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PROPHECY

AND

PROPHETIC MINISTRY—

A HISTORIC OVERVIEW

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Prophecy and Prophetic Ministry—A Historic Overview

[Teaching Edition]

This outline is taken from a presentation on the history of prophetic ministry. The original basis for this presentation is taken from *Divinely Commissioned: God’s Delivery Service* by Lynn L. Watkins. New material developed since the publication of that book has been added.

This outline is designed to provide the participant with knowledge consisting of a general overview of prophets and prophetic ministries from their origin in the heart of God to today. The specific impact of prophets and prophecy on the New Testament Church is addressed in the latter portions of this material.

While this outline was originally developed to benefit those present at the live teaching, it is being provided in this format for those interested in the history of the prophetic and desire to do a self-study.

No abbreviated outline can answer all the questions concerning prophets and prophetic ministry. However, the author prays that this outline will help organize your study, so that you can know that God desires to have intimate fellowship with you and speak through you to bless others.

May God richly reward you in your efforts!

**Prophecy and Prophetic Ministry—A Historic Overview**

**Introduction**

This outline is designed to provide the participant with knowledge consisting of a general overview of prophets and prophesy and the specific impact of prophets and prophesy on the New Testament Church.

The Bible says: Quench not the Spirit; Despise not prophesying [1 Thessalonians 5;19-20].

In other words, “Do not hinder or obstruct the Holy Spirit and [or in particular] to not ignore or treat prophetic ministry with contempt” [summarized by me].

The Bible also says,

**14**but through it all he would not let one thing be done to them apart from his decision. He destroyed many a king who tried! **15**“Touch not these chosen ones of mine,” he warned, “and do not hurt my prophets.” [1 Chr. 16:22]

Saying, “Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm.” [Ps. 105:15]

1. God highly esteems His prophets and prophetic ministry. However, most people, and even many Christians, tend to ignore or downplay the importance of prophecy. For example, Dr. David R. Reagan [Lamb and Lion Ministries] has stated

“Although prophecy constitutes almost 1/3 of the Bible, its importance is constantly downplayed by those who dismiss it as having no practical significance….”

Dr. Regan pointed to well-known Pastor Rick Warren as an example. Dr. Reagan quotes Pastor Rick Warren as stating In *The Purpose Driven Life* that,

“If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy.” Dr. Regan, referring to Pastor Warren’s book, continues, “He then goes on to characterize prophecy as a ‘distraction’ and says that anyone who lets himself get involved in distractions like studying prophecy ‘is not fit for the kingdom of God.’”

To be fair, Pastor Warren may be restricting his definition and understanding to a very narrow definition of what prophecy is. He may be referring to what some consider to be an “end time” prophecy or prophecy concerning the return of Jesus. However, I still disagree with this statement. —*From Divinely Commissioned: God’s Delivery Service.*

1. Obviously, God does not want us to waste our days worrying about tomorrow [See Mt. 6:27, 34. See also Phillippians 4:6]
2. Evangelism, teaching, preaching, etc., are important; but God wants us to understand and appreciate prophecy!

**Why is Prophecy so important to God?**

1. Simply put: God wants to have an intimate relationship with humanity!

Jesus said, "This is eternal life, that they might *know* thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent" (Jn. 17:3, emphasis added).

What a dynamic statement! Eternal life is knowing God. But this is not the simple, casual relationship we might have with an acquaintance or even the fellowship we have with close friends. [The word used here for "*know*" is the Greek word **ginosko,** and it means "to be involved in an intimate, growing relationship." In the Greek version of the Old Testament, this is the word used in Genesis 4:1, where it says, "Adam *knew* Eve, and she bore a son" (emphasis added).]

This "knowing" is the most intimate relationship possible. Jesus makes the fantastic statement that this is what eternal life is all about! **This is the essence of eternal life: to be involved in an intimate, growing relationship with the God of all creation and His only Son, Jesus**. What a magnificent destiny! Paul grasped this precious truth. In Philippians 3:10,11, he said that his greatest desire was

that I might know Him, and the power of His [inner] resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the [outer] resurrection from the dead.

The Hebrew counterpart of the Greek ginosko is yada', and we this word should characterize our time of loving fellowship with God in prayer. Prayer is so much more than presenting our petitions to God. It is our "yada time." We must learn in our time of worship to seek the Lord for Himself alone, not just for the things He can give us. We hurt and insult our God when we become too busy with our daily tasks to spend time enjoying His love or when we carelessly let sin slip into our lives. The Lord wants us to come wholeheartedly to Him so we can have "yada" or ginosko with Him and experience the blessings of His presence.

1. God's Word presents five aspects of the wholeheartedness that God requires from us if we are to have intimacy with Him. To know God intimately, we must:
* Make Me [God] our greatest treasure so l can give Myself to Us [Mark 12:30].

**30**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

* Search for Me [God] with your whole heart so I can reveal Myself to you [Jeremiah 29:13].

**13**And you will seek Me and find *Me,* when you search for Me with all [some translations say “whole”] your heart.

* Trust Me [God] wholeheartedly so I can guide your steps [Prov. 3:5-6].

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
**6**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

* Praise Me [God]wholeheartedly so I can give you my presence (Ps. 22:3; Ps. 9:1-2).

But You *are* holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

I will praise *You,* O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.
**2**I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

* Return to Me [God] with your whole heart so I can be compassionate and bless You (Joel 2:12-13).

“Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to Me with all your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” **13**So rend your heart, and not your garments;

Return to the Lord your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness;

[See more in *How to Hear the Voice of God* by Mark and Patty Vickler].

1. **God established prophetic ministry to assist humanity in overcoming the obstacles mankind would encounter in developing ginosko [yada] with God.**

Take a moment and ponder these questions:

* Does the idea of drawing closer to God scare me?
* How could prophetic ministry bring me closer to God?

**The Origin of Prophecy**

1. Prophetic ministry [in any form] does not come by human will [2 Peter 1: 21] but originated in the heart and mind of God.

 Peter 1:20-21-- **0**knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **21**for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

1. As stated above, God wants intimate fellowship with everyone. He loves each one of us individually and passionately.
2. God made Adam and Eve in His image [Gen 1:26] and habitually walked with them in the cool of the evening. God was able to have intimacy with Adam and Eve in this time of innocence.
3. Then Man [Adam and Eve] fell [Genesis 3]. Sin, with its resulting fear and shame, separated man from God [Genesis 3:10; Isaiah 59:2]. God has been working to restore fellowship since the Fall. “Where are you? [Genesis 3:10. See 3:15]

8The LORD is compassionate & and merciful,

slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

9He will not constantly accuse us nor remain angry forever.

10He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve,

11For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

12He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west

13The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

14For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust [Psalm 103:8-14]

1. However, fear, guilt, rebellion, and shame make it harder to hear God or to desire His fellowship [See Gen. 3:11].

[Exodus12:1-2]—Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying: **2**“Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they *are* a rebellious house.

[Matthew 15:7-8]—Hipocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: **8**‘These people [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mt.+15&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23642c)]draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me.
**9**And in vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”

1. God established prophetic ministry to help compensate for humanity’s inability to hear or to listen to His voice. In the Old Testament, God selected specific individuals to speak on His behalf to mankind. Abraham was the first specifically called a prophet by God. [Gen. 20:7][[1]](#footnote-1).

**7**Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he *is* a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live.

The Holy Spirit would descend on these people who became known as prophets [Heb. 1:1].

**1**God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2**has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds

These men and women spoke for God. The prophets provided the primary method of communication between God and various OT peoples. In OT [Old Testament] times, only a select group received a portion of the Holy Spirit, which enabled them to serve as God’s prophets. The Spirit would descend upon them, but not abide within them.

1. In the New Testament, prophetic ministry exploded. Jesus set prophets as one of the fivefold ascension ministries [Ephesians 4:7-16] to bring the Body of Christ into a perfect, balanced, and mature relationship with God.

Ephesians 4:11-15—**11**And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12**for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29285e)]edifying of the body of Christ, **13**till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, **to the** measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14**that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15**but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

Since Jesus also sent the Holy Spirit to abide within each believer, each believer [who has received the Holy Spirit] is able to use the gift of prophecy to edify, comfort, and exhort other believers.

[1 Corinthians 12: 12-14; 26-31]— **12**For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. **13**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28648g)]into one Spirit. **14**For in fact the body is not one member but many. . . .

**26**And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it;* or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it.*

**27**Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. **28**And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracle, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. **29***Are* all apostles? *Are* all prophets? *Are* all teachers? *Are* all workers of miracles? **30**Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **31**But earnestly desire the best gifts.

Questions to Ponder:

* What have you asked God for?
* Does God “call” everyone to serve Him?
* Has God called you to serve Him? In what way?

**An** **Overview of Prophecy**

This section of the outline provides a quick overview of the development of prophetic ministry and prophets from the time of Creation to the present day. The focus is on how the once clear communication between God and man became disrupted and how God dealt with the problem. God raised up prophets and developed prophetic ministry so that mankind might know God’s thoughts and intentions.

**In the Beginning**

1. Genesis 1:3-- **3**Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Genesis 1:4-- **4**And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

• Notice the pattern God sets for Creation. God speaks, and God sees a result. The Word of God, whether “spoken” or “written,” has the power to change a situation.

* God sees not just the “now” but the future, for He is omnipotent and omnipresent.
1. Genesis1:26-27— **26**Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27**So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
* Why did God make humanity?

