

## Tutorial #1

# What is a Prophet?

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*Answer:* The mouth piece of God, used to carry out the word and to foretell of events that will come to pass.

Dear reader:

Let us discuss this subject so that we can understand that he (the prophet) plays such a major role in the lives of every anointed member of the Household of Israel, Tabernacle of David-Shalom Family Altar. First let's look at how one becomes a prophet as seen in Numbers 12:6 as it quotes, *"And he said, hear now my words: if there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."*

As we see, this is done by God alone. Therefore we must note that:

1. You cannot *inherit* it, *desire* or *pray* your way into it, nor be *appointed* to the black robe, and
2. His appointment is for the *edification* of the church – not to establish *"upper status"* for any man or woman.

Before we continue, let us establish the following fact: all of the prophet's works and teachings **will**, and **must** agree with the *commandments and testimonies*. Isaiah 8:20 quotes, *"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."* Therefore, if at any time he speaks **not** according to this word, he is **not a prophet of GOD!!!** It does not matter what type of dream one had. 1John 4:1 quotes, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."* The testimony of Jesus is the spirit. Revelation 19:10 quotes, *"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, see thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

Throughout history God never set a prophet over his church to run the day-to-day operation; this is the duty of the eldership. Take a look back at Moses, who was the prophet that confronted Pharaoh and lead the people out of Egypt, but was not around when they received the promise. This was turned over to Joshua who lead the people across the River Jordan to the promise land (Joshua 4:8-11). Yet, let us take note of how Joshua followed all that Moses taught him (Joshua 4:10). This is only one example; if we were to look at all the prophets we will find that they lived a bitter life with persecution and dishonor – even in his own house. (Matthew 13:57).

So now the question of the hour is, what about the prophet James T. Webb? Was he not the leader and founder of the little church in which we are associated with? Well the answer is this: Just as Moses was given charge to set up the nation and put it on a path of righteousness, we notice that Brother Webb did the exact same because:

1. He established it's foundation of the commandments and testimonies,
2. After much prayer, he elected the eldership,
3. He selected choir directors – for both the adults and children, and
4. Also organized the Sabbath School.

All this was done from 1973 to 1976 (or 3-1/2 years) with the help of his wife and children. Once this work was completed, Brother Webb and his family were commanded by God to leave so that the "baby church" could learn to stand on its own. However, because Brother Webb was the prophet, he would always come to the church whenever he had a word from God. But the day-to-day operation was for the eldership to take care of (the whole eldership – not just one or two members).

As we stated earlier, a prophet's job is to foretell of God's judgment and warn, as well as inform, the church concerning events to come in this hour. He is not a "**mind reader**" or one who looks at you to determine if you are righteous or a sinner. [Please note: the prophet Webb also made it clear that he was not interested in finding out whom the tares were; that was God's business.] People who do that are called "**fortune tellers**" and "**soothsayers**", or as the bible calls them, "**false prophets**" (Matt 7:15-16 and 1John 4:1). Furthermore, the work of a prophet is not a seasonal event. If you are called to prophesy today, you will be a prophet tomorrow. God does not need or use psychics when he addresses his saints. This is done by the devil to put fear into us and intimidate us to confess our faults and sins to them in order that it (the confession) could then be used against us at a later date. Remember as we stated earlier, no prophet would behave this way. He is sent for **edification**, not to point fingers or cast people out. Let's notice what Jesus has to say concerning this matter as seen in Matthew 13:27-30. As we can see from this text, only the reaper has the authority to remove the tares, and not the **servant**. So who are the reapers in this parable (Matt 13:39)?

Now let's go back to the subject at hand. If someone went to Brother Webb and said that God called them to prophesy, he would take them at their word. It was not his charge to call anyone...or stop anyone...from prophesying. However, that individual will be responsible for his words. That person (be it man or woman) will be measured against the prophet's oath, which is, "**I'd rather see death than to cause one soul to be lead astray**".

## **REVIEW**

- Only God can make you a prophet. You will not need confirmation from any one else.
- If you have a dream or vision, it must coincide with the bible.
- Your life, and the way you live it, will mirror the commandments **and** testimonies of Jesus.
- You must foretell of things to come and as a watchman, call out current events.
- You will not behave as a mind reader or psychics, making people feel that God is speaking directly through you.

