



Heaven's Communication with Man

Through Jesus

Since the sin of our first parents there has been no direct communication between God and man. The Father has given the world into the hands of Christ, that through His mediatorial work He may redeem man and vindicate the authority and holiness of the law of God. **All the communion between heaven and the fallen race has been through Christ.** It was the Son of God that gave to our first parents the promise of redemption. (*PP 366.1*)

Christ was not only the leader of the Hebrews in the wilderness — the Angel in whom was the name of Jehovah, and who, veiled in the cloudy pillar, went before the host — but it was

He who gave the law to Israel. [See

Appendix, note 7.] Amid the awful glory of Sinai, Christ declared in the hearing of all the people the ten precepts of His Father's law. It was He who gave to Moses the law engraved upon the tables of stone. (*PP* 366.2)

It was Christ that **spoke to His people through the prophets**. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian church, says that the prophets “prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.” 1 Peter 1:10, 11. **It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament.** “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10. (*PP* 366.3)

In His teachings while personally among men
Jesus directed the minds of the people to the
Old Testament. (*PP 367.1*)

The ceremonial law was given by Christ. Even after it was no longer to be observed, Paul presented it before the Jews in its true position and value, showing its place in the plan of redemption and its relation to the work of Christ; and the great apostle pronounces this law glorious, worthy of its divine Originator. The solemn service of the sanctuary typified the grand truths that were to be revealed through successive generations. (*PP 367.2*)

The cloud of incense ascending with the prayers of Israel represents His righteousness that alone can make the sinner's prayer acceptable to God; the bleeding victim on the altar of sacrifice testified of a Redeemer to come; and from the holy of holies the visible token of the divine Presence shone forth. **Thus** through age after age of darkness and apostasy **faith was kept alive** in the hearts of men until the time came for the advent of the promised Messiah. (*PP 367.2*)

Jesus was the light of His people — the Light of the world — before He came to earth in the form of humanity. The first gleam of light that pierced the gloom in which sin had wrapped the world, came from Christ. And from Him has come every ray of heaven's brightness that has fallen upon the inhabitants of the earth. In the plan of redemption Christ is the Alpha and the Omega — the First and the Last. (*PP* 367.3)

It was He who revealed Himself to the patriarchs. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses understood the gospel. They looked for salvation through man's Substitute and Surety. These holy men of old held communion with the Saviour who was to come to our world in human flesh; and some of them talked with Christ and heavenly angels face to face. (*PP 366.1*)

God's Communication with Man

- Divine messages were sometimes communicated to the high priest by a **voice** from the cloud. Sometimes a **light** fell upon the angel at the right, to signify approval or acceptance, or a **shadow or cloud** rested upon the one at the left to reveal disapproval or rejection. (*PP* 349.1)
- When the high priest entered **within the most holy once a year**, and ministered before the ark in the awful presence of God, he inquired, and God often answered him with an **audible voice**. When the Lord did not answer by a voice, he let the **sacred beams of light and glory** rest upon the cherubim upon the right of the ark, in approbation or favor. If their requests were refused, **a cloud rested** upon the cherubim at the left. (*4aSG* 102.2)

- The **brain nerves** which communicate with the entire system are the only medium through which Heaven can communicate to man and affect his inmost life. (*2T 347.2*)
- Whatever disturbs the circulation of the electric currents in the nervous system lessens the strength of the vital powers, and the result is a deadening of the sensibilities of the mind. In consideration of these facts, how important that ministers and people who profess godliness should stand forth clear and untainted from this soul-debasing vice! [of self-abuse] (*2T 347.2*)

- Christ is our example in all things. In response to his prayer to his Father, heaven was opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove and abode upon him. The **Holy Spirit of God is to communicate with man**, and to abide in the hearts of the obedient and faithful. Light and strength will come to those who earnestly seek it in order that they may have wisdom to resist Satan, and to overcome in times of temptation. We are to overcome even as Christ overcame. (*ST* July 24, 1893, par. 2)

- One of the features that distinguish the true God from all false gods, is the **power to communicate with men regarding the past and the future**. Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah issues a challenge to the gods worshiped by the heathen: “Let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods.” And because of the inability of these false gods to do this, Jehovah declares, “Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought; an abomination is he that chooseth you.”
Isaiah 41:22–24. (*CET* 250.1)

- Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us. (*SC* 93.1)
- God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. (*CCb* 245.1)
- **Heavenly messengers** are waiting to communicate with men who have sunk **self out of sight**, whose lives are a fulfilling of the words, “I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: (*21MR* 404.1)