God was not lonely. He had millions of cherubim, seraphim, and angels around Him. However, God desired that someone would exist in His own likeness and kind—someone who could rule over physical matter [remember, each human being is both spirit and earth],

* someone who could demonstrate to the material world the nature of God [Who is Spirit].
* Someone who could provide a way for Jesus to be born and
* ultimately provide Jesus with a many-membered bride. God wanted someone with a creative, rational ability with whom He could have an intimate relationship.
* This verse [Genesis 1:26] has prophetic overtones. God declares He will make man in His image; He then does, knowing that man will fall and will need to be “remade” [restored]. The Hebrew verb form here is imperfect, which means the verb refers to an incomplete action [or the future tense in the active voice]. God is going to make man, and the enemy will not stop His will!

3. Genesis 3—The fall of man.

* Man is given only one rule that He was required to follow. Notice the prophetic overtones of God’s words. Genesis 2: 15-17-- **5**Then the Lord God took [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-46d)]the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. **16**And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17**but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, *for in the day that you eat of it you[*[*f*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-48f)*] shall surely die.”*
* Man broke that one rule. Genesis 3:6— **6**So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
* Genesis 3:7**— 7**Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-63b)]coverings. Sin [separation from God because of the choice to disobey by eating the fruit] results in fear of God and shame.
* Fellowship was broken. Adam and Eve’s spirits immediately “died” in that they were separated from the fountain of life, God, by their rebellious choice. Their bodies would take much longer to perish.

Think of the alternator and battery within a car. The alternator generates electricity which is stored in the battery. If the alternator goes back or the connection with the battery is bad, the battery will eventually “die” and the car will no longer run. Sin “cut” the connection between the alternator [God sending the charge of life-giving power to man’s spirit] and the battery [the body of man].

 electrical

* Yet Adam and Eve could still talk to God at this point, although shame made it difficult; shame made Adam and Eve want to hide from God’s holiness. Adam and Eve no longer wished to share intimate moments with God in “the cool of the evening .”Genesis 3:8-10-- 8 And they heard the [c]sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”
* Gen. 3:10-- **10**So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.
* Notice that it was God Who had to reach out to Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:9—Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” It is God who has continually reached out to mankind since the fall. [2 Samuels 22:17-20; Colossians 1:13]
* Gen. 3:15— [The *Protoevangelium* or “First Gospel”] 14So the Lord God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this,
You *are* cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.
**15**And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.” [emphasis mine]

• Hope amid the darkness. God shows grace in the midst of judgment by providing a covering. Genesis 3:19-20-- 20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.21 Also for Adam and his wife, the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

* Adam believed in God's prophecy, for He named his wife "Eve," the "mother of all living," not the "mother of all lost in death."
* The tunics symbolized God covering Adam and Eve's sin [suggesting that they had a repentant attitude] and their expectation that a deliverer would come to crush their enemy, the servant. This covering did not remove Adam and Eve's sin; it just protected them against God's Judgment.
	+ Leviticus 16:15--Aaron shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and bring its blood behind the veil, and with its blood he must do as he did with the bull's blood: He is to sprinkle it against the mercy seat and in front of it.
* Hebrews 10:1,4--For the law is only a shadow of the good things to come, not the realities themselves. It can never, by the same sacrifices offered year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

4. A False Hope—Genesis 4: The sin of Cain.

* When Cain is born, his mother hoped he would be the redeemer. Genesis 4:1--Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-81a)]Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.”
* However, Cain killed his brother Abel. Genesis 4:8-- **8**Now Cain [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-88e)]talked with Abel his [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-88f)]brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
* Although Genesis does not give clarity about the second son Abel. Jesus seems to indicate that Abel was a prophet. Luke 11:51-- **46**And He said, “Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. **47**Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. **48**In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. **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.
* While God judged Cain, God also showed Cain mercy. Genesis:4: 9-12— **9**Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. *Am* I my brother’s keeper?”

**10**And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. **11**So now you *are* cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. **12**When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

* However, while Cain had begged for mercy, Cain rebelled against God by building a city.

Genesis 4:13-17—**13**And Cain said to the Lord, “My [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-93g)]punishment *is* greater than I can bear! **14**Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen *that* anyone who finds me will kill me.”

**15**And the Lord said to him, [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-95h)]“Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

**16**Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%204&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-96i" \o "See footnote i)]Nod on the east of Eden. **17**And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.

A godly line was reestablished through the birth of Seth [Genesis 4:25-27]. However, this line became endangered with contamination [Genesis 6;1-2]. 5. From this point, all men descend into wickedness except for Noah.

* Genesis 6:5-8— **5**Then [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%206&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-143c)]the Lord saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%206&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-143d)] of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%206&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-143e)]continually. **6**And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. **7**So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” **8**But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

• Note the sequence of events:

* God speaks to Noah to build an ark. Genesis 6:13-17
* God tells Noah to enter the ark. Genesis 7:1-4
* God tells Noah to exit the ark. Genesis 8:15
* God establishes a new covenant with Noah 8:20-9:12

• Some of the Jewish Rabbis call Noah a prophet because

o He heard from God.

o He built an ark as a testimony and sign of what was coming

o He shared the truth of God's word, and His family responded by entering the ark.

o Noah was the first person that the Bible speaks of as being a messenger sent by God to speak to others [He warned of the coming flood]. God sent Noah as a prophet when the people began worshipping idols and false gods. Noah called on humanity to return to God and do the works which God had commanded. [People drowned who refused to “hear.”]

* + 2 Peter 2:5—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;
	+ In the Torah, the word "נָבִיא" is used to describe Noah. In Hebrew, the word נָבִיא (navi) means a "spokesperson” and is traditionally translated as "prophet”.

What is a prophet? In its simplest sense, a prophet is someone who receives a message from God that is to be delivered to someone or something else--a person, a nation, a group of people, or even a tree!

A more formal definition of the word prophet [prof-it] is:

A person who speaks for God or a deity or by divine inspiration.

a. a person chosen to speak for God and guide Israel's people: Moses was the greatest of Old Testament prophets.

b. The author of one of the Major or Minor Prophetic books.

c. One of a class of persons in the early church, next in after the apostles, recognized as inspired to utter special revelations and predictions. 1 Cor. 12:28.

* + Hebrews 11:7--By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

6. Yet once the flood is over, mankind again disobeys God. Instead of abiding by the Noahic covenant to, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” [Genesis 9:1]. Humanity disobeys again and clusters at the plain of Shinar and attempts to build a tower in a challenge to God.

* + Genesis 11:1-4--Now the whole earth had one language and one [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2011&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-268a)]speech. **2**And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. **3**Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2011&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-270b)]bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. **4**And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”
	+ Genesis 11:5-9—The Lord comes down and confuses the language.

**5**But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **6**And the Lord said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. **7**Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” **8**So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. **9**Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

* + At this point, mankind as a whole seems to lose the ability to speak with God. This willful disobedience after God’s judgment in the flood apparently cuts the communication lines that existed before. From this point forward, God will speak to some men in dreams, others in visions, but only speak directly to a relative few.

**A New Beginning**

1. God was not caught off-guard by man’s show of rebellion. God already had a plan.

Genesis 12:1-3—Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.
**2**I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
**3**I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

1. God chooses Abraham and speaks to Him.

* Note: Abraham is the first person named a prophet in the Bible, although the Torah refers to Noah as a prophet, and the New Testament mentions Enoch was a prophet. 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, **15**to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”
* How did Abraham demonstrate His prophetic call?
* He received God’s revelation: he listened to God

Genesis 12:71-3—Then *Adonai* said to Abram, “Get going out from your land,and from your relatives, and from your father’s house,to the land that I will show you. **2**My heart’s desire is to make you into a great nation, to bless you, to make your name great so that you may be a blessing. **3**My desire is to bless those who bless you, but whoever curses you I will curse,and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

**4**So Abram went, just as *Adonai* had spoken to him.

* He spoke to others about what God revealed to him [otherwise we would not know what was said]. An example of his sharing Sarai’s new name with all his company.

Genesis 17:15-16—**15**God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her by the name Sarai. Rather, Sarah is her name. **16**And I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son from her. I will bless her and she will give rise to nations. Kings of the peoples will come from her.”

* He was given revelation about the future. Genesis 12:7—**7**Then *Adonai* appeared to Abram, and said, “I will give this land to your seed.” So there he built an altar to *Adonai*, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 13:14-16—**14**After Lot separated himself from him, *Adonai* had said to Abram, “lift up your eyes, now, and look from the place where you are, to the north, south, east and west. **15**For all the land that you are looking at, I will give to you and to your seed forever. **16**I will make your seed like the dust of the earth so that if one could count the dust of the earth, then your seed could also be counted. **17**Get up! Walk about the land through its length and width—for I will give it to you.”

Genesis 15:13-16—**13**Then He said to Abram, “Know for certain that your seed will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and they will be enslaved and oppressed 400 years. **14**But I am going to judge the nation that they will serve. Afterward they will go out with many possessions. **15**But you, you will come to your fathers in peace. You will be buried at a good old age. **16**Then in the fourth generation they will return here—for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

* Knowing God is mercy and justice, Abraham interceded for others.

Genesis 18:17-25—**17**when *Adonai* said, “Should I keep secret from Abraham what I am about to do, **18**seeing that Abraham will most certainly become a great and mighty nation and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? **19**For I have made myself known to him so that he will command his sons and his household after him to keep the way of *Adonai* by doing righteousness and justice, so that *Adonai* may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” **20**Then *Adonai* said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great indeed, and their sin is very grievous indeed. **21**I want to go down now, and see if they deserve destruction, as its outcry has come to Me. And if not, I will know.”

**22**Then the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham was still standing before *Adonai*. **23**Abraham drew near and said, “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? **24**Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you really sweep away and not spare the place for the sake of fifty righteous who are in it? **25**Far be it from You to do such a thing—to cause the righteous to die with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked share the same fate! Far be it from You! Shall the Judge of the whole world not exercise justice?”

1. Other “proto-prophets” who followed Abraham
* Isaac—received revelation from God. Genesis 26:24—**24***Adonai* appeared to him that night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you, and I will bless you and multiply your seed for the sake of Abraham my servant.”

Taught His sons about Adonai [See Genesis 27:20

* Jacob—Received prophetic revelation.

Genesis 28:10-15—**10**Then Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11**He happened upon a certain place and spent the night there, for the sun had set. So he took one of the stones from the place and put it by his head and lay down in that place. **12**He dreamed: All of a sudden, there was a stairway set up on the earth and its top reaching to the heavens—and behold, angels of God going up and down on it! **13**Surprisingly, *Adonai* was standing on top of it[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2028&version=TLV#fen-TLV-787a)] and He said, “I am *Adonai*, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your seed. **14**Your seed will be as the dust of the land, and you will burst forth to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed—and in your seed. **15**Behold, I am with you, and I will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land, for I will not forsake you until I have done what I promised you.”

* Shared God’s revelation [His word] with others. Genesis 35:9-15—**9**God appeared to Jacob again, after he returned from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. **10**God said to him:

“Your name was Jacob.No longer will your name be Jacob, for your name will be Israel.” So He named him Israel. **11**God also said to him: “I am *El Shaddai*. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and an assembly of nations will come from you. From your loins will come forth kings. **12**The land that I gave to Abraham and to Isaac— I give it to you, and to your seed after you   I will give the land.”

**13**Then God went up from him at the place where He had spoken with him. **14**Jacob set up a memorial stone in the place where He had spoken with him—a stone pillar—and he poured a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. **15**Jacob named the place where God spoke with him Beth-El.

* Wrestled with God: Genesis 32:25-29—**25**So Jacob remained all by himself. Then a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2032&version=TLV#fen-TLV-954a)] **26**When He saw that He had not overcome him, He struck the socket of his hip, so He dislocated the socket of Jacob’s hip when He wrestled with him. **27**Then He said, “Let Me go, for the dawn has broken.”

But he said, “I won’t let You go unless You bless me.” **28**Then He said to him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he said. **29**Then He said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but rather Israel, for you have struggled with God and with men, and you have overcome.”

* Prophesied over His Sons—See Genesis 49
* Joseph—interpreted dreams and spoke with great wisdom.
	+ Genesis 41:1-8-- **41**Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river. **2**Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. **3**Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the *other* cows on the bank of the river. **4**And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke. **5**He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good. **6**Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. **7**And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, *it was* a dream. **8**Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but *there was* no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.
* Genesis 41:25-36—**25** Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh *are* one; God has shown Pharaoh what He *is* about to do: **26**The seven good cows *are* seven years, and the seven good [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2041&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-1222b)]heads *are* seven years; the dreams *are* one. **27**And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them *are* seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine. **28**This *is* the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He *is* about to do. **29**Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt; **30**but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land. **31**So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it *will be* very severe. **32**And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

**33**“Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. **34**Let Pharaoh do *this,* and let him appoint [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2041&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-1230c)]officers over the land, to collect one-fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years. **35**And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2041&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-1231d)]authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. **36**Then that food shall be as a [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2041&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-1232e)]reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2041&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-1232f)]perish during the famine.”

* Part of a prophet’s role is to provide Godly wisdom to men.
1. **The Theocracy**—prophets leading the people of Israel politically
* Aaron [Exodus 7:2]— So the Lord said to Moses: “See, I have made you *as* God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. **2**You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.

Note: Aaron prophesied to Pharoah before the Theocracy was established. Aaron’s authority and ministry as a prophet under the Theocracy is not really known. His role as the first High Priest is widely recognized.

* Miriam [Numbers 12:1-2] Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-4061b)]Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. **2**So they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?”

Note: Miriam did not have the level of authority or the level of intimacy that Moses had with God or that Aaron assumed as the first High Priest. However, she did exercise leadership, especially among women [Exodus 15:20].

Exodus 15:20-21—Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. **21**And Miriam answered them:

“Sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!”

* Moses—By far, the. most prominent prophet of the Theocracy. Wrote the Torah. Gave Israel the Law, and continuously interceded for Israel before God.
* Joshua
* Selected Judges—individuals selected by God to make legal decisions in the nation and provide leadership in dangerous times.
* Deborah—See Judges 4-5. Judges 4:4-6--**4**Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. **5**And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.
* “the unknown prophet”—While this person did not apparently make legal decisions or lead Israel into Battle, he did give the word of the Lord to Israel. Judges 6:7-10— **7**And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites, **8**That the Lord sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;**9**And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; **10**And I said unto you, I am the Lord your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.
* The last and greatest Judge—Samuel
* Samuel 2:8—8 But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.
* Samuel 3:19-21**—**And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and did let none of his words fall to the ground.**20**And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.**21**And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

**Rise of the Classical Prophets**

1. The “Former Prophets.” Six books (Joshua, Judges, 1st & 2nd Samuel, 1st & 2nd Kings) form what are called “the Former Prophets” in the Hebrew Bible. These books presuppose that *obedience to the Lord brings blessing, while disobedience brings disaster*. This is a perspective shared with the book of **Deuteronomy**.

NOTE: ALL the judges of the Theocracy except for Moses fall into the category of The Former Prophets as well as being prophets of the Theocracy. Moses stands apart as the giver of the Law. Other prophets mentioned in these books include:

* Aaron (Exodus 7:2)
* Asaph (2 Chronicles 29:30)
Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:8)
* Eldad (Numbers 11:26)
* Elijah (1 Kings 1:16-17; 1 Kings 21:17-29; 1 Kings 18:36-38)
* Elisha (1 Kings 19:16, 19-21; 2 Kings 5:8)
* Eliezer (2 Chronicles 20:37)
* Elihu (Job 32-35)
* Gideon (Judges 6 through 8)
* Hanani (2 Chronicles 16:7)
* Huldah (2 Kings 22:14)
* Iddo (2 Chronicles 13:22)
* Jahaziel (2 Chronicles 20:14)
* Jehu (1 Kings 16:7)
* Jahaziel (2 Chronicles 20:14)
* Jehu (1 Kings 16:7)
* Micaiah (1 Kings 22:9)
* Miriam (Exodus 15:20)
* Oded (2 Chronicles 28:9)
* Shemaiah (1 Kings 12:22)
* Zechariah, son of Jehoiada (2 Chronicles 24:20)
* Other former prophets are referred to but not named.
* A prophet ([Judges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Judges) [6:8–10](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Judges#6:8))
* A man of God ([1 Samuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Samuel) [2:27–36](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Samuel#2:27))
* A man of God from Judah ([1 Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Kings) [13:1](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Kings#13:1))
* An old prophet from Bethel ([1 Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Kings) [13:11](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Kings#13:11))
* A prophet ([1 Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Kings) [20:13,22](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Kings#20:13))
* A man of God ([1 Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Kings) [20:28](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Kings#20:28))
* One of the sons of the prophets ([1 Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Kings) [20:35–42](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Kings#20:35))
* A man of God ([2 Chronicles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Chronicles) [25:7–9](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/2_Chronicles#25:7))
* A prophet ([2 Chronicles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Chronicles)  [25:15–16](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/2_Chronicles#25:15)

**Old Testament People, other than recognized prophets, who claimed prophetic experiences**

* [Eldad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eldad_and_Medad) ([Numbers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Numbers) [11:26](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Numbers#11:26))
* [Eliezer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliezer#Eliezer_the_prophet) ([2 Chronicles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Chronicles) [20:37](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/2_Chronicles#20:37))
* [Elihu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elihu_%28Job%29) ([Job](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Job) [32–35](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Job#32:1))
* [Jahaziel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jahaziel) ([2 Chronicles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Chronicles) [20:14](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/2_Chronicles#20:14))
* [Joseph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_%28Hebrew_Bible%29) ([Genesis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Genesis) [37:5–11](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Genesis#37:5))
* [Medad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eldad_and_Medad) ([Numbers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Numbers) [11:26](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Numbers#11:26))
* [King Nebuchadnezzar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebuchadrezzar_II) of [Babylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) ([Daniel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Daniel) [2:1](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Daniel#2:1))
* [Saul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saul): the first king to unite Israel ([1 Samuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Samuel) [10:10](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Samuel#10:10))
* [Solomon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon) ([1 Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Kings) [3:5](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/1_Kings#3:5))

**People who sought prophetic assistance, who “inquired” of the Lord.** To *not* inquire of the Lord was considered foolish [Jeremiah 10:21; Zephaniah 1:4-6]. However, if there was an unrepentant sin in someone’s life, God might not reply. [See 1 Chronicles 10:13-14; Exodus 20:30-31].

* Rebecca [Genesis. 25:22-23]
* Manoah [Genesis 13:17]
* Danites from the tribe of Dan [Judges 18:5-6]
* Sons of Israel about battling the tribe of Benjamin [Judges 20:18; Judges 20:26-28].
* Saul’s servant [1 Samuel 9:6-10]
* The Israelites for their king [1 Samuel 10:20-22]
* Saul in pursuing the Philistines [1 Samuel 36-42]
* God refuses to answer Saul [1 Samuel 28:6; 1 Chronicles 10:13-14]
* David when making various critical decisions [1 Samuel 22:10; 1 Samuel 23:2; 1 Samuel 30:8;2 Samuel 2:1; 2 Samuel 5:19; 1 Chronicles 14:10, 14; 2 Samuel 5:23]
* King Jehoshaphat and Ahab, King of Israel [1 Kings 22:6-9; 2 Chronicles 18:5-8]
* King Jehoshaphat; Jehoram, the King of Israel; and the King of Edom [2 Kings 3:11].
* King Josiah of Judah [2 Kings 22:11-20; 2 Chronicles 34:19-28].
* King Zedekiah inquired through Jeremiah [Jeremiah 21:1-7; 37:6-8].
* The Double Minded [Ezekiel 14:7].
* Joshua for guidance [Numbers 27:21]
* King Jehoshaphat [2 Chronicles 20:1-17]
* Anyone who sought the Lord [Exodus 33:7]
* The elders of Israel in exile [Exodus 20:1-3].

**Prophetic Books of the Bible**

**The “Latter Prophets.”** These are the prophets who have books named after them.

* **The Major Prophets [**Called “major” because of the length of the book and the variety of topics tackled].
* Isaiah,
* Jeremiah
* Ezekiel
* [Lamentations is also often included]
* **The Minor Prophets** [Called “minor” because of the brevity of length. Generally, focus on one topic].
* Hosea
* Joel,
* Amos,
* Obadiah,
* Jonah,
* Micah,
* Nahum,
* Habakkuk,
* Zephaniah,
* Haggai,
* Zechariah,
* and Malachi

**Lost Prophets and Their Records [**Because of references in the Bible, we know of some prophets who are mostly lost to history].

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Prophet:** | **Scriptural Reference** |
| * Enoch
 | * [Jude 1:14](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/nt/jude/1.14?lang=eng)
 |
| * Iddo
 | * [Zechariah 1:1](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/zech/1.1?lang=eng), [Zechariah 1:7](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/zech/1.7?lang=eng), [2 Chronicles 13:22](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/2-chr/13.22?lang=eng)
 |
| * Jehu
 | * [2 Chronicles 20:34](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/2-chr/20.34?lang=eng)
 |
| * Nathan
 | * [2 Chronicles 9:29](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/2-chr/9.29?lang=eng)
 |
| * Shemaiah
 | * [1 Kings 12:22](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/1-kgs/12.22?lang=eng), [1 Chronicles 3:22](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/1-chr/3.22?lang=eng), [2 Chronicles 11:2](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/2-chr/11.2?lang=eng), [2 Chronicles 12:5, 7](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/2-chr/12.5%2C7?lang=eng), [2 Chronicles 12:15](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/2-chr/12.15?lang=eng), [Nehemiah 3:29](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/scriptures/ot/neh/3.29?lang=eng)
 |

**Prophets of The New Testament**

**Prophets appearing in the New Testament who operated under the Old Covenant [the Law of Moses**][[2]](#footnote-2)

* John the Baptist

 Luke 7:28—**28**For I say to you, among those born of women there is [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+7&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25224g)]not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

* Anna

 Luke 2:36— **36**Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; **37**and this woman *was* a widow [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-25011i" \o "See footnote i)]of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. **38**And coming in that instant she gave thanks to [[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25012j)]the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Others also had their prophecies recorded in the New Testament writings before Jesus established the New Covenant.

* Zacharias

Luke 1:59,63-67—**59**So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. **60**His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.”. . . . **63**And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled. **64**Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed,* and he spoke, praising God. **. . .67**Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

**68**“Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,
**69**And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David,
**70**As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who *have been* since the world began,
**71**That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us,
**72**To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, **73**The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: **74**To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,**75**In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

**76**“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,**77**To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, **78**Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the [[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24972j)]Dayspring from on high [[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24972k)]has visited us; **79**To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

* Simeon

Luke 2:34-35—**34**Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against **35**(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

* Elizabeth

 Luke 1:42-45—**42**Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! **43**But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44**For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. **45**Blessed *is* she who [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24939h)]believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

* Caiphas

John 11: 47-52— **47**Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. **48**If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”

**49**And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, **50**nor do you consider that it is expedient for [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26574e)]us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” **51**Now this he did not say on his own *authority;* but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, **52**and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

**People in the New Testament who “inquired” of the Lord.**

* The Apostles after the death of Judas [Acts 1:24-26] before the Holy Spirit descends.

Acts 1:24-26--**24**And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen **25**to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” **26**And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

* Jesus promised that Believers would be able to inquire directly to the Holy Spirit [John 16:11-13, 23].

**12**“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.**13**However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority,* but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. . . . **23**“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

**The Greatest Prophet** **and More Than a Prophet: The Manifestation of the Word**

**First Reformation: Jesus Changes *Everything*.**

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus changed everything about man’s relationship to God and man’s eternal destiny. Jesus was able to do this because of Who He is and because of what He did.

**Who Jesus IS: Jesus Is—the Second Adam**

* The first Adam brought death to all his descendants because of his choice to disobey God**.**

Romans 5:12,14-- **2**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—. . .**14**Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Job 14:1-4--Man *who is* born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.
**2**He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.
**3**And do You open Your eyes on such a one, And bring [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+14&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-13185b)]me to judgment with Yourself?
**4**Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? No one!

Ephesians 2:2-3-- **2**in which you once walked according to the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29232a)]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3**among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

* Jesus was Adam’s Descendent.

Luke 3:23.37-38-- **23**Now Jesus Himself began *His ministry at* about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) *the* son of Joseph, *the son* of Heli, **24***the son* of Matthat, *. . . ,***37***the son* of Methuselah, *the son* of Enoch, *the son* of Jared, *the son* of Mahalalel, *the son* of Cainan, **38***the son* of Enosh, *the son* of Seth, *the son* of Adam, *the son* of God.

* While the first Adam had brought death, the second Adam brought life.

1 Corinthians 15:47-49-- **47**The first man *was* of the earth, *made*[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+15&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-28766i" \o "See footnote i)] of dust; the second Man *is* [[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+15&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28766j)]the Lord from heaven. **48**As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man,* so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. **49**And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man.*

Romans 6:23**--**  **23**For the wages of sin *is* death, but the [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28092h)]gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:15b-17--For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. **16**And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28064f)]offenses *resulted* in justification. **17**For if by the one man’s [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28065g)]offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

1 Corinthians 15:21 **20**But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21**For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. **22**For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

* Jesus was the perfect, innocent Lamb of God. What this means:
* We think of God as Father more than Judge perhaps. But God is a great Judge

Psalm 76:6-8—6 For not from the east, nor from the west,

Nor from the desert comes exaltation;

7 But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.

8 For a cup is in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams;

It is well mixed, and He pours out of this;

Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs.

Isaiah 33:22-22 For the Lord is our judge, The Lord is our lawgiver,

The Lord is our king; He will save us—

* In dealing with Adam’s fall and his poor choice to give his allegiance to Satan, Yahweh thought—and thinks—in legal terms. He prepared for mankind’s legal redemption when man stood condemned [Recommended reading: all of Isaiah 28]. Throughout the Old Testament, He showed man his guilt and prepared man to receive His gift of redemption.

 Isaiah 28:5-8, 16-18, 21—In that day the Lord of hosts will be For a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty To the remnant of His people,
**6**For a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment,
And for strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

**. . . .** They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment.
**8**For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean. **9**“Whom will he teach knowledge?
And whom will he make to understand the message?
**. . . .**

**16**Therefore thus says the Lord God:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.
**17**Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,
And the waters will overflow the hiding place. **18**Your covenant with death will be annulled,
And your agreement with Sheol will not stand; . . .**21**For the Lord will rise up as at Mount Perazim,
He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon— That He may do His work, His awesome work,
And bring to pass His act, His unusual act.

* God had to prepare men’s hearts and minds before He could restore man to his position of stewardship over the earth. God then regained control of the earth and of our lives by legal means.

Romans 5:6—**6** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7**

Jesus paid the penalty for sin to God; He sacrificed himself as the Lamb of God.

# Isaiah 53:7—7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

# John 1:29—29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

* Killing Jesus meant the enemy was responsible for the killing of an innocent, for Jesus was guilty of no offense.

Exodus 23:7 Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty. [Murderers are not allowed to inherit or go unpunished].

Leviticus 24:19-22—22  Whoever injures a neighbor must receive the same injury in return [a broken bone for a broken bone, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth](https://biblereasons.com/eye-for-an-eye/). Whoever injures another person must receive the same injury in return. [Whoever kills an animal must replace it](https://biblereasons.com/killing-animals/). Whoever kills a person must be put to death. The same rule applies to every one of you. It makes no difference whether you are a foreigner or an Israelite, because I am the Lord your God.”

* Jesus voluntarily took on the sin and suffered the penalty of death for man’s sins.

Ephesians 2:1-10-- **2**And you *He made alive,* who were dead in trespasses and sins, **. . .  4**But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5**even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6**and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,**. . .**  **8**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9**not of works, lest anyone should boast. **10**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Jesus is—the Living Word**

* Jesus was the prophet foretold by Moses [Deut. 18:15-18], [but Jesus was more than just a prophet].

Deuteronomy 18:15-18-- **15**“The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, **16**according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’

* Jesus was the actual power and will of God clothed in a body. He was and is God Incarnate.

John 1:14--14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

* In addition, He has enabled every believer to hear God’s voice, for He Himself is the voice [John 10:14,16, 25-27]!

John 10:1-4— “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. **2**But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3**To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4**And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5**Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

John 10:27—**27**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

* Jesus transformed prophetic ministry because Jesus Himself is the source from which prophetic ministry flows. Jesus is the One Who inspires prophecy, and His breath is the vital breath of prophecy [Rev. 19:10].

Revelation 19:10 **--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.”

John 1:17-18--17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him] [John 1:17-18. See also Lk. 2:7; Col. 2:9].

**Jesus—What Jesus Di****d**

Jesus voluntarily took on the sin and suffered the penalty of death for man’s sins.

Ephesians 2:1-10-- **2**And you *He made alive,* who were dead in trespasses and sins, **. . .  4**But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5**even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6**and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,**. . .**  **8**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9**not of works, lest anyone should boast. **10**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Hebrews 10:4-10**— 10**The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. **2**Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. **3**But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. **4**It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**5**Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,    but a body you prepared for me;
**6**with burnt offerings and sin offerings     you were not pleased.
**7**Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
    I have come to do your will, my God.’”[

**8**First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. **9**Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. **10**And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Jesus—The Liberator**

* He released infinite Mercy and Grace.

2 Timothy 2:8-9-- **8**Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, . . .  **9**who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

John 1:17-- And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. **17**For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:7-- **7**In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 2:7-- **7**That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

* The tearing of the veil in the temple [Mt. 27:51; Lk. 23:44-46] symbolized the truth that fellowship and intimacy between God and man were fully restored through the blood of Jesus.

Mt. 27:50-51—**50**Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **51**And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Jesus—Creator of a New Body

* He created a Body—the eternal, universal Church, the Ecclesia, through His Spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17-- **16**The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+10&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28584e)]communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? **17**For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

1 Corinthians12:12-14--**12**For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. **13**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28648g)]into one Spirit. **14**For in fact the body is not one member but many. [See Col. 3:11, 1 Peter 2:4-5]].

* We are all parts of His glorious Body [1 Co. 12:12—see above]. Each person is unique and precious; each has a specific call in Jesus Christ; but each one is united to every other believer [in the eternal, universal Church] through the Holy Spirit.
* However, Jesus desired for us not only to be united to Him and to other believers, but He also wanted us to be “more than conquerors” [Ro. 8:37]. Thus, Jesus commanded that His disciples wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, “the Promise of the Father,” after His ascension [Acts 1:4-5] so that they could receive supernatural power. This promise, originally spoken to Abraham [see Gal. 3:8-14], restored believers to the position of authority that Adam and Eve held in the Garden; once more, believers have dominion over the earth through Jesus [Gal. 4:4-7; 1 Co. 15:45-54].

**Jesus destroyed the curse**.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the curse of Sin and death that separated mankind from God. Jesus lived a sinless life, perfectly fulfilling the Law [which made Him the recipient of all the blessings listed in Deuteronomy 28]. He was the only human being who ever kept all of the Law!

* Matthew 5:17-18: **17**“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. **18**For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23253b)]jot or one [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23253c)]tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.
* Some of the Blessings of Deuteronomy 28:
	+ Be set high above all the nations of the earth.
	+ You will be blessed in the city
	+ You will be blessed in the country.
	+ Your offspring will be blessed
	+ Your crops will be blessed
	+ Your cattle, herds, and flocks will increase
	+ Your basket and kneading bowl will be blessed
	+ You will be blessed going in and going out.
	+ The Lord will give you victory over all your enemies; they will flee
	+ Your storehouses will be blessed.
	+ In all your endeavors, you will be blessed.
	+ You will be blessed in the land the Lord God gives you.
	+ God will establish you [and notice, this applies to Christ’s co-heirs also] as a holy people to Himself
	+ All the people of the earth will see you are called by the name of the Lord [“Christian”] and fear you
	+ Etc
* We think of God as Father more than Judge perhaps. But God is a great Judge—The. He thinks in legal terms. He builds line upon line, precept upon precept. He regained control of earth and of our lives by legal means. Jesus paid the penalty for sin to God, but in killing Him the enemy killed an innocent.  Murderers are not allowed to inherit. Therefore, Satan lost legal control over the earth.
	+ Believers get the benefit of the blessings given to Jesus [because Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Law] because God sovereignly promised that we could share in our big brother’s blessings.

2 Peter 1:3-4-- **3**His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4**Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

* + We are co-heirs with Jesus.
* Romans 8:16-17—16The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **17**And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
* Galatians 3:26-29 **26**For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27**For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **28**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29**And if you *are* Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.
* We also, like Jesus are blessed with all the blessings promised to Abraham—a land, a people, etc.
* Galatians 3:8-9-- **8**And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying,* “In you all the nations shall be blessed.”**9**So then those who *are* of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. **10**For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” **11**But that no one is [justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” **12**Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.”
	+ **13**Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”), **14**that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
* Galatians 4 :4-6--**4**But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29136a)] of a woman, born under the law, **5**to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6**And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out,  Abba, Father!” **7**Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29139c)]of God ]through Christ.
* **The Holy Spirit was sent to help all believers, especially those converted on and after the day of Pentecost to become more like Jesus.**

**Ephesians 4:1-16—4**I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,  beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, **2**with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, **3**endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4***There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **5**one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6**one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29279c)]you all.

**7**But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. **8**Therefore He says:“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

**9**(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29282d)]first descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10**He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

**11**And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12**for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29285e)]edifying of the body of Christ, **13**till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14**that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15**but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **16**from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

* **Jesus created the five-fold ministry to**
	+ Properly equip and train believers to take the gospel to all the world.
	+ To build up and edify the ekklesia
	+ To build unity around our faith in God while celebrating each person's uniqueness and strength.
	+ To rightly understand and interpret the Scriptures
	+ To discern wrong teachings.

**New Testament prophets**

Agabus—Acts 11:27-28, 21:10

Judas and Silas—Acts15:32

All the Apostles. Because the Apostles spoke for God, they also acted as New Testament prophets.

**Biblical people with claimed prophetic experiences**

* [Ananias of Damascus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ananias_of_Damascus) ([Acts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Acts) [9:10–18](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Acts#9:10))
* [Elisabeth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_%28Biblical_person%29), mother of John the Baptist ([Luke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Luke) [1:41](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Luke#1:41))
* [Elihu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elihu_%28Job%29) ([Job](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Job) [32–35](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Job#32:1))
* [Joachim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joachim) ([Luke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Luke) [3:23](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Luke#3:23))
* [Joseph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Joseph), foster-father of [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus) ([Matthew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Matthew) [1:20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_1%3A20))
* [Mary, mother of Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary%2C_mother_of_Jesus) ([Luke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Luke) [1:26–28](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Luke#1:26))
* [Simeon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simeon_%28Gospel_of_Luke%29) of [Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem) ([Luke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Luke) [2:25, 26](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Luke#2:25))
* [Zechariah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zechariah_%28priest%29), father of John the Baptist ([Luke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Luke) [1:67](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Luke#1:67))

**The Church Age: From Exultation to Corruption**

* **The Apostolic Age—30-100 AD**. The Church grew with signs, healings, and miracles that accompanied the inspired preaching of the Gospel. The five-fold ministry flourishes. Believers heal the sick, have supernatural experiences, and freely give their lives as a testimony of the transforming power of the Gospel.
* **Age of Persecutions 100-313 AD.**
* The first martyr: Steven
* Note: Jerusalem is destroyed in 70 AD—Christians and Jews separate
* Dangers inside and out.
	+ Outside—Christianity outlawed by the Romans
	+ Inside—The rise of heresy
* 313 AD---Edict of Toleration, Constantine
* 383 AD—Mandatory, Theodosius

**The Decline of the *Ecclesia*; the Rise of a “structured, organized Church”**

* Definition of “structure”-- **noun**
1. Something made up of a number of parts that are held or put together in a particular way.
2. The way in which parts are arranged or put together to form a whole; makeup.
3. The interrelation or arrangement of parts in a complex entity.
* Originally, *structure* was placed within the ekklesia to support and empower the work of the Holy Spirit [which is the proper role of structure—to support]

Acts 6:1-8—**8**Now about this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint was made by the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27103a)]Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews) against the [[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27103b)]native] Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*. **2**So the [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27104c)]Twelve called the disciples together and said, “It is not appropriate for us to neglect [teaching] the word of God in order to serve tables *and* manage the distribution of food. **3**Therefore, brothers, choose from among you seven men with good reputations [men of godly character and moral integrity], full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. **4**But we will [continue to] devote ourselves [steadfastly] to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” **5**The suggestion pleased the whole congregation; and they selected [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27107d)]Stephen, a man full of faith [in Christ Jesus], and [filled with and led by] the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas (Nikolaos), a proselyte (Gentile convert) from Antioch. **6**They brought these men before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them [to dedicate and commission them for this service].**7**And the message of God kept on growing *and* spreading, and the number of disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem; and a large number of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith [accepting Jesus as Messiah and acknowledging Him as the Source of eternal salvation]

* As the Body grew,an *organizational* *structure* was needed for the proper distribution of food supplies. Men were selected and given the job of arranging reliable and fair distribution of food assets.
* These men were commissioned as servants in the church. Today, one of the definitions for the term “deacon” means ‘one of the [laity](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/laity) elected by a church with congregational polity to serve in worship, in pastoral care, and on administrative committees.’” [https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/deacon.]
* These men worked to remove distractions from the ministry of prayer and the Word. Their work supported, not replaced, the mandate of the Church to take the gospel to everyone.