## **UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE**

One of the characteristics that a prophet will profess is the ability to rightly divide the word of God. Now we may ask: "Why is this skill needed?" **Answer: because the bible is written in a puzzle form.** Isaiah 28:9-10 quotes, (v9) "**Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts,**" (v10) "**for precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.**" Now let's listen in on a conversation between Jesus and his disciples in Matthew 13:10-11. Verse 10 quotes, "**And the disciples came, and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**" Notice the phrase "**whom shall he make to understand doctrine**" and the phrase "**because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**". From these phrases we can clearly see that you must get this from God.

## **NO CONTRADICTION!**

With the background that we have and the promise made to us by God Most Holy, Jesus Christ, and our mother, The Wisdom of God Most Holy, we see in Hebrews 8:11, **quoting, "And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."**) that our anointing connects us to the new covenant and this promise. Now I would like to state that I don't mean we're unable to **understand** the scriptures, because we do have the "keys" that enable us to understand them. However, what's pointed out and talked about here is that one must be able to determine how to **apply** the word of God, because there is no contradiction in the bible!

At this time we will test our skill to be able to rightly divide the word. Let us review the following scriptures:

1. **Matthew 10:37**

*“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”*

2. **Exodus 20:12**

*“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”*

To the untrained eye, it appears that you can't give heed to both of these texts of scripture at the same time. But let's use the keys given to us, which are the “commandments **and** testimonies”, and see what we come up with (Matthew 22:37-40). First and foremost, we honor God by keeping his commandments (St. John 14:15). Now we take these scriptures along with 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:33, first part. We see that the parents in Matthew 10:37 must be directing you away from keeping God's words. This is not a case where your parents ask you to take them to the doctor, or tell you to pick them up something from the store. Neither is this speaking to incidents when our parents tell us to do this and don't do that. As long as it's not **against** the bible, we are bound by law to honor our parents – regardless of one's age (Eph 6:1- 3). Now I ***quake*** within at the thought that someone would call him or herself a prophet of God and encourage you not to honor your parents. Keep in mind that you are obligated to keep this commandment, even if your parents don't believe as you do.

Let's test our skill again as we note the following scriptures:

1. **Corinthians 6:14**

*“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”*

2. **Mark 2:15-16**

*(v15) “And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.”*

*(v16) “And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples: How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?”*

As we stated before, there is no confusion in these two texts. So let's use our skill, which are our keys to understanding the word. What we are looking at in this text from Mark is Jesus interacting with people who don't know the truth so that they may be convinced by the word of God, and turn to righteousness. Notice Matthew 5:14-16 and 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15. So the text in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians must be in reference to those who break God's commandments and teach men to do the same (Matthew 5:19). Now let's take a look at Romans 16:17. This is not referring to attending family reunions, having lunch with co-workers and it's most definitely not instructing us to refrain from visiting the sick or helping someone in need. It makes no difference if they are a believer or not (Matt 5:43-48 and Heb 13:2). Now ask yourself, who would teach contrary to this word?

### **AS MANY AS I LOVE**

This message is from THE WISDOM OF GOD MOST HOLY, our heavenly mother:

*“My love for you incalculable; I have heard every cry and have taken accounts of all your tears. (Proverbs 8:32-36) Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways (v32). Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not (v33). Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors (v34). For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord (v35). But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death (v36). I will guild thy way and make you ready for the marriage of the king. Be not discouraged by my instructions. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent (Rev 3:19 and Hebrews 12:5-14).”*

### **THE PRODIGAL SON**

Let's get out our tools and unlock one more parable found in Luke 15:11-32. Now using all the skills we have, count the number of times that the father rebuked or punished his youngest son for his transgression. If you're having trouble coming up with the answer please read it again. Yes you are correct; "**zero**" is the answer. Not only did he not punish him, he ran to meet him and gave a big celebration in his honor. Now we must ask ourselves this question, "Why didn't the father censor this disobedient son or place him in the back of the house so all could see his shame?" Well, let's check the testimony found in Matthew 5:7 stating, "***Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.***" (Ref.: Luke 5:10)

### **CONCLUSION**

A prophet may have many questions as it was with Esdras (from the apocrypha), and he may not have all the answers as it was with Daniel, but you can bet your life on this, he (or she) would never put a child out on the streets with no place to live. And never would he through church policy forbid the parent contact or the show of love, thus causing the parents to be worse than an infidel (1 Timothy 5:8). Finally, let us now notice Isaiah 8:16-20. In these scriptures we see in verse 19 the people with "familiar spirits" and "wizards" that "peep" are the only Morons that would speak contrary to the word of God.

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