

Bible prophecy, spoken through God's appointed messengers, the prophets, reveals His power to orchestrate and explain history, current events, and things to occur (Revelation 1:19). Bible prophecy rolls-back the curtain to reveal the spiritual conflicts which shape the natural world. Prophecy is a spiritual

gift of God that has been manifested since the creation of the world, and is intended to edify the *Spiritual Body of Christ*, the Church. When heeded, it gives counsel in living harmoniously with God and our fellow men, it shields the hearers from the ravages of sin, and ultimately prepares a people to meet Jesus Christ in peace, at His *Second Coming* (Jude 1:14; 1 Tim 1:18, 19; 2 Peter 1:19; Lk 17:26-30; Rev 19:7-10). **Present Truth** messages are given throughout the Bible, revealing instructions that are timeless, but critical for the era in which it is given. In such cases, it is imperative to both understand and apply the words of the prophets as they have life or death implications. Because of its benefit in equipping the church (1 Cor 14:1-40), prophecy and the prophets are often counterfeited. Therefore, there must be safeguards to ensure the messages are authentic, derived from God. Fortunately, in His providence, God has given tests to prove the validity of a message and its messenger. One such test is that fulfilled prophecies of the past are confirmable by history. This study will reveal truths regarding Bible prophecy, God's servants the prophets, and the tests God has given to ensure the safety of His church.

**Q: What is the purpose of Bible prophecy?**

### Purpose of Bible Prophecy

- "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Amos 3:7
- "...And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angels to show His servants the things which must shortly be done." Revelation 22:6
- "And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place" 2 Chronicles 36:15, 16
- "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not!" Matthew 23:37
- "And now I [Jesus] have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe." John 14:29; (See also John 15:15, 16:4)

**Q: Who calls a person to be a prophet?**

### Appointment of a Prophet or Seer

- "Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations..." Jeremiah 1:4, 5
- "... holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21
- Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, [which] he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid [it] upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here [am] I; send me. Isaiah 6:6-8
- "...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." Numbers 12:6
- "Then Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:' ...But the Lord said unto him, 'Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.'" Acts 9:13-15
- "You did not choose Me, but I chose you" John 15:16

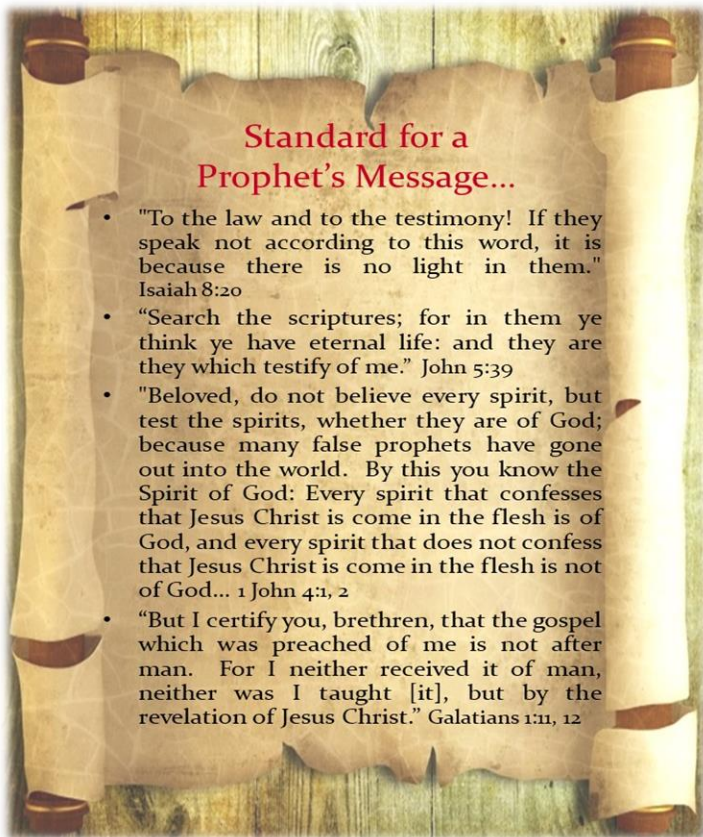
**Q: Whose message does a prophet convey?**

