

PROPHETS

A guide to
Discerning
the True
and
the False



LEAH
SIVLEY

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

When I ask, “What is a prophet?” What is the first thing that naturally comes to mind? In many cases our answer may be something like this: A prophet is an office/calling upon someone’s life in which their sole responsibility is to foretell future events. However, the Bible warns us over and over, “do not be deceived.” So, should we not go to the scriptures and see if that answer is correct? Deception is everywhere! Should we not believe the Bible over any assumptions that we may have heard or have been taught?

To rightly divide God’s Word, we should do word studies and show ourselves approved. Since the first occurrence of a word in scripture usually holds the interpretation of that word, we are going to look at the first occurrence of the word prophet in God’s Word.

“Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.” Genesis 20:7 (NKJV)

Here we have the very first usage of the word prophet in the Bible. In this scripture God is speaking to Abimelech concerning Abraham. Is it not amazing that the first usage of the word prophet is God speaking? God tells Abimelech that Abraham is a prophet. Now, if our definition of a prophet is “an office/calling upon someone’s life in which their sole responsibility is to foretell future events” doesn’t this definition differ from what God is saying a prophet is?

ABRAHAM’S PROPHECIES

True Abraham was the subject of many prophetic utterances, and God did speak to him personally, and he heard from God. However, in a deep study of Abraham in God’s Word there were only a few times that can be seen in which he foretold the future according to what God had revealed to him.

When Abraham and Isaac were headed to do worship and offer an offering, he told the two men that were with them, *“Stay here with the donkey, and I and the boy will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”* Genesis 22:5 (NASB) God had shown Abraham they would both return, and he prophesied it to the two men.

Later in this same passage when Isaac asked Abraham, *“Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”* Abraham responded saying, *“God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”* Genesis 22:7-8 (NASB) Here Abraham prophesies to Isaac that God will provide. It was just that simple. Many today may not find that as a prophetic utterance.

When it was time for Isaac to have a bride Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for him. He explained to his servant that God had instructed him that Isaac’s wife would be taken from the land of his relatives and not among the Canaanites. God had shown Abraham that Isaac would not be taken there, but that a bride would be brought back for Isaac from there to him. He explained this all to his servant and thus it was so. (Genesis 22:2-60)

We see each time this prophet (that received his title from God) prophesied it was to a small crowd (two or less) and it was not lengthy but simple. Please do not take my word for it, study it out for yourself. (2 Timothy 2:15)

**JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING IS REVEALED TO A
PROPHET IT DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN GOD WANTS IT
RELEASED TO OTHERS**

“Certainly the Lord God does nothing Unless He reveals His secret plan To His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7 (NASB) We see the truth of this verse and how it lines up with what happened between God and Abraham in Genesis 18.

*“The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,” Genesis 18:17 (NASB) God must have saw Abraham as a prophet, so He had to reveal to him the coming judgment that was going to fall upon Sodom and Gomorrah, however even though Abraham knew of this coming judgement he never prophesied any warning to them! (Genesis 18:20-33) **Yet God Himself declared Abraham a prophet!***

God even told Abraham *“blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.”* Genesis 22:17 (NKJV) However, Abraham was not out there declaring that he was a prophet and that “his seed would possess the gates of his enemies.”

He treated his personal words from God kind of like Mary did when the angel of the Lord came and told her, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”* Luke 1:35 (NKJV) Did Mary run around and tell everyone that she was a prophetess and that she was going to give birth to the Messiah? No, she simple replied, *“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”* Luke 1:37 (NKJV)

If we have ears to hear and eyes to see, then we must conclude that God’s definition of a prophet is extremely far removed from our definition in modern-day Christianity.

Now, let’s look at this scripture again: ***“Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray...”*** Genesis 20:7 (NKJV) The only thing that we KNOW for sure about the nature of a prophet from the first usage here is PRAYER. God said Abraham was a prophet, and he will pray.

Next, let’s look at the very next time the word prophet occurs in God’s Word. ***“So the Lord said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.”*** Exodus 7:1

(NKJV) We now see here in this scripture that the same God who Himself declared Abraham to be a prophet also declares Aaron to be Moses' prophet. How can one man be another man's prophet? To find this answer one must back up in the scriptures a little to Exodus 4, where God is again speaking to Moses He declares, *"Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."* But he [Moses] said, *"O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."* So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: *"Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. So he [Aaron] shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God."* Exodus 4:13-16 (NKJV) Here is where we learn that the correct interpretation of a prophet is a spokesperson for God. Moses could hear from God and Aaron was the mouthpiece.

ANYONE CAN GIVE A PROPHETIC WORD

In my many years of hearing God's Word taught I have heard many preachers call Amos a "minor prophet." First, in my own personal belief, I do not believe that anyone who gives a "word from God" should ever be regarded as minor or major. Such a comment is contrary to the Word of God because there is no partiality with God. (Romans 2:11) A true prophetic word from God should always be revered as MAJOR. It is still His Word no matter how minor or major it may look in man's eyes.

