

There have been some books written by critical scholars in recent years who have been coming to rather conservative conclusions. Most of the critical scholars of 30 yrs. ago questioned there ever was such a man as Abraham. Most of them questioned that monotheism was believed in by anybody before the time of the later Israelite prophecy. Some of the recent books tells us that there was monotheism at an early period. Some of them tell us that Abraham was a very important man who came to believe in one God. But it's always the wonderful insight of man in working out these things. It's the wonderful progress that man has made. But the Bible says, God has spoken. God has revealed His will.

Why should it be so difficult for us to believe that God might speak? It's an involved thing when you think of it that anybody might speak. I stand up here and ask you, Where was I born? You can look at me, look at my head, look at my shoulders, look at the shape of my eyes, my nose and try to figure out what state I was born in! You'd probably make 50 different guesses and one of them would have to be right. But you could not tell except except I gave you a communication or somebody else gave you a communication who knew that I was born in the ~~tax~~ state of Michigan. It's a simple concept that we speak. And if there is a God, if there is a God who can act, who can do things, why should not God speak?

Of course the problem comes up today that God does not speak that way in our days. At least if He does, He does so very very rarely. Why should it be that God spoke in ancient times and should not speak today? If you don't have the Bible you may have a hard time figuring out the answer. But if you have the Bible the answer is not difficult to find. Gen. 3 tells us that man sinned and turned away from God and that man today is in a terrible situation because of the sin in his life and heart and mind that separates him from God and even when we are saved through the Lord Jesus and freed from the guilt of sin because Jesus took it entirely upon Himself when He died upon the ~~xxx~~ cross, the power of it is still in every part of our being and we are only gradually freed from it by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit through the rest of our lives. There is no one of us whose vision is not to quite an extent clouded by sin So it is pretty hard for us to tell if we hear a voice whether God speaks or Satan speaks or we have an illusion or we imagine something as a result of something we ate yesterday. It's pretty hard to tell. So ordinarily God does not speak in our age. God spoke in ancient times in order that man should know about Him, and God now has given us His word so we can know what He spoke in ancient times so that from it we can learn what He wants to say to us k now.

Without that concept it is easy to see why people not being able to hear God actually speak today, question He spoke in ancient times. But once we get the understanding of the teaching