

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: THE STILL SMALL VOICE: PUTTING THE POWER OF THE PROPHET IN YOUR LIFE

Key Passage: 1 Kings 19: 11-13

1 Corinthians 2: 10-16

¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.^[c] ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for,

"Who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

In a general sense, a prophet is a person who speaks God's truth to others.

English — foreteller

word *prophet* comes from the

Greek word *prophetes*, which can mean "one who speaks forth" or "advocate."

- prophētēs
 - (from 4253* /pró, "**beforehand**" and
 - 5346 phēmí, "elevating/**asserting one idea** over another, especially through the spoken-word")
– properly, **one who speaks forth by the inspiration of God**; a prophet. See 4394 (prophēteia).
*[Numbers are references in Strong's Concordance.]
- A prophet (4396 /prophētēs) **declares the mind (message) of God**, which sometimes predicts the future (foretelling)
 - and more commonly, **speaks forth His message for a particular situation**.
 - 4396 /prophētēs ("a prophet")
 - then is someone inspired by God to foretell or forthtell the Word of God.
- **This is why the idea of the prophet in English has come to mean one who foretells future events**

- Prophets are also called “seers,” because of their spiritual insight or their ability to “see” the future.
- They are dreamers, people with visions, seers of events.
- Yes this is part of it... but not all of it... and individuals who are used in prophecy may never be used in this manner.

Hebrew – *rō’eh* (seer), *’iš (ha)’elōhim* (man of God), *hōzeh* (seer-prophet), *nabi’* (prophet).

Four major terms for ‘prophet’ in the Old Testament:

rō’eh (seer)

1 sam. 9 - ⁹ (Formerly in Israel, if someone went to inquire of God, they would say, “Come, let us go to the seer,” because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.)

- Daily assist for instruction from God
- **Dreams, Visions, Daily Inquiries from God**
- *geluy ’enayim* – sealed as to the eye

’iš (ha)’elōhim (man of God)

- Standing in opposition to any evil or immoral in the centralized institutions of society.

Regularly speak on behalf of values central to society and on behalf of the god who sanctions the moral structure of the society.

hōzeh (seer-prophet)

- refer to the same role of ‘central morality prophet’
- David Peterson describes the uses generally speaking that *hōzeh* is for Judah (Southern kingdom Kingdom)
-

nabi’ (prophet). (Shouter)

- In the ancient Near East languages ‘*Navi’* (‘prophet’) is derived from the verb ‘*nabû*’ which means ‘to declare’ or ‘to announce.’
 - This verb strongly relates to the concept of public speaking, as can be found in the following biblical example:
- refer to the same role of ‘central morality prophet’
- David Peterson describes the uses generally speaking that *Nabi* is for Israel (Northern Kingdom)

“a tool or instrument through which God’s words are spoken”

The words have a base in being an instrument of God

- To proclaim, to call, to report, communicate.....
- Be a speaker of God
- Compared to instruments – the flute, tuba oboe –
- Under the influence of, or on the order of God

WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF A PROPHET?

LISTENING..... COMUNICATING

1. A clear sense of having been **called** into divine service by Yahweh, God of Israel.
2. They **spea**k the divine word **with authority**. The spoken word in antiquity was thought to possess great power; this was especially true of the word of Yahweh (Jer. 5:14; 23:29).
3. Prophets are also possessed with **vision**—both vision in the general sense, and visions in which the divine word was received.
4. Received the divine word in visions and dreams.
5. Were able to **perform mighty works** – 3 specifically.
6. Were **possessed with** “spirit” (*rûah*), **the spirit of Yahweh**,
7. They were **people of prayer**.
 - A teaching role - declaring God’s truth on contemporary issues.
 - Revelatory role, revealing at times details about the future.
 - Prophets had the task of faithfully speaking God’s Word to the people.
 - They were instrumental in guiding the nation of Israel and establishing the church.
 - They spoke to the leaders – godly and ungodly.
 - They spoke to the nations – God’s people and the Gentile peoples.
 - They spoke to the people of God – Jews and the Church.
 - They spoke to individuals about God’s intervention.
 - Nathan to David, Elijah to the widow, Elisha to Naaman, Agabus to Paul, etc.
 - Miracles
 - They Blessed.
 - They cursed.
 - They anointed leaders.
 - They removed leaders.
 - They warned.
 - The Old Testaments revealed the hearts and pointed to the Messiah.
 - The New testament prophets revealed the hearts and point the return of Christ.

