
DOES GOD STILL SPEAK TODAY?

THE THEOLOGY PROGRAM

DOES GOD STILL SPEAK TODAY?

**Has Special Revelation ceased,
or does God still communicate to
people through prophets,
dreams, visions, and audible
encounters?**

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Three Positions:

1. Continuationism
2. Hard Cessationism
3. Soft Cessationism

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TEMPORARY GIFTS

PERMANENT GIFTS

SUPERNATURAL SIGN REVELATORY	SUPERNATURAL SIGN CONFIRMATORY	SPEAKING	SERVING
APOSTLESHIP	HEALINGS	EVANGELISM	SERVICE
PROPHECY	MIRACLES	TEACHING	SHOWING MERCY
DISCERNING OF SPIRITS	TONGUES	PASTOR / TEACHER	GIVING
WORD OF WISDOM		EXHORTATION	ADMINISTRATION
WORD OF KNOWLEDGE			HELPS
TONGUES			
INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES			

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What is the
Continuationis
t View of
Prophecy?

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Continuationism –

The view that miraculous sign gifts are still being given and, therefore, God still speaks directly in various ways today.

Adherents:

1. Wayne Grudem
2. Jack Deere
3. Craig Keener
4. Jack Hayford
5. John Piper
6. J.P. Moreland

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- **Defense of Continuationism:**

1. Act 2:14-21: This passage seems to teach that supernatural occurrences such as tongues and prophecy would be normative for the Church era.
2. The entire Book of Acts seems to show that the supernatural gifts are common with the Church.
3. All of Scripture supports the idea that it is God's nature to work in supernatural ways.
4. The New Testament never explicitly states that the supernatural sign gifts would cease.

“If you were to lock a brand-new Christian in a room with a Bible and tell him to study what Scripture has to say about healings and miracles, he would never come out of the room a cessationist.”



JACK DEERE, “SURPRISED BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT”
(GRAND RAPIDS, MI. ZONDERVAN 1997) 54

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Cessationist –

The view that miraculous sign gifts ceased with the death of the last apostle and the completion of the New Testament.

Therefore, God does not speak directly to people today.

Adherents:

1. Charles Hodge
2. Charles Ryrie
3. John MacArthur
4. Majority of Church History

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- **Defense of Cessationism:**

1. Ephesians 2:19-20 - The Bible implicitly supports the idea that the supernatural sign gifts were for the establishment of the Church era.
2. 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 -
3. It is agreed that the Bible never explicitly states that the sign gifts have ceased. But the Bible never explicitly states that Scripture is complete, yet both cessationists and non-cessationists agree that it is.
4. If God is still speaking supernaturally through prophecy, tongues, word of wisdom, etc., then the Canon of Scripture is still open.

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- **Defense of Cessationism:** (cont.)

5. If one were to examine the Scripture closely, it becomes evident that God's direct intervention through prophecy and supernatural signs and wonders was not the norm as it may seem. The Bible, as theological history (not exhaustive history), only records the times when God does intervene, thereby giving the impression that God's direct encounters through prophets, dreams, visions, etc. are God's modus operandi when they are not.
6. History convincingly suggests that the supernatural sign gifts have ceased. We do not see evidence of confirmed prophets after the death of the last apostle. Only fringe groups here and there have claimed that God still speaks through prophets, tongues, etc., until the 19th century when the charismatic revival began.

