25 *- Logos* and *Rhema*

So much of the world (and regrettably the church also) thinks of God as a possible reality “then” in the past, and not “now”, as an active person and reality in the present. Prophecy shatters that idea. It is God speaking “here and now”. It is not God at “arm’s length”. It is God in the room with us speaking to us. He is not the God of yesterday or of ancient times, He’s alive and active today – now – here – with us! This is not religion – it’s a relationship!

Let me share with you more keys to prophecy gleaned from one of the most outstanding prophets of last half of the 20th century, Bill Haman. I will quote from him extensively for a few pages. He distinguishes between two aspects of God speaking - using the Greek words, *logos* and *rhema*.

“*Logos* – the Word. It is the “absolute standard by which all expressions, concepts, revelations, doctrines, preachings, and prophesies are measured. The *Logos* reveals God and portrays His eternal principles and decrees. Neither angel, nor human, nor devil, nor any other power in the whole universe can keep the *Logos* from eternally being and becoming all it proclaims.” The Bible is the *logos*.

*“Rhema* – a “word” from the Word, *Logos,* which never changes or fails. Rhema’s are usually conditional and can fail or succeed depending on the reception.

Rom. 10:17

Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word *[rhema*] of God.

It’s not the *rhema* that fails but the one who fails to understand, believe or apply it. That’s one reason 1 Cor. 13:8 says, “Prophesies will fail.” If the receiver doesn’t respond appropriately, the *rhema* may not come to pass. The *logos* is like the ocean. A *rhema* is like a bucketful of it. All Christians should live by the *logos* and also receive *rhema* as needed.

Personal prophecy is God’s revealed and/or inspired *rhema* to a particular person, family or group. It’s specific info from God for a specific situation for that audience. *Rhema* is God speaking to an individual and when they speak it out it becomes prophecy.

Personal *rhema* is not for universal application. For instance, God told Noah to build an ark. That was for him at that time, not for anyone else. Once Jesus told Peter to fish and pull a coin out of the mouth of the first fish he caught and pay his and Peter’s taxes. That was a *rhema* for them. If it was a *logos,* we should all fish every April 14th to pay our taxes on April 15th in the US. Agabus told Paul he would be bound if he went to Jerusalem. The point is, *rhema is* for individuals, *logos* are for everybody.

We prophesy from the *rhema*, not the *logos*. We quote the *logos*, but can only speak the *rhema* in prophecy. We can speak the word of God (*logos)*, or a word from God (*rhema)*.

We can speak from our personal conviction of the truth of the *logos* (re: healing, deliverance, forgiveness, the future, etc.) We can’t say “God is going to heal you” unless we have *rhema* to that effect. As much as possible, leave the *rhema* to the mature prophets. Instead say, “I am convinced that …” rather than “Thus says the Lord…”. Personal prophecy of the speaker’s intention shouldn’t be clothed with *rhema* clothes. If it doesn’t come to pass, it reproaches the manifestation. Sometimes I want it so bad I say it as I want it, not because God says it in *rhema,* but *logos*. We must be circumspect with our prophesies. We represent God speaking now, not when “holy men of God spoke…”.

Most healing and miracles come from prophecy from those ignorant of the pre-existing conditions. When there is natural knowledge or we have person involvement in a situation, it is hard to discern the *rhema* from the *logos*. Prophecy is not our wish, but God’s word.

In the first century church there were 5 beneficial methods to communicate in a gathering.

1 Cor. 14:6

But now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you, unless I speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophecy, or by a teaching?

1. Revelation
2. Knowledge
3. Prophesy
4. Teaching
5. (Not speaking in tongues - unless it’s interpreted.)

The reception of the divine, prophetic word is like conception in the womb of a woman or the planting of a hybrid seed within the ground. The baby and seed will grow unless someone aborts the process.

Personal prophecy can impregnate and activate ministry in church members – this is usually consistent with a prophetic ministry or minister.

We were not designed with the capacity to know much about the future; it short-circuits our systems’ ability to live victoriously and carefree in the present. Jesus taught that each day has enough of its own problems and challenges, so we should take no thought for tomorrow.

Just as God has a general will for all mankind expressed in the Bible, he has a specific will for individuals. It will be in harmony with the Word (the Bible, the *logos*) unless the individual is a prophet and unique in his calling. Check out God’s will – the specific, the *rhema* to individuals. God directed Joseph by dreams, Moses by audible voice out of the fire, whispered to Elijah in a still, small voice. God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. Jesus appeared personally to Paul. He spoke to David through the prophecy of Samuel and Nathan. He sent His word to Jehu through the prophecy of Elisha. He directed Timothy through the presbytery and prophecy. Jesus through revelation.

Scholars designate the difference in message of knowledge and message of wisdom. Most believers just call it revelation and say, “God told me…”. That’s similar to prophecy. It’s just God telling you something through a believer instead of directly. The message is important, not the mode. It’s like getting water. You can get it through the pipes in your home, or get bottled water from the store, or collect rainwater, or tap a river or a creek, or dig a well, or…. What’s important is the water, not the conveyance of it.

