
Prophecy

Prophecy is one of the modes of Special Revelation, besides the Scripture.

Prophecy started in paradise as Adam and Eve understood perfectly that they are the progenitors of the human race, and that they are to be reinterpreters of God's revelation.

Eve, Adam's wife, thought in her mind, that she can gain higher level of knowledge by eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. She discovered quickly that she lost her ability to true knowledge. However, she did gain experiential knowledge of evil. She, now, shares with Lucifer, Satan, some of his knowledge. Man followed the woman in this regard. After the fall, mankind believed that they are the ultimate reference in deciding what is the truth independently of God.

A most important prophecy made by God to our first parents, was the promised coming of the Messiah, the Savior in Genesis 3:15.

It is proper to consider Adam, before the fall as a true prophet; he understood God's revelation and he was theistic, obedient to God and also he pronounced God predication to himself, to his wife, and to the whole world evidenced by naming the animals and having dominion over the earth.

After the fall, sin entered man's heart and he was enslaved by sin. From that moment on, all man's interpretation were false. Except for God's direct revelation, Adam and his descendants would go completely astray from God and all righteousness. God's direct revelation, including the carryover from paradise, allowed man to have a remnant of truth and prophecy in him.

God arranged to have certain anointed men who were declared

prophets by God, and who carried the prophetic Word of God, the Scripture. This is called the special revelation.

Finally, the last true prophet came, not only to declare the truth of salvation, but also to be the Savior, and the only way to salvation, Jesus Christ. He did not abrogate any previous prophecy, because the author of all true prophecy is One, who is God, Christ the Lord. At the very same time, Christ was not only a prophet, but also a theophany of the true God incarnate on earth. He alone gave the complete and full interpretation of the prophecy and in Him all ceremonial laws and God's demands are fulfilled completely.

True prophecy did not start with Christ, but it started with Adam and continued through all canonical prophets and completed in Christ. (The term canonical is a safeguard for the true Scripture, as contrasted against false apocrypha.

The Jewish priests, (the kohanim), the rabbis, and the disciples (the prophets of the New Testament) canonized God's inspired books in the Tanakh: Torah, Neviim and Ketuvim, and the New Testament.)

A true prophet, like Adam before the fall, was receptively reconstructive of God's Word and God's revelation in nature, science, and in his constitution, psychology.

A false prophet, like men after the fall, attempt to be creative and constructive. This may sound logically good, yet it is univocal, or at times equivocal, reasoning. It is man removing God and making himself a god. Such false prophets, if they seek communications from higher being, they never seek God, but rather their imaginary powers and at times demons. The end result is that their declarations, even if they appear logical, are not determinative in their lives as from the true God.

False prophets are:

- (1) Uncertain,
- (2) Biased according to the intellectual culture of the day,
- (3) Immoral, although they appear ethical,
- (4) Changeable,
- (5) Judgmental,
- (6) Destructive of the Scripture, of the Jewish people and of the Christian faith,
- (7) Assume absolute authority
- (8) May use political powers,
- (9) May use murder and blood claiming that it is God's will to spread their power.
- (10) Authoritarians.
- (11) Most of them are very rich living of God's money; they claim that they deserve to earn God's money because they are anointed by God.

Non-Christian prophecies and religions are authoritarian and not authoritative. They can be described as:

- (1) They are "religions of authority."
- (2) Their authority is at most a refuge they adhere to when all other attempts to make sense of reality are exhausted and failed.
- (3) This authority is that of the expert, usually a philosopher pretending to be religious. They are the declaration of a more accomplished person claiming superior knowledge to others.
- (4) This authority demands acceptance by everybody through intellectual and media force.
- (5) At times, demonic authorities are manifested.

Christian faith is truly the only authoritative spiritual faith. It is authoritative through the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Christian faith should never force others to obedience, but should pray that God, the Holy Spirit, regenerates men to accept His authority.

It is a grave mistake for Christians to spread the faith by force. Thus we condemn the Roman Catholic Crusades which killed thousands of Jews and Moslems. We condemn the westernization, (Anglo-Saxons conformity), in missionary work which demands that all people in different countries must adopt the Anglo-Saxon model to be Christians. We condemn all forms of racism in America, in England and in Germany and other countries, which pretending Christians practice in our churches, our schools and our businesses. Actually, we consider force as a clear indication that such pretending Christians are false Christians. There is no true Christian who is racist.

A true Christian is humble in spirit.

Arrogance is characteristic of Satan.

Christianity is a faith of the Holy Spirit, not of violence or of power. All other religions are religions of human spirits or demonic spirits, but not of the Holy Spirit. The prophecies in Christian faith have true authority, but this authority has to come from the Holy Spirit and not from men.

Christian faith demands the correct presuppositions of God, as the Creator, and man, as the creature. The Scripture declares that true Christians, regenerate men, become as such 'servants' acknowledging God's supreme rule over them. John begins the book of Revelation by saying: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show unto his servants ... " A servant is submissive, obedient and receptive to the prophecies of God. A servant reinterprets God's interpretation. A servant has no authority except on his own life and his own family.

A true Christian needs to become a positive and active citizen, but should never assume power and authority to force others to do what man deems right. Our role is to encourage, to explain, to bring the light to people and to pray that the Holy Spirit enlightens them.

We need to remember, in humility, that we are but servants, and we have nothing to boast about, except for the grace of God, the suffering, the death and the resurrection of Christ. Therefore, we need to remember to be humble before all, and thus we become true prophets reinterpreting the Scripture correctly.

