

Remnant Life Church
02.05.23
Receiving a Prophetic Word

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
- It was the way that God was going to provide a way for us to be reconciled to Himself
- Jesus would sacrifice His life for ours paying the penalty for sin on our behalf (Eph 2:1-10)
- ...He will crush your head and you will bruise His heel. (Gen 3:15)

In part the prophecy has been fulfilled

- Jesus was bruised when He went to the cross
- satan's head has been crushed, his defeat has been assured
- And his final judgment will come when God casts him into the eternal lake of fire

That was the first prophetic word spoken in the Bible

This morning I would like to begin examining how these prophetic words came throughout the Bible

- First, remember a godly word comes from God
- The counterfeit or twisted words found in the activities of the occult come from satan
 - There are no other possible points of origin possible
 - They may not seem immediately dark or evil, but the counterfeit of God's creation of the prophetic comes from the author of lies
 - Jesus said that satan can only lie
 - He is the father of lies
 - It is his native tongue (John 8:44)
 - This means we must always be on guard so as not to believe the lies
- We will talk about how to do that but first, how did the prophetic words of God come to His people?
 - And do they still?

Throughout the Bible, in both the old and new testaments, God was speaking to His people

- 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
 - a. Within this method there were two camps in the OT
 - b. That of the prophet and the seer
 - i. The prophet received the word from God through the Holy Spirit and then it was spoken directly
 - ii. The seer was given pictures through the dreams or visions and was slower to be understood
 1. Most times these required an interpretation or would be revealed over time as they were a representation or symbolic
 2. Other times it was literal

- c. In **I Chon 29:29** we read that Samuel was a seer, Nathan was a prophet, and Gad was a seer
 - d. In **2 Sam 24:11** we read that Gad was actually both
 - e. In the NT they were both called prophet and you will not see the word seer after the book of Micah
3. And then third, through angelic visitation

Let's look briefly at each of these

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

- Following the entrance of sin into the line of man, God could no longer communicate face-to-face
 - How we communicate with one another is limited by our physical makeup
 - God has no such limitations
 - He can therefore use any vehicle He desires to speak to a person
 - In the same manner God is not contained by time
 - God is not only in the past, in the present, and in the future
 - But He is in them all at the same time
 - We are not capable of fully understanding this, but it is why God's words are always true and right
 - He is perfect in all things!
- 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
 - It is the direct word of God, His mind or counsel
 - Which is why it can never be wrong
 - You may recognize some of these words as the same used to describe how the 66 books of the Bible were written
 - Through divine inspiration
- Those who received these words through the inspiration of God were called *nah-vie*
 - Translates as one who witnesses or testifies
 - It is derived from the word *nah-vah* which means to testify or prophecy by inspiration
 - And God gave Israel many *nah-vie* to speak His word to the people
- Within the OT the primary men of this supernatural ability were the writing prophets
 - Usually divided into two groups
 - The first are the major – **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel** and **Daniel**
 - The second are the 12 minor prophets from **Hosea** through the final books of the OT ending with **Malachi**
 - The distinction of major and minor were not based on the importance of their content but rather on the length of their writing
- The background and meaning of the word for prophet can be seen in the appearance of Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh in **Exodus 5-12**

- Moses argued with God at the time of his call to go back to Egypt from the land of Midian where he had been for 40 years, saying that he would not be able to speak adequately or clearly (Ex 4:10)
- God's response is found in Ex 7:1
 - *Then the Lord said to Moses, See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet.*
- IOW, the prophet, in this case Aaron, would speak for another
 - Aaron was speaking on Moses' behalf
 - Moses was obviously still a prophet as God spoke to Him more intimately than anyone since Adam
 - Remember when he came back down from Mt. Sinai his face glowed or was radiant because of his time spent with God (Ex 34:29)
 - A prophet of God speaks on God's behalf
- 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
 - They were just like you and me – sinful, with faults and flaws
 - But in order to have a true word from God, a person must be willing to be humble, walk in love, and lay down and relinquish the need to be told that we are right
 - IOW – it is God and God alone having nothing to do with the individual other than being the vessel used to speak the words
 - They were available, they listened, and they gave all the glory to only God