

## **The Prophet**

### **1A Introduction:**

**1B** Definition, from Gleason Archer, Survey of Old Testament Introduction: "A prophecy is an oral or written disclosure in words through a human mouthpiece transmitting the revelation of God and setting forth His will to man."

### **2B** The historical scope of Old Testament prophecy:

**1C** From Abel forward, Luke 11:49–51, "49 Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' 50 that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. "

**2C** God in the Garden, Genesis 3.

**3C** Enoch, Jude 14, "14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, "

**4C** Noah, 2 Peter 2:5, "5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; "

**5C** Melchizedek, Genesis 14:18–21, "18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. 21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." "

**6C** Jacob, Genesis 49.

**7C** Conclusion: prophecy was not for Israel alone.

### **3B** Function of the prophet.

**1C** The message of the prophet was to trust only in God, relying on His perfect character and infinite power, instead of human attributes: Zechariah 4:6, "6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. "

**2C** The prophet was to remind the people that they were to remain personally faithful to God alone and His revelation, and that the outward form was meaningless without inward sincerity.

**1D** Leviticus 26:1–4, "1 'You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God. 2 You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD. 3 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, 4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. " (read Leviticus 26 entirely).

- 2D Hosea 6:6, "6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. "
- 3C The prophet related historical trends to the unchanging covenant, and offered warnings based on Leviticus 26: Isaiah 59:1–9, "1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity. 4 No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. 5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out. 6 Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands. 7 Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths. 8 The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace. 9 Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! "
- 4C The prophet's verification was fulfilled prophecy:
- 1D Isaiah 41:21–23, "21 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob. 22 "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they were, That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. 23 Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together. "
- 2D Isaiah 45:1–6, "1 "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: 2 'I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. 4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; "
- 5C The prophet also encouraged Israel in times of degeneracy and loss, regarding her ultimate future: Isaiah 60:1–2, "1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory

of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. "

**2A** The nature of prophetic inspiration.

**1B** The prophet was inspired according to the standard of verbal plenary inspiration.

**2B** The prophet was aware of his inspiration.

**1C** The Word of the Lord came to him (many times).

**1D** 1 Samuel 15:10, "10 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel..."

**2D** 2 Kings 20:4, "4 Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him..."

**2C** God's hand touched his mouth, Jeremiah 1:9, "9 Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."

**3C** He was standing in God's counsel ,Jeremiah 23:22, "22 "But if they had stood in My council, Then they would have announced My words to My people, And would have turned them back from their evil way And from the evil of their deeds."

**3B** The inspiration came by the Spirit:

**1C** Numbers 11:29, "29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!"

**2C** Numbers 24:2, "2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him."

**3C** 1 Samuel 10:6, "6 "Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man."

**4B** The intermediate means of insight were many (the inhale of the prophet):

**1C** Life experience, Hosea. Hosea 1:2, "2 When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord."

**2C** A visible symbol, Amos 7:7, "7 Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand."

**3C** A dream (the subconscious mind, while asleep), 1 Kings 3:5, "5 In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what you wish me to give you."

**4C** A vision (the conscious mind, while awake), Zechariah.

**1D** Daniel 1:17, "17 As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams."

**2D** Habakkuk 2:2-3, "2 Then the Lord answered me and said, "Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. 3 "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay."

**3D** Isaiah 6:1, "1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne,

lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.”

- 4D The interpretation of historical trends from Bible Truth.
- 5B The exhale of the prophet.
  - 1C He explained the meaning of the ritual system.
  - 2C He used the parable, or allegory. Hosea 6:4, “What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears.”
  - 3C He acted his message out in order to graphically illustrate it.
  - 4C He foretold certain future events, all of which had a relevant message during his day. These prophecies now stand in two categories:
    - 1D Those which have been fulfilled - for example, more than 300 related to the life of Christ.
    - 2D Those which have yet to be fulfilled - for example, the book of Revelation, and parts of Daniel, Ezekiel, and other prophets.
- 6B
- 3A Summary. The prophet revealed God's message, he exhorted the people, he observed and interpreted historical trends.