

## 01 | God Spoke

*The View From Here*

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## INTRODUCTION

We are in Hebrews 1, and I'm beginning a series called *The View From Here*. And it's not a series in the book of Hebrews; it's a topical series, which most of you know I'm not particularly comfortable with. I prefer to take a book of the Bible and just go straight through it, but I feel that occasionally we need to take inventory of: What is an overview of what we believe? How is that distinct from the world? How does that help us to cope with the world and lend us an understanding of how we may interface with other people who believe very differently from ourselves? And so the series is called *The View From Here*, and it is very much about "What is the biblical, Christian worldview?" And the hardest part of this I think was figuring out where to start with it. Do we start with Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"? And my first instinct was to go there because part of our Christian worldview is that God created everything. But we need to go even more fundamental than that. We need to go to something more important, and it is simply this: the fact that God spoke.

In Hebrews 1 we're going to talk about this because the only way we know God created everything is that God spoke, that God has revealed Himself to mankind. And that makes all the difference. What we believe effects how we see the world and how we connect with people and connect with nonbelievers and how we deliver the gospel to them. And when we fully understand what we believe, we will understand not only what is going on in the world; we will understand ourselves and how we can live in this world, and we will understand others: why they do what they do and how it is that we can reach them. We're going to begin with this simple fact: that God has spoken.

## GOD HAS SPOKEN

I'm going to read Hebrews 1:1-[3]. Follow along with me in your Bibles: *"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..."*

Let's pray, "Father God, this day, we understand that you have spoken, and, indeed, you still speak by your living word here and by your Holy Spirit. And this day we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us to give us understanding of your word and to help us see things the way you do. Lord, mold us and shape us. Take us and reformat our minds that we may understand you, and that we may be a better help to our fellow man. Lord we praise you and we ask that you be glorified this day. In Jesus' name. Amen."

God has spoken. The most fundamental difference between true, biblical Christianity and everything else that is out there is this: we believe that He not only has spoken, but that we can know and understand what He has said. And it seems so basic and so simple, but yet it's radically different from the world who wants to say, "Oh, no, we can't possibly understand God; no we can't possibly know Him. And oh yeah, these people say that, and these other people say this contradictory thing, and these other people contradict even both those things, so, therefore, we can't know anything about God."

We take this as an assumption in our belief: that God has spoken. We quote the Bible to people when we share the gospel with them, and we teach them things. We quote the Bible to them not understanding that maybe they need to start even more basic than that. Because to them, the Bible is not necessarily authoritative. Now use it, because it's what the Holy Spirit will use to convict them. But do not assume that people find any credibility or any authority in the Bible itself. We take it as an assumption. Now there are many passages to talk about the inspiration of the Word of God, and the reliability of the Scriptures. I can parade a bunch of proofs for you that show that the Bible is the Word of God, but I believe this particular passage is really key, because it's really about whether or not God has spoken at all. Has He spoken to us?

## GOD HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS

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

Look at verse 1 here: *"God spoke... through the prophets."* And in verse one it's, of course, speaking of the Old Testament, because the book of Hebrews was written in the 1st century, before the entire New Testament had been recognized by the church. This is a letter written to believers in the first century a few decades after Jesus was gone, written by people who probably had first-hand knowledge of Jesus, and certainly exhibit that knowledge in what they have written. And it's speaking of the Old Testament Scriptures. It's saying, "Look, many times, many different ways, God actually spoke to our fathers," (now this is a Jew writing to other Jews in the book of Hebrews who believe in Jesus Christ, so they are completed Jews). And he's saying, "Look, our very people were spoken to by God, by the prophets." And so we begin with that, and we take that as an assumption.

The Bible does not seek to prove itself. And if you pay really close attention when you read the Bible, the Bible doesn't prove to you God. The Bible assumes God, and the Bible assumes its own authority; it takes it as a given. Give me a groan if you remember in mathematics, Geometry, doing proofs. You guys remember doing proofs in Geometry? Where they're like, "Prove this angle is the same as this angle." And you're like, "I have a protractor for that, book. I can measure the angle and tell you it's the same." And they're like, "No, you have to prove it." And so you have to go through all these different theorems, but the first thing you have to start with is what is given. They give you some information first, and the information is usually like, "Well, this side is equal to that side of the triangle, and this thing's equal to that, and now prove that this other thing is true." What we're dealing with here in the inspiration of Scripture is the given. This is the given {inaudible} the Bible. And that there is a God is a given. The Bible doesn't seek to prove either one of those things; it takes it as a given and works from there. It's taken as an assumption.

