

MEMORY VERSE: “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, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week’s lesson introduces us to the idea that God is not only a Creator, but also a communicator.

1. God is a communicator (Sab, Sun)

- The Bible opens with God speaking—a lot! (Gen. 1, 2)
 - Each working day of Creation, God spoke things into existence.
 - In creating man, God conversed within the Godhead.
 - After creating man, God talked with him/them.
- God communed with Adam and Eve a portion of each day and set aside a full day each week for fellowship with Him.

The happy pair greeted with joy the visits of their Creator, as in the cool of the day He walked and talked with them. Daily God taught them His lessons. MH 261.3

The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature, and brings us into communion with the Creator. In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word that created all things is that which speaks life to the soul. DA 281.4

- Clearly, “human beings were created for a face-to-face relationship with their Creator.” (Qtly, Sab, par 2)

2. Sin broke our direct communion with God (Mon, Tue, Wed)

- Communication is vital to beings with freedom of choice.

Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. God made them free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of His character and the justice of His requirements, and with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience. They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels... Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. PP 48.4, 49.1 (Qtly, Mon, par 3)

- “Why warn them against eating from [the forbidden tree] unless they had the freedom to do so in the first place?” Qtlly, Mon, par 2
- God wasn’t the only one talking in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-6).
 - Satan’s speech at the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was calculated to counter God’s clear command.
 - The fact that he could only speak to the woman (and not force her to eat) underscores the fact God had preserved our power to choose whom we will serve. (see Rom. 6:16)
- Though sin ruined our *communion* with God, He still sought *communication* with us (Gen. 3:7-10; Is. 59:1, 2).

Satan flattered himself that he had forever broken the link between heaven and earth. But in this he was greatly mistaken and disappointed.... Through Christ alone will the Lord hold communication with man. Con 20.1

- God didn’t merely keep His cool of the evening appointment, He called to man, taking the initiative in reconciliation.

3. God still speaks (Thu, Fri)

- Since face-to-face communication was no longer an option, God had to get creative to communicate to His wayward children.
 - Nature, Prophets, and Jesus (see Thursday’s lesson; Jn. 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 1:1, 2).
 - It is the second of those communication channels, the ministry of prophets, that is the focus of our study this quarter.
 - In these last days, God has communicated through His prophetic messenger, Ellen G. White. (see Friday’s lesson) Her ministry will be a special feature of each week’s study.

CONCLUSION

“God’s ultimate plan is to restore His image in us, the image that sin has shattered. This is what the plan of salvation is about: restoration, a restoration that will be complete when God creates “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet. 3:13, NKJV). Until then, God still talks to us, and He still uses His prophets to do just that.” Qtlly, Sab, par 3, 4