

Listening to God

Read [Psalm 46:1-10](#)

LESSON 3

HOW GOD HAS SPOKEN

Through the ages, God has used a variety of ways to speak to His people. He apparently talked face-to-face on a daily basis with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, meeting them in the cool of the day ([Genesis 3:8](#)).

Genesis 3:8 (NASB)

⁸“They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were expelled from the Garden, God turned to other forms of communication with His beloved creation.

There are at least eight ways in which God spoke to His people in Bible times:

1. Direct revelation
2. Dreams
3. Written words
4. Prophets
5. Circumstances
6. Angels
7. Jesus Christ
8. The Holy Spirit

Words of the Prophets

We repeatedly find in the Scriptures this phrase: **“Thus says the Lord.”** Those who spoke these words of God—men and women we call prophets—seemed to have felt they had little choice in the matter. God so overwhelmingly gave them a message that they could do nothing else but speak. **Isaiah** spoke of it as a burning coal applied to his lips. **Jeremiah** said that he felt as if he had fire shut up in his bones.

Prophets did far more than foretell future events. In many ways, their words can be considered prophetic from the standpoint that they spelled out what was wrong in the people’s hearts and that without repentance, certain conclusions were inevitable.

To be a prophet means ultimately to speak the truth of God to others.

Sometimes, that truth is about trends or future conclusions. At other times, it is very specific truth about a particular circumstance. And at still other times, it is the telling of what God’s Word says.