ORAL PROPHETS VS. WRITTEN PROPHETS

Written prophets: the record of the prophets who wrote down the words. We have them in the canon.

Major and Minor / Writing Prophets

- Those who wrote their prophecies down and we have in the Canon of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- I will spend time on the writing prophets or the Major prophets next week.
- There are Major and Minor written prophets.
 - Size of their document determines major or minor

Today we are looking at the oral prophets and our calling to be oral prophets as well.

But I want to show that God is on the move throughout history...speaking through people to reach all people as a group and as individuals so they might respond, repent, and receive God as their God.

Oral prophets: godly people throughout the scripture used in prophetic was that did not write down their prophecies.

They would listen – Balaam – wait and I will wait on the Lord.

They would speak – Aaron – speak to Pharaoh.

The Bible calls many prophets before the time of the kings.

Well known figures

- Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron. Miriam, Joshua, Deborah, Balaam, Eli, Hannah, Samuel, Abigail, David, Solomon

Aaron - Exodus 7:1

- is called a prophet because he was the one who would 'speak' to Pharaoh.

Balaam

- Numbers 22
 - *“So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak’s message. **And he said to them, “LODGE HERE TONIGHT” and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me.**”* (Numbers 22:7-8)
 - In other words, in order to know what to do, Balaam needed to wait until he had fallen asleep because a message from God would come during the night in the form of a dream:
 - God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.” **He had to hear from God!**
 - **Did not do more or less than what God had said**
 - ¹⁸ *But Balaam answered them, “Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the LORD my God*

Lesser-known Prophets, Figures

We have mentioned many of these individuals over the last couple of months.

Nathan, Gad, Shemiah , Azariah, Hanani , Eliezer, Jahaziel , Ahijah, Jehu, Hazael, Micaiah, a man of God, Obed, a random prophet condemns, random prophet tells Ahab he is to fight and defeat Ben-Hadad, Ahab, Elijah, Elisha, Heman

- More than 133 named prophets are mentioned in the Bible,
- including 16 women.
- In addition, numerous others prophesied, such as the 70 elders of Israel ([Numbers 11:25](#))
- and the 100 prophets rescued by Obadiah ([1 Kings 18:4](#)).
- The school of prophets in the time of Saul - 1 Samuel 19:23.
- A group of prophets under the instruction of Elijah -2 Kings 2.
- 50 prophets sent by Elisha to find Elijah -2 kings 2:15-18
- 7000 that had not bowed to Baal -2 Kings 19:18
- 1 Chronicles 25:5 identifies Heman as an ἀνακρουομένω “one who sings praise” or “one who prophesies with music.”
 - He is one of the men chosen “for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals” (1 Chronicles 25:1; see also Judges 5:11).
 - Asaph (one of the more prominent coauthors of the Psalms) is also mentioned as a seer (1 Chronicles 29:30).

It did not end with the Old Testament:

God’s household is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” ([Ephesians 2:20](#)).

New Testament Figures

The New Testament has prophets as well. Anna the prophetess, John the Baptist, Agabus, the daughters of Philip,

The Church: You and I

- and any member within the congregations who would be used and who would speak.
- For them
- For the churches
- For those who would come

1 Corinthians 14:3,5,24-25, 31

³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

⁵ I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.

²⁴ if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be encouraged.

My point:

God uses men and women from all stations, all walks, and all ages to be *His voice*.

