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WHEN GOD TALKS...

In the 1980s a brokerage firm aired a series of TV commercials, using the theme, "When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen." These ads effectively implied that their sponsor spoke with authority and trustworthiness concerning investments.

How much more should human beings understand that when God and His Son, who created all things, speak or act, "everyone should listen." Far beyond the puny words and deeds of mere men, God possesses ultimate authority and trustworthiness. One can fully trust in Divine statement and act.

God apparently sought to teach men this truth from the beginning. Had Adam and Even listened when God Spoke in Eden, they would not have brought death upon the human race. Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Eve

said, "**God hath said**, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Gen. 3:3). They ate of it, and just as God had said, through their sin (i.e., transgression of God's law, 1 John 3:4), "death passed unto all men" (Rom. 5:12). No one inherits the guilt of their sins, but all men suffer the consequence of their bringing sin into the world (death). Adam, Eve, indeed all mankind should listen because God has spoken about sin and its awful consequence (Rom. 6:23).

To the drunken and immoral Belshazzar, monarch of fifth-century BC Babylon, the prophet Daniel declared: "**God hath numbered thy kingdom**, and brought it to an end" (Dan. 5:26). In his pride, this pagan king had glorified himself, arrayed himself against the God of Heaven, and exalted dumb idols. That very night he lost his life and his kingdom. As Belshazzar should have listened when God spoke, so should all the nations—including our own—that forget Him.

To inquiring religious leaders, Jesus said concerning Scriptural marriage of a man and a woman, "What therefore **God hath joined together**, let not man put asunder" (Mat. 19:6). These words do not merely warn against doing so, but indicate the impossibility of doing so, "except for fornication" (v. 9). Nor do they make any allowance for any unions except those between a man and a woman. An amoral world of casual marriage/casual divorce has refused to listen to what Deity has spoken on this subject and is paying a terrible price for it.

John wrote that "**God hath sent** his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9). The refusal of the majority of men to heed these facts and flee to Him for salvation is the greatest of all tragedies and follies. There is salvation in none other (John 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12).

When God speaks, are you listening?

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