How God Has Communicated with Men

- Urim and Thummim — Exodus 28:30
- Dreams, Urim, Prophets — 1 Samuel 28:6
- We must place a higher value than we have upon the Scriptures, for therein is the revealed will of God to men. It is not enough merely to assent to the truthfulness of God's word, but we must search the Scriptures to learn what they contain. Do we receive the Bible as the "oracle of God"? **It is as really a divine communication as though its words came to us in an audible voice. (5T 533.3)**

Set in the breastplate, one on either side, were two brilliant stones, called the **Urim** and **Thummim**. By means of these stones the mind of the Lord could be ascertained by the high priest. When questions were asked, if light encircled the precious stone at the right, the answer was in the affirmative; but if a shadow rested on the stone at the left, the answer was negative.

Angels

We mingle with the busy activity of our cities, the multitude in the crowded thoroughfares; we enter marts of trade and business and walk the streets, and through all, from morning till evening, the people seem to act as if business, sport, and pleasure were all there is to life, that this world is all there is to occupy the mind.

How few contemplate the unseen agencies. . . . there are agencies, good and evil, observing every word and deed. They are in every assembly for business transactions, in councils, and in meetings for the worship of God. (*13LtMs, Ms 39, 1898, par. 9, 10*)

There are **more listeners** in these public assemblies than can be seen with the natural sight . . . Those unseen agencies are co-laborers with God or with Satan, and they work more mightily and more constantly than do man. Sometimes the heavenly intelligences draw aside the curtain that hides the unseen world, that we may have our minds withdrawn from the hurry and rush, and consider that there are witnesses to all we do and say when engaged in business, or when we think ourselves alone. (*13LtMs*, Ms 39, 1898, par. 11)

Many, under different circumstances, have listened to the voices of the **inhabitants of other worlds**. They have come to act a part in this life. They have spoken in assemblies, and opened before assemblies human histories, and have done works which it was impossible for human agencies to do. Time and again have they been the generals of armies. They have been sent forth to cleanse away the pestilence. They have eaten at the humble board of families. Often they have appeared as weary travellers in need of shelter for the night. (*13LtMs*, Ms 39, 1898, par. 13)

We need to understand better than we do the work of **these angel visitants**. It would be well for all who claim to be children of God to consider that words they speak are in the hearing of heavenly beings, and that they behold the works they do. Who would think that heavenly angels are co-operating with us in our work? But so it is, and thus earth is connected with heaven. (*13LtMs*, Ms 39, 1898, par. 14)

In this little speck of a world the heavenly universe manifests the greatest interest, for Jesus paid an infinite price for the souls of its inhabitants. The world's Redeemer has bound this world to heaven by **ties of intelligence**; the redeemed of the Lord are here. (*13LtMs*, Ms 39, 1898, par. 15)

We mingle with the busy activity of our cities, the multitude in the crowded thoroughfares; we enter marts of trade and business and walk the streets, and through all, from morning till evening, the people seem to act as if business, sport, and pleasure were all there is to life, that this world is all there is to occupy the mind. (Ibid., par. 9)

Said Christ, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” [John 10:27, 28.] Men talk of independence, of self-reliance, but they can have self-reliance with safety only in God. Man’s self-reliance is a miserable failure which takes him away from the divine Counsellor, in whom he lives and moves, and has his being. (*13LtMs*, Ms 39, 1898, par. 16)

