

# THE PURPOSE OF BIBLE PROPHECY

**THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY** - To Declare the Divine Will of God

"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done..." Isa 46:10; 44:7,8

"Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."  
Amos 3:7

"And now I (Jesus) have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe." John 14:29; Matthew 24:24, 25; Proverbs 22:19-21

"These things I (Jesus) have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble." John 16:1

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants - things which must shortly take place." Rev 1:1

"...And the Lord... sent His angels to show His servants the things which must shortly take place."  
Rev 22:6

"...In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man, He keeps back his soul from the Pit and his life from perishing by the sword." Job 33:14-18; (see 1 Kings 17:1-7)

"And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers... because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place" 2 Chron 36:15-16

"And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world...": Acts 11:27-30

"When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said." John 2:18-22

The prophetic gift is given by God to give life to the dead, dried bones of His last day church (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

"I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets." Hosea 12:10

"I have even from the beginning declared [it] to thee; before it came to pass I showed [it] thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them." (Isaiah 48:5)

The revealing of things past, present and to come (Isaiah 44:6-8)

The moral purpose of prophecy is to guide us so that we keep the commandments of God and not sin (Deuteronomy 29:29)

## **PROPHETS OR SEERS (1 Samuel 9:9) ARE NOT SELF-APPOINTED, SELF-DECLARED, OR DECLARED BY MEN BUT ARE CALLED BY GOD**

"... holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21

"Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations..." Jeremiah 1:4,5

"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..." Jere 7:25, 26

"O Lord, You induced me, and I was persuaded..." Jere 20:7-18

"Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" Isa 6:8

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you..." John 15:16

"...If there be a prophet among you, [I] the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, [and] will speak unto him in a dream." Numb 12:6

"But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name...' Acts 9:15, 16

"Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)" Galatians 1:1

1 John 1:1-4, Amos 7:14, 15; Hebrews 5:1-6

"If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream." Num. 12:6

# PROPHECY & PROPHETS OF GOD

## **A PROPHET SPEAKS ONLY THE WORD OF GOD, NOT HIS/HER OWN WORD**

"Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.'" 1 Sam 3:1-18

"And Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak." (1 Kings 22:14, 2 Chron 18:13)

"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20, 21)

"Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you." Jer 1:17

"Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah.. all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:" Jer 26:2

"The Lord has sent me to prophesy against this house..." Jer 26:12-15

"Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard [you]; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, [that] whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare [it] unto you; I will keep nothing back from you." Jer 42:4

"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure." John 3:34

Then I [Jeremiah] said, I will not make mention of Him [the Lord], nor speak any more in His name. But His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. Jeremiah 20:9

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul" Ezekiel 3:17-19

"But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin." Micah 3:8

"A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven." John 3:27

"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." 1 Thessalonians 2:4

## **A PROPHET'S WORDS/WRITINGS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH SCRIPTURE**

"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

"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. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world." 1 John 4:1,2

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16, 17

"You search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." John 5:39

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" Acts 4:12

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught [it], but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:11, 12

# PROPHECY & PROPHETS OF GOD

## **BARRING CONDITIONAL PROPHECY, THE PROPHET'S PROPHECY MUST COME TRUE IF HE/SHE IS SENT BY GOD**

"The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck it up... if that nation... turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster... And the instant I speak concerning a nation... to build and plant it, if it does evil in My sight... I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it." Jeremiah 18:6-10

"Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." Jonah 3:10

"When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, If the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid [fear/obey] of him. Deuteronomy 18:22.

"So Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord." 1 Samuel 3:19, 20

"...all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." Luke 24:44

"In truth the Lord sent me..." Jer 26:15

Other Examples: 1 Kings 17:3-24; 2 Kings 2:15-18, 1 Sam 3:19; Jonah 3:10; 4:1, 2; Ezekiel 33:28-33

## **THE PROPHET'S LIFESTYLE MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH HIS/HER PROFESSION/TESTIMONY**

"...Look now, there is in the city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass..." 1 Sam 9:6

"Therefore by their fruits you will know them." Matt 7:15-23, Matt 12:33

"But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy...For I have no one like-minded, who will care sincerely for your state... But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel." Philip 3:19-22