Now despite men calling Amos a prophet, what does Amos declare regarding himself? We find that answer in the book of Amos chapter seven. In verses 1-7 we see that God is giving Amos warnings through visions. Upon receiving these warnings Amos was standing in the gap for the people when God was telling him of the coming judgements that He was going to bring upon the people. Thus, we see that Amos obviously had a relationship in which he could hear from God. In verses

10-11 we see that the leadership did not appreciate the word that Amos spoke over them, and this is how they responded. “...Amaziah said to Amos, “Go, you seer, flee to the land of Judah; and eat bread there and do your prophesying there! But do not prophesy at Bethel any longer, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence.” Amos 7:12-13 (NASB)

The humble way in which Amos responded was quite peculiar and nothing like many of the modern-day prophets. Amos simply said, “I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go prophesy to My people Israel.’” Amos 7:14-15 (NASB)

This reason for his response could have been because in Amos 2:12 the prophets were commanded not to prophesy, but nevertheless it still proves **God can use anyone to give a prophetic word!** “For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted” 1 Corinthians 14:31 (NASB)

HOW THE TRUE PROPHET IS BORN OR BIRTHED

True prophets are birthed by God’s Word and His Spirit. The Word of God is their final authority. Their words will always be in line with the Word of God.

You see, there is no partiality with God. What he has done for one, He is accountable to His Word to do for ALL.

True prophets will have a strong rod of correction and will point people back to the Word of God. In the Amplified Bible when prophets are mentioned it specifically states they are “...inspired preachers and expounders.”

For example, we have this in Ephesians. “And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling

missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers. His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church)," Ephesians 4:11-12 (AMPC)

And we simply cannot forget this one. "So God has appointed some in the church [for His own use]: first apostles (special messengers); second **prophets (inspired preachers and expounders)**; third teachers; then wonder-workers; then those with ability to heal the sick; helpers; administrators; [speakers in] different (unknown) tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:28 (AMPC)

PROPHECY AND HIS WORD

Let's look at some of the other prophets in God's Word, and see how this prophetic Word worked through them, shall we?

First, we begin with Ezekiel. "Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth wide and eat what I am giving you." Then I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me; and behold, a scroll was in it. When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were songs of mourning, sighing, and woe. Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll. And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you." Then I ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. Then He said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and **speak with My words to them.**" Ezekiel 2:8-10-3:1-4 (NASB) God's first requirement for Ezekiel was that he ate the scroll. This of course is a figure of speech for Ezekiel eating at God's Word. Then, **AFTER** he had eaten at God's Word Ezekiel was commanded to speak.

Now, let's look at Jeremiah where we see more clearly that what was given to Ezekiel was nothing short of God's Word. In this passage Jeremiah is speaking to God and he says, "Your words were found and

I ate them, And Your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, Lord God of armies.” Jeremiah 15:16 (NASB)

Finally, let’s look at John the revelator who has given us the revelation of Jesus Christ, which is what the book of Revelation really is! For this example, we are going to use the Amplified Classic translation, for it really makes things clear.

“But that when the days come when the trumpet call of the seventh angel is about to be sounded, then God’s mystery (His secret design, His hidden purpose), as He had [please notice this says had, which is past tense] announced the glad tidings to His servants the prophets, should be fulfilled (accomplished, completed).” [The prophetic Word is His Word that He has ALREADY given to the prophets, and it had already been recorded. **If this is true, why are we looking for a new prophecy?** Why are we looking for more than God’s Word which we KNOW to be true? We just need knowledge/revelation of the true prophecy that has been provided already!] *“Then the voice that I heard from heaven spoke again to me, saying, Go and take the little book (scroll) which is open on the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land. So I went up to the angel and asked him to give me the little book. And he said to me, **Take it and eat it.** It will embitter your stomach, though in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey. So I took the little book from the angel’s hand **and ate and swallowed it;** it was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but once I had swallowed it, my stomach was embittered. **Then they said to me, You are to make a fresh prophecy concerning many peoples and races and nations and languages and kings.**”* Revelation 10:7-11 (AMPC) Again, we see clearly that John the revelator was commanded to eat at God’s Word, (the scroll) and THEN HE WAS TO MAKE A FRESH PROPHECY! A prophecy for us today! Do we see a connection here between being one with the Word of God, and prophecy?

The very first qualification of prophesying His Word is to eat His Word! Yet, many false prophets never use His Word at all in their prophesying, nor are their prophesies scripturally sound.

Why are we still looking for new prophecies when we already have truth? What we need is a greater revelation of His truth!

JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD

THERE IS NO SEPARATION BETWEEN THE LIVING WORD AND THE WRITTEN WORD!

We must remember that Jesus is the Word of God, you simply cannot separate the written Word and the Living Word. “...*the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...*” John 1:14 (NASB) Concerning Jesus we read in Revelation, “*He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*” Revelation 19:13 (NASB)

Jesus told us, “*For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, the one who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread that came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died; the one who eats this bread will live forever.*” John 6:55-58 (NASB)

PERSECUTION

“*Indeed, all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*” 2 Timothy 3:12 (NASB)

True prophets are not traditional at all, nor do they conform to modern day religion. When we read the gospels, we can truly see how the religious groups in that day did not accept Jesus. Not only did they not accept Him, but they also sought to kill Him for doing the will of the Father and speaking His Words.

