



## Part 2: When God Whispers

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### **God spoke through the prophets...**

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers through  
the prophets at many times and in various ways...

*- Hebrews 1:1*

### **...and then God was silent.**

As you do not know the path of the wind,  
or how the body is formed in a mother's womb,  
so you cannot understand the work of God,  
the Maker of all things.

*- Ecclesiastes 11:5*

**During the 400 years of silence, the people of God were  
under the rule of 6 different empires:  
Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, The Maccabees, and Rome.**

### **What was God up to during these times of occupation?**

- **Persians:** Jerusalem resettled, temple rebuilt; the Law was given back to the people
- **Greeks:** Greek culture, philosophy and language; religious freedom was restored
- **Egyptians:** Population and economic growth
- **Syrians:** Strength through opposition and oppression
- **Maccabees:** Increase in nationalism and religious zeal
- **Romans:** Roads built, shipping routes established, enhanced communication

But when the time had fully come,  
God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem  
those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

*- Galatians 4:4*

*(Continues on back)*

## A Few Questions of Application

What rules you?

What is God whispering right now?

Is the whisper something to be *received* or *obeyed*?

**In our moment of quiet reflection, what did God just whisper?**

## Next Steps

This week, set aside at least 30 minutes for a quiet time with God to read scripture, pray and listen. Listen for anything that God may be asking you to simply receive, or to obey. Write down what you sense God saying, even if you don't understand it at the moment. Hang on to those notes and look back on them from time to time. You may find that God was speaking truth that can only be fully understood in hindsight. Let this be an assurance that he is always listening and always active.

## Small Group Questions

- 1) What was the highlight of your week?
- 2) The Bible says that God speaks at various times and in various ways. How has God spoken to you?
- 3) Read Galatians 4:4. What does the phrase "But when the time had fully come" mean to you now that you know that history? How does that apply to your life?
- 4) What thoughts and emotions are most prevalent in your life right now? What would you say rules you?
- 5) Take some time to sit in silence and listen for anything God may be saying. What did God whisper to you? Is it something to be *received* or to be *obeyed*?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

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