Sometimes the *logos* and *rhema* can work together. God will use “scripture illumination” to highlight a verse or a scripture we know or have heard before to convey a *rhema*.

Usually specific direction comes from prophets, and we should always seek confirmation and carefully consider it. If God gave it, He’s able to confirm it and witness to it.

Sometime the prophecy is planting an idea in us. We should respond like Mary (ponder these things in her heart) and not like the patriarch Joseph, who unwisely told his family that he would be the figurative center of the solar system and experienced serious blowback and 22 years later proved to be correct.

Many times, we face decisions that are not good verses bad, but two different decisions that seem right. Supernatural help is needed. Prophecy can help.

Sometimes we don’t know the way God wants us to go. We do the way we know best and if something is better, He can show us and turn us around. God can’t turn a parked car.

It is not offensive to the Lord if we withhold judgment on a single prophecy, or a single rhema, or one counselor, or one anything else. Seek confirmation. Seek unity with all those involved in the prophecy.

Personal prophecy is always:

* Partial – we prophesy in part – could be on a category of life or a particular time. Same with Jesus’ foretelling.
* God’s silence doesn’t imply approval of secrets or sins.
* Progressive – Abram received 11 prophecies. They can build. 25 years for Abram. 22 for Joseph and 20 for David becoming king.
* Conditional vs. unconditional – based on God’s power not man’s. Usually general, not specific. Like Gen 3:15 – 4 thousand years later it began. Hezekiah’s prophecy from Isaiah. All personal prophecies are conditional. Like Ex. 6:6-8:

Ex. 6:6-8

Therefore say to the children of Israel, ‘I am Yahweh, and I will bring you out from under the forced labor of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from your slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments,

and I will take you to me as a people, and I will be your God, and you will know that I am Yahweh your God, who brings you out from under the forced labor of the Egyptians.

I will bring you into the land about which I lifted up my hand in an oath to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And I will give it to you as a possession. I am Yahweh.’”

It was only fulfilled for 2 men, cancelled by the other 1.6 million. Personal prophecies require faith to fulfill and obedience to obtain.

Covet prophecy 1 Cor. 12:31, 14:1, 39.

Prophecy makes God more personal and real to the saints.

Judge the prophecy not the prophesy-er. Balaam. Good prophecy – bad prophet.

Dutch Sheets, Greg Phelps, Carl Fox, Tom Staman, Bill Haman, Ben Dixon…

There can be and are some wrong prophecies - perhaps that’s why God says, “Despise not prophesying”.

We should record and write down prophecies so we can meditate on it. 1 Tim. 4:14,15. The repeated points can confirm the message, same as scripture repeats emphasized points. Sometimes the prophecy becomes meaningful days, weeks, months, years later. Sometimes the prophecy is only meaningful at the time in light of current circumstances. Later on it means something different. Accurate evaluation of prophecy is tough to do.

The spirit realm of man is where divine love and faith operate. Emotions are in the soul. Our five senses, including feeling, are in the flesh realm.

Good example of prophecy by a certain disciple, Ananias, to Saul of Tarsus. God doesn’t tell Saul first his future and calling, Ananias does.

By prophecies we can “war a good warfare” 1 Tim 1:18. As the kings of Israel and Judah did.

Paul endured suffering because of Ananias’ prophecy and God’s word to him, “My grace is sufficient to you.”

Do nothing differently unless divinely directed. Unless God gives us explicit instruction to act on, the proper response to personal prophecy is to simply continue doing what we’ve been doing before we receive the word of the Lord. David did after the kingship prophecy, and it was partially fulfilled 17 years later, then fully fulfilled 7 years after that.

The Lord speaks a prophetic word to us, not just to tickle our intellect, but to bring the understanding necessary to do the will of God.

It is better to not know, than to know and not do. James 4:17 Listening to a prophecy requires a commitment to do what God says.

Heb. 6:12

so that you will not become sluggish, but will be imitators of those who through trust and patience inherit the promises.

Prophecy requires trust and patience like trusting the Bible, as the above says.

Prophecy is like precious pearls to the one in focus, not necessarily anyone else. Watch that others don’t sabotage your trust like David and his brother or Joseph and his brothers. Hold on to the prophecy. It’s God’s gift to you – no one else. Prophecies rarely come to pass sooner than you expect or even when we might expect. Usually later – a lot later.

We should be meek and humble to prophecy. Don’t let pride rob you of a blessing like Naaman the leper almost did.

Hinderances to the fulfillment of personal prophecy – (same as scriptural) – unbelief. Even Peter rebuked Jesus personal prophecy regarding his death because it didn’t comply with his wrong political mindset of the Messiah. Afterward the prophecy was of great comfort and encouragement. Similarly, our established opinions can oppose true prophecy.

Sometimes the prophecy is given in the present tense when it really is talking about the future.

A bad self-image – Moses had an image of himself of a “failure complex”. He had a hard time believing he could be successful. It took many phenomena and God speaking to him directly to get him to consider what God wanted him to do.