True prophets will be evil spoken of and not liked by religious people. “*Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their*

fathers to the false prophets.” Luke 6:26 (NKJV) People will not always like what they say. However, they will not gossip or talk evil towards others. They will not use flattery. They learn that their words are powerful because they are God’s spokesmen or women. Their words are His Words!

Not only are true prophets hated, but in God’s eyes they are murdered. Remember God’s Word says, *“Whoever hates his brother is a murderer ...”* 1 John 3:15 (NKJV)

Jesus told the religious people of His day, *“I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you are seeking to kill Me...”* [And why were they seeking to kill Him? Jesus goes on to say...] *“...because My word has no place in you.”* John 8:37 (NASB) Remember true prophets are born of His Word, and His Spirit. His Word is engraved forever upon their hearts!

Jesus rebuked the religious scribes and Pharisees in this manner, *“Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”* Matthew 23:31-37 (NKJV)

God does not want us to listen to false prophets who have agendas contrary to His. *“Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, They make you worthless;*

They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord.
Jeremiah 23:16 (NKJV)

It is very noteworthy to mention that it was Jeremiah who was inspired by God to write the book of Lamentations. Strong's #1958 is the word *lamentation* in the Hebrew, and it is defined as mourning and woe. In reading the books of the prophets we can see the persecution that was upon them was from the religious systems of their days, and history continues to repeat itself as Ecclesiastes 3:15 promises it would. There is nothing new under the sun.

“Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both adversity and good proceed?” Lamentations 3:37-38 (NASB)

THE WAY OF THE TRUTH WILL BE EVIL SPOKEN OF

When the high priest Ananias came down from Jerusalem to Caesarea with some elders and Tertullus (acting as spokesman and counsel) they presented to the governor Felix their evidence against Paul. Tertullus said, *“...we have found this man a perfect pest (a real plague), an agitator and source of disturbance to all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the [heretical, division-producing] sect of the Nazarenes. He also [even] tried to desecrate and defile the temple...”* Acts 24:5-6 (AMPC) Then in Acts 24:9 we read, *“The Jews also agreed and joined in the accusation, declaring that all these things were exactly so.”* Keep in mind these were religious people. Religious people will always be speaking evil of the truth of God's Word and those who stand in defense of it.

In Paul's defense this is what he declares, *“But this I confess to you, however, that in accordance with the Way [of the Lord], which they call a [heretical, division-producing] sect, I worship (serve) the God of our fathers, still persuaded of the truth of and believing in and placing full confidence in everything laid down in the Law [of Moses] or written in the prophets;”* Acts 24:14 (AMPC) Paul declares that the accusation the

religious people have against him is in accordance with the way of the Lord which they call heresy! However, Paul still stands firm in his believing in the Law of Moses and what was written of the prophets!

When Jesus is telling us about the signs of His coming, He also tells us this, *“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be massive earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrible sights and great signs from heaven. **“But before all these things,”** [Please note it says BEFORE all of these signs] *“they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, turning you over to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors **on account of My name.**”* [Remember the name of Jesus is the Word of God...Revelation 19:13] *“It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will provide you eloquence and wisdom which none of your adversaries will be able to oppose or refute. But you will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, other relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all people **because of My name.** And yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.”* Luke 21:10-19 (NASB) All of this persecution for the pure Word of God, yet He will be with us all the way leading and guiding us in speech in order that we are irrefutable in the presence of His adversaries!*

WHAT IS A TRUE PROPHETIC WORD?

The prophetic word is defined in Revelation 19:10. In the AMPC it reads, *“... **For the substance (essence) of the truth revealed by Jesus is the spirit of all prophecy [the vital breath, the inspiration of all inspired preaching and interpretation of the divine will and purpose, including both mine and yours].**”* Revelation 19:10 (AMPC)

Now, to take this a step further, in E.W. Bullinger's Commentary on Revelation it reads (concerning this verse) **“All prophecy concerns in some way the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the spirit of it: yea, the sum, and the substance of it. He Himself is the prophet.** He bore His prophetic

testimony concerning these things when on earth, in the Parables of the Kingdom, the Marriage Supper, and in the last great Prophetic discourse concerning the Great Tribulation: **and now it is given to Him to show unto His servants the things which are yet to come to pass.**"

Thus, the true prophetic word can be nothing else but the **truth concerning Jesus**. Scripturally speaking, where we are in time? What is He doing? What is His Heart? What is His desire, His plan, and His will for now?

THERE IS NO MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY THAN GOD'S WORD

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:19-21 (KJV)

How do we know if someone is prophesying to us according to God's Word? *"But he who prophesies speaks **edification and exhortation and comfort to men.**"* 1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV) Prophecies spoken from God will **edify, exhort, and comfort**. According to 2 Peter 1:21 from above true prophecy is birthed through us by the Holy Spirit.