### ***The Bible is Provable***

Now there are many things in the Bible that do prove it. The Bible has prophecies in it, and we have copies of the Scriptures that date back to beginning before the fulfillment of these prophecies. And we know that they have been fulfilled, and they've been fulfilled in such a detailed and perfect way that there's no way a human being could've guessed it or contrived it. So the Bible does prove itself. It proves itself by its content, the fact that when a believer comes to the Bible, and they read it, they see truth, and they are edified and encouraged and strengthened. They see a great consistency and a lack of contradictions. Whenever someone says, "Oh, there are many contradictions in the Bible," that's good news. Why? Now you know where they stand: they are an unbeliever. Because when believers study the Scriptures, the contradictions go away. And whenever you think you find a contradiction in Scripture, you should be just a little bit excited because you're about to learn something if you're open to learning it. Because where you think there's a contradiction, you're about to raise your knowledge to another level on those issues {inaudible} to remedy?

### ***The Bible is Wholly Consistent***

The Bible has a lot of internal markers and patterns and structural things within it that prove that it is of extraterrestrial nature. In fact, there are codes within the New Testament that cause the books to interlock in ways that are interdependent that they would've had to have been written by a single author, and yet the evidence is to the contrary, that these books were not written by a single author. They were written at various times and in various places, and not codified together until the 4th century, and yet there's this structure within them that bonds them together that makes them a single unit. And so the Bible does prove itself, but not by the words you read. It assumes itself, and it assumes God.

Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament, these guys were charged with writing it down. Here's how Peter describes it in 2 Peter 1. He says, "*[K]nowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation...*" That's important because you'll run into people who say, "Well, that's not how I read it, I understand it this way." No, it's not up to you how to understand it, it says what it says. He goes on to say, "*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.*"<sup>1</sup> Now Paul says in Romans 15, he talks about the usefulness of the Scripture. He says, "*For whatever was written in former days was written through our instruction, that through endurance and through encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*"<sup>2</sup> God knew it was necessary to write these things down.

### ***The Bible is Supernaturally Inspired***

Second Timothy 3, a book in which Paul is writing his last letter to his dear friend and his son in the faith, Timothy – Paul knows he's about to face death, he has limited amount of time to write to Timothy those things most important for his survival, and he writes a great deal about the false teachers that will come, and the people that will come and twist God's word and lead people astray. And he speaks about that quite a bit, but in 2 Timothy 3 he takes a little time to talk about the Scriptures. And he says, "*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable...*" so not only is it breathed out by God, it's actually useful, God is very practical. It says, "*For teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*"<sup>3</sup> The implication of what Paul writes there is that we are not equipped and we are not complete until we make study of the Scriptures.

And that inspiration, that God breathing, that inspiration of the Holy Spirit to God's people to write continues into the New Testament, which are the new Scriptures that complete the Old Testament. Jesus promised that this would be so, when he was explaining to the disciples on the night he was going to be arrested and then that next day crucified, he explained to them, "When I'm gone, the Holy Spirit will come, and He will bring to remembrance all that I have said to you."<sup>4</sup> And that's exactly what God did, and those men wrote it down, so that we would have it and have a complete Bible.

In 2 Peter 3:16, Peter mentions Paul's writings and how they were sometimes difficult to understand, some of you say amen, right? You read some of Paul's stuff, and he'll take 7 or 8 verses to explain something. And it's like, Paul you're killing me. Well Peter recognized that, too. He says, "Look, I know that Paul has written to you about some of these same things, and

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Peter 1:20-21

<sup>2</sup> Romans 15:4

<sup>3</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>4</sup> John 14:26

though his stuff is hard to understand, it's very useful." And he says, "[T]he ignorant and unstable twist [his writings] to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures." Peter says that, and he lumps Paul's writings then in with all the other Scriptures. Peter recognized Paul's writings as Scripture while Paul was still alive. That's pretty amazing. They knew what was going on. They new what God was doing.

