

## God Has Spoken

### Introduction:

1. If a Creator exists, has He said anything to His creatures? Surely if He had, it would be vital.
2. How would we recognize such communication? **Illus:** Hitler's diaries and other historical documents. Claims must be investigated.

### 1. God's Fingerprints On the Bible

A. One would expect the Creator to know the future – Is 41:21-23; 42:9.

1. God not only told what future kings would do but named them by name (i.e., Cyrus – Is 44:28-45:3). Bible prophecies are *specific*, unlike the vague predictions of astrologers and psychics. They were often fulfilled by His enemies, people who were ignorant of or had no desire to see His word upheld.
2. God revealed the future to heathen kings (Nebuchadnezzar – Dn 2:28-30), Israelite kings (2 Sam 7:12-16), to young (1 Sam 3:10-14), to old (Gen 48:10, 17-22) – across all spectrums of human society.
3. God knew the future because He controlled the events which unfolded. Thus the Bible looks *back* upon human history and explains their significance (cf. 2 Sam 7:8-11).

B. One would expect the declarations of the Creator to be non-contradictory.

1. **Illus:** Newspapers have “Correction” sections where they amend previous inaccuracies; laws constantly changed to keep pace with societal changes.
2. Imagine a series of literary works written by 40 different men over a span of 1500 years. Each attempts to write an integral part of one overall theme stretching across the span of human existence. Some write poetry; some history; some legislation, some highly complex philosophical treatises. Yet all flows together in one seamless story incorporated into verifiable history.
3. Such structure takes a **director**, a power working above and through the historians, prophets, apostles and biographers to present an accurate account.  
**Illus:** A movie director oversees work of set builders, make-up artists, screenwriters, camera men, actors, musicians, costume designers, etc. all in an effort to achieve flawless consistency.

C. One would expect the instructions of the Creator to “work”; that is, to be effective and to accomplish stated goals. **Illus:** When at PSD we consulted the builder of the building concerning the A/C units, other structural details involved in adding on to the building. *Who knows the product better than the manufacturer?!*

1. The Bible exposes the weakness of material pursuits: *“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare ... for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil”* (1 Tim 6:9-10). While this can be commonly observed, it runs counter to the ambitions of countless generations.
2. The Bible extols the virtues of marital fidelity: *“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ... Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate”* (Mt 19:4-6). Again, this stands true regardless of man’s efforts to ignore and overturn the premise.
3. The Bible instructs us to forgive our enemies, not to hate and hold grudges: *“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven ...”* (Mt 5:44-45). **The Creator knows us better than we know ourselves, for He continually instructs us against our natural inclinations and desires. However, the effectiveness of His counsel is evident.**

## **2. The Power of the Written Word**

- A. Some denigrate the Scriptures as outdated and antiquated, wholly inadequate for modern man in the enlightened and complex world of today. But it is not the age of the document but the quality of the words and thoughts that make it viable and relevant. **Illus:** The Declaration of Independence.
- B. The revealed word of God exists in written form for men to test and challenge. No other book(s) of antiquity have been so universally attacked with the purpose of destroying them than the Bible, yet more copies of it exist than any other documents of its age. Archaeology, astronomy, biology and all other sciences and disciplines hostile to the Bible’s principles have failed to undermine its truths. In fact, more often than not, they **verify** its assertions.
- C. The Bible is truly the anvil that has worn out the hammers of man’s opposition!

## **3. The Battle for Truth**

- A. The Bible faces many competing influences: subjective feelings, claims of direct

revelations, corrupt theologians, self-centered preachers. **Ex:** A young man recently lamented, “How do I know what’s right? Who do I trust?”

**B. There is no shortcut:** By nature of God’s written revelation, God’s people ***must be readers!*** And our society is increasingly non-literary.

C. Paul’s exhortation to Timothy is also timeless: *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim 2:15).

**Conclusion:** God has spoken, but we must be “tuned to the proper channel” to hear Him. *“Everyone who is **of the truth** hears My voice”* (Jn 18:37). Are you “of the truth”? If you reject the Bible, upon what standard are you willing to face **eternity**?