




Prophetic Development

Chapter I

DIMENSIONS OF THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY



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- The prophetic ministry moves beyond just prophesying.
 - It is a lifestyle of bringing God to man and carrying man to God.
 - Helping man to understand who God is, and helping him to walk the way God wants him to walk.
 - **The ministry that has the ability to communicate what you have seen and heard.**
 - Ability to represent God in every dimension.

DISCERNING OF SPIRIT

- It helps us enter into the spirit realm to know the spirit behind any act, to determine whether it is of God or not.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

- The spirit of prophecy is the simplest level of prophetic ministry.
- It is not a gift. It is not an office. ***It is an anointing arising from Christ within the believer.***
- It manifest when there is a special prophetic anointing in an ***area, service*** or ***place***. Because it is a spirit, it comes and goes.
- **The person is not in possession of the spirit.**
- God uses who you are, what you are to do what He wants to do.


Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

- Believers become channels through which the voice of Christ testifies.
- When you come into contact with the spirit of prophecy, you have the ability to see and hear in the spirit and operate as a prophet.
- It also occurs when one comes amongst the company of prophets or the mantle of an anointed prophet is present in a geographical location.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY


- It is the supernatural manifestation of the mind of God by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and not the human mind.
- It is not an office, it is a gift.
- It moves higher than the spirit of prophecy.
- The gift is subject to the recipient of the gift.
- Special ability given to the believer to receive and communicate timely divine inspired messages from God.
- It is not for foretelling the future and not predictive by nature.

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- When it becomes predictive then it means it has blend with the word of wisdom or word of knowledge.
 - Its purpose is limited to **edification, exhortation** and **comfort**.
 - Any believer can operate in the gift of prophecy.
 - Any spirit filled believer can prophesy but does not necessarily makes one a prophet.
 - **Acts 21 : 9** *He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.*

THE PROPHETIC GRACE


Romans 12:6: *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;*

- There are gifts but gifts differ according to the grace.
- You prophesy according to your faith.
- It takes great faith to prophesy.
- It is an unction of the Holy spirit that give access into the plans and will of God.
- Standing in the office of the prophet goes beyond just seeing and hearing .
- The ability to interpret what he is seeing.

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- **An example is sons of the prophet. Sons of the prophet are not yet prophets .Prophets are spiritual military men.**
 - The grace of prophecy is usually in the lives of fruitful ministers.
 - Their prophecy carries more ***authority, power, depth*** and ***clarity***.

THE OFFICE OF THE PROPHET

- Prophets are not made, trained ,they are called by God.
- You don't desire to become a prophet.
- You can desire to operate with the prophetic unction.
- When God calls a man into the office of the prophet, He equips him to operate in that office.
- Prophets don't operate with the gift of the spirit , they operate with the gift of the prophet.
- Prophets are trained by God via disappointments, trial.

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- The office of the prophet is calling from God.
 - The prophet is the custodian of divine secret and the mouthpiece of God, who speak with divine inspiration.
 - The prophet has the responsibility to equip the saints to discern God's voice and understand His plans and purpose individually and corporately.
 - No father speaks to his children to another man. Whatever you give attention to grows.



Chapter 2

When the Prophetic Word Brings Spiritual Warfare

Prophetic words bring spiritual warfare

- A **prophetic word** is God announcing His specific will for you.
- The words of **edification**, **exhortation** or **comfort** don't tend to stir up many devils.
- Once the enemy has prophetic intelligence on where God wants to take you he'll be sure to set up snares along your path to getting there. Whether that's
 - A Judas to betray you,
 - A sickness to slow you down,
 - Financial distress to freak you out,
 - Relationship woes, or
 - just plain stressful situations


that cause you to forget all about the prophecy and put out your personal fires.

Facing Your Goliath

- This is scriptural. Two examples that come to mind are David and Joseph.

David example:

- *David was the prophesied king, anointed by Samuel in the midst of his brothers (see 1 Sam. 16:13).*
- David went through hell and back before the prophetic act became a reality.
- In fact, he was almost immediately taken from his home and assigned to become the then-King Saul's armor-bearer.
- In the next breath, he was facing the battle of all battles with the giant Goliath.

