

# HOW DID GOD REVEAL HIS WILL? (1)

By Keith Greer

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve and placed them in a beautiful garden, a type of paradise – the Garden of Eden. Perfect harmony and fellowship existed, and God spoke with them face to face – as friends talk to each other. Tragically, because of the sin that Adam and Eve committed, harmony and friendship ended abruptly, and God and mankind separated {Genesis 3:24; Isaiah 59:1,2}. This separation came about in four steps: **(1) Eve heard Satan's words; (2) She believed what she heard; (3) She and Adam turned away from God and toward Satan; (4) They obeyed Satan.** There was complete separation between God and man. Man was left in a lost and fallen condition!

This bad choice set many things in motion. Physical death came into the world, closely followed by every other imaginable type of sadness and condemnation became a reality. But, the story does not have a terrible ending. God, in His deep love, forbearance, longsuffering, and mercy, created a plan (before creation) whereby He would restore fellowship between Himself and His creation – mankind. In order for God to put His plan into action, He had to reveal it to us. In this article, we discuss how God accomplished His revelation and how it continues to this day, bringing sinners back into relationship with a loving Father.

**He spoke through the fathers.** “And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.” {Genesis 6:13,14} When God determined to destroy the world by water, He commanded Noah to build an ark and communicated with him to give him the ark's construction plans.

When God called Abraham, He told him, “...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. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” {Genesis 12:1-3} Throughout the Patriarchal Age, God spoke directly to the fathers, and they carried the messages back to their families. This would not always be the means by which God revealed Himself to us.

**He spoke through the prophets.** “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” {2 Peter 1:19-21} The prophets did not choose the time and place or the message. God chose when to give direction and Divine guidance. See 2 Samuel 23:2. God's revealed will was delivered by the Spirit through the prophets who spoke only when God chose the words given by Him – not their own.

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.” {Hebrews 1:1,2} The prophet had to speak only the words he was given. He could not alter or change God’s words in any way {Jeremiah 23:28}. God was in control. Do you remember when Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel; but on three occasions, Balaam was only able to offer a blessing {Numbers 22}. The prophet was prompted to speak, but only the inspired message that God wanted delivered. Sadly, many of the prophets in the later years of Israel’s existence were “false prophets.” Such were speaking lies and telling the people what they wanted to hear. God did not send or give them those messages and they always proved to be wrong – validating they were false! \*\*\*