

Prophets Of God 2Peter 1:16-21

Hebrew word "prophet" (nabiy) means: "a prophet or (generally) inspired man:--prophecy, that prophesy, prophet." **Strong's**

Greek word "prophet" (prophetes) means: "a foreteller ("prophet"); by analogy, an inspired speaker; by extension, a poet:--prophet"

from a compound of pro (fore) and phemi (make known)

Our word "prophet" has essentially the same meaning. Webster's

"one who utters divinely inspired revelations;"

"one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight;"

"one who foretells future events"

Two-fold meaning is due to the two senses of the preposition "pro" in the Greek from which our word prophet is derived.

Pro is used as "for" and "before" so that a prophet is one who speaks for God, and one who tells beforehand what is to take place.

What About Prophets Of God?

Prophets raised from people, called of God for particular purpose, as Judges raised up for purpose of judging Israel. **2Peter 1:20-21**

Hebrews 1:1 *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,*

Whenever there is something real and worthwhile, someone will come up with a substitute or counterfeit.

2Peter 2:1 *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*

Acts 20:29-30 *I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

1John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

The prophets were not a class or guild, inheriting the office, but each one had a personal call to his work.

True of most great men who have influenced world's history. Even though were not called directly of God as the true prophets of God.

While earlier prophets reported and described things, later ones wrote down their prophecies beginning about 780 B.C., as a perpetual means of instructions to all time.

The prophets received their message in various ways: **Hebrews 1:1**

By visions, dreams, thought images, angels, and direct action from God upon the mind, inspiring and revealing to them the needed truths.

In giving the message to the people the prophets used almost every known method of impressing the truth:

Object lessons, dramatic actions, visible representations, visions, parables, history, preaching, warnings & miracles.

Some Prophets Of God And Their Time Of Prophesying

Abraham is first to be called a prophet ~2000 BC (to Abimelech)

Genesis 20:7 *Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."*

Moses & Aaron prophesy as Israel called out of Egyptian bondage to become God's Chosen nation ~1500 BC

Samuel, last of the judges was also a prophet even into the beginning years of the Kingdom ~1100 BC

Of the three kings over united Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon. David is called a prophet by Peter

Acts 2:29-31 *"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay."*

Most of those we consider prophets arose after the kingdom divided in the days of Rehoboam & Jereboam ~935 BC

Nathan, Iddo, Ahijah, Shemiah are lesser knowns from Israel's united years into the divided kingdoms

2Chronicles 9:29 *Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?*

2Chronicles 12:15 *Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, according to genealogical enrollment? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.*

2Chronicles 13:22 *Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways and his words are written in the treatise of the prophet Iddo.*

During the divided years we find Jehu, Elijah and Elisha prophesying.

First of many writing prophets, Jonah, begins his work ~780 BC

Others follow as Israel taken into Assyrian captivity: Joel, Hosea, Amos, Isaiah and Micah ~722 BC

Judah taken into Babylonian captivity other writing prophets arise Nahum, Zephanaiah, Jeremiah, Habbakuk, Obadiah, Ezekiel and Daniel ~586 BC

Judah returns to rebuild Jerusalem we find Zechariah, Haggai, Ezra, Nehemiah and Malachi up until ~400 BC

Several women are mentioned as prophetess: Miriam, Exodus 15:20; Deborah, Judges 4:4; Huldah, 2Kings 22:14

Noah – preacher of righteousness 2Peter 2:5

Enoch – prophesied Jude 14

New Testament Prophets:

After Malachi, no record of prophets until John ~30 AD

Before John we find Anna, a prophetess, & Simeon prophesying Luke 2

Acts 2:17-18 *'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of MY Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams; Even on MY bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of MY Spirit And they shall prophesy.'*

Philip's four daughters prophesied. Acts 21:9

John lived under Old Law but his teaching found in New Testament

Matthew 11:9 *But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet.*

Jesus Christ was and is the greatest prophet of them all.

Acts 3:22-23 *Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you A prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'*

There were prophets in the early church: **1Corinthians 14:20-40**

Acts 11:27-28 *Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.*

Acts 13:1 *Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*

Ephesians 4:11 *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,*

People were to hear the prophets and obey their teaching

Luke 16:29 *But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'*

The prophets taught people to love God and love one another.

Matthew 22:37-40 *And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."*

Certainly the study of the prophets of God is worth our while.

We must not follow false prophets

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

There are no living prophets of God today, for God has revealed all of His will to all mankind through the Holy Scriptures.

True prophets lead us unto Christ where we can find all that pertains to life and godliness. Are you a Christian? If not, why not?

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