In the time that we are living in we have too many people that are speaking that do not even have the baptism of the Holy Spirit to enable them to speak God's Word. There are many as such that have been educated in bible schools and colleges by men, *"having a form of godliness but denying its power...."* However according to the God's Word how are we to respond to such people? *"...And from such people turn away!"* 2 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)

DISCERNING PROPHECY

“Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit; Do not spurn the gifts and utterances of the prophets [do not depreciate prophetic revelations nor despise inspired instruction or exhortation or warning]. But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast.” 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (AMPC) Over and over in God’s Word He gives the warning of “DO NOT BE DECEIVED.” Why do you think that is? He tells us that because we CAN be deceived IF we are not holding fast to what is good.... HIS WORD.

One time I was talking to a person about discerning the prophecy they had just heard, and in their defense, they told me, “The bible tells us, *“Despise not prophesyings”* which is 1 Thessalonians 5:20 (KJV). Well sure, we are not to reject true prophetic utterances however, I had to go back and study the context of 1 Thessalonians 5:20. As you have just read above in the AMPC it states we are not to spurn these utterances, but right after that it says we are to *“test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast.”* That is what God’s Word plainly says about prophecy! We are to discern prophecy. We are to test and prove it through the Word of God! Why is this? It is because there are many false prophets out there! *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”* 1 John 4:1 (NKJV)

FALSE PROPHETS

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” 2 Peter 2:1-3 (NASB)

False prophets are even welcomed when they are being used by leadership to exercise their own rulings. *“The prophets prophesy falsely, and **the priests exercise rule at their own hands and by means of the prophets.** And My people love to have it so! But what will you do when the end comes?”* Jeremiah 5:31 (AMPC)

This is a deep question that God asked Jeremiah, and potentially controversial as well. Since we still have the same situations presently going on in our nation, that they did in Jeremiah’s day, God is surely asking us the same question. What is going to be our response? What will we do when the end comes if we love this? He plainly says **His people** love for the prophets to give false prophecies, and for the priests to exercise rule by the means of the false prophets!

Is it not rather disgusting, and something to be repented of, when Christians hear of a “prophet” coming to town, and they all flock to this service to see what he or she has to say? Many do not know God’s Word well enough to know if they are being deceived or not. Going to see a false prophet is no different than going to see a fortune teller or psychic. If a person is not operating under the influence of the Holy Spirit, then there can only be one other spirit they are operating under. Is this not right?

There is a psychic shop that I have drove by many times on my travels and under the name of the business its advertisement is simple... “John 3:16.” This has been on their sign for a while so why would they continue to use this as advertisement if it were not working? Now what kind of clients do you think they have? Do not be deceived to think these kinds of spirits will not present in the churches with that kind of boldness!

To put this further in context let’s back up a few verses to how God explains these certain prophets. *“And the prophets become wind, **For the word is not in them...**”* Jeremiah 5:13 (NKJV) It is a truth that there are many prophets out there that put on a good show, but they truly do not know God’s Word. A true prophet knows the Word of God and has such a fear of God that they discipline their flesh to only speak God’s Words.

We can learn from what God told Jeremiah here concerning His response, and how God worked with Him. *“Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: “Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, And this people wood, And it shall devour them.”* Jeremiah 5:14 (NKJV) It was God’s Word that Jeremiah was speaking that had the power over all the power of the enemy.

DECEPTION THROUGH SIGNS AND WONDERS

When Jesus is telling us what to look for at the time of His return, He specifically says this, *“For false christs and false prophets will arise and will provide great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.”* Matthew 24:24-25 (NASB) And why will so many people be led astray by these great signs and wonders? It is because many people are like the Jews who ask for a sign. *“For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom”* 1 Corinthians 1:22 (NASB)

In Exodus 7:9 God tells Moses and Aaron that Pharaoh will ask for a sign, and of course God gave him many signs through His true prophet Moses and Aaron as well. However just as people do today, Pharaoh rejected the true prophet, and it was to his demise. What we all need to be aware of is that the spirit that was working in Pharaoh’s wise men and sorcerers is still working in this spiritual realm today. When we read Exodus 7:8-8:19 we find that the wise men and sorcerers were able to imitate the same signs that God had manifested through Moses and Aaron. Along with Aaron and Moses they also were able to turn their staves into serpents. When Moses and Aaron turn the water into blood, they too were able to do it. Again, with their secret arts the wise men and sorcerers were able to bring plagues of frogs upon Egypt just like Moses and Aaron!

God allowed this to happen only for a season, and it was written for our learning in this day we are living in. Finally, we read that when Moses and Aaron brought plagues of gnats upon Egypt the wise men and sorcerers of Pharaoh also attempted to mimic them yet again. However,

it was the hand of God that turned the tables on these evil men and God exposed them. In a humbling moment, the “...soothsayer priests said to Pharaoh, “*This is the finger of God.*” Exodus 8:19 (AMPC)

Now let’s look at a future prophetic word in Revelation. “*And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.*” Revelation 19:20 (NASB) We see here that even the beast will use false prophets to deceive people with signs! Hello! This is written for our learning, and it is coming to pass!

