

Remnant Life Church
02.12.23
Receiving a Prophetic Word
Pt 2
Luke 1:8-12; 26-33

The first recorded prophecy in the Bible can be found in the third chapter of Genesis

- It was given by God regarding His Son Jesus Christ and His defeat of satan, death, and sin
- ...*He will crush your head and you will bruise His heel.* (Gen 3:15)

That was the first prophetic word spoken in the Bible

I believe the Bible shows us three avenues through which His Will and Word became known to His people through prophecy.

1. First, through the speaking of His word to the heart and mind of an individual
2. Second, through dreams or visions
3. And then third, through angelic visitation

We got through most of the first one last week...

Through the speaking of His Word to the heart and minds of a person

- We have the prophets of the Old Testament as the primary examples of God's word being given under the old covenant
 - The old covenant meaning before Jesus came
- The gift of prophecy means speaking under the direct supernatural influence or inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- Within the OT it was men with familiar names like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel as well as many others
 - A prophet of God speaks on God's behalf
 - Which each of these men did primarily to the nation of Israel
 - And much of what they said was in reference to the coming of the Messiah
- Consider these words you often read in the OT
 - The word of the Lord came...
 - *Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: (I Sam 15:10)*
 - *But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: (2 Sam 7:4)*
 - *The word of the LORD came to Solomon: (I Kings 6:11)*
 - Goes on with Jehu, Elijah, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and many more
- Were these men better? More spiritual? Perfect? Without sin?
 - Not at all
 - But they were men of humility which I believe is one of the most important qualities of a Christians life that demonstrates the presence of Jesus to others
 - For example, when Joseph was brought before Pharaoh in Genesis 41 listen to his words

- *Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.” Gen 41:15-16*
 - When was the last time you heard someone say that about something that really mattered?
 - This is why God protected, advanced, and spoke through Joseph – his heart was humble before God
- From the time of the last prophet, seen in the final OT book of Malachi, there would be a 400-year time of silence before God would speak through another man again
 - John the Baptist was the last of the old covenant prophets
 - John was the precursor, the advance man if you will, to the time of the start of Jesus’ ministry which would be the new covenant
- God continued to speak through the NT but because of Jesus not nearly as often or so widespread
 - The word prophet appears over 350 times in the OT
 - But only half that in the New
- Who were some of these NT prophets?
 - Then name Agabus is referenced in **Luke 11 & 21** following Pentecost
 - Jude and Silas in **Acts 15:32** who would both later accompany Paul on his missionary journeys
 - The 4 daughters of Phillip (**Acts 21:8-9**)

What must be understood from both the old and new testament prophets is that there was never just one type of person

- What do I mean by that?
 - The priests had to come from the line of Levi (**Deut 18**)
 - The kings through the line of David after Saul (**Jer 17**)
 - Jesus through the line of Judah (**Isa 11**)
 - But God spoke, and continues to speak, to any and all who will listen with a humble heart that desires the things of God in their life
- Why does God give prophetic words
 1. To speak of things yet to come
 2. To encourage, improve, and console
 3. To bring correction or warning of the consequence of sinful behavior
- God was very present then just as He is today

Through Dreams and Visions

- Abraham, Jacob, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joseph and even the 3 wise men all received dreams and visions along with many more
- A vision is often received while a person is awake although it can also come within a dream which obviously comes at night or when the person is asleep
 - Katerina has received these in both forms
- The purposes of both the dream and the vision are identical although the structure of one may differ from the other

- Again, the purpose of a vision or dream is for God to convey a message through a picture, an activity, a representation, or a metaphor
 - Visions tend to be more literal
 - While dreams tend to be more symbolic in meaning
 - For this reason, an interpretation is often needed
 - Many times, God will give the interpretation to the person having the vision or it would be obvious in order to be able to tell others the meaning
 - Other times, the meaning may not be immediately known, and a period of time must pass before clarity is received or recognized
 - In **Gen 37** God gave Joseph 2 dreams but he did not recognize their meaning until over 13 years later
 - Or the dream may be interpreted by someone else
 - Katerina has been given this gift and ability
 - It takes time, prayer, and an understanding of how God most often uses symbolism
- God did not always give the dreams to His followers or the prophets themselves to accomplish His will
 - In **Gen 40** God gave Pharoah's baker and cupbearer dreams that Joseph interpreted for them
 - In **Gen 41** God gave Pharoah 2 dreams that Joseph, again, interpreted
 - In all Joseph was a part of 6 dreams given by God to foretell what was to come but only 2 were given to Joseph himself
 - In **Daniel 2** God gave a dream to Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel not only interpreted but God told him the dream itself
 - Then another dream in **Daniel 4**
 - Dreams and visions were ways that God gave information but since He is not bound by the physical restrictions we are, He can take the individual to a point in the past, the present or the future