

WHEN GOD SPEAKS

A TIMELINE OF GOD'S INTERVENTION

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets"

~ Hebrews 1:1

1. Review

- a. It is not a new thing that God is silent, but never as unrelenting and as long as today.
- b. What drives the silence? Not hatred, but love; not callousness, but longsuffering; not the weakness of God, but strength found in His grace.
- c. When we chart the Bible, we are describing when God speaks and when God is silent.

2. From the creation ...clearly seen and understood: they knew God. - Rom 1:20-21

- a. Gen 3:8 – God walked in the garden and talked with the population of the earth
- b. God spoke to 6 men (that we know) in 6 chapters - span: 1656 years
- c. Tower of Babel - span: 450 years (like us remembering the KJV, or William III)
- d. God speaks to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job... only a few in 4 generations
- e. Job 31:35 – he wanted a book to explain why God was silent – Job 19:25, Job 38:1

3. Exodus – hundreds of years later, but the midwives still feared God - Exo 1:17

- a. Now is the time of God's great interventions: c. 1500BC – 800Post-flood – 2500AM
- b. *"in process of time"* - God remembered his covenant with Israel - Exodus 2:23-25
- c. Moses: time is passing 40 yrs old in Midian, 80 yrs old exodus, 120 yrs old – Deu 34:7
- d. David looks back at these days: wonders, powers, miracles, mighty hand – Ps 77:11
- e. *"not a prophet since like Moses..."* – Samuel, Ezra, Joshua... but Deu 18:18

4. Judges/Kings – Samuel, the prophet (the word was precious) – 1 Sam 1:27, 3:1-7

- a. This is centuries after Moses. Generations of intermittent intervention. 500yrs to David
- b. Mostly "anger of the Lord" and Gideon's fleece, Samson's strength
- c. God's intervention limited to their response to his covenant – the law- blessing/curse
- d. David/Solomon - God chose him, but was often silent - Ps 10:1, 11; 80:3,84:2, Ps 94:1
- e. The temple built – fire from heaven – Solomon's prayer, and wisdom. 1Ki 3 - 2Ch 7

5. Prophets/Captivity – When Jesus was on the mt – Moses and Elijah stood with him

- a. Kings reigned in wickedness and prophets were there to warn – though outnumbered.
- b. Elijah parted the waters, healed people, called down fire from heaven—he was rejected
- c. 400 years – of people living their lives, children, families, jobs – told to study and trust
- d. God was silent and wicked men responded with unbelief– Eze 9:9, Amo 8:11, Lam 3:8
- e. God intervened through prophets, but not like Elijah – Daniel, Ezra, Neh – Hab 1:2
- f. They continued in wickedness – Mal 2:17. God went silent 400 years – Mal 4:5

6. John the Baptist and Jesus

- a. John fulfilled Malachi's prophecy by description and words, but not miracles
- b. Jesus did miracles fulfilling the prophets, identifying himself as the Messiah – Heb 1:1
- c. He said the apostles would do greater works than him – John 14:12, Acts 1:8

7. Acts of the Apostles

- a. Acts 3:23-25 – The prophets foretold of these last days – Joel 2:28-30
- b. 2 Cor 12:11-12 – the signs of an apostle in Paul stopped in Acts 28
- c. 1 Cor 14:37 – Let him acknowledge the commandments of the Lord with Paul
- d. Paul was given the task to fulfill the word of God with the mystery - Col 1:25
- e. God is now silent again, but we have a book explaining salvation.