



NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS



"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6, NKJV)

From Malachi onward, 400 years passed without the voice of any prophet being heard among the people of God. Because of this silence, the people of Israel considered the canon of Scripture (that is, the books that make up the Old Testament) to be closed.

However, God did not remain silent for much longer. In due time, He sent a new prophet: John the Baptist (Matthew 11:7-9). From that moment on, the prophets reappeared. They were responsible, among other tasks, for writing the New Testament.

What were the roles of these new prophets and prophetesses? Who were they? Were there false prophets, as in Old Testament times?



Roles of the prophets in the New Testament



New Testament Prophets:



Jesus, the prophesied prophet



The apostles and the prophets



Prophetesses



Paul's co-workers



False prophets

ROLES OF THE PROPHETS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men" (1 Corinthians 14:3)

In the New Testament, prophecy is presented as a gift of the Holy Spirit, which was poured out abundantly (Rom. 12:6). In a single church there could be so many prophets that they had to take turns speaking (1 Cor. 14:29-31).

What roles did these prophets play? (Rev. 19:10; 1:1; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Cor. 14:3; Acts 15:32).

His main mission was to lead people to Jesus

To bear witness to Jesus



They revealed events that extended even to the present day

Announcing the future



To build a strong church that can withstand the attacks of the enemy

Edification



To declare sin, so that people can repent

Exhortation



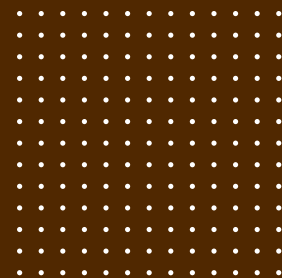
Judas and Silas were sent to the churches for this specific purpose

Comfort





NEW
TESTAMENT
PROPHETS



JESUS, THE PROPHESED PROPHET

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear." (Deuteronomy 18:15)

Jesus was considered a prophet by his contemporaries (Mt. 21:11; Mk. 6:15; Lk. 7:16; Jn. 6:14).

He himself attributed this title to himself (Mr. 6:4; Lk. 13:33).

Peter specified that Jesus was the Prophet/Messiah announced by Moses and the other prophets (Deut. 18:15; Acts 3:18-26).

But Jesus did not write the Word of God, but He is THE WORD (John 1:1).



He is not just “a light that shines in a dark place,” as the other prophets were, but He is THE LIGHT (2 Peter 1:19; Jn. 1:9; 8:12).

His work goes beyond that of any prophet. Jesus is the only one who can offer eternity to all of us by virtue of his life, death, and resurrection.



THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS

"which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets" (Ephesians 3:5 NIV)

The apostles and prophets of the New Testament have common characteristics:

**They are
people sent
by God
(Lk. 11:49)**



**They receive
gifts to lead the
church
(1 Cor. 12:28-29;
Eph. 4:11-12)**



**They are the
foundation
of the
church
(Eph. 2:20)**



**They receive
revelations
(Eph. 3:5)**



**They rejoice
in justice
(Rev. 18:20)**

When mentioned together, the apostles precede the prophets (except in Luke 11:49). Peter equates the apostles with the ancient prophets (2 Peter 3:2).

The apostles were specially commissioned to be witnesses of the resurrection by Jesus himself (Acts 10:40-41).

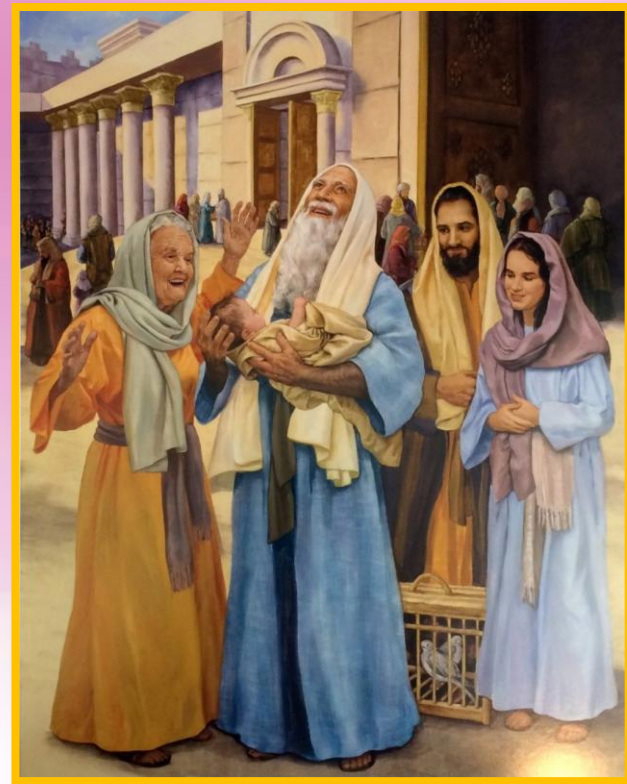


The New Testament mentions several prophets, some by name: Barnabas (apostle), Simon, Lucius, Manaen, Saul (apostle), Judas, Silas, and Agabus (Acts 11:27; 13:1; 15:32; 19:6-7; 21:10).