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- David ended up fleeing into the wilderness and ran into all sorts of dangers along the way as Saul's army pursued him.
 - His wives were captured.
 - His men turned against him.
 - David's psalms reveal the emotions of a man facing warfare to see his prophetic destiny become a reality.

Joseph's example:

- He had two prophetic dreams as a teenager.
- Both dreams essentially indicated that he would rule over his older brothers.
- When they found out, the warfare began.
- Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit and sold him into slavery.
- He was falsely accused of trying to trying to rape Potiphar's wife. **And he was thrown into prison.**

Prepare for War

- ***Yes, when you receive a true prophetic word from God it brings spiritual warfare.***
- You probably won't be chased through the wilderness by a jealous king, but you may be chased out of your church by a jealous pastor.
- You may not be sold into slavery, but you may be betrayed by those closest to you.
- You may not be falsely accused of rape, but you may be falsely accused of something.
- You may not be thrown into prison, but you may be thrown out of your comfort zone.

A PASTOR EXAMPLE

- **'Kartsonakis'** word wasn't ultra specific, but it was nonetheless a prophetic announcement.
- Some weeks later, I was on the phone with Doug Stringer, who released a **prophetic prayer** over me along the same lines.
- That's always exciting, but it **brought tremendous warfare**.
- I spent the next 18 months battling a nasty controlling religious spirit that targeted my life and ministry for destruction.
- Through other circumstances, my daughter also fell into life-and-death danger as the enemy worked in her midst.
- One of my best friends was almost killed in a head-on collision with a drunk driver. And the list goes on and on.

Enduring the Spiritual Battle


- ***How did I get through it?*** God's grace, off course.


Paul said,

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare” (1 Tim. 1:18).

The New Living Translation puts it this way:

“Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles.”


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- ***What does that practically mean?*** It means I continued to declare the prophetic word over my life.
 - Although a prophetic word is not on par with Scripture, ***a prophecy that's been judged true can be used as a sword in the spiritual realm to do battle against the enemy's assignment.***
 - After all, the enemy doesn't really care about you.
 - He hates you, yes, but ultimately he just doesn't want the prophetic word to come to pass because when it does God's will comes to the earth.

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- **Remember**, it was at least 15 years between David's prophetic anointing and David's kingship. And it was about 13 years in between Joseph's dream and his promotion to Egypt's prime minister.
 - Chances are, it won't take that long for you to see the first fruits of those powerful prophetic words spoken over your life. But even if it does, don't give in to the enemy's strategies.
 - **Remember**, this is the Lord's battle. Declare the prophetic word over your life and keep fighting the good fight of faith. Amen.




Chapter 3

What is a Prophet / Prophetess?

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- There is a distinct difference between the manifestation of prophecy and the gift ministry of a prophet / prophetess.
 - Many people are familiar with the ministries of ***apostles***, ***evangelists***, ***pastors***, and ***teachers***.
 - However, if we are to have everything that the Lord wants us to have as his Body, we must understand the ministry of the prophet and have prophets functioning in the Church.

What is a Prophet / Prophetess?

- *In spite of the fact that prophets were vital to God's purposes in the Old Testament, the need for them today has been called into question because of the presence of the gift of holy spirit in every believer.*
- ***On the Day of Pentecost, God began to unveil something He had hidden from mankind (and the Devil)—the Administration of God's Grace (Eph. 3:2).***
- ***Today, in the Administration of Grace, the Lord Jesus Christ seals with holy spirit every person who gets born again (Eph. 1:13).***
- ***That means every Christian has the ability to hear from God and prophesy (Acts 2:17 and 18, cp. 1 Cor. 14:5 and 24).***

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- The Lord has placed prophets in the Church along with the other ministries of ***apostles, evangelists, pastors*** and ***teachers***.
 - The Lord would not have specifically placed men and women in the Church with the gift ministry of a prophet if they did not perform a distinctly different role than other Christians who were operating the manifestation of prophecy.

