

The 5-Fold Ministry
Week 3
The Prophet

Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV - *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”*

Apostles are listed first because they are the starters, builders. And as they begin to build, from scratch, in new territory then a Prophet comes next and they are like the building inspectors. They are divinely enabled to see what others can't see.

Ephesians 2:19-20 NKJV - *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”*

Prophet meaning in Hebrew & Greek:

- The Hebrew word- Navi
- The Greek word- Prophetes

A spokesperson commissioned by one much higher in stature (God), with a supernatural unction on his or her words, revealing what God is about to do in the earth.

One who speaks forth by the inspiration of God. A prophet declares the mind or message of God, which sometimes predicts the future (foretelling), and more commonly, speaks forth His message for a particular situation.

One who peaks forth inspiration of God.

A prophet many times was called a SEER. They would see things in the spirit realm others didn't see. Images and visions.

There are 4 primary dimensions to a prophet's ministry:

1. **Prophetic Insight:** the divine ability to be able to understand what the root issues in situations, and circumstances and people's motivations and agendas.
 - a. Example: Nathan confronts David- 2 Samuel 12:1-14
2. **Prophetic Foresight:** the ability to see things into the future.
 - a. Example: Agabus predicts the famine (Acts 11:27-30)

3. **Prophetic Oversight:** the supernatural ability to discern prophetic context—understanding roles, functions, and perspectives within a service—and to help people connect their callings to the season they are walking in.
 - a. Example: Samuel and Saul (1 Samuel 10:1–8)
4. **Prophetic Hindsight:** the supernatural ability to see past events, things that have already taken place and understand their relevance to what is happening in the present or future.
 - a. Example: Jesus and the woman at the well. John 4:16-19

Prophets in the OT

2 Samuel 24:11 NKJV- *“Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David’s seer, saying,”*

1 Kings 17:1-4 NKJV - *“And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.” Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.””*

Elijah the prophet heard from God and it was his role to announce it to God’s people.

Prophets in the OT prophetically pointed to the coming of the Messiah and other foretold events.

FUN FACT! The prophet is the only 5-fold ministry office that exists in the OT and NT.

Romans 8:14-16 NKJV - *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”*

We have to remember that those people in the Old Covenant were not born again. They did not have the Holy Spirit living inside them. So, a prophet in the OT would hear from God and relay that message to the people.

Modern day prophets still hear from God and of course can relay messages to God’s people, but when they do it will bear witness with your spirit. You can hear from God too!!! You don’t need a prophet to hear from God!!! You have direct access because you are born again.

Prophets in the NT

Agabus

Acts 11:27-28 NKJV - *“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, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.”*

Notice there were prophets (plural) in the New Testament church at Jerusalem. They traveled to Antioch.

Most prophets in the OT and NT are not stationary. They move around from one place to another.

This is a sure sign someone is a prophet, what they prophecy comes to pass.

Acts 21:10-11 NKJV - *“And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, ‘Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’*

Again, this same prophet traveled to another city and relayed a message he had received from the Holy Spirit. (*Prophetic Foresight*)

Spiritual gifts: Prophets will typically operate in Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits, and Prophecy.

The gift of prophecy is a spiritual gift. The prophet is a ministry gift/office.

1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV — *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”*

1 Corinthians 14:31 NKJV — *“For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.”*

The gift of prophecy is one manifestation of the Holy Spirit. The office of the prophet is a calling, an anointing, and a ministry assignment from Jesus.

Anna

Luke 2:36-38 NKJV - *“Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in*

that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”

Anna was a prophetess.

Deborah

Judges 4:4 NKJV- *Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.*

Philips Daughters

Acts 21:8-9 NKJV - *“On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. **Now** this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.”*

Everyone who calls himself or herself a prophet is not a prophet.

Does their ministry point people to Jesus? Are they giving inspiring utterances or words? Does what they speak agree with the Word of God? Is there spiritual fruit in their life and ministry? Are they prophesying? Does what they prophesy come to pass?

Jeremiah 28: 9 NKJV *“As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent.”*

Acts 13:6 NKJV - *“Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus,”*

2 Peter 2:1-3 NKJV *“1But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*

A prophet who makes a mistake is not automatically a false prophet.

Scripture warns us about false prophets, those who falsely claim to speak for God and whose teaching, fruit, or ministry leads people away from truth.

2 Peter 1:20 NLT *“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding,”*

No prophecy in scripture is self-loosed, self-produced or self-generated by one person’s will.

Prophetic revelation is received, not manufactured.

The prophet is totally dependent on the Holy Spirit.

Prophets see or hear a message, mediate on it, and deliver it as God expects.

Prophets teach, expound, and usually will bring out and illuminate things in the Word, foundational things already there, not a new doctrine. But bring things out, see things.

Prophets have a great responsibility. When they are given a word or a message that is not easy and maybe they are delivering a correction or providing a solution to an issue. It is important to know that a true prophet will always direct that person to the Lord and to the Word of God.

The primary objective for the gift of prophecy is to edify, exhort and comfort the listeners. This should result in a person or congregation receiving new understanding, truth or insight from God that will strengthen, encourage, and instruct the listener so they can follow God more accurately.

- The prophet sees, but they are dependent on the Holy Spirit. They see what others don't see, but only because God reveals it.
- They speak, but they don't manufacture the message.
- They may correct, but they point people back to God.
- They may reveal something supernatural, but they don't replace the believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- They are gifted, but they are still submitted to the One who gave the gift.

Ephesians 4:13- *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*