THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

Part 2

Acknowledgements

Peter Jensen, *At the Heart of the Universe* (Homebush West: Lancer, 1991)

Peter Jensen, *The Revelation of God* (Leicester: IVP, 2002)

D Broughton Knox, *The Everlasting God* (Homebush West: Lancer, 1988)

Matt Smethurst, *The Whole Bible is about Jesus*, https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/bible-about-jesus/, April 22, 2021

Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, vol. 1, *First Through Tenth Topics*, trans., GeorgeMusgrave, ed., James T Dennison Jr (Phillipsburg: P&R, 1992)

Timothy Ward, *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God* (Leicester: IVP, 2009)

B B Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* (Philadelphia: P&R, 1948)

‘The Bible has one ultimate plan, one ultimate plot, one ultimate champion, one ultimate king.’

Matt Smethurst, *The Whole Bible is about Jesus*, https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/bible-about-jesus/, April 22, 2021

A startling announcement.

Mark 1

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee,
proclaiming the gospel of God, **15** and saying, “The time is
fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and
believe in the gospel.”

Jesus came speaking like a prophet but, as his followers would discover, he was no ordinary prophet for not only did he bring God’s message, he was himself the content of that message.

Luke 4 (quoting Isaiah 61:1-2a)

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he
went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of
the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it
was written,
18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the
eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to
them, **"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

Ezekiel 34

11 “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. **16** I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. **24** And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

John 10

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

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Jeremiah 31

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the
covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand
to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I
was their husband, declares the LORD.

Luke 22

19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to
them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance
of me.” 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is
poured out for you is the **new covenant** in my blood. 21 But behold, the hand of
him who betrays me is with me on the table.

John 1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word
was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through
him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was
life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness has not overcome it.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus
Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's
side, he has made him known.

‘The truth has become a person, God’s great speech to us, his great moment of self-revelation and self-giving, his service to a disobedient race, the focus of our renewed obedience. This astonishing insider is the substance of the gospel and the Bible, the essence of the Christian story’.

Jensen, p. 73

Colossians 1

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him
all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were
created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all
things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the
beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-
eminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to
dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or
in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

‘Moreover, “word” and “word of God” [are used] in the New Testament, after Christ’s ascension, as descriptions of the apostolic message of God’s saving action in Jesus Christ.’ (Ward, 67-68) See, for example,

1 Thessalonians 2

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the **word of God**, which you heard **from us**, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the **word of God**, which is at work in you believers.

Romans 9:17

17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up,
that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all
the earth.”

Matthew 19:3-5.

3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce
one's wife for any cause?” 4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who
created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and
said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his
wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?

John 15:4-5 and 7-8

4 Abide in me, and **I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in
the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches.
Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you
can do nothing.

7 If you abide in me, and **my words abide in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be
done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be
my disciples.

Acts 1

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that **Jesus began to do and teach**, [2] until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands **through the Holy Spirit** to the apostles whom he had chosen.

John 16

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the
Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his
own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the
things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare
it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is
mine and declare it to you.

‘Consequently, the words of Jesus Christ, the written New Testament, can be identified with the ongoing semantic (linguistics: the study of meaning or truth presented in words) activity of the risen Christ in the world.’

Ward, 70

Matthew 23:8-10

8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. 10 Neither be called instructors, for **you have one instructor, the Christ**.

‘Christ is our only teacher, in such a sense as that the ministry of the word is not thereby excluded, but necessarily included because now in it only he addresses us and by it he instructs us’.

Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, vol. 1, *First Through Tenth Topics*, trans., GeorgeMusgrave, ed., James T Dennison Jr (Phillipsburg: P&R, 1992), 2.2.12.

‘Submission to Jesus as Lord brings with it submission to a covenantal book which we must call the Word of God.’

Jensen, p.79

Revelation 22

3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of
the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his
face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more.
They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light,
and they will reign for ever and ever.

2 Corinthians 1:20

20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.