- The call to be a prophet is a job assignment, given to someone whether he wants it or not.
- The Old Testament scriptures make this very clear.

Isaiah knew he was called from birth:

“...Before I was born the LORD [Yahweh] called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name” (Isa. 49:1 b).

Amos describes the call of God upon his life:

“...I was neither a prophet nor a prophet’s son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the LORD [Yahweh] took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel’” (Amos 7:14 and 15).



Prophets were important in the establishment of the church at Antioch, the first church recorded that was composed of both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 11:27).

It was the prophet Agabus who foretold that there would be a severe famine in the Roman world during the reign of Claudius Caesar (Acts 11:28).

Prophets were vital in getting the revelation from the Lord to set apart Paul and Barnabas and send them on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-4).

The prophets Judas and Silas are specifically mentioned as exhorting and confirming the disciples in Antioch (Acts 15:32-KJV).

***It was Agabus the prophet who so graphically portrayed
what would happen to Paul in Jerusalem***

(Acts 21:10 and 11).

- Evangelists still exist in the Church even though every Christian can share his faith, there are still pastors even though every Christian can help people.
- **Prophets are charged with being spokesmen for God** just as they were in the Old Testament, and today they speak also for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Once we understand that the ministry of a prophet is the Lord's doing, we should be very interested in recognizing who they are and what we can do to help them in their job of being spokesmen.

- We need to understand how that difference plays out in the Church.


All prophecy, whether from a Christian operating the manifestation of prophecy, or from a called prophet, will be as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2:4-KJV).

- All true words of prophecy come from God never from the speaker's mind.
- In the case of the manifestation of prophecy, the Lord limits himself to giving words of:

“...strengthening, encouragement, and comfort”

(1 Cor. 14:3).

- Both the manifestation of prophecy and the ministry of a prophet are used by the Lord in the Church today

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- To understand how prophets operate in the Church, we must understand how they functioned in the Old Testament.
 - The various Greek and Hebrew words that are translated “**prophet**” or “**seer**” help a lot in understanding both what a prophet is and how God works with them.
 - By far the most common word translated “**prophet**” in the Old Testament is *nabi*, which means “**spokesman**.”
 - First and foremost, the prophet is a “spokesman” for God.
 - The prophet must be able to hear the voice of God and bring God’s words to the world.



Chapter 4

The Prophet speak


Prophets:

- **Tell what will happen in the future:** *1 Samuel 10:1-6; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Matthew 24:2; Acts 11:28, 21:11*
- **Speak of past events:** *Judges 6:7-10; 2 Samuel 12:7 and 8; Ezekiel 20:1-31; John 4:18.*
- **Strengthen** (“edification” KJV): *2 Samuel 7:8-12; Haggai 2:1-5*
- **Exhort:** *2 Chronicles 15:1-7; Isaiah 35:1-4; Haggai 1:3-12*
- **Comfort:** *1 Samuel 9:20; 2 Chronicles 20:15-17; Jeremiah 45:1-5*
- **Bless:** *Genesis 48:20; Deuteronomy 33:1; Joshua 14:13*
- **Curse:** *Joshua 8:26, 9:22 and 23; 2 Kings 2:24; Jeremiah 48:10*
- **Call out kings and ministries:** *1 Samuel 10:1, 16:13; 1 Kings 11:29-39, 19:15-19; 2 Kings 9:1-13*

- **Reprove (sometimes harshly):** 2 Samuel 12:1-14; Isaiah 22:15-25; Jeremiah 36:30 and 31; Malachi 2:3; Matthew 16:23, 23:12-36
- **Foretell death or disaster:** 1 Samuel 2:27-36; 1 Kings 13:20-24, 22:17-37; Jeremiah 28:16, 29:21; Amos 7:14-17
- **Direct:** Judges 4:4-6; 2 Kings 4:1-7, 5:10, 6:8-10; Jeremiah 32:13-15
- **Name (showing God's opinion):** 2 Samuel 12:25; Jeremiah 20:3
- **Reveal character and what is in a person's heart:** Isaiah 9:9 and 17, 29:13, 48:4; Jeremiah 2:21, 5:23; Ezekiel 14:2-4; John 1:47
- **Interpret enigmas:** Daniel 5:5-29
- **Reveal what is going on from a spiritual perspective:** 1 Chronicles 5:20; Jeremiah 1:16; Ezekiel 5:11; Daniel 9:11; John 8:42-47