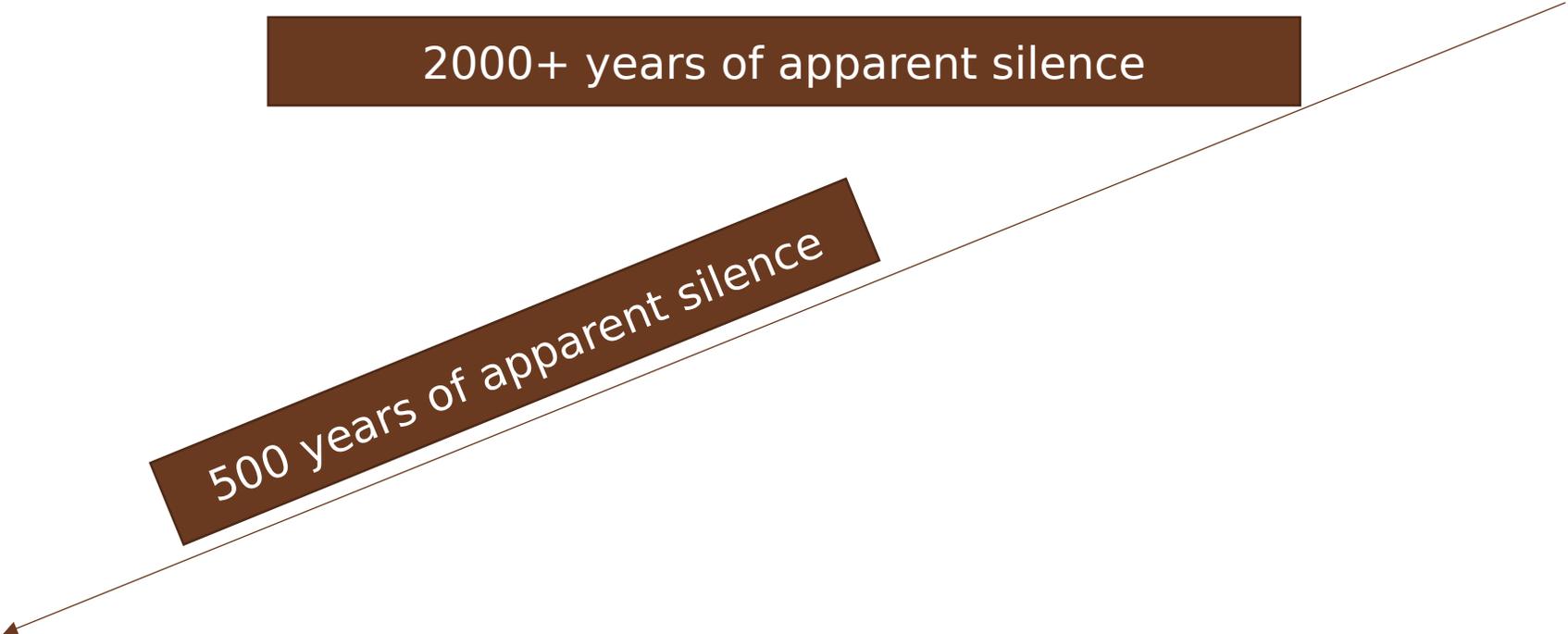
Noah

Moses



2000+ years of apparent silence

500 years of apparent silence



Elijah and Elisha

Christ Jesus and the Apostles



900 years of apparent silence

“It might, indeed, be a priori conceivable that God should deal with men (individually), and reveal Himself and His will to each individual, throughout the whole course of history, in the depths of His own consciousness. This is the mystics dream. It has not, however, been God’s way. He has chosen rather to deal with the race in its entirety, and to give this race His complete revelation of Himself in an organic whole.”



B.B. WARFIELD COUNTERFEIT MIRACLES (CARLISLE, PN:
BANNER OF TRUTH, 1972), 26.

“In the earliest time the Holy Ghost fell upon them that believed and they spoke with tongues which they had not learned as the spirit gave them utterance. These were signs adapted to the time. For it was proper for the Holy Spirit to evidence Himself in all tongues, and to show that the Gospel of God had come to all tongues (languages) over the whole earth. The thing was done for a authentication and it passed away.”



ST. AUGUSTINE (354 – 430). TEN HOMILIES ON THE FIRST
EPISTLE OF JOHN VI, 10.

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Soft Cessationism –

The view that the miraculous sign gifts could still be given today, but believers need to be careful about outright acceptance of people's claims of possession.

Adherents:

1. D.A. Carson
2. Robert Saucy
3. Millard Erickson

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- **Defense of Soft Cessationism:**

1. Neither side's arguments are conclusive. We must therefore proceed with great caution.
2. While it may be true that Church History has not seen the continuation of God speaking directly, this does not mean that it is not possible.
3. Those who adhere to a futuristic interpretation of Revelation must concede that there are going to be prophets in the future as represented by the Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:3) and, possibly, the 144,000 Israelites (Rev.7:4). Therefore, we must be open to further direct revelation from God.

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Guiding Principles:

- God's Word is not something to be trifled with. (Ex. 20:7).
- If you are a prophet, you must show convincing signs of a prophet. (Deut. 18:15-22).
- If you are a prophet, you must have orthodox theology. (Deut. 13:1-3).
- If someone believes that they have a word from the Lord, they had better be certain and be ready to live by the consequences if it turns out false.

Questions?

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