But most evident of the New Testament continuing that Old Testament tradition is this: the perfect continuity with the Old Testament. You ever heard someone say, "I'm a New Testament Christian"? Hogwash! I kind of wished they hadn't broken it up and named it two different things, Old Testament and New Testament, because it's a single, unified Bible, perfect in every way with no contradiction, no mixture of error, inspired by God cover to cover, every Word. God has spoken.

## GOD HAS SPOKEN THROUGH HIS SON

*"...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."*

Now look at verse two. The writer introduces with the assumption: "By the way, God has spoken to us by all the prophets, but," he says, starting in verse 2, "in these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son... the heir of all things." He calls Jesus the heir of all things. And if Jesus is going to inherit everything – and this is a great argument for the deity of Christ, the fact that Jesus Christ was fully divine was this: he's going to inherit everything. If he were anything else less than God himself it would be like a toddler trying to fly a 747. He's going to inherit all things. He's got to be God in order to handle it. It also says, "...through whom He also created the world." He created everything through Him.

*"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."*

Verse three goes on to say, "[Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God," that is, that's the part that shines forth. He shows forth the glory of God. Have you ever taken a picture of a sunset and then looked at that picture and been disappointed? I think we've all been there. We take a picture, we see the skies, it's glorious. "Guys, come out and see this, I'm going to get a picture." And you take the picture, and you look at the picture later, and you're like, "Eh." It wasn't like really being there. But look how Jesus is described here. He's not a picture of God, He is the radiance of the glory of God. That is, He reveals to us all about God. And he's not going to {inaudible} pixelated by being digitized, by being reduced. He can only do that by being God. It says that He is the exact imprint of His nature, the exact imprint of his nature. And some say, "Well, that means like a coin where it just has got the embossing of George Washington. It's not really George Washington, it's the imprint of George Washington." God is Spirit {inaudible} but you can manifest it in a man and show it to mankind. And that's what it means by "He is the exact imprint of God:" presented to us in a way that's understandable.

*"...and he upholds the universe by the word of his power..."*

Verse three continues, *"...he upholds the universe by the Word of his power."* In the Old Testament, all over the Old Testament, the upholding of the universe, the creation of the universe, the showing forth of glory, all glory that there is, is credited to God, the LORD (in all caps), Yahweh in the Old Testament. And now the New Testament comes along and says all that about Jesus. God has spoken. And He has spoken through Jesus Christ, the perfect imprint of himself.

The rest of Hebrews 1 goes on to argue for Jesus' superiority to angels. And I find that fascinating because there are other religions and cults out there that claim to have received inspiration from an angel. But what is revealed about God in the person of Jesus Christ is superior than anything an angel can bring a human being. And the ironic thing about this, and save this little piece for your friends that belong to one of those cults that involve an angel of some kind, Paul warns against that exact thing in Galatians 1:8. He says, "Even if an angel from heaven comes to you declaring..." now notice he said, "an angel *from heaven* comes to you declaring something other than what I have told you, let him be accursed." That's interesting isn't it?

So if God has spoken, and He has spoken most recently through His Son Jesus, in order for all this to have any meaning at all, in order for us to take any recognition of Jesus Christ, then the record of Jesus Christ would have to be perfect. Think about that for a moment. If we're to take Jesus seriously at all, if we're to say, "Yeah, I follow Jesus," if we're to make that kind of commitment and put our eternal destiny on the line, don't you think God had better provided us with good information? Do you realize when you purchase a home, you have that home inspected, right? You want to make sure that you're getting what you're paying for. You want to make sure that there [are] no hidden issues there. And when it comes to our eternal destiny, when it comes to our spiritual well-being, and thereby the spiritual well-being we lead our families into, don't you think that God would want us to have assurance? [That He] would want us to know that what we're putting our faith in was true? Jesus coming to die is a very radical thing. God sending His only begotten Son to die in our place for our sins, sins he didn't commit, but willingly took our place for the punishment that we deserve – do you think God that would have allowed that to be in vain? Do you think God, and it says, His only son whom he loved<sup>5</sup>, would allow His son to die and then the message of that happening come out to us flawed, broken, missing parts, inaccurate?