Furthermore, prophets:

- *Can have messages for individuals: 1 Samuel 10:1-6, for groups: 2 Kings 3:12-19, or for entire nations: Amos 1:11-2:16*
- *Have given prophecies to people about a third party: 1 Kings 14:7; 2 Kings 1:3*
- *May deliver the message themselves, or through others: 2 Kings 5:10, 9:1*
- *May interpret other people's dreams: Genesis 40:8-22, 41:15-28; Daniel 2:1-45, 4:4-37 (or their own as in Daniel 7)*
- *Might not get a revelation about a situation immediately: Jeremiah 28:5-17 (especially verse 11), 42:7*
- *May be called upon by God to act out their prophetic message: Jeremiah 19:1-13, 27:2, 43:8-13; Ezekiel 4:1-3, 9:1-17, 5:1-4, 12:1-11; Hosea 1:2; Acts 21:11*
- *May get revelation they do not understand: Numbers 12:6-8; Daniel 12:8; Zechariah 1:8 and 9*

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- Prophets speak what they hear from God and that can be as varied as God wants it to be.
 - Of course, because the prophet is a prophet of God, He will not contradict what He has said in His written Word.
 - The “**grace**” in the *Age of Grace* concerns what God has done for people.
 - The “**grace**” in the *Age of Grace* certainly does not mean that we have the “grace” to live profligate lives without the Lord being upset and speaking frankly to us about it.

The principle still stands:

“...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded...” (Luke 12:48b).

- Sin is still sin, and just as God was so upset by the sin and hardheartedness of his “**chosen people**” in the Old Testament that He occasionally reproved them harshly.
- Actually, since we have more today, we could reasonably expect Him to get more upset.

Because Scripture says:

“For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God...”

(1 Pet. 4:17a),


- God has some harsh punishment for those who turn from Him and have:

“...insulted the Spirit of grace” (Heb. 10:29, cp. 1 Thess. 4:6).

Joseph Dillow writes:

“Once a man is born again in Christ, he is now in God’s family, and as any human father would, our divine Father takes a more personal interest in the moral behavior of those who belong to Him than to those outside the household of faith.”

- Another Hebrew word translated “**prophet**” shows that prophets speak what they hear from God.
- The Hebrew word **nataph**, sometimes translated “**prophet**,” means “**to drop, drip, or distill.**”

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- Two more Hebrew words that help us understand how God works in prophets are both translated “**seer**.”
 - One is **raah**, which means, “**to see**” (as with the eye),
 - The other is **chozeh**, which means “**one who has a vision**”.
 - Many biblical records show that God is purposely unclear.
 - **Numbers 12:6-8** indicates that God spoke to prophets in riddles, while to Moses He spoke “**face to face**,” i.e., clearly says it is the glory of God to conceal things.

- Furthermore, the Bible has records of prophets receiving visions and revelations they did not understand.


For example,

- *Daniel did not understand the meaning of what he heard (Dan. 12:8),*
- *Zechariah was shown a vision that he did not understand (Zech. 1:8 and 9).*
- *Peter did not grasp what the Lord was communicating by the sheet full of unclean animals, argued with the Lord about it, and ended up “...wondering about the meaning of the vision...” (Acts 10:17).*



There seem to be two primary reasons why God is sometimes purposely unclear:


- *One is to drive people into deeper and more intimate communication with Him.*
 - *The second reason that God (or the Lord) is sometimes unclear when He gives a revelation or a vision is that it causes people to work together.*
- There are many biblical topics that can be understood only by learning about them from several different books.
- God gave one revelation to the prophet Jeremiah, another to Ezekiel, another to Daniel, etc. and only when they are taken together do we get the whole picture.
- This is still true today,


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- Reason for God to promote community and communication among the prophets is the need for prophets to mature in their calling.
 - The prophetic minister must have the courage to deliver God's message but also recognize that he or she does not stand alone.
 - The goal of the prophet is not to tear down but to recover and build up.
 - Prophets, while calling others to account, must also be accountable.
 - The Lord's prophets must strive to prophesy and interpret dreams and visions in accordance with the written Word of God.
 - Another quality the prophet must have is the courage to deliver God's message no matter what the content.


