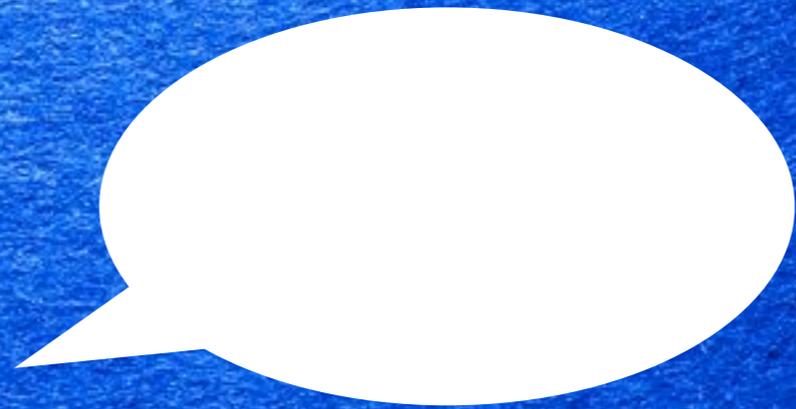


HEARING

GOD



GOD SPEAKS TO MANKIND TODAY:

- ▶ God speaks through His visible creation:
 - ▶ Psalm 19.1-4
 - ▶ Romans 1.20
- ▶ God speaks through the Scriptures:
 - ▶ “All Scripture is inspired by God” – 2 Timothy 3.16
 - ▶ “Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” – 2 Peter 1.21
 - ▶ “He has spoken to us in His Son” – Hebrews 1.1 (2.1,4; 4.2,12)

GOD'S COMMUNICATED DIFFERENTLY IN THE PAST

"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, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." (Hebrews 1:1-2)

- ▶ The writer of Hebrews affirms God communicates differently today than He did in past times.
 - ▶ God spoke to Daniel by means of a "night vision" – Daniel 2.19
 - ▶ God spoke to Daniel through "a dream and visions" – Daniel 7.1
 - ▶ God gave Daniel a "message and... vision" – Daniel 10.1
- ▶ God ensured Daniel understood (2.23ff; 7.16ff; 10.11ff).

DIFFERENT TIME, DIFFERENT COMMUNICATION

- ▶ God communicates differently in our time period than He did in the past with Daniel and the other prophets (Heb. 1.1f).
- ▶ Some might complain, "All we have is the word?"
 - ▶ It is living, power, piercing, and discerning – Hebrews 4.12
 - ▶ It is that which testifies of Christ – John 5.39
 - ▶ It is living, enduring, and imperishable – 1 Peter 1.23
 - ▶ It is the powerful witness – Luke 16.31
 - ▶ It is the power of God to salvation – Romans 1.16
 - ▶ It is crucial to faith – Romans 10.17

NOT EVERYTHING IS A DIVINE SIGN

- ▶ Sometimes we don't look hard enough for God's presence; other times we try to force God's presence into something.
 - ▶ It is inconsistent with the nature of a loving and responsible God that He would be giving us signs but fail to equip us with the interpretation of those signs (as He did for Daniel, Ezekiel, etc.).
 - ▶ The reality is that sometimes things just happen (Eccl. 9.11; 10.9).
 - ▶ If we start looking for a sign in everything, by what standard will we judge the signs?
 - ▶ Does the lifestyle of John the Baptist seem to reflect a life full of the blessings and favor of God? – Mark 1.6; Matthew 11.11
 - ▶ What about Paul's life? – 2 Corinthians 11.23-27

WHAT CAN I KNOW?

- ▶ I can know that God has spoken finally and definitively through His Son's Gospel (Hebrews 1.1; Jude 3).
- ▶ I can know the God, the Grand Designer, has communicated His will to me in the most effective fashion (Luke 16.31).
- ▶ I can know that God loves me so much that He sent His Son to die for my sins (John 3.16).
- ▶ I can know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ reveals what I must do to be made righteous before God (Romans 1.16-17).
- ▶ I can know of the everlasting life that God ~~offers~~ promises to all those who submit to Him (Romans 6.22).