


God Speaks Directly to His Covenant People


Exodus 20:1 – 3

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
God Speaks to His Assembled People

- **Exodus 20:1**
Then God spoke all these words,
- **Deuteronomy 5:4**
The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire,




The Significance of God Speaking

- God had proven His power and presence by His mighty deeds.
- God's mighty deeds prove that He is "I AM" as revealed to Moses at the burning bush
- God proved that His promises to the patriarchs were valid and would be fulfilled
- God took the descendants of one man and made them a nation for Himself
- God appeared to them and spoke words
- It is everywhere assumed that valid communication happened


 God's appearance to speak resonates in later Israelite history

- **Nehemiah 9:13**

Then You came down on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven; You gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments.

 Implications of God speaking

- God speaks words, the meaning of which are determined by God and understood by men
- God's words reveal His moral law which is binding on men
- God speaks propositionally
- God's words were preserved for future generations by God's Holy Spirit inspired writers (in this case Moses)
- Had God not spoken, everyone would be pagan.

 God identifies Himself by his covenant name Yahweh

- **Exodus 20:2**

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Exodus 20:2 forms an inclusio with
Exodus 6:2-8

■ **Exodus 6:2, 3**

God spoke further to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD; and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them."

Exodus 20:2 forms an inclusio with
Exodus 6:2-8

■ **Exodus 6:4, 5**

"I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they sojourned. Furthermore I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant."

Exodus 20:2 forms an inclusio with
Exodus 6:2-8

■ **Exodus 6:6**

"Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.'"

Exodus 20:2 forms an inclusio with Exodus 6:2-8

■ **Exodus 6:7, 8**

“Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the LORD.”

Not a single other “god” is tolerable

■ **Exodus 20:2, 3**

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.

Walter Kaiser on the purposes of the law

- The law reveals man’s awful sinfulness in his moral distance from God
- The law reveals need for a mediator if he ever was to approach God (Moses, Jesus)
- The law reveals to man how to live more abundantly by using the unchangeable perfections of the nature of God as revealed in the moral law as his guide

Moses explained their privileged status

■ **Deuteronomy 4:7, 8**

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him? Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?

Applications and Implications

1) We either listen to the God who has spoken or idols

2) In the end the whole world will be deceived by signs and wonders and an idol that speaks

1) We either listen to the God who has spoken or idols

■ **Isaiah 44:6, 7**

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place."

1) We either listen to the God who has spoken or idols

■ **Isaiah 44:8**

“Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.”

1) We either listen to the God who has spoken or idols

■ **Isaiah 44:9-11**

Those who fashion a graven image are all of them futile, and their precious things are of no profit; even their own witnesses fail to see or know, so that they will be put to shame. Who has fashioned a god or cast an idol to no profit? Behold, all his companions will be put to shame, for the craftsmen themselves are mere men. Let them all assemble themselves, let them stand up, let them tremble, let them together be put to shame.

1) We either listen to the God who has spoken or idols

The irrationality of idolatry is exposed
Idolaters are under the judgment of hardening

■ **Isaiah 44:12-20**

Man made idols have no status as deities
Falling down to idols is utter absurdity
God has “smeared over” their eyes
They have no ability to see the absurdity of their own beliefs and practices

1) We either listen to the God who has spoken or idols

■ **1Thessalonians 1:9b, 10**

. . .how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

2) In the end the whole world will be deceived by signs and wonders and an idol that speaks

■ **Matthew 24:24**

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

■ **2Thessalonians 2:9**

that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

2) In the end the whole world will be deceived by signs and wonders and an idol that speaks

■ **2Thessalonians 2:10, 11**

and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

2) In the end the whole world will be deceived by signs and wonders and an idol that speaks

■ **Revelation 13:14, 15**

And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

If we do not listen to the God who has spoken, we will certainly listen to the Idol who will speak

■ **Hebrews 2:3, 4**

how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.