A look at one of the prophets

Elijah: HIS STILL SMALL VOICE (LISTENING)

Events in the life of Elijah

A Tishbite a town named Tishbe

From Gilead – upper Galilee or Bashan

Modern Day Jordan: Hazor

Travels in his ministry as far north as Damascus and as far south to Mt. Horeb near the Red sea. He walked both sides of the Jordan and spent time on the Phoenician coastline.

- Prophecy: the great drought –famine, no rain “except at my word”
- Fed by ravens
- Goes to Zeraphath –
 - Iron Age tell and Phoenician harbor on the coast East of Syria north of Tyre
 - Widow and the unending flour and oil
- Raising the widow’s son from the dead
- Announcing arrival through godly Obadiah
- Contest at Mt. Carmel
- The prayer for rain
- Incredible speed
- Fed by an angel
- The Lord appears to Elijah in the cave.
- The call of Elisha
- Consults the evil king about how to handle battle with Ben-Hadad (a title of the king of Aram, like Pharaoh); son of Hadad the storm god.
- The condemnation of Ahab over Naboth’s murder and his vineyard.
- Fire on the fifty soldiers twice.
- Parted water with garment:
 - Double portion for successor, Elisha.
 - Exactly double
- Taken up to heaven in chariot of fire.

1 Kings 19: 11-13

¹¹ *The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.*

¹² *After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.*

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

- Not in the wind
- Not in the earthquake
- Not in the fire
- He was in the whisper – the still small voice.

Elijah: YOUR VOICE (COMMUNICATING)

1 Kings 17:24

- ²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”

1 Kings 18:16-17

- The Lord said – go and present yourself to Ahab / ¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?”

1 Kings 18:16-17

Mt Carmel fire

- ³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”
- ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell
- ³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

Prophet to Ahab

- This is what the Lord says

Elijah to Ahab

- “And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of^[b] Jezreel.’
- ²⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹ “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me?”

Jehoshaphat

- ⁷ But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there no longer a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?”
 - Micaiah – This is what the Lord says
- Elijah to king Ahaziah
 - This is what the Lord says – you’re gonna’ die

Every one of them heard from God and then spoke to the people, to the king or to whomever they were sent.

The Jewish People believe that Elijah will reappear before the coming of the Messiah

I bring up Elijah because Jesus refers to him as well in the NT

- *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. . . (NKJV) Malachi 4:5-6*
- Jesus said: *And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.* (NKJV) Matt. 11:9-14
- John said: *...and they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."* (NKJV) John 1:21
- The angel that had spoken to his father, Zacharias, **said that John would come in the spirit and power of Elijah.**
 - ***And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah. . . (NKJV) Luke 1:16-17***
 - Although he was not Elijah, his ministry would be like that of Elijah.
- *And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.* (NKJV) Matt. 17:10-13
- He knew His calling was to, Prepare the Way of the Lord.
- He called out, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ([Matt 3:2](#))
- He confronted the hypocrisy of the religious establishment ([Matt 3:7](#) ; [Luke 3:7](#)).
- He did not hesitate to expose the immorality
- He chose to die a martyr's death rather than compromise his convictions ([Matt 14:3-12](#); [Mark 6:17-29](#)).

The Lord Speaks and The Prophet Obeys

Elijah asks, he listens, he hears and he obeys

All of the prophets do this

This is how we are also to be working in our lives

That is the work of the oral prophet.

- The lineage of OT / NT and the Church

God speaks to you in whispers.

You are to proclaim with authority.

1 Corinthians 2: 10-16

¹⁰ *these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.*

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what

God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.^[c] ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for,

*“Who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”*

But we have the mind of Christ.

LISTEN AND COMMUNICATE

WHY PROPHETIC?

WORD POWER: GOD’S POWER THROUGH ORDINARY PEOPLE

You have the Mind of Christ.

So you and I are also prophets. The Spirit dwells in us and we can know the mind of God. We are to speak forth the message of God