

PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES - I

“Introduction to Prophets and Prophecies”

- I. GOD'S DESIRE TO COMMUNICATE WITH MAN.
 - A. *Communion with man in the garden.*
 - B. *God is a personal God.*
 - C. *Prophecy--God communicating His thoughts, intents.*

- II. PROPHETS SPECIAL TO HEART OF GOD.
 - A. *Purpose of five-fold ministry.*
 1. Grace given. (Eph 4:7 KJV) But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
 2. Gave gifts. (Eph 4:8 KJV) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Eph 4:9 KJV) (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (Eph 4:10 KJV) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.).
 3. The 5-fold ministry. (Eph 4:11 KJV) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
 4. Work of the ministry. (Eph 4:12 KJV) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Eph 4:13 KJV) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (Eph 4:14 KJV) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (Eph 4:15 KJV) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
 - B. *Foundation of apostles and prophets.*
 1. Foundation. (Eph 2:20 KJV) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
 2. Revelation. (Eph 3:5 KJV) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
 - C. *One ministry not more important than others, but emphasis will be on prophets.*
 - D. *Believe prophets and will prosper.* (2 Chr 20:20 KJV)... Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.
 - E. *Reveal secrets to prophets.* **Am. 3:7.** (Amos 3:7 KJV) Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.
 - F. *Touch not anointed; do prophets no harm.* (Psa 105:15 KJV) Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

- III. THE BIBLE AS PROPHECY--WHY PROPHETS?

- A. **Logos.** Total, complete, forever settled in heaven, eternal standard.
- B. **Rhema.**
 - 1. A word from the Word.
 - 2. A specific, individual scripture for a specific need or occasion.
 - 3. Inspired timely word that brings life, power, and faith to perform it.

IV. TWO-FOLD MINISTRY OF A PROPHET.

- A. **Old Testament prophets.**
 - 1. Foretelling.
 - 2. Forthtelling.
- B. **New Testament prophets.**
 - 1. Revelation and illumination which reveals mind of Christ to human race.
 - a. Prophets have responsibility and anointing to receive proper revelation and application of scriptures to be fulfilled before Christ's return.
 - b. Reveals new truth to Body of Christ.
 - c. Can see overall plan and purpose of God.
 - d. Mystery hid--now revealed to holy apostles and prophets by Spirit.
 - e. Bible prophetically inspired; requires prophetic Holy Spirit illumination.
 - f. A true revelation brings revolutionary change.
 - 2. Personal prophecy.
 - Brings confirmation and witness.
 - Cannot be substitute for individual responsibilities to hear.

I. COMPANY OF PROPHETS TO PRECEDE CHRIST'S RETURN.

- A. **Prepare way for the Lord.** (Luke 3:4 KJV) As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- B. **Make ready a people for his return.**
 - 1. John could not be complete fulfillment; church not yet ready.
 - 2. Church making herself ready.

II. DISTINCTION PROPHECY AND GIFT OF PROPHECY.

- A. **Prophets.**
 - 1. Extension of Christ. Men are gifts to the church.
 - 2. Prophets' words have Christ-gifted creative ability to impart, birth, activate ministry.
 - 3. Correct, rebuke, give directives.
- B. **Gift of prophecy.**
 - Extension of work of Spirit in congregation.
 - Exhortation, edification, comfort. (1 Cor 14:3 KJV) But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

I. PROPHECY CAN BRING RESTORATION OR DEVASTATION.

- A. **Should be under cover; under authority.**

- B. *Should be mature.*
- C. *Should not be hit or miss.*
- D. *Should be subject to being judged.*

II. OTHER CHANNELS OF PROPHECY.

- A. *The spirit of prophecy.* (Rev 19:10 KJV) And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
- B. *Prophetic preaching.*

III. PROTECTION FROM ENEMY'S FALSEHOODS.

- A. *Expose saints purposefully and properly to true prophets.*
- B. *Educate saints to discern true from false.*
- C. *Train them in how to respond.*

PROPHECIES CAN FAIL.

(1 Cor 13:8 KJV) Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Prophecies are conditional.

Must be accepted and activated by faith.

Future topics:

1. General Principles of Prophecies”
2. Channels of Prophecies”
3. Responding Properly to Personal Prophecy