

The Prophetic Gift Lesson 2 1Q 2009

The Prophetic Gift

What is the gift of prophecy? Is the prophetic gift different than the gift of prophecy? Does someone have to prophecy in order to have the prophetic gift?

What does it mean to be a prophet?

According to Easton's Bible Dictionary:

PROPHET — (Heb. nabi, from a root meaning “to bubble forth, as from a fountain,” hence “to utter”, comp. Ps. 45:1). This Hebrew word is the first and the most generally used for a prophet. In the time of Samuel another word, *ro'eh*, “seer”, began to be used (1 Sam. 9:9). It occurs seven times in reference to Samuel. Afterwards another word, *hozeh*, “seer” (2 Sam. 24:11), was employed. In 1 Ch. 29:29 all these three words are used: “Samuel the seer (*ro'eh*), Nathan the prophet (*nabi*), Gad the seer” (*hozeh*). In Josh. 13:22 Balaam is called (Heb.) a *kosem* “diviner,” a word used only of a false prophet.

The “prophet” proclaimed the message given to him, as the “seer” beheld the vision of God. (See Num. 12:6, 8.) Thus a prophet was a spokesman for God; he spake in God's name and by his authority (Ex. 7:1). He is the mouth by which God speaks to men (Jer. 1:9; Isa. 51:16), and hence what the prophet says is not of man but of God (2 Pet. 1:20, 21; comp. Heb. 3:7; Acts 4:25; 28:25).

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Thoughts? A prophet then proclaims the message from God but does not have to make predictions about the future.

¹Easton, M.G.: *Easton's Bible Dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996, c1897

What is the difference between a prophet a teacher and a preacher?

A prophet, in addition to correcting and reproofing sin and explaining truth, is used by God to unfold truth, to help people grow in knowledge, to reveal new light. The preacher proclaims the light already known and the teacher instructs, educates and helps people understand the truth already known.

What does it mean to be inspired?

Webster Dictionary:

a divine influence or action on a person believed to qualify him or her to receive and communicate sacred revelation **b**: the action or power of moving the intellect or emotions **c**: the act of influencing or suggesting opinions

Can someone be inspired by something or someone other than God? What? Can we be “inspired” by another person? Can we be inspired by evil forces?

SABBATH

Read first paragraph – thoughts?

Any examples of people making predictions that didn't come true? Did anyone get the email that was going around this summer? Here is one I got this summer:

PRIORITY REPORT: MARTIAL LAW IS NOW ONLY WEEKS AWAY !

I don't know whether you have heard of George Green , but he is a former investment banker (Registered Financial Principal with the N.A.S.D.) and a Broker/Dealer, Securities Underwriter, Real Estate Developer, Insurance Broker and Publisher , who

was invited to become a member of the 'Power Elite' .

However, faced with a moral and ethical dilemma, he turned his back on his former associates and chose to walk an entirely different path in which he has tried to warn the world of the Power Elite's plans for the future .

The bottom line is that Bush is now expected to introduce Martial Law on or before 30th September 2008 - since this date marks the end of the Fiscal Year , when revelations about the true state of the economy - and the questionable practices of the Federal Reserve - are likely to result in riots in the streets and stockbrokers, bankers and financiers throwing themselves off the roofs of their buildings ! It is not certain what pretext Bush proposes to use to 'justify' the imposition of Martial Law, but keep an eye on any War Games scheduled to take place in September 2008 . My own money is on a Fort Detrick created Flu Pandemic spread primarily by compulsory vaccination but, judging from the deliberate complexity and diversity of 9/11, we must be prepared for multiple false flag events to throw state government and the citizenry off balance .

Thoughts? How often do you get this kind of stuff? How do you deal with it?

Jump to FRIDAY

Read question 2 – thoughts?

There is a person I know who, for thirty years, has been crying emanate economic meltdown, give your money to missions, take out your retirement and savings and give it to missions before you can't give anymore – thoughts about this approach?

Ultimately those who preach the demise of the economy, the demise of freedom will eventually be right because the Bible tells us that such events will occur before Christ comes, but is it helpful to preach for decades that such a collapse is immanent?

Graham Maxwell tells that when his parents were dating WWI occurred and many of the leaders were preaching “this is the end” don’t marry, sell all you have give to the church etc. but, his father read the Bible which says, “occupy until I come” and so he went forward and married for which Graham was grateful.

Where is the balance between presenting the truth that we need to be preparing for Christ’s coming and extremes in which we would actually avoid fulfilling God’s cause for our lives?

What is the primary purpose of Bible prophecy? Is the primary purpose of Bible prophecy so that people can accurately predict the future?

The primary purpose is so inspire hope, encouragement, wisdom and that when the future events unfold the people of God will see that God was not taken by surprise, that God knows the events before they happen and our faith, confidence and trust in God will be affirmed. So that we can recognize God’s hand as reality unfolds, thus not be caught off guard, or confused as history occurs. The promise and prophecy of a Messiah were given so that when the Messiah appeared humans could know He was the one.

SABBATH

Read last paragraph “In Scripture, individuals...” thoughts? If prophets are not perfect does that mean everything they say or do is correct? Do genuine prophets from God ever make mistakes, which if followed by the church, would lead the church astray?

What about Peter after his conversion, after his reinstatement by Christ what did he do when it came to dealing with Gentiles? Did Paul have to confront him openly because he was wrong? What could have happened in the church had Paul not confronted Peter? Could Peter’s example have become

part of Christian teaching and doctrine? Could people have been led astray?