## GOD HAS SPOKEN PERFECTLY AND INFALLIBLY

To believe in the perfect revelation of Jesus Christ and to believe in the authority of the Scriptures and the accuracy of the Scriptures is the only reasonable stance for a Christian. And I'm here to tell Christians today this very thing: if you do not believe in the veracity, that is

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<sup>5</sup> Genesis 22:2; John 3:16

the reliability, that the {inaudible} truthfulness of the Scriptures, just stay home on Sundays because you have no faith. You have no way of knowing which parts to accept and which parts to deny. And you say, "Yeah, but there's some parts I clearly disagree with and some things that, well, the culture doesn't bear out as being right and proper." And it's like, "Take a look around at culture and ask me this, Are they mostly right with God or mostly screwed up with God?" And you're going to take their opinion on which parts of Scripture to look for? It's crazy. The only reasonable stance is to believe this, the only reasonable stance is to do what the Bible does and take the Bible at its word. For God is both loving and powerful, and my question to those [of you] who call yourself a Christian and don't believe its perfect Scripture – I have one question for you: which is wrong {inaudible}? Is He not loving, or is He not powerful? Because what they're saying is either a) God didn't love us enough to give us a good Word, or they're saying b) God isn't powerful enough to give us a good Word. And that's my question. Every bit is inspired or we have no faith at all. God has spoken perfect {inaudible}, and it is accessible to people.

### **Common Objection: Differences in Manuscripts**

Now there's a lot of opposition to what I've just stated. There's a lot of people who fight against it, and many of them will call themselves Christian and say, "No, we really don't really agree with that. Yeah, the Bible's kind of old and outdated, and we don't believe God really intended for us to have all that kind of information, and we've gotta take it with a grain of salt," they'll say. I understand the opposition, I even understand the scholars when they talk about textual differences. They talk about differences in manuscripts and errors. Yeah, I've seen all the errors. I've seen the differences in manuscripts, and I know this: no one difference makes any theological difference at all; the whole supports it.

And if you take all the differences – and you have a lot of people out there [who] pound their King James Version of the Bible and say, "The King James is the only inspired, authoritative Scripture there is." And I say, "OK, I agree with you in this: I prefer the manuscripts that were used for the King James Version for a whole lot of scholarly and headachy kind of reasons. But if you take every single difference between the King James Version manuscripts and, say, the NIV manuscripts, and you line them up next to each other, you could look at that list of Scriptures, and you could detect a little bit of an influence that's not Christian." And they'll say, "See? That's why you can't trust that Bible!" And I'll say, "Yeah, but the problem is you're looking at {inaudible} lists bits and pieces from here and there, all over it, on one page, when the fact is it's spread out across hundreds of pages, and every little bit having its own context, which guards against the very error that you're saying it creates."

So when you take it as a whole there's no theological difference whatsoever. And in fact, the manuscript differences within the New Testament are the best proofs of how accurate the Bible is. Because when we compare it to other ancient manuscripts of other works, there's no comparison at all. When you read the ancient works of the ancient Greeks and the philosophers and *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, things like that, you can trust, at best, about 70%

of what's there. And every bit of the New Testament is in the high 90s of agreement across manuscripts all over the world. Unbelievers bring up the textual differences as just an excuse to ignore the Bible. Believers sometimes get carried away with them and make a shipwreck of their faith. And I've seen it happen.

### ***Common Objection: Differences in Linguistics***

Some people will say, "Well, look, there's linguistics differences and things here, and it's difficult for us to interpret from another language." I say you pull out your Sunday paper, and you find one of those cryptoquote things and try to do it wrong. Try to do it wrong, where you actually get a different word for every single word that's there and have it come out to read a sentence that actually makes any sense at all. It cannot be done. Only one right sentence is going to fit. You cannot mistranslate a volume this thick. It is statistically impossible because the error will be revealed by the mistranslation in another place.

### ***Common Objection: Differences in Culture***

People say, "Where there's a lot of cultural differences between the Bible and when it was written to and the people it was written to and today." Yes, I agree there are cultural difference, but God is about principle, and principles have universal application. Did you ever have the science question, "If I drop this heavy little battery and I drop this feather, which will hit the ground first?" And you say, "Well, the battery obviously because the feather's going to float around." They'll say, "OK, now, do the same test in a vacuum. No air effect whatsoever, drop the battery, drop the feather in a vacuum, which will hit first?" And they're asking you a trick question. They'll hit at the same time because acting on them both is a principle, a law of gravity. God governs his universe by laws. God governs everything by principles, by things that are the same in every situation. And He does the same thing with spiritual matters.