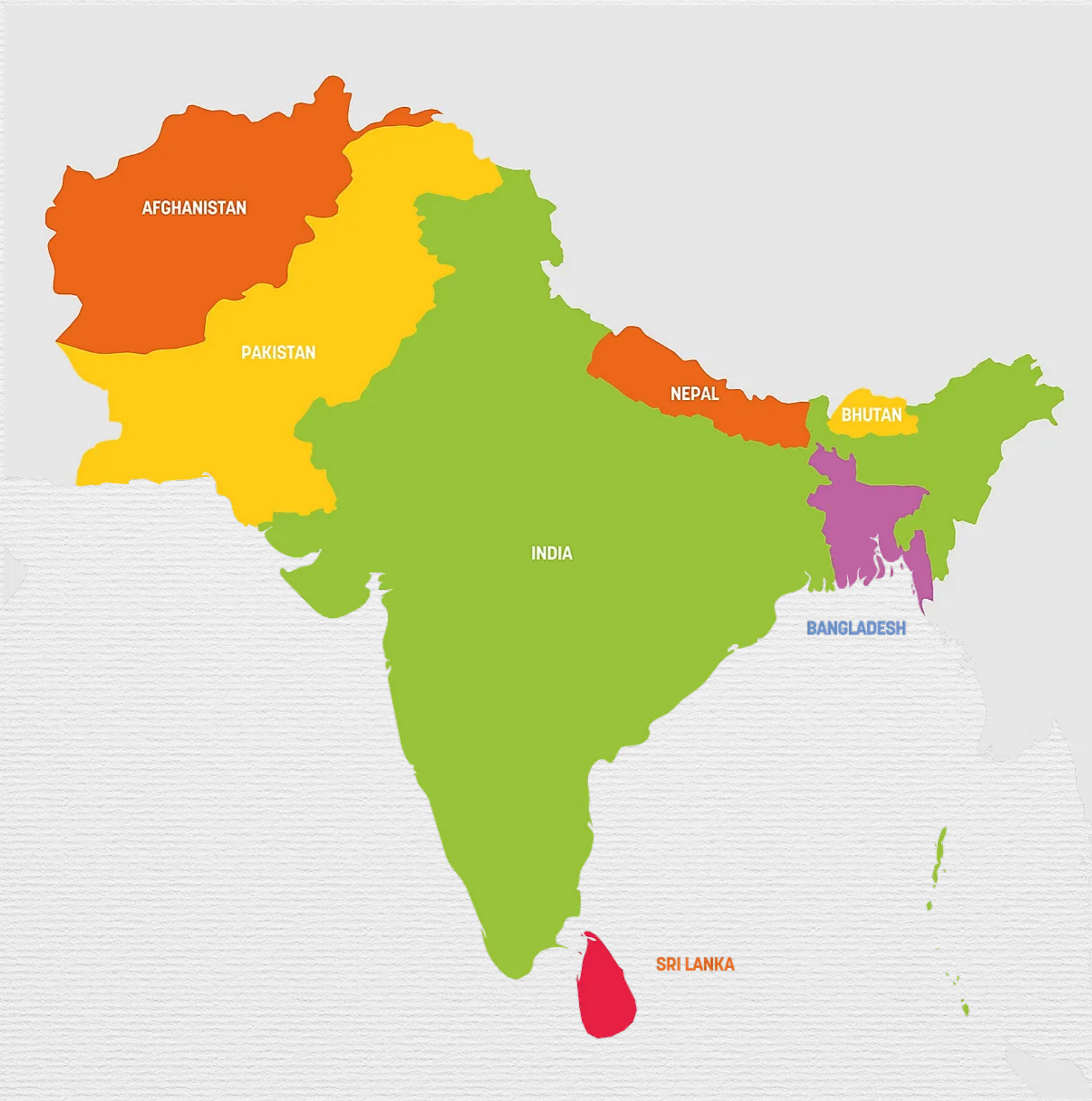
The Son of man will come in the clouds of heaven in His own glory, and the glory of His Father, and of all the holy angels. There will be no lack of honor and glory. In that day the law of God is to be revealed in its majesty, and man who has broken that law, and stood in defiant rebellion against its holy precepts, will understand that that law which they have despised, discarded, and trampled under foot is God's standard of character. Every commandment-keeping soul, every transgressor will have placed before him the scene when the Sabbath was first given to man in Eden. When the foundations of the earth were laid, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, then it was that the Sabbath was instituted. **This scene will be vividly brought before every mind.** (*13LtMs*, Ms 39, 1898, par. 17)

- A voice to the priest from the cloud
- A light or a shadow on the angels of the ark
- Through God's Spirit
- Through nature, revelation, and his providence and by the influence of his Spirit
- Through his church
- Through heavenly messengers
- Through Urim and Thummim
- Through prophets
- Through dreams
- Through the Scripture
- Through angel visitants

Gagan Gurung

- From Nepal, a Hindu-Buddhist







The China–Nepal border runs across its summit point.



Gagan Gurung

- His family was from Nepal, but they moved to Bhutan for his father to find work. Eventually, oppression by the government forced the Nepalese workers to leave.



Gagan Gurung

- And they became refugees in their home country. They suffered for lack of shelter, food, and water, but as time went on, the camp became more livable, and Gagan's family lived there for 22 years. Thousands of refugees grew up in the camp, married, had children, suffered, and died there. Gagan's family experienced all of this. A local Christian missionary baptized his brother and sister-in-law, and Gagan agreed to be baptized also.



Gagan Gurung

- But on the day of baptism, he went to the river early and while there heard a voice saying, “Run from here. Run from here.” And he ran away and wasn’t baptized. He later was and is a Christian living in the US.