- The heavy nature of many prophetic utterances is why revelation from God was often called a “**burden**.”


For example:

- ***“The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi”*** (Mal. 1:1-KJV).
 - ***“The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite”*** (Nah. 1:1-KJV).
 - ***“The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see”*** (Hab. 1:1-KJV).
 - ***“The burden of the word of the LORD ...”*** (Zech. 9:1-KJV).
- The prophet must also develop the wisdom to deliver his message the way the Lord would have it delivered.

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- It is a very difficult task to distill to doctrine the communication that a prophet receives by revelation and how it should be communicated to others.
 - The mature prophet knows that sometimes the Lord communicates to him in a manner that is meaningful only to him.
 - The Lord often uses harsh words or striking images to create impact.
 - The prophet's task is to discern the truth being conveyed, and then to communicate that truth as accurately and lovingly as possible.

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- This communication may take a number of forms and will not always be accepted or understood.
 - A wise prophet will seek the Lord for wisdom concerning the details, timing and wording for each situation.
 - Just as prophets get lauded and praised when their prophecies are a blessing, they are derided and persecuted when their prophecies are unexpected or unwanted.
 - Each prophet must develop his own relationship with the Lord so that the Lord can communicate to him in a way that he understands, even if others do not.
 - One of the great services that the prophets of old performed was to help people who needed to know what to do about specific situations.


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- Knowing the right thing to do in a specific situation has always been a challenge, and the Adversary has worked hard to deceive God's people by providing demonic sources of spiritual information.
 - Some people who look to demonic sources of information are Christians, they may not know that what they are doing is a sin.
 - There has always been spiritual advice available, both good and bad.
 - That is why the Bible mentions and forbids the practice of divination, consulting mediums, astrology, etc.


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- The Bible has many examples of people going to a prophet to seek the will of God, and He got very upset if they went to other spiritual sources.
 - ***Divination, mediums, astrology***, etc., were all forbidden.
 - God wanted the people to seek Him, and that usually meant through the prophets or priests.


Examples of people seeking prophecy for specific reasons include:


- **I Samuel 9:6** Saul went to Samuel to find his lost animals.
- **I Samuel 9:9** The people of Israel went to the prophet to inquire of God.
- **I Samuel 22:15** David had sought the will of God from Ahimelech the priest.
- **I Samuel 23:1-12** David four times sought God's will through Abiathar the priest.
- **I Samuel 28:6** Saul sought information from prophets, but there was no revelation.
- **I Kings 14:1-3** Jeroboam sent to Ahijah the prophet to find out about his child.
- **I Kings 22:4-28** Jehoshaphat sought a prophet to find out if he should go to war.


- **2 Kings 3:11** Jehoshaphat sought the will of God from Elisha.
- **2 Kings 4:1-7** The widow sought the help of God from Elisha.
- **2 Kings 4:21-37** The Shunammite woman sought the help of Elijah for her dead son.
- **2 Kings 5:3** The maid wanted Naaman to visit the prophet in Samaria.
- **2 Kings 8:7 and 8** Hazael sent to Elisha to see if he would recover from his sickness.
- **2 Kings 19:1-7** Hezekiah sent to Isaiah to find out about the Assyrian attack.
- **2 Kings 22:11-20** Josiah sent to Huldah the prophetess to find out what to do.
- **Jeremiah 21:1-14** Zedekiah sent to Jeremiah to know if Jerusalem would be delivered.
- **Jeremiah 37:17** Zedekiah sent to Jeremiah to see if there was a word from the LORD.
- **Jeremiah 38:14-26** Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah to ask him questions.