Why do we view God one way when we come to science or mathematics, but view him a different way when it comes to spirituality? It's the same God. He deals in principles, and, thereby, the principles laid forth in Scripture have universal application to every human being at every time because God doesn't change and humans don't change. But when you open the Bible and read something like, "Hey, there's a rule here that women aren't allowed to cut their hair." You haven't found the principle yet. What's the principle? When you do your digging and you read the rest of the letter that that's in, that was written to Corinth, and you find the history of what things were like in Corinth. The reason Paul told them not to cut their hair is because that's what the temple prostitutes did in Corinth. So we don't make a rule for our church: you can't cut their hair; we make a principle for our church: don't look like the hoes. Yeah, I just said that. That's the principle behind what he was teaching. He was not teaching a lesson [saying] women ought not to cut their hair. No, he's teaching [this] lesson: women ought not to look like the temple prostitutes of the other religions. Principles are timeless, and principles can be found in the Scripture. And God is Spirit, but God is also the Spirit of the Law. God is a known entity. So they'll charge the cultural differences.



***Common Objection: Differences in Transmission (Accidental or Purposeful)***

They'll also charge problems in transmission: "As people copied the manuscripts, there were accidental problems in copying the things." Someone who believes that is coming at the Scriptures from an evolutionary worldview. They're seeing a book that's nearly 2,000 years old, and they're assuming that the people who copied it were not as smart as the people today. Because you and I could copy it word for word, letter for letter [perfectly], right? Well, that's because we're educated. But they make an error because they think we're smarter than people were 2,000 years ago and, folks, I've read the stuff from 2,000 years ago, and I will argue the exact opposite, that we're dumber than we ever were. I heard someone ask sometime, "Would anybody ever tell me if I was getting stupider?" Folks, we're getting stupider. Read the old stuff! These people were brilliant. Why? Because they weren't so distracted all the time by entertaining themselves.

So, it presupposes that people are improving if you say that there's transmission errors, that people are somehow more intelligent. The biblical view sees the Bible and sees in the Bible revelation of [this]: after the flood ages are decreasing. Science sees that genetic defects are on the rise. We're falling apart, we're doing the opposite of evolution and science knows it. They don't want to deny evolution because then they have to accept God. The biblical view is that Jesus warned us that, in the last days, lawlessness would increase, that people would lose love, and that the world would be fading away. And people say, "Oh, you know, all these species are going extinct." And we look at it because we understand the Bible, and we go, "Yep." And they go, "And genetic problems are on the rise." And we look at them and go, "Yep. It's exactly what the Bible said would happen." [And they say,] "The world's falling apart and lawlessness is increasing." And we look at them and go, "Yep isn't it great?" And they'll say, "What, are you nuts?" And I say, "No, I understand the Bible, and this fulfills what Jesus says, and it further proves that He was who He said He was, because He said this would happen."

Some say that there is purposeful alteration of the Scriptures. That people purposefully went in and changed bits and pieces of it. And they did it sometimes for theological purposes, they tried to rewrite it to make it say what they wanted it to say. Or that they rewrote it so that they could bring in other religions to it for political reasons or in order to control the masses, but that's an invalid charge because all of those errors, all of those cults, anyone's bad theology is actually provable by the Scriptures. And if that's the case, if they purposefully changed the Scriptures to try to make some kind of a heresy, they did a really bad job of it. Not only that but if they had changed the Scriptures, then we would have conflicting manuscripts. We would have one manuscript from the book of Romans that said that salvation is only by grace, which the Bible says, and then we would have other ones out there saying, "Oh, yeah, but you've got to be a good person." But we don't have that problem. Why? Because it hasn't been changed.