Matthew 26:18-20— **18**And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**19**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**20**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

* However, after the Apostolic Age was over, the proper balance between structure and being began to fade. Result—Works and formal structures slowly replaced intimacy with Jesus and the Spirit out of rising concerns with heresies and the push towards control and conformity.

###  [Galatians 2:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3A16&version=ESV) –16Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

###  [Hebrews 11:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11%3A6&version=ESV) –6And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

###  [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A8-9&version=ESV) –8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

###  [Romans 3:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3%3A28&version=ESV) –28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

See special outline on “Structure” vs. “Being” at the end of this outline.

* Death and Dryness in the Ecclesia. The problem was not that the prophets were ignored or downplayed. The problem was ignoring the Holy Spirit and developing a reliance on the traditions of men.

Mark 7:1-9--Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. *When they come* from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, *like* the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?” He answered and said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

*' This people honors Me with* *their* *lips, But their heart is far from Me.*

*And in vain they worship Me,*

*Teaching* *as* *doctrines the commandments of men.'* For laying aside the commandment of [God](https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/booklet/id/421/god-is-what.htm), you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." He said to them, "*All too* well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. [Note the online *Forerunner’s Commentary* has some excellent notes on these verses. <https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/24465/eVerseID/24473>]

* [Colossians 2:8](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/29503/eVerseID/29503)**--**Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of [the world](https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/sermon/id/440/christian-and-world-part-one.htm), and not according to Christ.
* [1 Peter 1:17-19](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/30392/eVerseID/30394)**--**And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

We can never turn our noses up at our Jewish brothers for relying on the traditions of men because we in the church do the same! Not only did our forefathers fall into legalism and am imperial format, but even today we tend to follow what was “popular” and “what makes us comfortable”, to be spiritually lethargic, rather than seek what the Holy Spirit wants us to do today. Part of the role of the prophetic is to wake us up!

* **Results—The Church fell into a “law” mentality. A structuring of the church replaced the five-fold ministry** to resemble the Roman emperor’s court with an Old Testament-styled priest representing the people before the “Emperor” [Bishop/Pope]. [See next outline for a discussion of the difference between structural form and ministerial calling].
* Growing emphasis on Church buildings [the age of the Cathedrals]
* Imperial government
* Loss of simplicity
* The influx of pagans [Goths, Vandals, Huns]
* Fall of Rome 476 AD
* Birth of Mohammed 570 AD

Result—Works slowly replaced intimacy with Jesus.

* **The death of prophetic ministry [313 AD-500 AD]** (See note, p. 27]
* Five-fold ministry declines
* Worship in Spirit and Truth is replaced by rituals.
* Veneration of Mary and Petitions to Dead Saints
* Council of Nicaea
* Authority of “Fathers”
* Penance, not repentance
* The Holy Spirit and the Word of God were shunned. Limited access to Scriptures.
* Those who listened to the Holy Spirit were often condemned.
* Structure replaces Spirit
* Conformity and consolidation of power
* Reliance on man’s wisdom and authority, not God’s wisdom, power, or revelation.
	+ - **Commentary on Colossians 2:8—8** Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
* James Moffatt renders this verse as, "Beware of anyone getting hold of you by means of a theosophy [a branch of philosophy] which is specious make believe, on the lines of human tradition." This verse is the only place where the biblical writers use the word "philosophy." The word has survived the years with its meaning unchanged: the love and pursuit of wisdom by intellectual means. It is translated from the Greek *philosophia*, which can be broken into its individual parts: *philos* (fond or friendly) and *sophos* (clever or wise). *Strong's Concordance* writes that Paul was speaking of sophistry, that is, plausible but misleading argumentation or fallacious reasoning. Our word "sophisticate" derives from *sophos*. To sophisticate someone causes him to become less natural or simple; he becomes corrupted or perverted. A sophisticated person has acquired worldly knowledge and lacks natural simplicity. Philosophy, the love and pursuit of wisdom by intellectual means, is not wisdom from [God](https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/booklet/id/421/god-is-what.htm) but wisdom as defined by man. It is man's attempt to be wise. God says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" ([Psalm 111:10](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/15804/eVerseID/15804%22%20%5Co%20%22verse); [Proverbs 9:10](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/16649/eVerseID/16649%22%20%5Co%20%22verse)). Since man cannot [see God](https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/sermon/id/138/do-you-see-god.htm), he concludes, "There is no God." Because man's philosophy does not consider God, its very foundation is faulty.  **Mike Ford (1955-2021) “** [Beware of Philosophy](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/29503/eVerseID/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/ARTB/k/526/beware-of-philosophy.htm) [Forerunner Commentary]. <https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/>fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/29503/eVerseID/29503

**God’s Restoration of the Church**

* Predawn Period
* The Albigenses—reformers. Condemned by Pope and slaughtered
* The Waldensians—declared heretics by the Pope
* John Wycliffe [1329-1384]—translated the Vulgate into English. Declared a heretic
* John Huss [1369-1415]—taught that only God could forgive sin. Declared a heretic. Prophesied as he was being burned at the stake, “You are now roasting the good, but in 100 years, there will rise up a swan whom you shall not roast nor scorch. Him men will hear sing….”
* Girolamo Savanarola [1454-1498]—Preached against sin, and corruption among the people and in the church. Prophesied over the future of Italy. Declared a heretic and killed.
* Note: AD 1455 – Gutenberg invents printing press. First Gutenberg Bible printed [in Latin] in 1456
* AD 1492 – Columbus discovers the American continent while searching for the East Indies. Columbus wrote,

“It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel His hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from there to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit because he comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures, encouraging me to continually to press forward . . . . Our Lord Jesus desired to perform a very obvious miracle in the voyage to the Indies, to comfort me and the whole people of God.” (Columbus, Book of Prophecies)

**Note:**  Even during the Dark Ages, believers who manifested the giftings of the Holy Spirit or the five-fold ascension gifts emerged. Many of these people were considered “mystics” and “saints.” However, many of these people were also persecuted, exiled, or burnt at the stake as a heretic when they challenged the “status quo” of the organized church.

**Second Reformation –God’s Plan for Restoring the Church**

* **With each restoration movement, God begins to breathe new life through the Holy Spirit into His people. These movements are sovereignly released by God.**

Acts 3:19-20--**18**But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. **19**Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, **20**and that He may send [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27017c)]Jesus Christ, who was [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27017d)]preached to you before, **21**whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27018e)]the world began. **22**For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘TheLord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. **23**And it shall be *that* every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’**24**Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27021f)]foretold these days. **25**You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ **26**To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities.”

* Note: In his sermon after the healing of the crippled beggar at the temple, Peter linked repentance to God’s
	+ forgiving men of their sins and
	+ pouring out times of refreshing upon people.
	+ The result would be that Jesus would be sent to the people. When Jesus did return, a time of universal restoration would occur.
	+ Peter declared that these times of refreshing had to occur before the Messiah would only return after these times of refreshing had come (3:20).
	+ When Jesus returned, it would be a time of universal restoration (chronoi apokatastaseos,).
* **Dawn Breaks:** Martin Luther—95 Declarations [October 31, 1517]
* **Rise of Protestant Churches [the Protestant movement]—1500’s**
	+ justification is by faith alone

Romans 3:21-28--**21**But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22**even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28014f)]and on all who believe. For there is no difference; **23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24**being justified [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28016g)]freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25**whom God set forth *as* a [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28017h)]propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, **26**to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**27**Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. **28**Therefore we conclude that a man is [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-28020i" \o "See footnote i)]justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

* + Emphasis on Study of God’s Word and Repentance of Dead Works [see Hebrews 6:1; 9:14]
	+ Prayer and peace
	+ Denominations
* Lutheran
* Episcopal
* Presbyterian
* Congregational
* **AD 1526** – William Tyndale prints the first New Testament in the English Language. From 600 A.D. up until this time, it was unlawful (for the common man) to have a Bible in any other language than Latin. Before his execution, Tyndale said, “If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives the plough to know more of the scriptures than you do”
* **The Evangelical Movement—1600’s.**
* Water baptism is only for the repentant.

Mark 16:15-16-- **15**And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16**He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

* Separation of church and state [no state control of churches]
* Rise of evangelicalism—reliance on the gospel message found in Scripture
* Denominations
	+ - Mennonite
		- Baptists—believer’s baptism by immersion
		- All Fundamental-Evangelical churches
		- Pilgrims and Puritans were included in this group

**AD 1604**– King James I takes the throne in England. Seeks to unify the clergy’s and common people’s biblical usage. Result: King James Bible. Hindrance: Use of “church” [kirk, not ecclesia].

* **The Holiness Movement –1700’s.**
* Emphasized faith towards God and separation from the world.
* Emphasis on “Christlike” character and “sanctification of the Soul’ through the power of the Holy Spirit living within. [sanctification=set apart by and for God]

Deuteronomy 14:2-- You have been set apart as holy to the LORD your God, and he has chosen you from all the nations of the earth to be his own special treasure.

