

## The Old Testament

### I. God: *preaching starts with God's self-revelation*

“And God said...” (*Genesis 1:3*)

<sup>5</sup> “Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak...<sup>13</sup> When he [God] utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.” (*Jeremiah 10:5, 13*)

“God alone is a fit witness of himself” (Calvin, *Institutes*)

### II. Adam → Eve

<sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (*Genesis 2:16-17*)

<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” (*Genesis 3:2-3*)

### III. Moses → Israel

“In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them.” (*Deuteronomy 1:3*)

→ Deuteros (δεύτερος) = “second”

→ Nomos (νόμος) = “law”

“Hear, O Israel” (*Deuteronomy 4:1; 5:1; 6:3; 6:4; 9:1; 20:3*)

### IV. The Prophets

<sup>14</sup> Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. <sup>16</sup> He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. (*Exodus 4:14-16*)

And the Lord said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. (*Exodus 7:1*)

The Prophet: God’s mouthpiece

- “The Word of the Lord came to...” (*Jeremiah 1:4; Hosea 1:1; Joel 1:1; Jonah 1:1; Micah 1:1; Nahum 1:12; Zephaniah 1:1; Haggai 1:1; Zechariah 1:1; Malachi 1:1*)
- “Thus says the Lord” (*Amos 1:3; Obad. 1:1*)
- “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord has spoken” (*Isaiah 1:2*)
- “I prophesied as I was commanded” (*Ezekiel 37:7*)

<sup>18</sup> “I will raise up for them a prophet like you [Moses] from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup> And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup> But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.” (*Deuteronomy 18:18-20*)

<sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. <sup>15</sup> But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’” (*Amos 7:14-15*)

→ Rejecting a true prophet is rejecting God himself (*1 Samuel 8:7; 1 Kings 20:36; Isaiah 20:12-14*)

## V. Ezra

<sup>1</sup> And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. <sup>4</sup> And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose... [*Here he lists a lot of Hebrew names I cannot pronounce*]... the Levites helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. <sup>8</sup> They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. (*Nehemiah 8:1-4a; 7b-8*)

# The New Testament

## I. Jesus:

→ *The epitome of God's self-revelation*

<sup>1</sup> “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.”  
(*Hebrews 1:1-3*)

<sup>1</sup> “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (*John 1:1; 14*)

<sup>28</sup> And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. (*Matthew 7:28-29*)

→ *The definitive restatement of what God has said*

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (*Matthew 5:17*)

“For all the promises of God find their ‘Yes’ in him.” (*2 Corinthians 1:20*)

→ *A messenger to the people of God*

“Jesus answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’” (*Matthew 15:24*)

<sup>19</sup> “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

→ *The prophet whom God raised up*

When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” (*John 6:14; cf. Luke 7:16, 24:19; John 4:19, 7:40, 9:17*)

→ *The authoritative interpreter of God's Word*

“You have heard it said...but I say to you” (*Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44*)

## II. The Church Age

→ *God is the primary actor behind preaching*

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

“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.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

→ *True preachers re-say what God has said*

“Guard the good deposit entrusted to you.” (2 Timothy 1:14)

<sup>1</sup> “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word...” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

→ *Preaching is primarily oriented toward the people of God*

“To the saints/church in \_\_\_\_\_” (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1)

“And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of Laodicea.” (Colossians 4:16)

Hebrews: “A ‘word of exhortation’ (Heb. 13:22) was a term used in contemporary Judaism and early Christianity to refer to the sermon in a synagogue or church gathering” (*Preaching in the NT*, Griffiths)

→ *God gives preachers to his church*

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3)

<sup>11</sup> “And he [God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers [i.e. pastors], <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

→ *Preaching explains old truths in ever-changing contexts*

<sup>3</sup> “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

## Application: Preach the Word

<sup>1</sup> “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

### 1) *The Word is the content of preaching*

“Expositional preaching is when the main point of the sermon is the main point of the text” (Mark Dever)

“Expositional preaching is empowered preaching that rightfully submits the shape and emphasis of the sermon to the shape and emphasis of a biblical text” (*Expositional Preaching*, David Helm)

### 2) *The Word is the power behind preaching*

<sup>2</sup> “But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God....<sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:2, 5-6)

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (*Romans 10:17*)

“Uneducated men with stuttering tongues and unclever speech set the world on fire because they were content to simply arrange the wood and trust the torch of the gospel to do its thing” (*Gospel Deeps*, Jared Wilson)

## Book Recommendations

- *Preaching in the New Testament*, Jonathan Griffiths
- *Expositional Preaching*, David Helm