

Prophecy: An Introduction

Series: Prophecy

Rod Myers

February 7, 2021

February 7: Prophecy, An Introduction

February 14: Messianic Prophecy

February 21: Prophecy in National Events

February 28: End Time Prophecy

Prophecy, An Introduction

- Definition of Prophecy
 - 1 Samuel 9:3-9, 3 Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys." 4 So he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and through the area around Shalisha, but they did not find them. They went on into the district of Shaalim, but the donkeys were not there. Then he passed through the territory of Benjamin, but they did not find them. 5 When they reached the district of Zuph, Saul said to the servant who was with him, "Come, let's go back, or my father will stop thinking about the donkeys and start worrying about us." 6 But the servant replied, "Look, in this town there **is a man of God**; he is highly respected, and **everything he says comes true**. Let's go there now. Perhaps he will tell us what way to take." 7 Saul said to his servant, "If we go, what can we give the man? The food in our sacks is gone. We have no gift to take to the man of God. What do we have?" 8 The servant answered him again. "Look," he said, "I have a quarter of a shekel of silver. I will give it to the man of God so that he will tell us what way to take." 9 (Formerly in Israel, if someone went to inquire of God, they would say, "Come, let us go to the **seer**," **because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.**)
 - Prophet is Nabhi meaning "announcing or proclaiming."
 - Seer is Roeh, someone who sees and knows, sometimes called "second sight."
 - Prophet in the Greek is Prophetes, meaning to speak forth
- Purpose: Forth-telling and Foretelling
 - Two main purposes for speaking for God
 - The majority of prophetic writings (17 books of OT prophecy) are concerned with forth-telling, or preaching to call people to conformity with the word of God.
 - The part that most people are most interested in is foretelling. People want to know what is going to happen.
- Different kinds of prophets

- Those assigned by God
 - Num.12:1-8, 1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. 2 “Has the **LORD spoken only through Moses?**” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this. 3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) 4 At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. 5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, 6 he said, “Listen to my words: **“When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. 7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”**
- The company of the prophets
 - 1 2 Kings 6:1 The **company of the prophets** said to Elisha, “Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us. 2 Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to meet.” And he said, “Go.” 3 Then one of them said, “Won’t you please come with your servants?” “I will,” Elisha replied. 4 And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. 5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. “Oh no, my lord!” he cried out. “It was borrowed!” 6 The man of God asked, “Where did it fall?” When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. 7 “Lift it out,” he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.
 - Another story in 1 Sam.19:18ff (Samuel and group of prophets, Saul sent men to them and they prophesied, and then Saul also prophesied-Spirit of the Lord came upon them. **NOTE:** It is the Spirit of the Lord/Christ within them: 1 Peter 1:10-11, 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the **Spirit of Christ in them** was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.
 - In 1 Kings 19 when Elijah thought he was the only prophet left in Israel-God assured him He 7000 prophets who had not bowed their knee to Baal.
- Prophets to Israel or Judah

- After Solomon died the kingdom was divided into Israel (north) and Judah (south). Often prophets were assigned to one or the other.
 - Israel: Amos, Hosea, Micah, Nahum,
 - Judah: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Micah (both), Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Obadiah, Joel
 - Prophets to the Gentiles: **Jonah**, Obadiah (both), Nahum (both)
 - False-prophets
 - Both in the OT and NT
 - The story of Ahab and Miciah in 1 Kings 22 (Relate story)
 - Matt.7:15-20, 15 “Watch out for **false prophets**. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.
 - Not just wrong about something-fakes, pretenders, deceivers.
 - NT Church prophets
 - Eph.4:11-He gave some to be prophets.
 - 1 Cor.11-12-gifts of the Spirit includes prophets/tesses
 - 1 John 4:1-3, 1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
- Rejection of the prophets
 - Ex: Plot against Jeremiah 11:21-23, 21 Therefore this is what the LORD says about the people of Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, “Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD or you will die by our hands”— 22 therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine. 23 Not even a remnant will be left to them, because I will bring disaster on the people of Anathoth in the year of their punishment.”
 - Jesus spoke of this: Matt.23:29-39, 29 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. 30 And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31 So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Go

ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started! 33 “You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? 34 Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. 35 And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation. 37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

- Prophets today?
 - Are there still people speaking in the name of God with His approval? Of course—we are all prophets of sorts as we share the word of God.
 - But, what people want to know is whether there are real prophets who can foretell the future? Do people have miraculous powers of prophecy?
 - Our focus must be on the Word of God already spoken before we seek some additional Word from God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 6 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Take away: God is a Father who wants to communicate with His children, to give them direction and sometimes for certain purposes to tell us the future. Our obligation is to listen, to test, and to obey.

It is the mission of the Central church of Christ to lead people to have an authentic and growing relationship with God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.