

PROPHECY: THE JESUS REVELATION



I've never considered myself the most prophetic guy in the room, but I have had the experience of prophetic dreams for well over twenty years. Mostly these are given on occasion throughout any given year. Some time ago, I began to keep a journal of them both to help me remember and to observe how often they come, or don't come. I've had a wide variety of dreams that have covered multiple topics, some governmental, many personal and directive, and still others serve as warnings or exhortations of some sort. I've never experienced an open vision or any type of activity where my Spirit has been taken somewhere by the Lord as others have. I've never seen an angel, or a demon, and I don't usually have very jaw-dropping or detailed words of knowledge. I've often asked the Lord for a greater increase of the prophetic, and for more experiences, and to see Him visibly. Sometimes these requests are made mostly for my sake and other times

because I desire to have something of greater significance to offer to others. I've learned something though. While it is true that some, and that is currently the vast minority, of believers do function in quite powerful and revelatory supernatural experiences with God, the biblical definition of the prophetic is far grander than mere experiences through dreams and visions and other type of similar encounters.

¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "*See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.***" -Rev.19:10

The central pillar of the prophetic movement from Heaven's perspective is the revelation of the person of Christ. This is what makes the scripture prophetic. Jesus said, "³⁹ *You search **the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; **and these are they which testify of Me.***" -Jn.5:39. All prophetic activity should revolve around the works and worth of Christ, whether such expressions are realized through spiritual gifts, or music, singing, writing or knowledge from dreams and visions or any other divinely inspired supernatural activity. In Acts 2 we have the record of the prophet Joel's long-awaited promise of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the general populace of those who put their hope in Christ. ¹⁷ *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, **that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,***" -Joel 2:28. And when the Spirit is released this way people *will* prophesy! It is the nature of the Holy Spirit to glorify the person of Jesus. The Holy Spirit *is* the Spirit of prophecy. ²⁶ *"But when **the Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.**"* - Jn.15:26. Whether we're talking about what many call the *simple prophetic* (exhortation, edification and encouragement 1 Cor.14:3), or something involving great signs and power displays, every authentic expression of the prophetic ought to exalt the work and worth of Christ.

I was given a dream on August 17, 2019. In it I went to see a man that I considered both prophetically gifted and of a mature character. I was walking through some great spiritual trouble and began to pour my heart out to him. Immediately he began to weep and tell me that my troubles were actually a visit from the Lord, and He rebuked me for coming to him to brag about it. In my spirit I knew He was wrong. Then I heard the Lord say, "*They're trained, they're equipped and not one of them can hear My voice!*" He was speaking of the many so-called prophetic voices who have mastered all of the latest

practical training tips and tools, taken the classes, read the books and done the homework, and yet, they do not carry the word of the Lord. ¹⁶ **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.** ¹⁷ *They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You shall have peace"; and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'"* ¹⁸ **For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?** -Jer.23:16-18. Jeremiah's prophetic ministry to the city of Jerusalem was marked in part by the multiplicity of many would-be prophetic ministries all craving an opportunity to swing for the fences as it were when their turns came to prophesy publicly. Political tensions and heightened military aggressions were the standard in the Ancient Near East at that time. God was disciplining His own people with increasing severity because they would not relent from their sinfulness and return to Him. Jeremiah had prophesied for decades that God would indeed follow through with the just judgment for their sin if they would not repent and indeed, they had not repented. Jeremiah faithfully carried the word of the Lord for some decades while a flourishing prophetic culture with access to kings and princes and leaders continued to dream and see and say all the while being completely disengaged from God Himself.

God is jealous for His name and for His word. He wants them back. He wants the prophetic ministry back. Gifts and callings are to be aligned with Him as a person and with what He is really saying and what He is really feeling while He says it. So many have sold out for a quick flash-in-the-pan type reward system when they "prophesy". Many have no problem asserting their leadership under the banner of "*I heard the Lord say...*". Many have no hesitation whatsoever about bolstering their platform as an influencer while concocting a gospel of Bible-truths and pop-cultural motivational techniques. Many have absolutely no problem re-interpreting grace for a distracted church in order to make difficult truths a bit more palatable. ¹¹ **For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people [only] slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace.** -Jer.8:11

Prophetic ministry was never meant to be a show or to provide the church with a new form of entertainment or as a means of avoiding the difficulty of studying and interpreting the scripture or of making difficult choices and thinking critically about ones' own life and wellbeing. Prophecy is the unveiling of the revelation of God's truth, beauty, power and

affections related to any and every point and detail from eternity past to eternity future. God is looking to culture a generation of prophetic people who know Him as unsurpassingly beautiful, who know how to rightly handle the word of truth, which is the scripture, who understand the times and the seasons in which they live and minister and who are loyal to the desire of the Spirit. God searches the inward parts of a man that He may know them and mature them. He is not fooled by personality, giftedness or natural human ability as a substitute for those who have sat in the council of the Lord, or as John the Baptist said about himself, *"But the friend of the Bridegroom...stands and hears Him."* -Jn.3:29. The promise of the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit didn't just promise men the ability to prophecy, it was a commitment to process our character that we would grow up into Him who is the head that we might become like Him, like His glorious image. The ability to hear, and bear, the word of the Lord is wrought in the confines of the wrestle of deep devotion and costly discipleship.

⁴ ***"The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. ⁵ The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away."*** -Is.50:4-5

God is calling prophets forth whom He can anoint with power for the sake of His glory and for the revelation of His beauty that the whole earth may know of His splendor and tremble under the weight of His presence!