**The Story of the Church of Christ**

**III. How God Communicates With People**

 There is more than one way God communicates with People. He can speak to them directly as he did with Adam and Eve, Moses, Abraham and others we will learn about. Sometimes God sent angels to tell people what He wanted them to know. On some occasions the angels looked like men. God also used dreams and visions to give people messages. It would be a very long list of all the people in the Bible who have had either dreams or visions given to them by God.

 We know that God never changes. What He expects of the people who love Him and the rewards for either obedience or sin are always the same. If God communicated with His people in olden times in certain ways, we can expect He will continue to communicate with people in the same ways always.

 Another very important way God communicates with people is through prophets. God gave the prophets special knowledge to give to the people. There were many prophets names in the Bible. Some important early prophets were Samuel, Nathan, Elijah, and Elisha.

 Samuel was just a young boy when God called him to a special work. He had been serving Eli, the elderly priest in the Temple. When Eli died, Samuel became a prophet of God and judged Israel all of the rest of his life. Samuel was the last judge and the first of the prophets.

 Samuel warned the people they were making a mistake when they wanted a king to rule over them like the nations around them had. They insisted on a king, and God told Samuel to do as they wanted. Until this time, God had been their king and Hi commandments were their laws.

 The king that was chosen was a mighty name named Saul. It was not long until Saul rejected the words of Samuel the prophet and turned away from following the Lord.

 God rejected Saul and instructed Samuel to secretly anoint a young man names David as a king soon to replace Saul. David was a simple shepherd boy who cared for his father’s sheep. Often God chooses the young or those of simple, plain backgrounds to do His will rather than the mighty, proud ones. In I Cor. 1:27 we read “,...God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty”.

How God Communicates with People (cont)

 David became king after Saul’s death and reigned 7 1/2 years over Judah, and 33 years over all Israel. In II Samuel 7:16 David is promised an Eternal (everlasting) throne. In I Samuel 2:35 there is mention of a faithful priest who “shall walk before mine anointed forever”. Eternal Priesthood and the Eternal Throne would one day come together in Jesus Christ.

 The Scriptures tell us Jesus Christ is the “Only Begotten Son of God”. When He came to live on this earth, His earthly mother, Mary, was descended from David----a fulfillment of Samuel’s prophesy.

 The last seventeen books in the Old Testament were written by prophets of God. All of the details of the life and death of Jesus Christ, who was the long awaited Messiah, are contained in their prophesies written hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. One of the most beautiful prophesies about Christ is found in the Book of Isaiah 9: 7, 8. “For until us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment henceforth ever forever.”