2 Corinthians 6:17-- Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. [See also 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Corinthians 7:1]

* Rise of lay preachers
* Development of missions
* Water baptism by immersion is a mark of Sanctification. [anabaptist, meaning “re-baptizer”]
* Joy and singing
* Many branches believed in an instantaneous sanctification experience and/or Christian perfection through the baptism of the Holy Ghost with fire. [Read about Phoebe Palmer].
* **AD 1730-1740** – The Great Awakening sweeps through Protestant Europe and British America, and especially the American colonies. This awakening leaves a permanent impact on American religion.
* Denominations
* Methodists—dedication and obedience reflect inner life.
* Christian and Missionary Alliance—sanctification through faith in the provision of the atonement
* Church of the Nazarene
* Salvation Army
* Free Will Baptist Church
* Famous leaders
* John and Charles Wesley
* Jonathan Edwards
* George Whitefield.
* Count Von Zinzendorf
* Charles Spurgeon
* Fanny Crosby
* Cults—With every movement of God, Satan creates a counterfeit or attempts to push people into extremism and error.
* Unitarian
* Christian Science
* Seventh Day Adventist
* Mormons
* Jehovah Witnesses
* **Faith Healing Movement—1850’s--ish [some consider this part or an extension of the Holiness movement].**
	+ Divine physical healing in the atonement.

James 5:14-15-- "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in [faith](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-for-faith-in-hard-times/) will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

Isaiah 53:4-5-- "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

1 Peter 2:24-- "He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

### [James 5:13-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+5%3A13-16&version=ESV) –16 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

* Leaders
* Johann Blumhart, Lutheran pastor [Germany]
* Dorothea Trundel [Switzerland]—charged for healing without a license
* A.B. Simpson [Himself miraculously healed as he was dying].
* Otto Stockmayer
* AJ Gordon
* Ethan Allen—healed of consumption by prayer of faith during a Methodist meeting
* Denominations
* Christian Missionary Alliance
* Church of God
* Greatly opposed by
* William Warren Sweet
* James Buckley
* B.B. Warfield—rejected healings, miracles, and gifts of the Spirit as ending in first century [See note on next page.
* **Pentecostal Movement—1900’s**

The Pentacostal movement emphasizes a direct, personal experience with God through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, a work of grace. Speaking with tongues was acknowledged as the sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

### [Acts 2:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A4&version=ESV) –4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

### [Romans 8:26-27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A26-27&version=ESV)—Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

* Holy Spirit baptism with unknown tongues
* Assembly of God
* Foursquare
* United Pentecostal
* Church of God in Christ
	+ Spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit—healings, miracles, tongues, interpretation, prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge
* Leaders
* Charles Parham—Azuza Street Revival
* William J. Seymour—Azuza Street Revival
* Amy Semple McPherson—Foursquare Gospel Assembly, faith healer
* Problems
* Lack of uneducated leadership
* Differences in doctrinal beliefs about the Trinity. “Oneness Pentecostalism” rejects the doctrine of the Trinity, believing that the Father, Son [Jesus], and the Holy Spirit are different manifestations of the same person, as stated in Oneness theology [United Pentecostal Church]. However, this doctrine was renounced as a heresy in the first-century church.
	+ Struggle to accept women as equal to men [Women more likely to be evangelists and missionaries].
	+ Arguments on whether the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was the second work of grace or part of the grace of salvation.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4--Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; **2**And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **3**And did all eat the same spiritual meat; **4**And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

* Denominations
* Pentecostal Holiness
* Foursquare Gospel Assembly
* Assemblies of God
* Pentecostal Assemblies of the World
* Church of God in Christ
* Apostolic Faith Church
* **Latter Rain Movement—1950’s** [Name came from the prophecy of Joel as the restoration’s birth coincided with the establishment of the nation of Israel]

“Now, therefore,” says the Lord,
“Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”
**13**So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the Lord your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.
**14**Who knows *if* He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him—
A grain offering and a drink offering For the Lord your God? . . .

Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God;
For He has given you the [[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joel%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-22335j)]former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you—
The former rain, And the latter rain in the first *month.*
**24**The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

**25**“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming [[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joel%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-22337k)]locust has eaten,
The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.
**26**You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God,
Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.
**27**Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel: I *am* the Lord your God And there is no other.
My people shall never be put to shame.

“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions. **29**And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days. [Joel 2: 12-14, 23-29].

* Characteristics
* Prophetic presbytery,
* Singing praises,
* And Body of Christ membership ministries
* Non-denominational churches
	+ Deliverance Evangelism Movement. Evangelist ministry and mass evangelism reactivated with miraculous healings.
* Independent churches, relational networks, and ministerial fellowships
* Famous Leaders
	+ Oral Roberts—healing
	+ Billy Graham—evangelist
	+ Jack Coe—Pentecostal evangelist and faith healer
	+ William Branham—faith healer
* Joseph Mattsson-Boze—pastor and magazine publisher
* Problems
* Rejected by traditional Pentecostals
* Lack of accountability among some leaders
	+ Development of cults based on unbalanced teaching, including Christian Universalism [all will be saved].
* **1960’s Charismatic Movement.** The Spirit is released with fire in 1960. Episcopalian Rector [Dennis J. Bennett](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Bennett_%28priest%29) received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of tongues.)

Joel 2: 21-23, 28-29--**1**Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice,
For the Lord has done marvelous things!
**22**Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; For the open pastures are springing up,
And the tree bears its fruit; The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.
**23**Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God;
For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you—
The former rain, And the latter rain in the first *month.*

A 1990’s study of Israel’s rain patterns confirmed Joel’s prophecy that

The October rains (at the onset of the rainy season that extends to April) in southern Israel have steeply increased in the last quarter century relative to the prior two decades [change measured from 1965-1990, insert me]. A less pronounced, but appreciable, increase is noted for the rest of the rainy season. [See <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF02186093>

Joel 2:28-29--“And it shall come to pass *afterward* That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.**29**And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

* Characterized by the [baptism with the Holy Spirit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baptism_with_the_Holy_Spirit) with a release of spiritual gifts [The Greek word *charismata* or χαρίσματα is taken from the Greek word for grace, *charis*  or χάρις] of the [Holy Spirit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Spirit_%28Christianity%29). [See 1 Corinthians 12]. This Baptism comes through the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit, with or without the [laying on of hands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laying_on_of_hands).

**Gift as listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11--4**There are [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20corinthians%2012&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28639d)]diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5**There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. **6**And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20corinthians%2012&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28641e)]all in all. **7**But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all:* **8**for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20corinthians%2012&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28644f)]the same Spirit, **10**to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11**But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Even today many believers have a “take it or leave it attitude” toward the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Peter understood the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as non-optional; it was part of God’s promise of redemption and the source of power [dudamis] that enabled a person to live the Christian life.

Acts 2:37-39--**37**Now when they heard *this,* they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

**38**Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26988k)]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

* God pours out His Spirit across denominational lines [begins with Anglicanism!] and upon the lost.
* 1960 in [Anglicanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism),
* [Lutherans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheranism) and [Presbyterians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presbyterianism) by 1962
* [Roman Catholicism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic) by 1967.
* [Methodists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodism)  in the 1970s.
* Results
	+ - Renewal of all restored truth to all past movement churches. God pours out His Spirit
		- Restoration of the Pastor as a five-fold, ascension ministry.

Pastors restored to being the sovereign head of their local churches [no longer kept as the errand boy, subject to hiring and firing on a whim].

A release not just to preach but to empower every person to feel part of the family of God.

Every person can feel included, part of the Body. Every person can be able to overcome brokenness and become whole.

* + - Independent Charismatic churches arise—Vineyard Churches, Evangel Fellowship International, etc.
		- Many mainline denominations embrace Holy Spirit and thrive.
* Problems—We must never be afraid to admit to our failures, for only with recognition and repentance is there growth.

1 John 1:5-2:2--**5**This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6**If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**8**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

**2**My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **2**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Definition of **propitiation**—1**:**the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of someone or something **:**the act of [propitiating](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/propitiate) **:**[APPEASEMENT](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/appeasement)// a sacrifice in *propitiation* of the gods… [“She showed every possible desire to conciliate him, and there was an air of humble *propitiation* in all she did, . . .— Charles Dickens]

**2:**something that [propitiates](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/propitiates) or appeases *specifically*  **:**an atoning sacrifice

* Abuse of authority; claiming any questioning of leadership was ungodly.
* Lack of accountability
* Self-centeredness and tendency to focus on self [“Holy Ghost jollies]
* [See others listed below]
* **1970’s –Faith Movement**

 [John 14:26](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-14-26/) - But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Hebrews 5:12-6:-12: 12 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%206&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30046a)]perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2**of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%206&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30046a)]perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

* Rise of the Teachers. “Teacher” is recognized as a five-fold, ascension ministry. These teachers also were involved in supernatural manifestations of the Spirit and healings as they taught the word of God.
* Had a Berean Spirit—Acts 17:11
* Teaching on faith confessions, prosperity, and victorious living and attitudes.
* Famous Leaders
* EW Kenyon
* Kenneth Hagin
* Kenneth Copeland
* Derek Prince
* Andrew Wommack
* Jesse Duplantis
* Charles Cappps
* Bob Yandian
* Benny Hinn
* Problems that arose from the misapplication of God’s truth.
* Greasy grace
* Name it and claim it
* Selfish prosperity—getting rich/being a source/flow of blessing
* Confusing faith with magic

**Note: Why are teachers and their teaching so important? And why do we need to monitor and evaluate everything that we are taught?**

1] We become like those we hear and admire.

* [Romans 12:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A2&version=ESV) **–**2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### [Proverbs 4:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+4%3A23&version=ESV) –23 Keep your heart [or mind, insert me] with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life

2] Right thinking leads to peace and clarity in recognizing what is of God and what is not.

* John 8: 31--31To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

### [1 Peter 5:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A8&version=ESV) –8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

3] What we think and believe, leads to actions that affect others as well as ourselves.

