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“THE MOUTH OF GOD”

Isaiah 40:5

***“The glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”***

President Ronald Reagan was called the Great Communicator. He communicated very well, however, God is the Supreme Communicator. That is so obvious that it hardly needs to be mentioned.

The mouth is the most common means and direct form of communicating with others. True, we can speak with our eyes, with our hands, with "body language." But with the mouth is the normal way of speaking to others.

There are many verses in the Bible that refer to the mouth, speech or voice of God. Let us examine some of them. They fall into the following categories:

1. With his mouth he creates.
2. With his mouth he controls.
3. With his mouth he communicates.
4. With His mouth He calls.
5. With His mouth He converses.
6. With his mouth he condemns.

WITH HIS MOUTH HE CREATED THE UNIVERSE

The first instance of God speaking in Genesis is when He spoke creatively:

- *“And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.” (1:3)*
- *“Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters....” (1:6);*
- *“Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place....” (1:9);*
- *“Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so.” (1:11)*
- *“Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night....” (1:14)*
- *“Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” (1:20)*
- *“Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so.” (1:24)*
- *“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness....” (1:26)*

Hebrews 11:3 – *“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God.”* (nasb)

The creative work of God was performed by speaking. Speaking is the revealing of God’s thoughts. The creation is the visualization of His thoughts. He spoke and it was done. What awesome power! Man-made gods cannot speak: *“They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.”* (Psalm 115:7,8)

Why would anyone prefer a powerless god to the All-powerful God? A lifeless god to the living God? A speechless god to the speaking God? There are three basic reasons: either woeful ignorance, willful indifference or wicked infidelity.

To the woefully ignorant in Athens, Paul said, *“As I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore you ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”* (Acts 17:23) One reason missionaries go cross-culture is to declare the known God to those to whom He is unknown.

WITH HIS MOUTH HE CONTROLS ALL CREATION

By speaking, He controls His creation. Several examples which show His sovereign power are as follows:

A. Calming The Sea.

Mark 4:39 - *“Then he arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “peace be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”*

B. Casting out Demons.

When Jesus confronted the demoniac of Gadara, He said to the demon, *“Come out of the man, unclean spirit!”* (Mark 5:35)

C. Curing Diseases.

“A certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.” (Mark 5:25 & 34)

D. Conquering Death.

“While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house who said, “Your daughter is dead Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, “Talitha, cumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” Immediately the girl arose and walked “ (Mark 5:35 – 42)

E. Cursing the Fig Tree.

“And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves..... Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again..... Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.” (Mark 11:12-21)

These and other instances when Jesus but uttered the word, inanimate as well as animate objects responded to His will. Wouldn't it be a different world if His own professed followers responded in like manner to the words from the mouth of their Master?

WITH HIS MOUTH HE COMMUNICATED THE SCRIPTURES

The words "God said" occur 587 times in the Bible; the phrase, "Said the Lord" 867 times; "the word of the Lord" 255 times and "the Word of God" 48 times. In addition there are other such phrases used to convey the truth that God's thoughts have been verbalized and written.

A. God spoke the statutes of the Law to Moses.

"And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet" (Exodus 20:1-17)

B. God spoke the Scriptures to Holy Men.

In Matthew 4:4 Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." As food is to the body, God's Word is to the soul.

The Bible is "The Word of God" – God's spoken Word recorded by chosen men. Peter informs us about this process as follows: "We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (II Peter 1:19-21niv)

That the Word of God is not of human origin should be evident to any serious and honest Searcher of its contents. Think this through: "A good man could not have written the Bible, and a bad man would not have written it" said commentator Adam Clark. In other words, man could not have written the Bible if he would, and would not have written it if he could. Why?

There are two self evident propositions in those two statements: first, a good man could not have written the Bible, because it tells us 2,008 times that God is the Author! Therefore, if a man wrote it, he was a great liar, and consequently could not be a good man! Second, a bad man would not have written the Bible if he could, because it tells what he is, and he would be unwilling to

write the truth about himself!

