place in their sight. It may be that they will consider, though they are a rebellious house.

J. Blindness TO the truth does not make you free
FROM truth and judgement

Matthew 7:24–27 (NKJV) ²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

V. RESTORATION AND REPENTANCE

A. God heals the repentant heart

2Chronicles 7:12–17 (NKJV) ¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: “I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. ¹⁷ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments,

B. We have never been more in need of clarity and restoration than at this time... But the answer is the same as always, the same as at the beginning... Repentance and faith that God will hear and heal.

