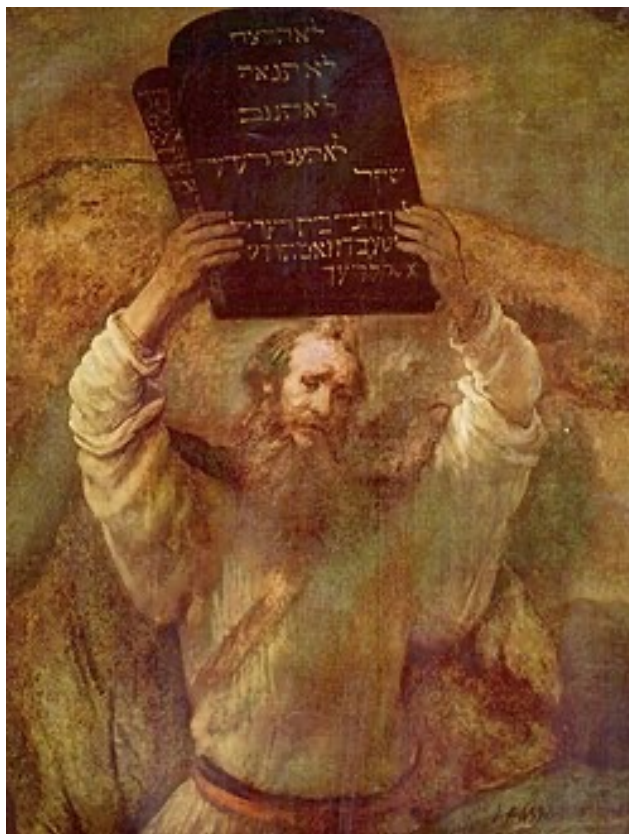


## What is a Prophet ?



A prophet in the biblical context is an individual chosen by God to deliver His messages and guidance to the people.

Prophets play a crucial role throughout the Bible, serving as God's spokespersons, warning of impending judgment, calling for repentance, and revealing God's will and future plans.

The Hebrew term for prophet is "navi," which means "one who is called" or "one who announces."

## **Old Testament Prophets**

The Old Testament is replete with prophets who were instrumental in guiding the Israelites.

Some of the most prominent prophets include:

### **Moses:**

Often considered the greatest prophet in Israel's history, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and received the Law from God on Mount Sinai.

### **Deuteronomy 34:10 New Living Translation**

**10** There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

### **Samuel:**

A pivotal figure during the transition from the period of the judges to the monarchy, Samuel anointed the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

### **Deuteronomy 34:10 New International Version**

**10** Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face,

## **Elijah and Elisha:**

These prophets were known for their miraculous deeds and staunch opposition to idolatry.

Elijah famously confronted the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (**1 Kings 18**), and Elisha continued his mentor's work, performing many miracles.

### **1 Kings 18:1-40 New Living Translation**

#### **The Contest on Mount Carmel**

**18** Later on, in the third year of the drought, the Lord said to Elijah, “Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!”

**2** So Elijah went to appear before Ahab.

Meanwhile, the famine had become very severe in Samaria.

**3** So Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. (Obadiah was a devoted follower of the Lord.

**4** Once when Jezebel had tried to kill all the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah had hidden 100 of them in two caves. He put fifty prophets in each cave and supplied them with food and water.)

**5** Ahab said to Obadiah, “We must check every spring and valley in the land to see if we can find enough grass to save at least some of my horses and mules.”

**6** So they divided the land between them. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

**7** As Obadiah was walking along, he suddenly saw Elijah coming toward him. Obadiah recognized him at once and bowed low to the ground before him. “Is it really you, my lord Elijah?” he asked.

**8** “Yes, it is,” Elijah replied. “Now go and tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’”

**9** “Oh, sir,” Obadiah protested, “what harm have I done to you that you are sending me to my death at the hands of Ahab?”

**10** For I swear by the Lord your God that the king has searched every nation and kingdom on earth from end to end to find you. And each time he was told, ‘Elijah isn’t here,’ King Ahab forced the king of that nation to swear to the truth of his claim.

**11** And now you say, ‘Go and tell your master, “Elijah is here.”’

**12** But as soon as I leave you, the Spirit of the Lord will carry you away to who knows where. When Ahab comes and cannot find you, he will kill me. Yet I have been a true servant of the Lord all my life.

**13** Has no one told you, my lord, about the time when Jezebel was trying to kill the Lord’s prophets? I hid 100 of them in two caves and supplied them with food and water.

**14** And now you say, ‘Go and tell your master, “Elijah is here.”’ Sir, if I do that, Ahab will certainly kill me.”

**15** But Elijah said, “I swear by the Lord Almighty, in whose presence I stand, that I will present myself to Ahab this very day.”

**16** So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come, and Ahab went out to meet Elijah.

**17** When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, “So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?”

**18** “I have made no trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the Lord and have worshiped the images of Baal instead.