"But thou has fully known my doctrine, my lifestyle, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance." 2 Tim 3:10

"For our gospel did not come to you in word only... as you know what kind of men we were among you..." 1 Thessalonians 1:5

"Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me [are] for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion." Isaiah 8:18

Those in whom "an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found [in the same Daniel]" Daniel 5:12

## **PROPHETS (and APOSTLES) DO NOT WORK FOR RECOGNITION, PAY, OR EARTHLY GAIN BUT TO GLORIFY GOD**

Prophets do not work for pay but merely to exalt and glorify the Name of the Lord. 2 Kings 1:15, 16; 2 Kings 5:8, 15-19; 8:7-10; Daniel 5:17

"But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money...!" Acts 8:18-25

"And the elders of Moab... departed with the rewards for divination in their hands [for Balaam]" Numbers 22:1-7, Jude 11, Deut 18:10-12

"Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah." Jude 11

# PROPHECY & PROPHETS OF GOD

**THE PROPHET'S LIFE AND MESSAGE WERE OFTEN VERY DIFFICULT, FORETELLING IMPENDING PUNISHMENT AND GIVING WARNING TO THE PEOPLE. [\*\*THE PROPHET'S LIFE EXPERIENCE OFTEN FORETOLD OR DEPICTED THE FATE OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN TYPE]**

"And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they [are] most rebellious... And he spread it before me; and it [was] written within and without: and [there was] written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe." Ezekiel 2:7-9  
No prophet is well accepted or popular; especially in his own country: Luk 4:24-27, Jer 20:7-18; John 2:23-25; 4:44

Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest was stoned to death for his message: 2 Chronicles 24:19-21

At the command of the Lord, Elijah ate bread and meat from ravens for a period of time (1 Kings 17:4-6)

\*\*At the command of the Lord, Isaiah walked and prophesied to the people in the nude for 3 years: Isaiah 20:2-4

\*\*At the command of the Lord, Jeremiah was commanded not to take a wife or to bear children for the awful destruction that was to befall the land due to sin and apostasy (Jeremiah 16:1-13) Jeremiah was beaten, imprisoned, and placed in stocks by the same people he sought to save (Jeremiah 20:1-6; 32:1-5)

Jeremiah's life was threatened by the priests and (false) prophets of his time because he prophesied against their wickedness, which they did in the name of the Lord (Jeremiah 15:10, 26:1-15, 27:14, 15; Hosea 2:16, 17)

"Nevertheless hear thou now this word that I speak in thine ears, and in the ears of all the people; The prophets that have been before me and before thee of old prophesied both against many countries, and against great kingdoms, of war, and of evil, and of pestilence. The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, [then] shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him." (Jeremiah 28:7-9)

Ezekiel was commanded to take a message of warning to the Children of Israel though God forewarned him that they would not listen (Ezekiel 3:1-11)

\*\*Ezekiel was made to lie on his sides for 430 days, symbolizing the fate of the people of Israel, as warning from the Lord: Ezek 4:1-6

\*\*Ezekiel was made to drink rationed water and cook rationed food that he prepared over cow's dung for 390 days, symbolizing the fate of Israel who, due to punishment (being scattered) brought upon themselves, would be forced to drink rationed water and cook their rationed food over human dung: Ezek 4:9-17

\*\*Ezekiel was made to pack by day and relocate from the city at dusk, bearing all of his worldly goods on his back in the sight of the people as a symbol of the captivity the people of Israel would experience at the hands of their captor, Babylon: (Ezekiel 12:1-15)

\*\*Ezekiel was told his wife would die, and he was commanded not to eat or mourn for her, but to have his shoes girded and the "tire of his head upon himself", symbolic of the carnage and destruction to befall Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians and the people's response: Ezek 24:15-27

Ezekiel was made to be dumb (mute) before the people after giving them warning of impending judgment and until all that God had prophesied had been fulfilled. After the prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction was fulfilled, His dumbness was removed and he was made to speak as a sign to those who had escaped captivity. (Ezekiel 24:25-27)

\*\*Hosea was compelled to marry a prostitute and deal with her unfaithfulness, symbolic of the adulterous lifestyle Israel lived towards its espoused husband, the Lord: Hosea 1:1-11

