



Understanding Prophecy

May/June 2000 Bimonthly Tape

Prophecy

Word of Knowledge: God giving you knowledge.

Word of Wisdom: God giving you wisdom, *i.e.*, “what to do.”

Discerning of Spirits: Information about the presence or absence of spirits.

Prophecy is WOK, WOW or DOS, written or spoken to people. Edification, exhortation and comfort are still WOK if what you are saying is truly a message.

Corporate Prophecy

Jeremiah 1:1-16 WOK, not written or spoken to the people.

Jeremiah 4:5-9 WOK & WOW, spoken to the people of Judah.

Hosea 4:1, 9-12 WOK, DOS

Personal Prophecy

Judges 4:4-9 Deborah to Barak.

1 Sam. 2:27-36 Man of God to Eli.

1 Sam. 10:1-9 Samuel to Saul about being king.

1 Sam. 15:1-3 Samuel to Saul about destroying the Amalakites.

1 Sam. 15:16-29 Samuel to Saul about losing the Kingdom.

2 Sam. 7:4-16; 1 Chron. 17:4-15 Nathan to David about building a house for God.

2 Sam. 12:7-12 Nathan to David about his sin with Bathsheba.

2 Sam. 24:11-13; 1 Chron. 21:9-12 Gad to David about his sin in counting Israel.

1 Kings 11:29 Ahijah to Jeroboam about becoming king.

1 Kings 13:20-22 Old prophet to young prophet about his disobedience.

1 Kings 14:1-18 Ahijah to Jeroboam about his son's death and the future of Israel.

1 Kings 17:1 Elijah to Ahab about the weather.

1 Kings 17:13, 14 Elijah to widow about her oil and bread.

1 Kings 17: 13-15, 22, 28 A prophet to Ahab, king of Israel.

1 Kings 20: 35-43 A prophet to another prophet and then to king Ahab.

2 Kings 1:3, 4 Elijah to Ahaziah via messengers about his death.

2 Kings 1:16 Elijah to Ahaziah about his death.

2 Kings 7:1,2 Elisha to the King of Israel and then to his servant.

2 Kings 8:1 Elisha to the Shunammite about a coming famine.

2 Kings 8:10 Elisha to Ben Hadad via Hazael.

2 Kings 2:10 Elisha to Jehu about becoming king.

2 Kings 19:20-34; Isa. 37:21-35 Isaiah to Sennacherib via Hezekiah about Assyria.
2 Kings 20:1-11; Isa. 38:1-8 Isaiah to Hezekiah about dying and being healed.
2 Kings 21:10-15 Prophets to Manasseh, king of Judah.
2 Kings 22:15-20; 2 Chron. 34:23-28 Huldah the prophetess to Josiah, king of Judah.
2 Chron. 16:7-9 Hanani to Asa, king of Judah about relying on Aram for help.
2 Chron. 19:1-3 Jehu the prophet to Jehoshaphat about helping Israel.
2 Chron. 21:12-15 Elijah to Jehoram, in a letter.
2 Chron. 25:7-9 A man of God to Amaziah about the hired soldiers from Israel.
2 Chron. 25:15 A man of God to Amaziah about idol gods.
Jer. 20:1-6 Jeremiah to Pashur.
Jer. 28:15-17 Jeremiah to a Hananiah.
Jer. 34:1-5 Jeremiah to Zedekiah.
Jer 37:6-10; 38:17,18 Jeremiah to Zedekiah about the fall of Jerusalem.
Jer. 45:1-5 Jeremiah to Baruch the scribe.
Ezek. 28:1-10 Ezekiel to the king of Tyre.
Ezek. 32:1-15 Ezekiel to Pharaoh.
Dan. 5:26-28 Daniel to Belshazzar.
Amos 7:10-17 Amos to Amaziah, the priest of Bethel.
Haggai 2:1-5 Haggai to Zerubbabel and Joshua about being strong.

Only a few people in the Old Testament had holy spirit and prophesied, but the PROMISE was of a day coming when everyone would have holy spirit and everyone would be able to prophesy (Joel 2:28,29).

After his resurrection, Christ addressed his disciples and said he would send what his Father had PROMISED, and that it would clothe them with power from on high (Luke 24:49). In Acts 1:8, he told them to wait in Jerusalem for the PROMISE that was “for you and your children, and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:38).

As the revelation of the Church Epistles was progressively unfolded for Christian believers, we learn that what happened on Pentecost is not exactly what Joel foretold, because, in fact, we are part of a “new creation” that was a “secret” and never revealed in the Old Testament.

Nevertheless, we are “sharers together in the PROMISE of Jesus Christ,” and Ephesians says we are sealed with “the PROMISED holy spirit.” Although we are not strictly part of the New Covenant, we are able to minister (serve) its blessings (2 Cor. 3:6). This is similar to the Gentiles who lived in Israel who were not strictly part of the Old Covenant, but were able to partake of its blessings. While “personal prophecy” in the OT was done only by prophets, the whole point of Joel was that there was a time when everyone would be able to prophesy and uncover the secrets of people’s hearts.

Seeking a Prophecy

In the OT, people knew that if the Lord had any guidance for them, they would be able to get it by going to a prophet. There are many examples of this:

- 1 Sam. 9:6 Saul went to Samuel to find his lost animals.
- 1 Sam. 9:9 The people of Israel would go to the prophet to inquire of God.
- 1 Sam. 22:15 David had sought the will of God from Ahimelech the priest.
- 1 Sam. 28:6 Saul sought information from prophets, but there was no revelation.
- 1 Kings 14:1-3 Jeroboam sent to Ahijah to find out about his child.
- 1 Kings 22 Jehoshaphat sought a prophet to find out if he should go to war.
- 2 Kings 1:1-3 Ahaziah sought the god of Ekron to find out about his health.
- 2 Kings 3:11 Jehoshaphat sought the will of God from Elisha.
- 2 Kings 4:1-7 The widow sought the help of God from Elisha.
- 2 Kings 4:21-37 The Shunammite woman sought the help of Elijah for her dead son.
- 2 Kings 5:3 The maid wanted Naaman to visit the prophet in Samaria.
- 2 Kings 8:7 Hazael sent to Elisha to find out if he would die from his sickness.
- 2 Kings 22:11-20 Josiah sent to Huldah the prophetess to find out what to do.

The issue has always been, “Where will you get your information? From true prophets of God or from fortune tellers, astrologers or diviners?” (Deut.18:9-12).

The ministry of a prophet versus the manifestation of prophecy: The difference between a called prophet in the Body of Christ and a believer, perhaps with a different ministry, who operates prophecy via his gift of holy spirit, is one of quantity and quality. The same holds true with all the other specific ministries. All Christians should share their faith, but a called evangelist will have a difference in quality and quantity that shows up over time. Every Christian can teach things about the faith, even if it is one to one, but a called teacher will have a difference in quality and quantity that will show up over time.