

Come Worship with us

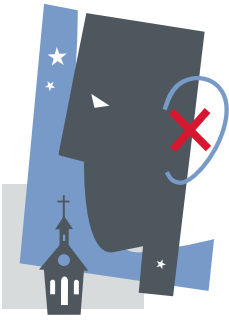


Flint Hill Missionary Baptist Church

God's Silence or Man's Inability to Hear?

In the face of events like the Holocaust or the genocide in Rwanda and Darfur, God's silence may seem troubling. If the accounts of the Old Testament are to be taken literally, God spoke directly to his people at certain crucial times, telling Noah to build the Ark and directing Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh. In the book of Job, we hear Job calling God to account for the suffering that has befallen him, and God answering him out of the whirlwind. By the time of the great kings of Israel such as David and Solomon, however, God has fallen silent, or speaks only in a whisper, as in the "still small voice" that speaks to Elijah. There is almost a divine pivot here, where God goes from speaking in a thunderous terrifying voice to speaking in a whisper. Notice that in the case of Elijah, God was not in the earthquake or the great wind, as Elijah expected, but in the still small voice. (1 Kings 19:11-13) And in Ecclesiastes, Solomon tells us that God "has put eternity into man's mind," and we seem to have thereby reached a point in human development where God has been internalized in our hearts and minds, God's voice becoming the still small voice of conscience. So in the face of horrors like the Holocaust, perhaps the real question is not whether God has remained silent, but whether the people who knew of these atrocities heard the voice of God within them and failed to speak out.

O that today you would hearken to his voice! Harden not your hearts.
R.S.V. Psalm 95:7-8



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