Jonah was told to go minister to a cruel and ruthless people who hated the Jews, showing the mercy God extends to all, good and bad: Jonah 1-4

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Paul was warned that he would be imprisoned by the Jews and given to the Gentiles to be killed, yet to remain faithful: Acts 21:4, 10-14

## **THE COMMON EXPERIENCE OF THE PROPHETS OF BEHOLDING GOD'S GLORY AND RECOGNIZING THEIR OWN UNWORTHINESS, MUST TOO BE THE EXPERIENCE OF THE REDEEMED OF GOD**

Moses beheld the glory of the Lord in the burning bush, was made to worship God on holy ground, saw his unfitness to represent God to the people but yet was commanded to go and become God's prophet (Exodus 3:1-4:17).

Isaiah beheld the glory of God and proclaimed "Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." After this realization, God purifies Isaiah and then sends Him forth to be His prophet. (Isaiah 6:1-8).

Jeremiah is called of God and he recognizes he is unfit to be a prophet and bear a message to the people, being only a young man; yet God sends him forth to proclaim the message of destruction against the chosen city of Jerusalem and assures Jeremiah that He, Himself would be his defense (Jeremiah 1:4-19).

## **MISCELLANEOUS FACTS ABOUT PROPHETS & BIBLE PROPHECY**

Prophecy has been spoken by God's prophets since the beginning of the world (Luke 1:70)

Prophets are sent to warn & protect people from God's judgment, whether Jew or Gentile: Jonah 1-4

A prophet's words are made plain to those who honor and worship God: Habakkuk 2:2; Psa 97:11

All of the prophecies of the bible are in agreement because the Spirit of the prophets (Holy Spirit) which is subject to the prophets causes them to be in harmony; God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:32, 33)

Names were often prophetically given to warn, counsel or foretell an event (Gen 5:21-27; Isa 7:3; 8:1-3, 18)

Prophets of God were to be respected and treated with honor as messengers of God: 1 Kings 13:1-6; 2 Kings 1:9-14; 2:23, 24; 4:8-11

When rebellion and apostasy exists in the land, the Lord withholds prophecy (warnings): 1 Sam 2:22-3:1; Isaiah 29:9-14; Jere 11:21-23; Ezek 14:1-6; Hosea 4:6; Amos 8:11-14; Mark 7:6-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Prophets received their message from God by dreams, visions, by way of a heavenly angel, and at times through God's direct spoken word (Num 12:5-8; 24:15, 16; Dan 9:20-22).

The receiving of prophecies were at times glorious events, where the prophet encountered a heavenly messenger sent by God. These miraculous events often left the prophet limp and listless after encountering the glorious vision or being (Daniel 10:8, 9)

For prophecies of great importance, God often sends early warnings (1 Corinthians 10:11), followed by "present truth" warnings through His prophets to ensure all are made aware and to confirm the validity of the prophecy on the testimony of 2 or 3 witness [a matter is confirmed – John 8:17]: Ex: The Flood – Methuselah/Noah; Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> coming Moses/Isaiah/John the Baptist

The writings of the prophets of the Old Testament and the life of the Nation of Israel were written for our admonition and as an example, specifically for the last generations of earth's history (1 Corinthians 10:11)

The gift of prophecy by the Holy Spirit is intended specifically for the church, believers in God's plan of Redemption, believers in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and those who accept the bible as God's written Word. (1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 22)

# PROPHECY & PROPHETS OF GOD

The visions, dreams and utterances of God, given to the prophets were as forewarning in order to validate events that were prophesied to occur in the future (Jeremiah 32)

The life and personal experience of the prophets were often a part of the prophetic revelation to be heeded by all who saw and heard (Ezek 12; 24:16-24)

The experience of the prophets was often a role-play for the life experiences of those upon whom the end of the age has come (Daniel 10:8-10; Revelation 10:8-11)

## **VERSES DESCRIBING FALSE PROPHETS, FORTUNE TELLERS, & DIVINERS:**

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

2 Chron 33:6

Isaiah 2:6; 47:12-14

Jeremiah 5:31; 6:13; 14:14-16; 23:9-40; 27:9, 10, 14-22

Lamentations 2:14

Micah 3:5-7

Ezek 13:1-23

Acts 8:9-11, 13, 18-24

Jude 11