“Prophecy pertains to the impossible. If we focus our vision on the promise, rather than the time, the problems, or the contradicting evidence, we will find that man’s impossibilities become God’s opportunities. In fact, God’s highest purpose and delight is to wait until man can see no possible way for His promise to be kept without supernatural intervention. That is why God waited until Sarah was past the natural bearing years to give her a son, and why Jesus waited until Lazarus had been dead four days before arriving in the scene. Faith must be in God alone, not in the words but in the God who speaks them; not in our ability to appropriate, but in God’s ability to accomplish His own prophesied purpose in our life.” BH

Soul blockage – sometimes we dislike the messenger or emotionally dislike the message. Like Ahab with Micaiah, impatient King Saul not waiting for Samuel, Moses killing the Egyptian prematurely, and Sarah and Hagar. Must be spiritual minded.

Mary Jesus’ mother was a good example of receiving personal prophesy. She hid in her heart the prophecy and waited 30 years for its fulfillment.

Only God knows the things that must come to pass before our prophecy comes to pass. Impatience only hinders God and the fulfillment. We must rest in God and take it one step at a time.

Misapplication and misinterpreting of Prophecy – Saul misinterpreted “kill all the Amalakite animals” to “sacrifice them”. This was politically smart but spiritually stupid because it saved the Israelites from sacrificing their own animals. This rationalization was serious to God. Saul was rejected and his sin counted as idolatry.

Pride destroyed Lucifer’s and King Saul’s ministry.

“Any time man takes a spiritual truth and tries to make it work without the spirit of God, it becomes ‘a form of godliness’ without the life-giving force that makes it a workable reality.”

We should realize that our God is a talking heavenly Father who earnestly desires to communicate with His children on earth.

True prophecy is simply God talking to us.

Who can prophesy? Everyone.

1 Cor 14:5

Now I want all of you to speak in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy, for greater is the one who prophesies than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church is built up.

God want us all to SIT, Interpret, and Prophesy. That means we all can and should.

False prophecy comes from evil spirits or the carnal mind. False prophets can be spokesman for false religions or spokespersons for themselves, masquerading as spokespersons for a divinity.

Some take the position in the church that prophecy must be 100 percent accurate or it’s a false prophet and/or prophecy. Is that the standard we have for pastors and teachers? If so, we have false teachers and pastors – and we will have no prophets and prophecy. Like pastoring, evangelizing, and teaching, we fall short. We must prove all things and hold on to what is good (and let go of the rest).

The prophetic ministry focuses on what God is doing not the negative or the sin.

I read someone’s work that believes that message of knowledge deals with the past, message of wisdom deals with the present and “the prophetic word” deals with the future”. Is that true? I don’t think so, but who cares? Perhaps that’s how God works in that person’s life and they operate in it to bless others. The revelation and prophecy is genuine so God is voting with His energizing. He’s energizing when this person activates. He does the same for us despite our different time orientation. By the way, this same person, a wonderful prophetic minister, says he got ‘discerning of spirits’ about some believers who didn’t believe that Jesus was God. I think he got MoK regarding their beliefs and he reacted predictably in a traditional denominational ‘circle the wagons’ fashion. He thinks that non-trinitarians are possessed or evil spirit propelled.

Walking by the spirit is like riding in the back of a Subaru Brat. Hold on! The devil has had centuries to sow errors and misunderstanding in the church.

Ways that God speaks to us that will allow us to have info to prophesy to others.

1. The Bible – God brings to mind scriptures that are rhema to us or others today.
2. Impressions – Acts 27:9-11, an internal sense, a feeling, “I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage…”. Ben has a feeling of loss and prophesied to a guy who had just lost a sibling to suicide. Ben felt a terrible pain in his neck and asked during a teaching is anyone else had it. A lady said she did, Ben prayed for her and she was healed overnight.

Because it’s ‘man’s day’ are we missing God’s impressions to us and missing opportunities to do what we’re made to do? Seems likely. Ouch!

1. Prophetic thoughts – “How’s John doing?” Sounds like my own voice and seems random, but when followed up on it turns out to be God voice and directed. “Where’s my keys?”

“Not every thought that comes into our mind is our own.”

1. Some thoughts are from God, some from association with current events, some from our flesh, and some demonic.
2. One way to start personal prophecy is to pray according to Ps. 40:5

“Many, O Yahweh my God, are the wonderful works that you have done, and your thoughts that are toward us. Nothing can be declared back to you. If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

Ask God to share His thoughts about someone.

1. Prophetic visions can be literal or symbolic. Like “Peter, rise, kill and eat.”

They can be internal, like a movie clip. Or external like when Elijah asked to show his servant the armies of God. An open vision. Ask the Lord to open your eyes for visions. Wait on him and take note of the things that come to your mind.

1. Dreams are a way God can communicate with us. Usually need interpretation. Usually for the one who had the dream. Many times, directional. God corrects man through dreams in Job. 33:14-18. Foretelling dreams. If an interpretation is needed, allow God to do it. Gen. 41:16 “interpretations belong to God”.
2. Direct voice of God.
3. Prophetic flow.

* Prophets and Personal Prophecy: God's Prophetic Voice Today: Guidelines for Receiving, Understanding, and Fulfilling God's Personal Word to You. 1987 Bill Hamon
* Prophesy: Releasing God's Voice. 2019 Benjamin Dixon