Prophecy and Special Revelation Four Stages

(1) In Paradise: God spoke with Adam and Eve.

(2) Before Jesus Christ and After the fall:

(A) The Scripture in the Old Testament: Torah, Neviim and Ketuvim:

(B) The Urim and Thummim,

(C) Dreams, in Genesis 20 we have the story of Abimelech who received a revelation from God through a dream. Genesis 40, Pharaoh's baker and butler received true revelations from God through dreams. Judges 7 When Gideon came into the camp of the Midianites he found that one man told another a dream about the destruction that was about to come,

(D) Visions, the prophets were called Seers,

(E) Direct spiritual communication by the Holy Spirit to the prophets. This is not the illumination that believers receive to be able to understand the revelation. Illumination is not a new revelation, but only a reinterpretation of the special revelation in the Scripture.

(F) Lot is used also as a tool for prophecy.

(3) After the First Coming of Jesus Christ (circ. 6 BC - AD 30):

(A) A new prophetic revelation contiguous to the Old Testament

(B) An interpretation of the Old Testament by God Himself.

(a) The lot,

(b) Dreams,

(c) Visions,

(d) Direct spiritual communication by the Holy Spirit to the prophets, the apostles.

(4) The Great Prophet, the God-man, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Great Prophet promised by Moses. He is the Messiah.

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a

Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, ... 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

Jesus Christ is the very person of God, the Creator. He became incarnate as a man, thus he is called the "Son of Man". He is true God, the Second Person in the Trinity, thus he is called "Son of God."

He fulfilled every prophecy about him, more than eight-hundred prophecies. He is the essence of revelation, and He is God's revelation in Himself. Hebrews 1:1-4 "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Jesus Christ is the most glorious theophany and prophet of God. He is not only a prophet, but also the King of kings, and also the Priest, the High Priest for ever; He is the Messiah.

Certain theologians talk about progressive revelation. Certain false religions assume to be progressive revelation, they claim that God gave up on the Jews, and changed his mind about the Christians so He made new progressive religions such as: Islam, Jehovah Witness and Mormonism.

Progressive Revelation

We disagree with the use of the term progressive revelation as non-Christians, and non-theistic Christians take it to signify :

- (1) That the human spirit has gradually evolved and improved on its own and thus man is able to know more and more about reality.
- (2) That God readjusts his revelation according to the changes in people,
- (3) that God made errors or incomplete revelations which He corrected in the later revelations.

This is characteristic of natural theology and many current philosophies and false religions also.

- ✧ Idolatry is false theophany.
- ✧ Divination is false prophecy.
- ✧ Philosophy is false theology.
- ✧ Non-theistic pastors, teachers, leaders and Christians are false prophets and probably not truly born again (born from above).
- ✧ Theophany, prophecy and miracles are organically interlaced together, which is an evidence to their truth.

The Test For True Prophecy

A true prophecy from God must have and pass all the following five points:

(1) **The Test of Unity:** Each individual prophecy must be interpreted in relation to the whole body of prophecy. And, the whole body of prophecy must then be taken into relation to the whole body of theophany and the whole body of miracle. The prophecy compared with previous prophecy in the Bible must be of one accord,

(2) **The Test of Fulfillment:** The declared prophecy must be correctly fulfilled in events, or in miracles, or in theophanies: Deuteronomy 18:21-22 "And if you say in your heart, how shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken? When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you shall not be afraid of him." Also in 2 Kings 20:11 Isaiah gave Hezekiah a sign affirming his true prophecy with respect to his healing. The sign was that God will cause the sundial to work backward instead of forward at a certain time which indicates that the entire earth rotation was reversed for a certain period. Scientifically, it has been proven at NASA research laboratories, that at the time of Hezekiah there was actually 40 minutes missing from the calendar according to computers exhaustive analysis.

(3) **The Test of Theology:** True prophecy must be conform to theistic theology. It must affirm God the Creator and no other gods beside Him, Deuteronomy 13:1-4. It must be conform to Christ's person and works. Galatians 1:8-9 "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have

received, let him be accursed."

(4) The Test of Purpose: The end goal of the prophecy must be the glory of God and the service of God. All prophecy needs to bring God's love, revelation and redemption to people in humble spirit.

False prophets are many; pastors and teachers who may teach the Word of God for their own interest. They are politically correct using the Bible in a safe manner to promote receiving personal profit, popularity and admiration of men.

(5) The Moral Test: While man should never be the judge of one another in what pertains to God, yet when a prophet willfully disobeys the Ten Commandments, although his words are sweet and politically correct, he is a false prophet. Such prophecy that appears correct should not be accepted, even if he repeats words from the Bible.

The danger here is that while he may say one thing to be true, the next thing will be false. This is how many theologians are mixed up as they compromise God's Word with human philosophies. When a man has a good theology, he has a good morality, and when a man has a good morality, this is an indication that he may have a good theology, assuming that he is regenerate.

Prophecy, theophany and miracles are mutually dependent and corroborative, not only regarding the purpose, but also in origin, means, purpose and destination.

Dr. Cornelius Van Til says: "Prophecy without miracle is an abstraction, and miracle without prophecy is an abstraction, as both are abstractions unless related to theophany."

See "Fundamentals of Theology, Epistemology and Apologetics" by Dr. David d'Albany, pp. 294-306 (David4Messiah.com).