**19** Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who are supported by Jezebel.[a]”

**20** So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel.

**21** Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!” But the people were completely silent.

**22** Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only prophet of the Lord who is left, but Baal has 450 prophets.

**23** Now bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose whichever one they wish and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar, but without setting fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood on the altar, but not set fire to it.

**24** Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!” And all the people agreed.

**25** Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “You go first, for there are many of you. Choose one of the bulls, and prepare it and call on the name of your god. But do not set fire to the wood.”

**26** So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no reply of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they had made.

**27** About noontime Elijah began mocking them. “You’ll have to shout louder,” he scoffed, “for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself.<sup>[b]</sup> Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be awakened!”

**28** So they shouted louder, and following their normal custom, they cut themselves with knives and swords until the blood gushed out.

**29** They raved all afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice, but still there was no sound, no reply, no response.

**30** Then Elijah called to the people, “Come over here!” They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down.

**31** He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel,<sup>[c]</sup>

**32** and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the Lord. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons.<sup>[d]</sup>

**33** He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood.<sup>[e]</sup>

Then he said, “Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood.”

**34** After they had done this, he said, “Do the same thing again!” And when they were finished, he said, “Now do it a third time!” So they did as he said,

**35** and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

**36** At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,[f] prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command.

**37** O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.”

**38** Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench!

**39** And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, “The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!”

**40** Then Elijah commanded, “Seize all the prophets of Baal. Don’t let a single one escape!” So the people seized them all, and Elijah took them down to the Kishon Valley and killed them there.



## **Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel:**

These major prophets delivered messages of both judgment and hope.

### **Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah:**

#### **Isaiah 9:6 New Living Translation**

**6**

For a child is born to us,  
a son is given to us.  
The government will rest on his shoulders.  
And he will be called:  
Wonderful Counselor,<sup>[a]</sup> Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

### **Jeremiah warned of the Babylonian exile:**

#### **Jeremiah 25:11 New Living Translation**

**11** This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.

### **Ezekiel spoke of restoration and a new covenant:**

#### **Ezekiel 36:26 New Living Translation**

**26** And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.<sup>[a]</sup>

## Minor Prophets:

The twelve minor prophets, from Hosea to Malachi, addressed various issues such as social injustice, idolatry, and the need for repentance. Despite their brevity, their messages were profound and impactful.

## New Testament Prophets

In the New Testament, the role of the prophet continues, though it takes on new dimensions with the coming of Jesus Christ:

## John the Baptist:

Regarded as the last of the Old Testament-style prophets, John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, calling for repentance and baptizing those who responded.

## Jesus said of him:

### Matthew 11:11 New Living Translation

**11** “I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!





## **Jesus Christ:**

While Jesus is more than a prophet, He is recognized as a prophet in His role of revealing God's truth and fulfilling Old Testament prophecies.

## **Luke 24:19 New Living Translation**

**19** “What things?” Jesus asked.

“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said. “He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.

## **Early Church Prophets:**

The early church also had prophets who played a role in guiding the community.

**Acts 13:1** mentions prophets in the church at Antioch, and **1 Corinthians 14** discusses the gift of prophecy as a means of edification, exhortation, and comfort.

## **Acts 13:1 New Living Translation**

### **Barnabas and Saul Are Commissioned**

**13** Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”<sup>[a]</sup>), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas<sup>[b]</sup>), and Saul.

## **Role and Characteristics of Prophets**

Prophets were often called to deliver difficult messages, which sometimes led to persecution and rejection.

They were characterized by their unwavering commitment to God's truth, often standing alone against societal norms and false teachings.

Prophets were also known for their deep spiritual insight and ability to foresee future events as revealed by God.

The Bible emphasizes that true prophets are known by their fruits and alignment with God's word.

## **Deuteronomy 18:22 New Living Translation provides a test for true prophecy:**

**22** If the prophet speaks in the Lord's name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the Lord did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared.

## **Conclusion:**

The office of the prophet is a testament to God's desire to communicate with His people, guiding them through His chosen messengers.

Prophets have been instrumental in shaping the course of biblical history, providing insight into God's character and His plans for humanity.

Like the age of which they were a part, they were types, pointing forward to the coming of One who should embody in its fullest and most complete sense the ideals of the prophetic institution.

**When He would come in finality there would be no further need of prophecy, for then the dispensation of preparation would have given way to the dispensation of completion and fulfillment:**

## **1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (NLT)**

**8** Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages[a] and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

**9** Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture!

**10** But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

**11** When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

**12** Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.[b] All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.



So, anyone today that calls themselves a current day “prophet of God,” is erroneously applying this title to themselves or calling God a liar.

Sadly, some Wolves in Sheep's Clothing, will promulgate, to their ( Sheep - God's Holy people ) that they have received a prophetic word from the lord, and that are to buy a 10 Million Dollar Airplane, so that they can go around the world, to spread the Gospel, and they Defraud God, and most sadly ( God's-people ) some that will never come Back to Church, because of these False Teachers and False Preachers.



## How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed

