

DOES GOD MEAN WHAT HE SAYS?

Text: Hebrews 1:1-2

INTRO: To the person who believes the Bible our text makes it clear that God speaks to us today. The question is not does God speak, but does God mean what He says?

Obviously, we recognize that the Bible contains figurative language, just as does our ordinary speech. But the Bible was written to ordinary people, and ordinary people can understand it just as they understand other things they read and hear. Paul said, "when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 1:4).

I. DID GOD MEAN WHAT HE SAID TO NOAH?

So God looked upon the earth, & indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 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 gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, & cover it inside and outside with pitch... And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; & you shall go into the ark -- you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.
(Gen. 6:12-14, 17-18)

And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts & every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, & every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. (Gen. 7:21-23).

II. DID GOD MEAN WHAT HE SAID TO LOT?

"Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed." (Gen. 19:17)

So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, & what grew on the ground. But his wife looked back

behind him, & she became a pillar of salt. (Gen. 19:25-26)

III. DID GOD MEAN WHAT HE SAID TO THE JUDEAN PROPHET?

And he said [to the old prophet], "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. For I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return y going the way you came.' " He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.' " (He was lying to him.) So he went back with him, & ate bread in his house, and drank water... So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk...When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. (1 Kings 13:16-19, 23-24).

VI. DID HE MEAN WHAT HE SAID TO MOSES?

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the rod; you & your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." (Num. 20:7-13).

VII. DOES HE MEAN WHAT HE SAYS TO US?

- A. About faith only? James 2:19, 24
- B. About baptism? Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21; Col. 2:12
- C. About the Bible? 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rev. 22:18-19.
- D. About hell? Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41

Jonestown, TX, July 7, 1968

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, July 13, 1975
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 2, 2001