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- *There is a spiritual war going on between God and the Devil.*
 - *Each person must choose the source from which he will get his information.*
 - It is sad that the prophetic word in the Church has been so weak.
 - People are flocking to psychic hotlines, tarot cards, astrology, and mediums to get the information they want.
 - A study of the biblical examples of people seeking prophecy reveals that the prophet does not always have to rely solely on revelation for information.

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- Some people say: ***“Well, the only reason people in the Old Testament had to go to prophets was because they did not have holy spirit and could not go to God for themselves.”***
 - That thinking is not correct.
 - David and other kings had prophets in their courts, and a study of David’s life shows that he regularly asked prophets for information even though he had holy spirit.
 - Sometimes, when a person is in a really difficult situation, it is difficult to calm down enough to hear the voice of the Lord.
 - It is usually much easier for someone who is not as close to the situation to hear from the Lord.

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- **The ministry of the prophet is not in evidence in the Church as it should be**, nor, I believe, as the Lord wants it to be.
 - Where are the prophets who warn us of destructive weather or economic disaster?
 - Where are the prophets who call out the ministries in our churches?
 - Where are the prophets who advise our army and our government, and indeed, give personal advice and direction so people will see that there is a God in heaven?
 - God said, ***“Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7)***

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- We also need to pray and ask the Lord to continue to add prophets to the Church so that we can have more of his words and wisdom as it applies to specific situations.
 - We also should do more to encourage the prophets to hear the call of the Lord and develop themselves in their ministries.
 - We need to support them as they grow in their walk, encouraging them to be pure and holy so the word they hear will be pure and not compromised by the flesh.



“Lord Jesus, if it was God’s heart in the Old Testament not to act without telling His prophets, that must be your heart today. Yet there are so many areas in which we are blind and deaf. Has our sin driven you away from us? Have our efforts to know you been halfhearted and self-serving? Help us to be deserving of your active participation in our lives. Help us to want to hear clearly from you. Lord Jesus, raise up and energize a company of prophets, men and women who will boldly and clearly bring your words to your Church. Amen.”

Endnotes

- There are occasions when apostles, because of the position God has given them in the governance of the Church, are given words of prophecy that ordinarily would come to the Church through prophets.
- Many people who have the gift ministry of a prophet do not serve the true God, but turn to the flesh or the demonic.
- They occasionally use their gifting for the Devil's purposes, and become psychics, mediums, oracles, "spiritual advisors," etc.
- The spiritual sensitivity of these people is real, whether they work for God or the Devil.



Chapter 5

**Reasons God uses prophecy
today.**

I. Prophecy gets our attention.

- Breaking the buzz of the fluorescent lights overhead, God's voice thunders and wakes us from our stupor.
- Suddenly God has our attention. We didn't know how to listen. Or we were just plain busy.
- But God crashes through the humming of our thumbing on the desk.
- He has much to say. So much in fact, that He can't wait for us to tune our ears.
- He reaches out to messengers so we'll hear.

2. Prophecy builds the Body of Christ.


- The Church is a collection of many members, a Body.
- The Holy Spirit has given different gifts to each member.
- Only when each member functions in his or her gifts can the Body function as a whole.
- This is to say, we need each other for the complete set. Prophecy is one of these gifts.
- So when it's absent, the Body is malformed. When it's present, the Body has its part.

3. Prophecy removes the lone cowboy mentality.

- The Church is a Body, and there is no room for lone cowboys.
- No man has every gift of the Spirit and no woman the complete wisdom of God.
- No man has experienced all God has to offer, no woman has God in her pocket.
- If we try to stand alone, we shut off means of God's voice. But prophecy reminds us we don't have it all and we need each other.

4. Prophecy confirms God's Word.

- A prophetic message should not contradict the Bible.
- God has more to say than is contained in the Bible.

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- He might want you to start a petting zoo, but nowhere in the Bible does God tell you to start a petting zoo.
 - So he speaks it extra biblically, and then you pray.