PROPHETESSES

“[Philip the evangelist] had four unmarried daughters who prophesied” (Acts 21:9 NVI)



The only prophetess mentioned by name in the New Testament is Anna, who “spoke about the child [Jesus] to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:36-38 NVI).

The four daughters of Philip the evangelist also received the gift of prophecy (Acts 21 :8-9).

Furthermore, prophecy is mentioned as a common gift, both in women and in men (1 Cor. 11:4-5).

Joel announced beforehand that the Holy Spirit would work so that sons, daughters, old men, young men, servants, and maidservants would prophecy (Joel 2:28-29).



PAUL'S CO-WORKERS

"Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well." (1 Timothy 1:18 NIV)



In addition to apostles, prophets, and prophetesses, some of Paul's helpers are mentioned who, like Silas and Barnabas, had the gift of prophecy:

TIMOTHY



His call to ministry was prophesied (1 Tim. 1:18). He was co-author with Paul of the epistles: 2 Corinthians (2 Cor. 1:1); Philippians (Phil. 1:1); Colossians (Col. 1:1); 1 Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1:1); 2 Thessalonians (2 Thess. 1:1); and Philemon (Phil. 1:1).

TITUS



He fulfilled several prophetic functions, such as edification (2 Cor. 8:6); exhortation (Titus 2:6, 9, 15); and consolation (2 Cor. 7:13)

FALSE PROPHETS

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1 NVI)

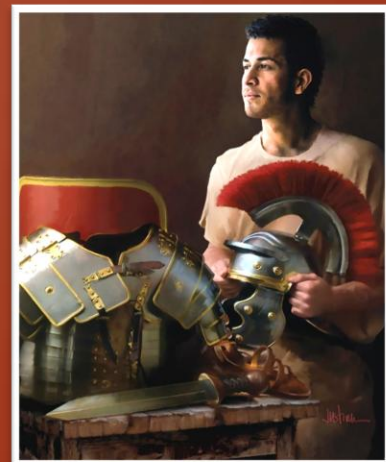
Jesus warned that false prophets would arise, whom he called "ravenous wolves" (Mt. 24:24; 7:15). These false prophets began to appear even within the early church (1 Jn. 4:1).

Paul warned the elders of Ephesus that "ravenous wolves" would arise among them (Acts 20:29). He warned the Corinthians about the existence of "false apostles" (2 Corinthians 11:13).

True prophecy aligns with God's Word, points to Christ, and builds up the church, while false prophets promote divisive doctrines and self-interest.

We believers are called to examine the prophets and make sure that all their messages are consistent with Scripture and Christ-centered.

Our only defense against false prophets (and against the evil powers that direct them) is to put on the armor that God has provided for us (Eph. 6:10-18).



“Patriarchs, prophets, and apostles spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and they plainly stated that they spoke not by their own power, nor in their own name. They desired that no credit might be ascribed to them, that no one might regard them as the originators of anything whereof they might glory. They were jealous for the honor of God, to whom all praise belongs. They declared that their ability and the messages they brought were given them as delegates of the power of God. God was their authority and sufficiency.”

EGW (To Be Like Jesus, July 30)

APPENDIX: THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF ELLEN G. WHITE'S MINISTRY

Ellen G. White's ministry had two fundamental focuses: to bring people to Jesus; and to direct their attention to the Bible.

FIRST AXIS: JESUS

After the 1888 congress, when asked about the topics discussed, she replied: “I have been presenting it to you for the last 45 years—the matchless charms of Christ” (Sermons and Talks, vol. 1, p. 116) .



SECOND AXIS: THE BIBLE

Ellen never claimed that her writings were superior to the Bible but always urged that they be tested by it. As a messenger of the Lord, she considered herself a “lesser light” guiding people to the “greater light,” the Bible (Selected Messages, vol. 3, p. 29).

