

DISCOVERY 2000

Prophets - messengers of Jesus

Before sin - Adam talked to God face to face. Genesis 3:8 (3)
Sin changed that

God spoke through prophets

Definition: To Tell forth - to speak as God's representative
- messages of Guidance in Crisis
Correction in Apostasy
Instruction in right living

To Fore Tell - Promise of Redeemer
- Consequences of actions
- Amos 3:7 (889)

The Prophets



The prophets came at strategic times in history-

Noah A time of global decision. Called people to salvation

Abraham Establishment of nation of Israel Genesis 20:7 (17)
- Kept knowledge of God going in family
- Offered sacrifice pointing to the Messiah

Moses Deliverance from Egyptian bondage
- Called Israel to obedience
- Whole man involved - not just what sacrifices, also what food.

Deborah Time of Crisis Guide the nation Judges 4:4 (230)

Samuel Time of Crisis - Sacrificial system perverted 1 Samuel 2:12 (257)
- Israel surrounded by enemies
- People wanted a king
"Obedience to God is better than sacrifice" 1 Samuel 15:22

Elijah / Elisha

Time of national apostasy - following Ba'al 1 Kings 17- (340)

- call people back to God (Elijah)
- Guide them in safe paths (Elisha)

Prophets of warning Isaiah, Jeremiah ...

Conditional on peoples acceptance or rejection of God

- Accept and obey safety Isaiah 1:18-20 (654)
- Reject Captivity

Prophets of the exile Time of national calamity Ezekiel, Daniel

- This is why you are here
- If you hope to get away from here there are changes ...
- There is hope!

Prophets of restoration Get / keep the nation back on track with God

John the Baptist

Prepared the nation for an important event

- Called people to repentance
- pointed to Jesus John 1:32-36 (1025)
- Jesus called him the greatest of the prophets Luke 7:28

(999)

Prophets in Practise

Jeremiah 36:23 (770)

Amos 2:11, 12 (889)

Isaiah 30:10 (683) 1 Kings 22 (347)

2 Chronicles 36:15, 16 (443)

Jonah (897)

Promises

2 Chronicles 20:20 (425)

What about today?

Did prophecy die out after Jesus?

Ephesians 4:11- (1126)

Who gave the gift? For what purpose? For how long? For what benefit to us?

Matthew 24:24 (960) Can there be a counterfeit if there is no genuine?

1 Thessalonians 5:20, 21 (1137) Test them.. Look for the true.

Acts 2:17- In the last days ...

"Suppose we are about to start upon a voyage. The owner of the vessel gives us a book of directions, telling us it contains instructions sufficient for the whole journey, and that if we will heed them, we shall reach in safety our port of destination. Setting sail we open our book to learn its contents. We find that its author lays down general principles to govern us in our voyage, and instructs us as far as practicable touching the various contingencies that may arise, until the end; but he also tells us that the latter part of our journey will be especially perilous; that the features of the coast are ever changing by reason of quicksands and tempests; "but for this part of the journey," says he, "I have provided you a pilot, who will meet you, and give you such directions as the surrounding circumstances and dangers may require; and to him you must give heed." With these directions we reach the perilous times specified, and the pilot, according to promise, appears. But some of the crew, as he offers his services, rise up against him. "We have the original book of directions," say they, "and that is enough for us. We stand upon that, and that alone; we want nothing of you." Who now heed the original book of directions? Those who reject the pilot, or those who receive him, as that book instructs them?

The gifts of the Spirit are given as our pilot through perilous times.

Checking out a Prophet

Physical manifestations in dreams or visions

Daniel 10:8, 9, 17, 18 (868)

Characteristics of a prophetic ministry

1. It will lead to Christ as the only Saviour Revelation 19:10 (1187)
2. It will teach the purest morality Matthew 7:15-23 (941)
3. It will bring encouragement and hope to God's people Romans 15:4 (1096)
4. It will point out the snares of Satan.
5. It will point to the Bible as the Word of God, the rule of faith and practice. Isaiah 8:20 (661)