

Prophetic Ministry Old and New

Deuteronomy 18:15–22 (ESV) “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ **And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.**²⁰ ***But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.***²¹ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

Deuteronomy 34:10 And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,¹¹ none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,¹² and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Deuteronomy 34:10 presents the uniqueness of Moses as a prophet for God. This aligns with Moses own prediction (Deuteronomy 18:15–19) that describes another prophet who will come and he says will be raised from among your brethren.

- Moses makes a striking connection with himself—the coming prophet by stating that he will fill a role as like Moses filled at Mt Sinai (Deuteronomy 18:16). On that occasion, Moses at the request of the people, acted as the prophetic mediator between man and God in a special way, it was at Sinai God fashioned the old covenant into its completed form.
- In declaring that there would come a prophet cast in this mold, Moses was looking toward to another covenant-mediator, that being Jesus Christ.
- The expectation for this great prophet was kept alive as God kept sending prophets to his people. In each case, such a prophet was known to be true by his likeness to Moses; serving as the voice of God to men.
- Believers evaluated each prophet sent to see whether he was the great prophet that was to come or just one in a prophetic line of God’s servants. The anticipation of the coming prophet like Moses explains their pattern of initial excitement and acceptance of the prophets.
- It was this anticipation that created the excitement of the people when they saw

Jesus raised the Widow's son from the dead (Luke 7:16).

- The onlookers responded by saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" (Luke 7:16; cf. Mark 6:15; 8:28).
 - In Jewish religious thought, miracles as great as raising someone from the dead were proof of a prophetic mantle on the one who brought about the miracle. His words were to be adhered to.
 - The people viewed Jesus as a prophet and they reacted toward Him as they had to the other prophets. First with open acceptance then with rejection of His message.
 - In reality their initial acceptance and appraisal was more correct than they knew He was in fact the crown and climax of the prophetic order predicted by Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15–19).
- The role of the prophet changed in Jesus from being the mediator and voice of God responsible for the enforcement of the Old Covenant to being a voice of confirmation, encouragement, and comfort.
 - Therefore, Jesus became the end and the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophetic as God's full and complete voice.
 - He became the representative of a New Covenant with individual personal interaction with God through a relationship with Him.

I. John the Baptist was the prophetic transition from Old to New.

The Old Covenant was set in by Moses and was based on the law but the New Covenant is based on grace and was initiated through Christ!

Matthew 11:12-15 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. ¹³ ***For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.*** ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears, let him hear.

- John the Baptist the forerunner of Jesus.

John the Baptist was ***the forerunner of Jesus*** whose coming was predicted by Malachi

Malachi 4:5-6 (ESV) "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Matthew 11:9-11 "But what did you go out to see? ***A prophet? Yes, I tell***

you, and one who is more than a prophet. ¹⁰ ***“This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’*** ¹¹ “Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- There is no record of John’s message being in the form of the Old Testament prophets. He did not say “Thus says the Lord” or “For the Lord would say unto you” as he brought his prophetic message.

Matthew 3:1-6 (ESV) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

- John announced the coming of the Messiah and the New Covenant

Mark 1:7-8 And he was preaching, and saying, “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. ⁸ ***“I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”***

- John the Baptist as the forerunner to Jesus Christ was the transitional person between the Old and New Covenant.
- Jesus told the disciples that there was a new covenant in His blood.

Luke 22:20 (ESV) And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, ***“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”***

Jeremiah 31:31-32 (ESV) “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

John 16:7-11 (ESV) ***Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage***

that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

II. Prophecy as a Gift for Believers and the Church

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (ESV) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

1 Corinthians 14:1,4 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.* . . . 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but *one who prophesies edifies the church.*

1. 3 Fold Purpose of the Prophetic in the church.

- To equip for service and maturity.

Ephesians 4:11-12 *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...*

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the *presbytery.*

- To give clarity to God's work on the earth and in the church.

Acts 11:27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.²⁸ One of them named *Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world.* And this took place in the *reign* of Claudius.

Acts 13:1-2 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 *While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*

Acts 21:10-11 As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 *And coming to us, he took Paul’s belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, “This is what the Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’ ”*

- To provide encouragement, inspiration, and comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:3 *But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.*

III. Prophecy is a Gift of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (ESV) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, ***to another prophecy***, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- **We must receive the Holy Spirit.**

a. Receiving the Holy Spirit brings partnership with God.

John 14:12-18 “***Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.*** 13 “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 “If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him,

but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 4:15-18 15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw.” 16 ***He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.”*** 17 ***The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”*** Jesus said to her, ***“You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”*** 19 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

b. **Receiving the Holy Spirit releases the work of God in our lives.** - John 14

- Comforter - John 14:16
- Teacher - John 14:26
- Guide – John 16:13
- Empowerer – Acts 1:8

c. **Receiving the Holy Spirit takes our willing participation.**

Receive (Gr 2983) – a progressive thought: Have you been offered? – Have you accepted the offer? – What have you done with it?

Acts 19:1-7 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, ***“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”*** And they said to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. 7 There were in all about twelve men.

• **We must be open to God’s work.**

Story about David Evans

1 Corinthians 14:1-4 Pursue love, ***yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts***, but especially that you may prophesy... 3... one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.

a. **Purpose:** ***To build and Equip in an atmosphere of faith*** – Ephesians 4:11

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, **to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.**

Psalm 100:1-5 A Psalm for Thanksgiving. Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. 2 **Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.** 3 Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise.** Give thanks to Him, bless His name. 5 For the Lord is good; His loving-kindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.

The atmosphere of heaven is positive and faith filled. All truth belongs to God and in His presence is absolute truth.

- There is **not a disconnect** when an atmosphere is positive and faith filled being completely open and truthful.
- **What is the purpose of the prophetic?**
 - Is it to confront the church or individual with truth?
 - Is it to encourage the individual with hope, faith, and perspective?

b. **Proof: Edification, Exhortation, and comfort**

1 Corinthians 14:26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for edification.**

1. **Edification.** The word edification means spiritual profit or advancement. The purpose and use of spiritual gifts is for spiritual profit or spiritual advancement among the body.

Example:

2. **Exhortation.** When God is made known to people through His work it shows 2 things:
 - 1.) That His presence is among us and
 - 2.) That He does wondrous things.

Acts 5:12-15 At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. 13 But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. 14 ***And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, 15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.*** 16 Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

3. ***Confirmation.*** A process of impartation and affirmation that doesn't direct but adds agreement to the work of God in an individual's life.

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

- **We must welcome God's Impartation into our lives.**

Luke 11:8-13 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 ***For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.*** 11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? 12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 13 ***If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"***

- a. **Seek God First – in prayer, personal study, with submission to authority.**
 1. There is a proper – legal way - to influence the sheep.
 2. God works through a shepherd to influence (lead) His sheep.
 3. The shepherd's voice brings out the sheep.

b. ***Impart to those whom God has identified.***

2 Timothy 2:1-2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

c. **Minister with meekness and authority. *Prophetic Ministry is the expression of God's heart to people He loves....***

1 Corinthians 12:1, 7 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware...7 ***But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.***

1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