### A Prophet's Message...

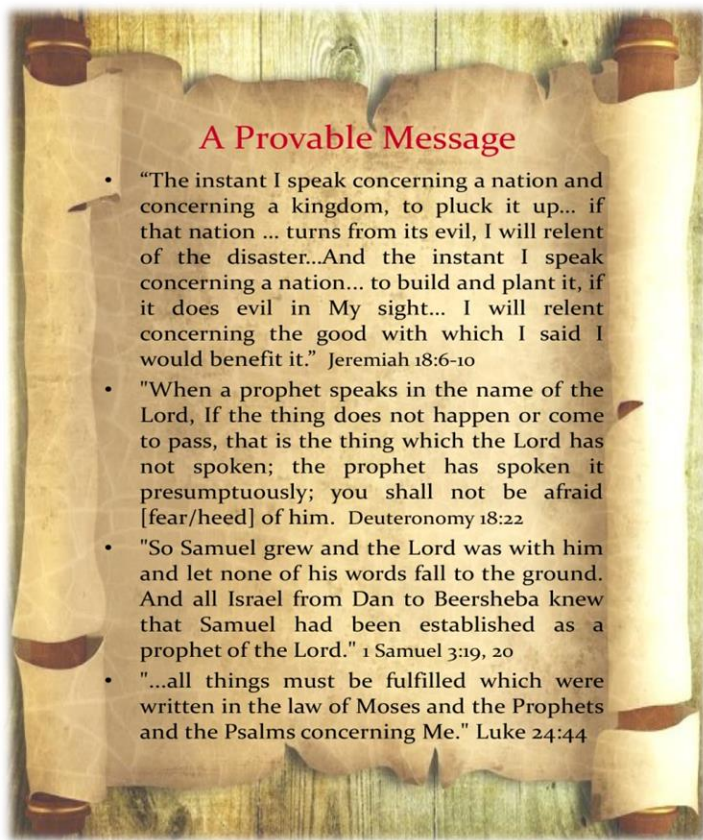
- "And Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak." 1 Kings 22:14
- "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John." Revelation 1:1
- "Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him..." 1 Samuel 3:11-18
- "Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you." Jeremiah 1:17
- "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven." John 3:27
- "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the day star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 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 1:19-21
- "Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets." Daniel 9:10



**Q: What must the words and writings of the prophets agree with? What is the standard?**



As the Originator of the prophetic gift, God manages and will affirm, or correct any misuse, abuse, or presumptuous application of the gift.



Consider these additional tests and requirements to confirm the validity of Bible prophecy and a true prophet of God:

- The prophet's lifestyle must be consistent with his/her message and profession: 1 Sam 9:6; Matt 7:15-23; 12:33; 2 Timothy 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Daniel 5:12
- Prophets do not work for recognition, pay, or earthly gain, but solely to glorify God: Acts 8:18-25; 2 Kings 1:15, 16, 5:8, 15-19; Numbers 22:1-7; Jude 11; Deuteronomy 18:10-12
- The prophet's life was often very difficult. The prophet and the message were usually unwelcomed: James 5:10; Jer 11:21, 15:10, 18:18-20, 28:7-9; 2 Chron 24:19-21; Isa 20:2-4; Ezek 3:1-11, 4:1-17, 24:15-27; Acts 21:4, 10-14
- Bible prophecies of the past, confirmed through history, are of vital importance to Christians living today. The things of the past will be repeated: Luke 17:26-30; Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10, 3:15; 1 Cor 10:1-11; 2 Chron 20:20

An understanding of Bible prophecy and its application to one's life is one of the identifying characteristics of God's *Last Day, remnant* church (Revelation 12:17, 19:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9). The prophetic word is to be a guide to instruct and forewarn, as well as a tool to build faith with the fulfillment of each prophesied event. In future studies, we will explore Bible prophecies of the past, confirmed in world history, as well as *present truth revelations* to be heeded by all who *love the appearing of Jesus Christ*.

# Messengers of God

## Supplemental Study 1