Let’s look at another true prophecy yet to be fulfilled in Revelation concerning this topic, shall we? “*Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who live on it worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the presence of people.*” [Do we remember that this was a sign from God to the people through Elijah on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18:36-39?] “*And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.*” Revelation 13:11-14 (NASB) Come on people the author of deception is going to be using the same signs in God’s Word performed previously by God through His people!

Everything is manifesting for what it really is, but in the coming of the Day of the Lord the deception in the land will be so great that Jesus even said that, if possible, even the elect will be deceived! (Matthew 24:24) The only protection against deception is to read the Word of God and pray in the Spirit. God will reveal false signs and wonders to you. He wants you to know more than you want to know!

EXAMINING THE FRUITS-BUT WHAT FRUITS?

*“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing,” [Note the way these false prophets are going to come. They will be coming in a religious form.] *“but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”* [The key here is inspecting their fruits.] *“Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.”* *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’”* [Look at this, Jesus plainly says that there will be people that prophesy, cast out devils, and perform many miracles IN HIS NAME. We can certainly conclude that these prophets will in fact come in a form of religion for satanists will deny the name of Jesus altogether.] *“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”* Matthew 7:15-23 (NASB)*

It is noteworthy that when Jesus speaks of false prophets, He also tells us how to tell the difference, but many prophets have polluted this Word for their own gain.

It is a common thing for prophets to explain this passage in Matthew 7 in a way that we might interpret it like just because their prophecies are happening that is proof that their fruit is good and that they are of God. However, for a closer look at this we must go to God’s Word and look at fruit. Does God’s Word ever compare a prophetic Word to good fruit?

Paul gives us the truth of the good fruit of the Spirit here in Galatians. *“... the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even*

temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].” Galatians 5:22-23 (AMPC)

What we all need to keep in mind is that the true and the false will look so much alike in the day of the coming of the Lord. Familiar spirits work through psychics and often their words will be true as well. It is the fruit that is working through them that we must examine.

In addition to prophesying, we must discern through God’s Word if this prophet manifesting love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control self-restraint, and continence? These are the fruits of the Holy Spirit. If those fruits are not manifesting, then you should pray in the spirit for that prophet in order that God would restore them.

True prophets will not be critical of God’s people, for love is their motive. They want to see people free from the lies, so they turn them to the truth of God’s word. There is no fear of man in a true prophet, and they have no hidden agendas, nor will they be seeking for personal gain. A true prophet will manifest the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS REVEALED

Now, I realize that we have already used this next scripture for some expounding, but it is necessary to examine it again in another way that true believers will find to be most refreshing!

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.” Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)

*“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; [Do you see how Paul says that this mystery of lawlessness is ALREADY at work? Of course, it is. Jesus prophesied it would happen!] “...only He who now restrains will do so until He is removed.” [This is the good news for His people!] “Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end” [Glory! He is bringing this all to an end. And just how will this happen?] “...by the appearance of His coming;” [It is by the appearance of His coming! Hallelujah!] “that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish,” [And why will these people perish?] “because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved. **For this reason God will send upon them deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,**” 2 Thessalonians 2:7-11 (NASB) People are perishing because they are not accepting the love of the truth. Instead, they are believing the deception of wickedness complete with its false signs and lying wonders!*

You see, it is the receiving of His Word that brings salvation. *“Therefore, ridding yourselves of all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”* James 1:21 (NASB) Those who reject the love of the truth will believe that which is false.

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. **Since you have rejected knowledge,** I also will reject you from being My priest...”* Hosea 4:6 (NASB) Many have had truth preached to them, yet they chose to reject it.

This teaching is not intended to give glory to any source other than the Father and His Son, however it is written to help you see that in the day of the Lord there will be miracles and supernatural manifestations through the power of satan. It is only by receiving the love of the truth, which is His Word, that we can avoid God sending us strong

delusions that we would believe these lying manifestations to be true when they are not of God.

DREAMS

A young person who was being mentored by a prophet approached me once and was explaining to me that their mentor had told them that all dreams are from God. This is simply not true. The reason it is a lie is because God's Word speaks of false prophets having dreams. As you will read in this next passage these false prophets INTEND TO MAKE HIS PEOPLE FORGET HIS NAME BY THEIR DREAMS!

*"I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!' How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, these prophets of the deceitfulness of their own heart, **who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams** which they report to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? The prophet who has a dream may report his dream, **but let him who has My word speak My word truthfully.** What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the Lord. "Is My word not like fire?" declares the Lord, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?" Jeremiah 23:25-29 (NASB)*

A false prophet desires to deceive the body of Christ to believe every word that **they prophesy out of their own hearts, instead of what is out of God's heart.** Yes, there is a need for the true prophets of God, however we can be defiled by a false prophecy, just as we are encouraged and confirmed by a true prophecy.

We must remember that we too can hear from God for ourselves through the Holy Spirit. *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come.**"* John 16:13 (NKJV) We all must pray before going to hear the next prophet coming to town, and make sure God is leading us to go to that meeting.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV) Do not think that just because you go to church or a tent meeting that you will be hearing truth, for remember satan goes to church too, and he has ministers!