## GOD HAS SPOKEN AUTHORITATIVELY

I know I threw a lot of things at you and you might go back and listen to it and look at some of these charges here, but really [the real question is] this: why is there any opposition to the Bible? And that's interesting to me. I've never met a group of people going around talking about how *The Iliad* is not exactly what Homer intended, a group of people going around protesting *The Iliad* because it says certain things in it that are not right, and that Homer couldn't have intended that, it would be out of character for Homer. No one says that, why? Because *The Iliad* doesn't say what the Bible says about them. There's opposition because men love men rather than God. They want to change revelation to change with the times because men want to do what they want to do. [It] sounds redundant, but it's true. Jesus said that times would change, that lawlessness would increase, that the love of many would grow cold. He even said that many people would fall away from the faith. And we see it happening, and we're encouraged because He said it would.

People want to oppose the Bible because they want to be more loving and accepting. They want to say, "Well, we want to embrace more people, and the Bible says things about certain groups of people that they find offensive, and we want to kind of downplay that, and we want to say [that] we don't really believe in that part of it [as it] was written in a time and place not relevant [to] today, and we want to accept people." Really this is the same as what I said earlier: that people are more interested in what people think about them than what God thinks about them. They're more concerned with what people think.

Some people want to lie about the nature of God. But the Scripture actually warns against that. Jesus said that to lead someone astray – and he's speaking in the context of religious teaching – he says that to lead someone astray that would believe in Jesus Christ, it would be better to have a millstone – ok, you're like, "What's a millstone?" This is where the principle comes out: big heavy rock. It would be better for a millstone to be hung around their neck and they were thrown into the middle of the sea than to lead someone astray from Jesus.<sup>6</sup> Oh, He took it very seriously.

And by what authority can we say such a thing? Because He is all authority. He's the inheritor of all things. He's the exact imprint of the nature of God. And if you're distorting Scripture, or you're altering or ignoring parts of Scripture just in order to be inclusive to people, you are marching them by the hand possibly right into hell in the name of "love." If by being loving and accepting you had them accept the gospel that part of it was omitted, what are the chances that they're really saved? And I say this: and Jesus said, "If you deny me before men I'll deny you before the Father. But if you affirm me before men, I will affirm you before the Father."<sup>7</sup> This does not mean that we have to affirm Jesus in order to be saved, no it means that if we're saved we will, indeed, affirm Jesus. And we will not deny him. If you're changing

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 8:16; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 10:32-33

any bit of this revelation of Jesus Christ – and, cover to cover, it's all about Him. He said so in Luke 24. He showed his disciples how all the Scriptures were about him.<sup>8</sup> If you're changing any part of this you are, in essence, denying Jesus before men.

## CONCLUSION

That's where we begin in our view. The uniqueness of our particular stance is more basic than the inspiration of the Bible; it's this: God has spoken. He said something, and we can understand what He has said. He has spoken through the prophets in the Bible. He has spoken through the mere fact, according to Romans 1, that there's anything. He's even revealed, it says, his divine nature by what's been made.<sup>9</sup> What does that mean? Principles. We explore nature, and we find principles. That teaches us about how God works. He has revealed Himself in history by interacting with mankind. Things have happened to the nation of Israel that have never happened with any other nation. One thing is their exile. Do you realize that no other nation in history have a particular people group descended from a particular person, been taken out of their homeland, and then returned? It's never happened. And God, He did it twice, and the book of Isaiah said it's only going to happen twice, and then comes the end. It's very interesting.

God has spoken through Jesus. God speaks according to Romans 2, through our conscience.<sup>10</sup> God speaks, according to John 14-17, through the Holy Spirit directly to His people.<sup>11</sup> Some people say, "Well God speaks through our prophet," or, "God speaks through our head pontiff of our church," or, "God speaks in our services through tongues and stuff and He tells us new things," or they'll say, "God speaks in our holy book; it's not the Bible." But I say this: He spoke to men who wrote the Old Testament. Now He spoke through Jesus, and He spoke through the apostles as they recorded everything about Jesus. The Bible is His {inaudible} check and balance on proper faith and practice. It's historically provable, it's historically verifiable, it's useful, and it reveals corruption. The truth is foundational to our faith, and without this truth that God has spoken and that we can understand, we have no faith. And men reject this very truth that I speak this day, not because they're ignorant, but because they don't want to know.

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<sup>8</sup> Luke 24:27

<sup>9</sup> Romans 1:19-20

<sup>10</sup> Romans 2:15

<sup>11</sup> John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:7-14