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Question 40 - What methods did God employ in communicating the Scriptures?

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101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

40. What methods did God employ in communicating the Scriptures?

- A. He often spoke directly to man
 - 1. To the patriarchs
 - a. Adam (Gen. 1:28-30)
 - b. Noah (Gen. 6:13-21)
 - c. Abraham (Gen. 15:1, 4)
 - 2. To Israel's greatest leaders
 - a. Moses (Ex. 13:1-2)
 - b. Joshua (Josh. 1:1-9)
 - c. Samuel (1 Sam. 3:1-14)
 - 3. To Israel's kings
 - a. David (1 Sam. 23:11-12)
 - b. Solomon (1 Kings 11:11)
 - 4. To Israel's prophets
 - a. Ezra (Ezra 1:1)
 - b. Isaiah (36:12)
 - c. Jeremiah (7:1)
 - d. Ezekiel (12:8)
 - e. Daniel (9:2)
 - f. Hosea (1:1)
 - g. Joel (1:1)
 - h. Amos (3:1)
 - i. Micah (1:1)
 - j. Zephaniah (1:1)
 - k. Haggai (1:1)
 - l. Zechariah (1:1)
 - m. Malachi (1:1)
- B. He spoke through a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:11-12; Psa. 32:8)

C. He spoke through angels

1. Angels reassured Abraham of the birth of Isaac and informed him of God's decision to destroy Sodom (Gen. 18).
2. Angels warned Lot to flee Sodom before that awful destruction took place (Gen. 19).
3. The angel Gabriel explained the nature of the tribulation to Daniel (Dan. 9:21-27).
4. Gabriel informed Zacharias he would have a son who would become the forerunner of Christ (Lk. 1:11-20).
5. Gabriel informed Mary that God had chosen her as his vessel for Christ's birth (Lk. 1:26-37).
6. Angels announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds (Lk. 2:8-14).
7. An angel announced the resurrection of Christ to some women (Mt. 28:5-7).
8. An angel directed Philip to the seeking eunuch (Acts 8:26).
9. An angel directed Peter out of a Roman prison (Acts 12:7-10).

D. He spoke through signs and miracles

1. Moses and the burning bush (Ex. 3:1-4).
2. Gideon and the fleece (Judg. 6:36-40).
3. Hezekiah and the sundial (Isa. 38:1-8).

B. He spoke through dreams

1. Jacob received the confirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant in a dream (Gen. 28:12).
2. Solomon received both wisdom and a warning in a dream (1 Kings 3:5; 9:2).
3. Joseph in the New Testament received three messages in three dreams.
 - a. Assuring him of Mary's purity (Mt. 1:20)
 - b. Commanding him to flee to Egypt (Mt. 2:13)
 - c. Ordering him to return to Palestine (Mt. 2:19-22)
4. The wise men were warned of Herod's evil intentions in a dream (Mt. 2:12).

C. He spoke through visions

1. Jacob was instructed in a vision to go to Egypt (Gen. 46:2).
2. David was warned of judgment in a vision (1 Chron. 21:16).
3. Isaiah saw God's holiness in a vision (Isa. 6:1-8).

4. Daniel saw the great Gentile powers in a vision (Dan. 7-8).
 5. Daniel saw the glories of Christ in a vision (Dan. 10:5-9).
 6. Daniel saw the rise and fall of Alexander the Great in a vision (Dan. 8).
 7. Ezekiel saw the regathering of Israel in a vision (Ezek. 37).
 8. Ananias was ordered to minister to Saul in a vision (Acts 9:10).
 9. Cornelius was instructed to send for Peter in a vision (Acts 10:3-6).
 10. Peter was ordered to minister to Cornelius in a vision (Acts 10:10-16).
 11. Paul was ordered to Macedonia in a vision (Acts 16:9).
 12. Paul was comforted at Corinth in a vision (Acts 19:9).
 13. Paul was comforted at Jerusalem in a vision (Acts 23:11).
 14. Paul viewed the glories of the third heaven in a vision (2 Cor. 12:1-4).
 15. The Apostle John received the Book of Revelation in a vision.
- D. He spoke through the Urim and Thummim (Ex. 28:30; Num. 27:21).
- E. He spoke through the casting of lots
1. To select a scapegoat (Lev. 16:8).
 2. To divide the land of Canaan among the 12 tribes (Num. 26:55; Josh. 18:10).
 3. To determine who would live in Jerusalem (Neh. 11:1).
 4. To replace Judas (Acts 1:26).
- F. He spoke through the Shekinah Glory Cloud (Ex. 24:15-18).
- G. He spoke to one man through the mouth of an ass (Num. 22:28).
- H. He spoke to men through the Old Testament Christophanies (a Christophany is a pre-Bethlehem appearance of Christ). Some theologians have seen a number of these appearances in the Old Testament, believing that the term “the Angel of the Lord” is actually another name of Christ. If this is true, the following examples of Christophany communication could be submitted.
1. The Angel of the Lord wrestled with Jacob (Gen. 32:24-30).
 2. The Angel of the Lord redeemed Jacob from all evil (Gen. 48:16).
 3. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Moses from the burning bush (Ex. 3:2).
 4. The Angel of the Lord protected Israel at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:19).
 5. The Angel of the Lord prepared Israel for the Promised Land (Ex. 23:20-23; Psa. 34:7; Isa. 63:9; 1 Cor. 10:1-4).
 6. The Angel of the Lord commissioned Gideon (Judg. 6:11).

7. The Angel of the Lord ministered to Elijah (1 Kings 19:7).
8. The Angel of the Lord reassured Joshua (Josh. 5:13-15).
9. The Angel of the Lord saved Jerusalem (Isa. 37:36).
10. The Angel of the Lord preserved three godly Hebrew men (Dan. 3:25).

I. He spoke to men through the New Testament incarnation of Christ

Charles Ryrie observes: "Undebatably the incarnation of Jesus Christ was a major avenue of special revelation. He exegeted the Father (Jn. 1:14), revealing the nature of God (14:9), the power of God (3:2), the wisdom of God (7:46), the glory of God (1:14), the life of God (1 Jn. 1:1-3), and the love of God (Rom. 5:8). Our Lord did all this by both his acts (Jn. 2:11) and his words (Mt. 16:17)." (*Basic Theology*, p. 64).

Note the following passages which summarize how God revealed Himself through Christ:

"No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. . . And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. . . Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Jn. 1:18; 12:45; 14:9-10).

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1-2).

J. He spoke through those who previously departed this earth

1. The revelation by Samuel (1 Sam. 28:15-19).
2. The revelation by Abraham (Lk. 16:19-31).