AVOIDING DEFILEMENT

THERE ARE MANY VOICES IN THE EARTH TODAY

Let this be a reminder to us of how listening to the wrong voice can paralyze the destiny God has for us.

"I went into the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut up. He said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you—at night they are coming to kill you." Nehemiah 6:10 (AMPC) You see, Nehemiah was a righteous governor standing up for the people and he had built a wall of protection from their enemies and there was no breach in it.

This was not the first fearful attack Nehemiah experienced from his adversary. At each encounter Nehemiah had a choice as to what he would choose to believe, after all he was in the will of God. Therefore, we see his bold response in verse eleven. *"But I said, Should such a man as I flee? And what man such as I could go into the temple [where only the priests are allowed to go] and yet live? I will not go in."* Then Nehemiah, had a real eye opener in verses 12-13, it reads as follows, **"And behold, I saw that *God had not sent him, but he made this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. He was hired that I should be made afraid and do as he said and sin, that they might have matter for an evil report with which to taunt and reproach me.*"** Nehemiah 6:10-13 (AMPC)

Nehemiah discerned that this prophecy was NOT from God, and it was against him. The strategy was to put fear into him and make him sin. (Just a quick word-study, this word "sin" as used here is the Hebrew

word *chata* which means *to miss the mark, a coming short, blameworthiness not necessarily willful.*)

Immediately following this Nehemiah's prayer was this, *"Remember, my God, Tobiah and Sanballat in accordance with these works of theirs, and also Noadiah the prophetess and the rest of the prophets, who were trying to frighten me."* Nehemiah 6:14 (NASB)

Nehemiah gives us an immensely powerful lesson on how listening to the wrong voices can put us into fear, which is sin, or rather unbelief.

Job 5:21 (KJV) says, *"Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue..."* The enemy will try to use every tactic that he can to promote us to fear, doubt, worry, and have unbelief. We must submit to God, resist the enemy, and ask ourselves, "Ok, what does God's Word say about our situation, and what is God telling us?" Then, we just stand on His Word!

Recently, a person told me that in their ignorance when they became a young adult a man asked them if he could read their palm. This person allowed them to read their palm and they became defiled in their ignorance because of the "word" that this palm reader spoke over them.

The palm reader gave a word that two people who were very close to this person would die. Well guess what? It happened. Yes, the word they spoke came to pass, but this word DID NOT come from the Holy Spirit, and it led to defilement.

If you are asking why in the world would I bring up a palm reader in a guide to discerning true and false prophets it is because in essence if this palm reader came to a church or a Christian meeting of some sort dressed in a suit, or wearing a cross necklace, or a fish sticker on their vehicle, they would be coming in sheep's clothing. Just because a person who calls themselves a prophet comes in sheep's clothing does not mean they would not defile us.

A spirit that is not of God, is simply not of God. We can set ourselves back years or become deeply hurt if we allow ourselves to be defiled by false words. When we listen to the wrong voices we can be defiled.

A TRUE PROPHET WILL PASS THE SPIRITUAL TEST

So, you may be thinking at this point, “What is the spiritual test?” If so, let’s go right to the scriptures to expound.

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God.” 1 John 4:15 (NASB) This is very straightforward. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. By this confession we KNOW that God remains in them, and they remain in Him!

TRUE PROPHECY SHOULD BE SCRIPTURAL

“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.” Proverbs 30:5 (NKJV) As this scripture is true, in Proverbs 30:6 we have been given the command, *“Do not add to His words...”* Well, why is this so important? It is because if you do add to His Words He will, *“...rebuke you, and you [will] be found a liar.”* Proverbs 30:6 (NKJV) Revelation coincides with this, however, takes it a few steps further in saying, *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;”* Revelation 22:18 (NKJV)

Now, just as equally important as not adding to His Words, He also gives us strict instruction to not take away from His Words. Some people like to take one verse on a subject, and stand on it, throwing away all the other verses having to do with this topic because it does not fit, “what they believe.” Dear friend, let us be reminded, *“if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”* Revelation 22:19 (NKJV) Maybe, just

maybe, one might need to re-think their doctrines/believing and throw some of that away before they begin to throw away verses not conforming to man's beliefs. Remember God makes no mistakes, and none of us want to mess around with losing our part out of the Book of Life, the holy city, and all other things written in His book. Isn't that right?

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, openly declares a spiritual law resulting in God's judgement, by saying, "...if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!" Galatians 1:8 (AMPC) You see, when people begin to teach, and preach things contrary to a rightly divided Word of God they are falling under a curse beyond a curse; anathema.

After all what is the definition of the Word of God? "For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

YOU ALL CAN PROPHECY ONE BY ONE

"Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7 (NKJV)

Yes, it is true that God uses prophecy to communicate with His people, however somewhere along the way there has been an awful malfunction in the body of Christ that only certain people can prophecy.

"For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged." 1 Corinthians 14:31 (NKJV) Here in first Corinthians we see it reads you ALL can prophesy! If this is not plain enough, let's look at the meaning of this word *all* in the Greek. In this verse the word *all* is Strong's #3956 and means: *each, every; each part(s) of a totality*. Therefore, we see that it is God's will for each part of the body of Christ

to prophesy. We are the ones who have been trusted with His Word, and it is up to us to speak it!

“Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching). For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]. But [on the other hand], the one who prophesies [who interprets the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching] speaks to men for their upbuilding and constructive spiritual progress and encouragement and consolation.” 1 Corinthians 14:1-3 (AMPC)

Many people want to see a prophet for the simple fact that they do not believe that they can hear from God. Believers should all be able to hear from God loud and clear. Remember, most of the time, in the Old Testament the people who requested a prophet of the Lord were unbelievers. This should tell us something! In Hebrews 1 we see that we now have something much better than they had in the Old Testament! *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, ...” Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV)* Do we see how much better we have it?

Let us be reminded that Jesus told us, *“I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.]”* John 15:15 (NKJV) We know what the Master is doing! Jesus openly declares that He has revealed to us everything that He has heard and learned from the Father! God never prefers one over another; we are all the body of Christ; and we can all prophesy God’s Word-one by one!

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11 (NKJV)

“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.” 1 John 2:20 (NKJV)

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know” Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

GOD’S OWN POSSESSION

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession ...” 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) Wow, such encouragement here. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession! For a believer it just could not get any better than that. However, what characteristics do these people who are God’s own possession have? To get a better look at this we go to 1 Corinthians.

We must first recognize that because God is Spirit (John 4:24) and we are of God (1 John 4:4) and that we too are filled with His Spirit (*pneuma hagian*) in all its manifestations. ***“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NASB)*** Please notice how it says the manifestation is given to EACH ONE.

Then of course it goes on to explain the nine manifestations of the Spirit. ***“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one individually just as He wills.**” 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 (NASB) The Holy Spirit***

(*pneuma Theo*) distributes the manifestations of His Spirit (*pneuma hagion*) to His chosen people individually as He wills!

GOD IS WATCHING OVER HIS WORD TO PERFORM IT

“Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.” Jeremiah 1:12 (NASB) This is what God told Jeremiah and nothing has changed. When we speak His Word, He has promised to perform it.

God told us this, *“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it produce and sprout, And providing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the purpose for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11 (NASB) His Word will never fail, though man’s prophecies may.*

In this next verse we will see how God is going to expose those operating under a spirit not of His, and in addition to that He WILL confirm the Word of His servants and carry out the purpose of His messengers.

*“This is what the LORD says, He who is your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb: “I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth alone, Causing the omens of diviners to fail, Making fools of fortune-tellers; Causing wise men to turn back And making their knowledge ridiculous, **Confirming the word of His servant And carrying out the purpose of His messengers...**” Isaiah 44:24-26 (NASB) Isn’t this refreshing?*

IN ADDITION TO THE FACTS ALREADY PRESENTED HERE ARE A FEW “RED FLAGS” TO LOOK FOR WHEN DISCERNING

A. FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE SHOULD ASK, “IS THIS PROPHECY THAT WAS GIVEN SUPPORTED BY A RIGHTLY DIVIDED WORD OF GOD?” It does not have to be like a dream of a “beast with 10 horns” per say, like in Revelation however, it is the responsibility of the man or woman of God to give a firm foundation proving that what was said is “thus saith the Lord.” If the prophecy is not supported by God’s Word (rightly divided), or if it is not scripturally sound then do not waste your time trying to figure it out. By scripturally sound I mean if it contradicts God’s Word in any way then you must ask, “How can this be God?” It is not being rude; it is simply trying the spirits. Remember, *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”* 1 John 4:1 (NKJV)

B. CHARGING FOR A CONFERENCE OR MATERIAL. When Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write God’s Word this scripture was included for a reason. *“For if I do this work of my own free will, then I have my pay (my reward); but if it is not of my own will, but is done reluctantly and under compulsion, I am [still] entrusted with a [sacred] trusteeship and commission. What then is the [actual] reward that I get? Just this: that in my preaching the good news (the Gospel), I may offer it [absolutely] free of expense [to anybody], not taking advantage of my rights and privileges [as a preacher] of the Gospel.”* 1 Corinthians 9:17-18 (AMPC)

If God is leading you to support a person or ministry financially that is scriptural, **and you should**. A true prophet has the heart of God, and it is God’s heart that His Words should be given without a requirement of charging. Where do you ever read that ANYONE in God’s Word charged money for relaying what God had said? Did Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jesus, Peter or even Paul ever charge anyone for the messages they relayed from God? Consider this, does God charge us for giving us His infinite wisdom? *‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’* Acts 20:35 (NKJV)

C. CONSIDER LOOKING AT THE FOUNDATION. If this person/ministry has a “what we believe” statement that does not line up with the Word of God, then they have already given heed to falsehood. A true prophet believes God’s Word over man’s doctrines. (Please do not forget about the Spiritual test.) Denominations were created through division and man created their own doctrines. Division is not of God, for Christ is not divided. Jesus is a true prophet, and He was never accepted in the religious systems of His day. Thus, affiliation with a certain denomination built upon a foundation with teachings contrary to God’s Word is a red flag.