Your Bible is from the mouth of God through the penmanship of holy men of God! The Holy Bible Is uniquely *"the Word of God."*

*"This is the greatest book on earth,
Unparalleled it forever stands;
Its Author is God; its truth is divine,
It is inspired in every word and line,
Though written by human hands."*

- Peter writes of the eternity of God's Word: *"the word of God which lives and abides forever."* (1 Peter 1:23)
- The recorder of the Proverbs says, *"Every word of God is pure...."* (Proverbs 30:5)
- Jesus said, *"Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."* (Luke 11:28)

God's Word which He has spoken is eternal, pure, to be heard and obeyed. There is a life-giving quality in the Word of God as the Apostle John states. Speaking of the gospel which he penned, he said, *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* (John 20:30,31)

One of the reasons for the written revelation from God to man, says John, is, *"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* The Bible is the life-giving book! It is called *"the Word of life."* (Philippians 2:16)

"This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the eternal punishment of unbelievers and the eternal bliss of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decrees are unchanging.

*Read it to be wise,
believe it to be safe
and obey it to be holy.*

- Henry Van Dyke

WITH HIS MOUTH HE CALLS TO SINNERS

My heart is moved when I review some of the calls of God to those who have sinned against Him. As the song says, *"Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me."* Some of the more well-known pleas of God to sinners are:

"Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9)

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11)

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

“And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” (Revelation 22:17)

There are many additional invitations given by God to His rebel creatures. In them we sense the loving kindness, tender mercies and love of God toward sinful humanity.

WITH HIS MOUTH HE CONVERSES WITH SAINTS

In Numbers 12:8 we read that God said of Moses, *“With him will I speak mouth to mouth.”* (kjv - other translations read, *“With Him I will speak face to face.”*) That expression indicates that God desires to converse with His people.

A. He speaks words of comfort and courage.

To Joshua:

“No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:5-7)

To Israel:

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’ “Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you,” says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 41:10 & 13-15)

To Believers in all ages:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

B. He speaks words of commission and challenge.

To Abraham:

“Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:1-2)

To Moses:

“Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:10)

To Joshua: *“After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying: “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.”* (Joshua 1:1-2)

To Disciples everywhere:

Matthew 28:18-20 - *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”*

Acts 1:8 – *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Mark 16:15 – *“And he said unto them, ‘Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.’”*

C. He speaks words of and counsel and consolation.

To Jonah:

“Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” (Jonah 1:1-2) *“Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”* (Jonah 3:1-2)

To Paul:

Paul was in the city of Corinth and was experiencing severe opposition from the enemies of the gospel and Jesus appeared to him in a vision and said, *“Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”* And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” (Acts 18:9-11)

To synagogue in the Nazareth:

“And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.” (Luke 4:21,22)

To His disciples:

Matthew 5:2 records that Jesus, *“Opened his mouth and taught them.....”* and from His lips fell those beautiful and touching words that we refer to as The Beatitudes recorded in Matthew 5:3-11.

D. He speaks words of correction and conviction.

“After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” (Job 42:7)

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

Job testified, *“I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” (Job. 23:12)*

Would that all God’s people would have the same high estimation of God’s words and recognize with Solomon that *“The Lord gives wisdom: out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6)*

It is a humbling truth to know that the Creator of the universe, the All-powerful and holy God would condescend to speak to lowly, sinful human beings. Let us say with the boy Samuel, *“Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.” (I Samuel 3:9)*

WITH HIS MOUTH HE CONDEMNS UNBELIEVERS

God graciously extends the invitation to sinners to come to Him, to accept His salvation by receiving His Son, Jesus Christ. The solemn warning to those who refuse is that judgment awaits.

“If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword”; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 1:19)

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21-23)

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels....” (Matthew 25:41)

John records seeing Jesus and said, *“His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword....” (Revelation 1:15-16)*

The mouth that issues the invitation to come to Him for salvation is also the mouth that pronounces the judgment. The mouth of God is still sounding out words of warning and messages of invitation. If we fail to hear and heed the voice of God, the day will come when that same mouth will utter an eternal sentence: *"I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity."* (Matthew 7:23)

Conclusion

C.H. Spurgeon writes in a tone of despair: "To me it is especially appalling that a man should perish through willfully rejecting the divine salvation. A drowning man throwing away the life belt, a poisoned man pouring the antidote upon the floor, a wounded man tearing open his wounds – any of these is a sad sight. But what shall we say of a soul refusing its Savior and choosing its own destruction?"

A book by Bible teacher Arno C. Gaebelin, now deceased, is titled, *Listen! God Speaks!* God wants us to listen to Him. Jesus said *"My sheep listen to my voice."* (John 10:27) In the book of Revelation, Jesus said: *"I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."* (Revelation 3:20).

We should welcome God talking to us. He wants us to hear His voice! Do you want to hear Him speaking? Then you must be ready to listen. Do you sincerely want to hear God's voice?

"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4