5. Prophecy proves God is alive and involved.

- Some say God is dead, a fabrication of man to feel better about himself.
- Others say He exists but stepped away, a clockmaker who wound up his clock and let it tick.
- But prophecy proves that God is alive and involved, the Four Act Story told throughout time.
 - He spoke the world into existence (creation).
 - He pronounced judgment when it sinned (fall).
 - He sent the divine message into the world, who is Jesus (redemption).
 - He said He makes all things new (restoration).

6. Prophecy trains us in intercession.

- When God shares a word for someone else, the first question is, “What now?” Sometimes the next step is to share it.
- But sometimes the next step is to pray it.
- In this way, prophecy trains us in intercession.
- We begin with no clue what to pray, but then God speaks, and suddenly we’ve been given the will of God.

7. Prophecy causes us to examine our motives.

- The Bible says that love trumps prophecy.
- Not only is love superior to any spiritual gift, it is also the foundation for moving in spiritual gifts. So is humility.
- The object is to serve.

- It's not to show how spiritual we are or that we're God's best friend.

8. Prophecy partners us with God.


- God is all-powerful, but He chooses to partner with humanity.
- This is one of the mind-defying principles of God.
- God accomplishes His will through the obedience of creation.
- Problem is, we're not always obedient. Whether by defiance or ignorance, we prefer our own ways.
- God knows this, but He partners with us anyway.
- Prophecy follows the principle of partnership.

9. Prophecy deepens our intimacy with God.

- When God speaks, either directly or through someone else, it deepens the relationship.
- This is another principle of God. He desires a close relationship.
- When I have been the messenger or the recipient, it reminds me that I'm on God's mind.
- He's not too busy to think about me or his schedule too crowded to make time.
- I'm on God's heart and He wants me to know it. And further, He has great plans and is working them out.

10. Prophecy is practicing God's presence.

- Expecting God to speak is part of practicing God's presence.
- To practice God's presence is to walk deliberately with God.
- It's to go through our day aware of God. It's to make choices that honor God.

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- It's to do our best not to offend Him, lest he flee.
 - No wonder God is so insistent upon using prophecy.
 - It's a means of relationship.
 - It's a means of building the Body.
 - It's a means of accomplishing His plans.
 - Several times in the Bible God says to be eager to prophesy.



Chapter 6

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH PROPHETS

Prophets of the Bible

- God sent prophets throughout history to guide and warn His people.
- As often happens with humans, they turned their backs and didn't follow the instructions and warnings.

God even said via the mouth of Jeremiah the prophet,

"Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers."

(Jeremiah 7:25-26)

- Christ's followers would do well to listen and obey what is spoken by the Lord in the Bible.

Old Testament Prophets

Major Prophets	Minor Prophets	Other Prophets	New Testament Prophets
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Isaiah• Jeremiah• Ezekiel• Daniel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosea• Joel• Amos• Obadiah• Jonah• Micah• Nahum• Habakkuk• Zephaniah• Haggai• Zechariah• Malachi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elijah• Elisha• Gad• Micaiah• Nathan• Samuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John the Baptist• John the Revelator• Agabus• Anna• Barnabas• Paul the Apostle

- **What is the role of a prophet? It's in the Bible,**

"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him."
(Deuteronomy 18:18-19, NKJV)

- **God speaks to us through the prophets. It's in the Bible,**

"I have also spoken by the prophets, and have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."
(Hosea 12:10, NKJV)

- **God reveals His plans to the prophets. It's in the Bible,**
“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets”
(Amos 3:7, NKJV)
- **It's to our benefit to listen to God's prophets. It's in the Bible,**
“... 'Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.’” (2 Chronicles 20:20, NKJV)

- **How does God speak to His prophets? It's in the Bible,**
"Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream"
(Numbers 12:6, NKJV)
- **Why did God send prophets? To guide his people in the right way. It's in the Bible,**
"Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen."
(2 Chronicles 24:19, NKJV)
- **God uses prophets to lead His people and to protect them. It's in the Bible,**
"By a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet he was preserved." **(Hosea 12:13, NKJV)**