D. PRAY- We must remember that we have the Holy Spirit in us, and since God is not a respecter of persons if something is said and it IS of God and we are desiring to know truth, He will not withhold any good thing from His people, will He? Certainly not! *“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”* 1 John 2:27 (NKJV)

E. MANY WORDS-This is a huge one. I have had many people send me various prophetic words and it seems to be a trend that they are very lengthy. This is not to say that ALL lengthy prophetic words are not of God, but if it is lengthy then it should not bring confusion to someone who is a student of God’s Word.

One day I was reading one of these prophetic words and this scripture came to my heart. *“When there are many words, wrongdoing is unavoidable, But one who restrains his lips is wise..”* Proverbs 10:19 (NASB)

Right after that God reminded me of this scripture, *“For He [Who is the source of their prophesying] is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and order. As [is the practice] in all the churches of the saints (God’s people)”* 1 Corinthians 14:33 (AMPC)

Do we see how when we study the Word of God, and we hear and read things that the Holy Spirit can use scriptures to help us in discerning? God was showing me that the prophetic word I was reading was not of Him, and it was wasting valuable time that I could have been praying for someone. This was a distraction to me. I must be about the Father's business!

A certain man who was an extraordinarily successful attorney was asked once about what strategies he used to be so successful to which he replied, "I flood the jury with information." He would flood the juries with so much information that rather than consider the validity of the information that was provided to them they would instead focus on the amount of information and thus because of the overwhelming number of accusations they would rule in favor of his client. This man later became a preacher.

F. WHERE IS THE PROPHECY POINTING US TO LOOK TO OR WHAT IS IT CAUSING US TO TRUST IN? *"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that **no flesh should glory in His presence.**" 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NKJV)*

True prophecy should always point us back to God and His Word for our deliverance, and salvation. When we begin to put our eyes upon man, or anything that should originate from man as our answer that is when we become deceived. The actual reason we are deceived in this case is because **we have allowed an idol to replace God in our time of need.**

What does God's Word say about people who trust in men? *"This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the Lord. For he will be like a bush in the desert, And will not see when prosperity*

comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt that is not inhabited.” Jeremiah 17:5-6 (NASB) If prophecy points to make a man or something made from man our strength in time of need **then we can turn our heart away from God.** We can be defiled and come under a curse in this case.

“Do not trust in noblemen, In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.”
Psalm 146:3 (NASB)

*“It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in people.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord Than to trust in noblemen.”* Psalms 118:8-9 (NASB)

*“Oh give us help against the enemy, For rescue by man is worthless.
Through God we will do valiantly, And it is He who will trample down our enemies.”* Psalms 60:11-12 (NASB)

Yes, God can and does use mankind, but we look to His Word and trust in His perfect deliverance. We are to look away from man but look unto the Word who became flesh. *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **LOOKING UNTO JESUS**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

PROPHECY CONCERNING THE REMNANT

The time has now turned to us! What do the scriptures in God’s Word prophesy about the believers in this generation? *“...these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.”* Mark 16:17-18 (AMPC) It is time for continual fulfillment of this prophecy.

A few years back when I was praying in the Spirit for the world harvest the Holy Spirit brought this verse to my remembrance, “*For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God’s sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship].*” Romans 8:19 (AMPC) Right after He reminded me of this, He told me, “I will not disappoint them.” I was overwhelmed in the Spirit!

SOLE PURPOSE OF THIS TEACHING

The purpose of this study is intended to help you, the reader, discern for yourself by the Holy Spirit concerning what a true prophet is or is not.

We are not to be led by the prophets but by the Spirit of God, however a true prophet can confirm what God has already spoken unto you.

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son ...” Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV)

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14 (NKJV)

In conclusion, we must remember that satan does have ministers. *“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness...”* [Remember the wolves will come in sheep’s clothing.] *“...whose end will be according to their works.”* 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (NKJV) These ministers not only specialize in deception, but also distraction. If they cannot deceive you right off the bat, you may spend long hours of unnecessary time trying to receive a revelation of something they have prophesied, when there is no sound revelation to receive. In fact, remember you can be defiled!

“But as at that time the son who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one who was born according to the Spirit, so it is

even now.” Galatians 4:29 (NASB) The purpose of this teaching is to give you scriptural insight on which is which. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:6 (NKJV)

There are too many of us that God is speaking to that are not speaking up and standing for His righteousness right now. God has blessed us with a voice, and He intends on us using His voice and speaking His oracles and prophecies to build the body of Christ, for there are too many religious people who are using their voices to tear the body apart.

It is time to speak up, *“For I [Myself] will give you a mouth and such utterance and wisdom that all of your foes combined will be unable to stand against or refute.” Luke 21:15 (AMPC)* God needs vessels. This is not the time for those who are born of His Word and His Spirit to stand behind and be silent, or idle. *“...do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:11-12 (NKJV)*

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*“Finally, brethren, pray for us,
that the Word of the Lord
may have free course,
and be glorified, even as it is with you.”*

2 Thessalonians 3:1

“So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed”

Acts 19:20

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PO BOX 842828

HILDALE, UTAH 84784

(435) 644-8675

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