What is the lesson for us when it comes to how we deal with prophets, even when we know they are from God? Are we to give up our thinking and follow what God has told someone else? Or are we to hear what the prophet says and then study it out for ourselves, communing with God for ourselves, and with a Holy Spirit enlightened mind come to our own conclusion as to how we will respond to the message from the prophet? Romans 14:5 we are to be fully persuaded in our own minds.

SUNDAY

The lesson focuses on Abraham and his life and how he was not only a patriarch but also a prophet. Read the bottom green section – thoughts?

Can you think of others in the Bible who God used who struggled with sin in their lives?

Noah – had a drinking problem
 Isaac refused to follow God's revealed will
 Rebekah was a deceiver
 Jacob was a deceiver and polygamist
 Judah had a child with his daughter-in-law who he thought was a prostitute
 Rueben had an affair with Jacob's concubine Bilhah
 Aaron built a golden calf and led the people in idolatry and failed to discipline his sons
 Eli was a poor father
 Samuel was a poor father
 David was a man of blood, adulterer, murderer, polygamist
 Solomon was a mega polygamist, built temples to false gods and sacrificed his son to Moloch
 Jonah was a racist
 The twelve Apostles were arrogant, proud and constantly strove for supremacy

Martin Luther was a racist and alcoholic

What does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about how we should treat others when we know about some sin in their lives?

Does a person have to be perfect in order to be a prophet? What is necessary in order for a person to be one of God's agents? Willingness to trust God and grow with God over time.

MONDAY

The lesson points out that Moses was the first named prophet over Israel, yet God made a distinction between Moses and prophets what was it?

Read Numbers 12:1-8

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 came 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 both of them stepped forward, ⁶ he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him 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.

Thoughts? Clearly Moses was a prophet, but was there more? What about Abraham did God call Abraham and Moses something special?

But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, Isaiah 41:8

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Exodus 33:11

Both Abraham and Moses were called friends of God – why might that be?

What distinguishes someone as a friend? Is a friend someone who genuinely cares about the other, genuinely is interested in the other person, their problems, their concerns, shares in their joys and protects them?

What did Moses and Abraham both do in their relationship with God? They argued with Him for a particular reason – why?

The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Ruler of all the earth do right?” Genesis 18:22-25

What was Abraham concerned with? God’s reputation! God you can’t do it, what would it do to your reputation to destroy the righteous with the wicked, you certainly aren’t a God like that!

What about Moses – what did he argue with God about?

“I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that

my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “O LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Exodus 32:9-12

Thoughts? Moses was also concerned about God’s reputation about what others would think of God.

Jesus invites us into understanding friendship with Him (John 15:15) telling us that we may know God’s business, what would it mean for us to be one of God’s friends? What would be one of our highest priorities? Revealing the truth about God, saying of God what is right!

What would you prefer to be known as, a prophet of God or a friend of God?

Maybe friends of God are prophets because His friends will speak of Him what is right! Might you be a prophet of God? Will God have prophets at the end of time, people who speak for Him?

Revelation 7:1-3:

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the **servants of our God.**”

Who are these “servants” of God? They are people being sealed before the end of time, before a great multitude comes into God’s kingdom – but who are they?

Revelation 10:7 and over twenty other places in the Bible:

But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his **servants the prophets.**”

Is God going to have a group of prophets on the earth before He comes again?

Acts 2:17, 18:

“ In the last days, God says,
 I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
 Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
 your young men will see visions,
 your old men will dream dreams.
 Even on my servants, both men and women,
 I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
 and they will prophesy.

What is God waiting for? For a group of people so settled into the truth about Him that they cannot be moved!

TUESDAY

Read last paragraph “All through...” thoughts?

Was the Bible dictated by God and the prophets were just taking down what God said or did God inspire the prophets with truth, concepts, insights, wisdom, light, knowledge and left the prophets free to use their own methods and style of communication to write out these ideas?

How do we understand the inspiration of Scripture? Are the words of the Bible inspired? Is there one version of the Bible more inspired than another, for instance the KJV?

Does it matter which language the Bible is read in? When we translate what is most important to accurately translate the words or to accurately translate the meaning?

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1Thes 4:13-17 KJV

What do you think about the idea that we which are alive won't prevent those who are asleep? Do you think it means, don't worry the saved on earth won't be trying to hold people in the graves to keep them from going to] heaven?

The English in the 17th Century meant something different than it does today. In fact, the meaning of certain words have reversed themselves. In 1611 the word prevent meant to precede, where as the word LET meant to hinder. Today if you let someone do something what are you doing? Giving permission, except in tennis where a LET ball is a hindered ball. In 1611 let meant to hinder and prevent meant to precede.

Should we use versions in which the language has so changed the meaning is lost?

WEDNESDAY

In Bible times there were prophetesses what does it say about God that He spoke through women?

What about today? Is God willing to speak through women today? Is He willing to have women represent Him in leadership in the church? Are we?

Why do we resist allowing women into leadership in the church?

THURSDAY

Read the third paragraph “In the New Testament...” thoughts? What do you think about the reasons the lesson gives that sets the Apostles apart? How many had seen Christ die? Only John, all the rest ran. And do you notice anything different about John’s gospel than the other three? Do you think John learned something at the Cross that the other’s missed?

Generally the term apostle is reserved for the twelve and Paul, but is there legitimate application beyond them?

What makes someone an Apostle? Being an envoy or representative of another, being sent by another as their ambassador or representative – was Jesus also an apostle?

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. Heb 1:1

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” John 20:21

Who then is an apostle?