

The Prophetic Gift Lesson 7 1Q 2009

The Work of the Prophets

What do you understand the work of the prophets to be?

- Communicating the truth about God
- Chastising sin
- Temporal guidance, where to live, when to fight
- Communicating messages from God
- Prophetic predictions
- Exposing error
- Preaching and calling to repentance and reformation
- Promote social order and healthful living
- Settle disputes
- A check on political power

SUNDAY

Read first question – thoughts?

Read first paragraph -

- And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. Genesis 3:15
- Abraham's experience with Isaac
- Sanctuary Service

Thoughts about this? What is the message taken away from these examples?

What is the gospel? The Good News – about what? God? How do the examples above communicate the truth about God?

Do you think the people at the time understood the Gospel from these examples? Do we?

Before we can know what the Good News is, what the plan of salvation is really all about we need to step back and determine what the problem is that is being addressed.

Where did sin begin? In heaven
 With whom? Lucifer
 Over what? God's character, can God be trusted
 Why is this so critical to understand?

What is the core characteristic of God? – love!
 What is the law of life in the universe? Love
 What does the Bible say sin is? Transgression of the law
 What law? The law of love
 What happens when the law of life is broken? Death
 What breaks the law of love? Lies
 Who is the father of lies?

In Eden what was the sin Adam and Eve committed?

- They believed lies about God which broke the circle of love and trust and resulted in fear and selfishness which led to the taking of the fruit

Notice the emphasis of Scripture:

- For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor 10:3-5
- Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3
- Romans 1:18-34 – when the truth of God is exchanged for a lie the mind becomes darkened, foolish and depraved

- John 8:32 You will know the truth and the truth will set you free – from what?
- Hebrews 8:10,11 the new covenant
 - This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

How did the law of love get broken? Lies about God were told. What is necessary to destroy the lies? The truth about God.

- When I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Revelation 14:6,7

What is the eternal gospel, the gospel that has always been true through all eternity past and will be true through all eternity future? The truth about God!

With this in mind can you think of other examples from the Old Testament that reveal or communicate the Gospel, the Good News about God?

- As soon as Adam sinned he ran and hid and how did God treat him? After Adam said he ran because he was afraid and naked, God said, “who told you that you are naked?” What were the possible answers? What is implied in the question? God is saying, “Hey Adam you didn’t hear me

point out your nakedness. I am not the one condemning you.”

- Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Exodus 34:5-7
- All over the OT we find texts like this: “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.” Psalms 103:8
- The giving of Manna and then of quail
- The giving of prophets and kings
- The dealings with Nebuchadnezzar

Any other examples of the truth about God’s character of love being revealed in the OT?

Do you see God’s character of love in the sanctuary service? Where?

God used basically two chapters of the Bible to describe Creation of this solar system and life on this planet. How many did He use to describe the construction of the Sanctuary? Over 50 – why?

- Because humans were building and God wasn’t speaking it into existence
- Because it is easier to create from scratch than to recreate from sin
- What resources did God have to use to create this planet and life on it? Energy and Love
- What resources did God have to use to recreate this creation? Everything He had!

When Christ came to the world, all heaven was poured out in this one great gift. God Himself came to us in

Christ. "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?" Christ said. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" (John 14:9). {1888 131}

The Lord God of heaven collected all the riches of the universe, and laid them down in order to purchase the pearl of lost humanity. The Father gave all His divine resources into the hands of Christ in order that the richest blessings of heaven might be poured out upon a fallen race. God could not express greater love than He has expressed in giving the Son of His bosom to this world. This gift was given to man to convince him that God had left nothing undone that He could do, that there is nothing held in reserve, but that all heaven has been poured out in one vast gift... The universe of heaven, the worlds unfallen, the fallen world, and the confederacy of evil cannot say that God could do more for the salvation of man than He has done. Never can His gift be surpassed, never can He display a richer depth of love. Calvary represents His crowning work. It is man's part to respond to His great love, by appropriating the great salvation the blessing of the Lord has made it possible for man to obtain. {LHU 232}

When you think of the sanctuary service and the gospel what comes to mind? Any questions?

Read second question in Sunday's lesson, "Does the preaching..." thoughts?

- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Dt 6:4,5
- The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him

with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. Dt 30:6

- This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. Jer 31:33,34
- “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. ‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. EZ 36:22-27

Thoughts? Was a different gospel preached in the OT than in the New?

MONDAY

Read first paragraph – “The leaders...” thoughts?

What purpose were the leaders, prophets, Apostles guiding the people? Would it be for the purpose of bringing each person

into a personal saving relationship with God so that each person becomes another agent of God's kingdom?

When that happens is it God's desire for each person to come to ever increasing intimacy with God such that the need for prophets would evaporate? Or does God prefer a hierarchical structure in which some people are precluded from direct interaction and conversation with God and must get it passed down to them from others?

Does God want each of us to become His prophets of the last day, His Elijah people to take an Elijah message of preparation to the world? Can we do that if we don't personally know Him?

Read bottom green question – thoughts?

What reasons have you heard about why people don't want to be part of an organized church?

- Hypocrites
- I don't need to go to church to have a walk with God
- Don't believe in their mission
- Haven't found one I like
- Legalistic unloving attitudes
- Ugly twisted views of God

What are some reasons that are likely involved but for which people may not disclose?

- Got feelings hurt
- Church convicts of sin in the life not willing to give up
- Church holds accountable
- Don't like people

What are the benefits of joining a church?

- Fellowship
- Spiritual growth

- Pooling of resources and coordination of energy to promote the gospel
- Participate in ministry

TUESDAY

Read top question – thoughts?

If we had a prophet alive today what evils do you think would make the top 10 list to be reprovved in the church?

- Misrepresenting God?
- Gossip?
- Pride?
- Music?
- Worldly entertainment?
- Coldness of heart?
- Need for reformation?
- Politics in the church?

What message do you think a prophet would say to the church regarding its mission at this time in earth's history? I would like to suggest this as one for consideration:

- “It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth...The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love.” Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

WEDNESDAY

What ways did prophets communicate God's messages to people?

- Speaking directly, public proclamation
- Private interviews
- Writing
- Acting out – lying on one side, marrying a prostitute

Why all these different methods? What is the point? God is constantly working to speak a language the people can understand.

What does this tell us about Bible translations? Does God's message to us do us any good if we can't understand it?

THURSDAY

Predicting the future – examples from Scripture:

- The kingdoms from Babylon to the end of time in Daniel
- The birth of the Messiah
- The captivity and release of Israel

Read last two paragraphs and then first paragraph FRIDAY – thoughts?

Do we see this happening today? What common points of doctrine do you see foremost in bringing these organizations together?