

How Des God Speak?

2 Peter 1:17-21 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” — ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Being led by the Spirit means receiving words from God- a combination of “living words” and “written words,” quickened by the Holy Spirit.

One kind of word should confirm the other; and when discerning what God is saying, confirmations are really important!

Testimony of 2-3 witnesses; best and worst decisions

Both spoken and written Words lead to confirming experiences, which is how we learn that God really can be trusted.

At the time the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, as we should expect, He came announced by Scripture and confirmed by fresh words from God.

Matthew 2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

Notice: Herod does not receive the help of angels

There is every reason to be very suspicious of Herod and His motives, not matter how much religious talk he employs. The magi need discernment, which will lead to clear direction.

⁹ After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Notice: the magi DO receive help- angels, God

There was little or no scripture the Magi would recognize, so God spoke directly to them in a dream.

This dream came with clear direction and gave them the discernment they needed to take decisive action.

¹³ Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord *appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.” ¹⁴ So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵ He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Again, we have a dream that gave them clear direction, and their obedience was used to fulfill the Scriptures!

Quick aside:

God uses His Word as He chooses, with or without context, to guide us. A part of a verse can be God's Word to you.

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

Romans 2:18 story

Matthew 2:16-23 ¹⁶Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, Weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; And she refused to be comforted, Because they were no more."

The scripture had foretold this, but it had not been "filled full". Consider Joseph and Mary's reaction to this news.

You and I need to be sure we are following God because, inevitably, circumstances around us will be hard to process.

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord *appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." ²¹ So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned *by God* in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, ²³ and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

They were not moved by the Word, but by circumstances, but they were following God and so fulfilled His will!

In the end, God will be glorified in fulfilling His Word with angels, dreams, circumstances, people, etc., all worked perfectly together for our good.