- **Prophets are not popular, because they speak what is right, not what is popular. It's in the Bible,**
*"They say to the seers, 'See no more visions!' and to the prophets, 'Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions.'"***(Isaiah 30:10, NIV)**
- **How can we recognize a true prophet?** Their predictions will occur as predicted. It's in the Bible,
*"As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent."***(Jeremiah 28:9, NKJV)**

- **Prophecy is one of the gifts of the Spirit to the church. It's in the Bible,**

*“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching”***(Romans 12:6-7, NKJV)**

- **Prophets stimulate the work of God. It's in the Bible,**

*“So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.”***(Ezra 6:14, NKJV)**

- **We can expect prophets in the last days of earth's history. It's in the Bible,**

“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.”

(Joel 2:28, NKJV.)

- **What is the “testimony of Jesus Christ?” It's in the Bible,**

*“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”***(Revelation 19:10, NKJV)**

- **If there are true prophets, we can expect false prophets in the last days. It's in the Bible,**
"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

(Matthew 24:24, NKJV)

- **We should test those who claim to be prophets. It's in the Bible,**

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1, NKJV)

- **Don't listen to prophets that speak against the Bible. It's in the Bible,**

"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

(Isaiah 8:20, NKJV)

- **We can't ignore all prophecies out of fear of false prophets – we should test them. It's in the Bible,**

"Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good"

(1 Thessalonians 5:20-21, NKJV.)




Chapter 7

THE FIRST PROPHET AND FALSE PROPHETS


“What do we mean when we speak of prophets, and who are prophets?”

- We must find what the Bible says about this subject.
- *The first person in the Bible to be called a prophet was Abraham, the **“Father of the Faithful.”***
- It is important to notice also, that it was God who gave him this title.
- Without doubt there were other men before Abraham who were prophets. Enoch was one, for instance.
- But Abraham was the first person to be designated a prophet by the clear Word of God.

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- **Moses** was adopted in infancy by an Egyptian princess and thus received a prince's education.
 - **Ezekiel** and **Jeremiah** were priests as well as prophets.
 - **David** was first a shepherd, then warrior, king and poet and a prophet as well.
 - **Amos** was a herdsman.
 - **Elisha** was a plowman.
 - **Daniel** was a government administrator.
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- From such diverse backgrounds, God chose His prophets.
 - Their influence and authority did not come from their rank, education, wisdom or wealth, but entirely from the fact that God chose them to be His messengers.

God chose His messengers. The following Scriptures demonstrate this:

- Now the Lord said to Abram,
“Go out from your country, your relatives, and your father’s household to the land that I will show you. Then I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great, so that you will exemplify divine blessing. I will bless those who bless you, but the one who treats you lightly I must curse, and all the families of the earth will bless one another by your name.”
- So Abram left, just as the Lord had told him to do, and Lot went with him.

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- Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb.
 - The Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from within a bush.
 - He looked—and the bush was ablaze with fire, but it was not being consumed!
 - So Moses thought, **“I will turn aside to see this amazing sight. Why does the bush not burn up?”**
 - When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him from within the bush and said, **“Moses, Moses!”** And Moses said, **“Here I am.”**
 - God said, **“Do not come near here. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”**

- He also said,
“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”
- Then Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The Lord said,

“I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a land that is both good and large, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the region of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. And now, indeed, the cry of the Israelites has come to me, and I have also seen how severely the Egyptians oppress them. So now, go, and I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

- *Moses said to God,*
“Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, or that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He replied, “Surely I will be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you bring the people out of Egypt, you and they will serve God on this mountain.” (Exodus 3:1-12)

- *Then the Lord came and stood nearby, calling as he had previously done,*

“Samuel! Samuel!”

Samuel replied,

“Speak, for your servant is listening!”



The Lord said to Samuel,

“Look! I am about to do something in Israel; when anyone hears about it, both of his ears will tingle.” (1 Samuel 3:10-11).

God could also be calling you right now I hope your answer is yes Lord.