### [Matthew 12:34](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A34&version=ESV) –34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

### [Luke 6:45](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A45&version=ESV)—45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

### 4]. God will hold false teachers accountable if they do not repent.

* James 3:1--1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.
* 2 Peter 2:1-3—1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.
* 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.
* 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.
* **1980’s [1988] Restoration of the Prophets**

Psalm 105:15--Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Romans 12:3-6—Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

1 Peter 4:10--As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Acts 15:32—32 Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets (divinely inspired spokesmen), encouraged and strengthened the believers with many words.

* Characteristics:
* The revelation is that God desires to speak to each one of His children and develop an intimate relationship with them.
* The revelation of how to activate believers in spiritual giftings.
* Awareness of spiritual warfare and how to pray in specific situations.
* Recognizing the callings and abilities within people.
* Providing guidance to leadership
* Casting vision and awakening people and leadership to God’s possibilities.
* Leaders
	+ Bill Hamon [Christian International]
	+ Mike Bickle and Paul Cain [Kansas City Prophets]
	+ Cindy Jacobs
	+ Bob Jones
* Problems
* Immature prophets hurt people.
* Misunderstanding of how to deal with a personal prophecy
* False prophets out for money or fame
* Failure to mentor young prophets
* Idolizing prophets
* Treating personal prophecies in a profane manner.
* Serious personal failures with no accountability
* Attacks from mainline denominations
* **1990’s Restoration of the Apostles**

Matthew 10:7-8—7  **7**And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew%2010&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23425c)]is at hand.’ **8**Heal the sick, [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew%2010&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23426d)]cleanse the lepers, [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew%2010&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23426e)]raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

2 Corinthians 12:7-12— **7**So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. **8**Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. **9**But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10**For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. . . .For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. **12**The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

* Characteristics
* **They integrate the message of integrity with the message of kingdom influence.**
* **They are ecumenical and collaborate with all parts of the church.**
* **They do not focus on ecclesial titles [but honor the true man or woman of God].**
* **They espouse apostolic government with a spirit of servanthood, humility, self-sacrifice, and integrity.**
* **They identify with both church and marketplace leaders.**
* **They are committed to developing kingdom relationships.**
* **They are not event-driven but process driven; want results, not notoriety.**
* **They are statesmen that can collaborate with those who disagree with them**
* **They are comfortable with both secular and sacred vernacular**
* **They are entrepreneurs with a kingdom agenda rather than a consumerist agenda**
* **They have a broader view of cultural engagement than the previous generation**
* **They are focused on equipping the next generation.**
* Leaders
* Peter Wagner
* Chuck Pierce
* John P. Kelly
* John Wimber
* Responsibilities
* Properly teaching the Word of God
* Identifying potential leaders and training them.
* Empowering leaders and releasing them. This involves strengthening, correcting, and encouraging leaders.
* Identifying what areas God is moving in now [nations ready for harvest, public arenas, etc].
* Demonstrating signs, miracles, and wonders
* Praying for people
* Setting an example of kingdom-mindedness
* Recognizing the giftings of individuals.
* Delegating tasks so that people can fulfill their God-given purpose
* Problems
* False apostles
* Lack of mentoring for those called but not mature
* Lack of integrity among immature apostles
* Witches and warlocks trying to assume the apostolic position
* Jealousy among some Christian leaders
* **A comparison of the Apostolic leadership and Traditional Denominational Leadership.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Apostolic is usually led by one strong visionary | Denominations are led by a board.  |
| Apostolic is usually mission-driven | Denomination are usually policy driven |
| Apostolic is usually mission-focused | The denomination is often theological, sociological, or culturally driven.  |
| Apostolic emphasizes covenantal, voluntary relationships | Denominations emphasize hierarchical relations. and structures and business in their gatherings.  |
| Apostolic emphasizes present move of God in the earth. | Denominations emphasize the glory days of the past.  |
| Emphasizes people serving together | Emphasize the institution.  |
| Leaders are led by the Spirit regarding ministry placement | Denominational clergy are led by their bishop or hierarchy.  |
| Apostolic believes in biblical inerrancy | Most denominations believe in a higher critical form of inspiration. (Their line of reasoning: Because the church gave the Scriptures, the church has the right to change them, update them, etc. through church councils and official writings. Some groups say only the actual words of Jesus Christ in the Gospels are inspired of God.)  |
| Apostolic emphasizes the power of Christ in terms of releasing faith to fulfill ministry | Denominations emphasize the power of committees to implement strategic plans. |
| Apostolic emphasizes the local church as the primary training ground for ministry | Denominations emphasizes the seminary.  |
| Apostolic empowers the laity to minister (Eph. 4:11, 12). | .Denominations emphasizes the seminary.  |
| Believe apostolic succession is based upon a divine calling, ministerial fruit, and anointing | Denominations believe succession of leadership is transferred through the laying on of hands during an ecclesial ceremony. |

Apostles in the New Testament were the “sent ones” who, as military generals, were called to lead the church in mission as they were sent out to conquer new territories by planting churches and kingdom influence in key cities of the old Greco-Roman world. . . . **it is essential that we recapture the function (if not the title) of apostolic ministry once again so the lions of the church are released from their cages to go out and hunt (metaphorically speaking) and expand kingdom influence!** **https://churchwatchcentral.com/2016/11/16/modern-restoration-of-apostles-what-the-nar-really-teaches/**

**Note:** Each restoration movement is built upon the truths revealed and received during the previous restoration movement. Often other truths manifested but either were not received or held onto. Martin Luther wrote in 1542, “We have prayed three people on the brink of death back to life: me, my Katie, and also Philip, whose eyes had already become lifeless.” However, divine healing was not retained in the Protestant movement. Later, during John Wesley’s meetings, people were moved by the Spirit and spoke in tongues. He would stop his ministry and forbid the practice because He thought it was “excessive emotionalism”.

**Note**: Some folks follow a slightly different outline than the one given above:

1906 — Azusa Street Movement
1926 — Pentecostal Movement
1946 — Healing-Deliverance Movement
1966 — Charismatic Movement\*
1986 — Prophetic Movement
2006 — Apostolic Movement\*\*

**2008—The Third Reformation. Also called “The Saints Movement”**

1 Corinthians 14:5—5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

Acts 2:17-21—17 ‘And it shall be in the last days,’

God says,

‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind;

And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

And your young men shall see visions,

And your old men shall dream dreams;

And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.
**19**I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.
**20**The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome

day of the Lord.
**21**And it shall come to pass
*That* whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved.’

The Holy Spirit was poured out on that first Pentecost after the Resurrection and the Church was birthed with miracles, signs, and wonders. Now that all the fundamental truths have been restored [Read and Study Hebrews 6: 1-2, the entire body of Christ is prepared to arise and fulfill the works that God has prepared for the end time church to accomplish before Jesus returns.

Ephesians 2:10--“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Titus 2:1,5-8a-1But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: **. .** , that the word of God may not be blasphemed. **6**Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, **7**in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, **8**sound speech that cannot be condemned, . . . .

* The saints of God begin to rise up in their authority to fulfill the initial commandment of Genesis 1:26-28

**26**Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26g)]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27**So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28**Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28h)]moves on the earth.”

* 2nd level of prophetic ministry emerges.
	+ Emphasis shifts from ministering to one with personal prophecies
	+ Prophets begin advising and warning nations, corporate leaders, etc.
	+ Corrections and warnings are issued publicly when necessary
	+ More direct confrontations with demonic
	+ Often partner with Apostles and/or Teachers
* Focus: “Market Place Ministry”

Moving beyond the walls of the Church to take the Gospel and the Power of God through the Holy Spirit to impact all segments of culture.

* Fields for Harvest: The Seven areas of Influence
* Education
* Arts [Entertainment, Sports, music, etc]
* Media [TV, movies, video, etc.]
* Politics [Government]
* Business [Finances, Economy]
* Religion [spirituality]
* Family
* The division between the true church and the structural, “societal” church.
* The true church, the ecclesia, will be in love with Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah.
* A second division between warriors [those who want to welcome and establish the Kingdom of God] and those who merely want to get into heaven.
	+ God loves and appreciates both.
	+ But those who actively seek to see the establishment of the Kingdom of God will be the ones to rule and reign with Christ for 1000 years.
* Satanic opposition
	+ The church will be tested.
	+ The “ekklesia”, the “second Eve,” will face spiritual warfare and be tempted just as the first Eve was.
		- Men—to deal with failure. Grasp power and control
		- Women—to deal with shame. Desire to have forbidden spiritual knowledge.
* Rise of paganism in society—What was old is now new
	+ - Baal—the storm god
		- Molech—the sacrifice of children
		- Ashteroth—sexual perversions and sexual confusion
		- There must be no fellowship between darkness and light!

Ephesians 6:11-12—11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

1 Peter 2:9—9 But God has “called you out of darkness into His
marvelous light”.

[1 John 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+1.5&t=NET) –5 “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all”.

John 8:12—12 Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life”.

2 Co. 6:14—14 Do not become partners with those who do not believe, for what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship does light have with darkness?

* Increase of Occult influences presently seen in the Church
	+ - Christian yoga. Christian seances, etc.
		- Unbiblical lyrics in music. Self-exaltation of lyrics
		- **Reiki and energy healing**: This is idolatry, using “energy” from unfamiliar spirits and symbols for healing. Beware of anyone who using the word Chakra in the church, as this is a new age belief. –
		- Salvation by works
		- Universalism –including ideas that God loves so much He will welcome unrepentant homosexuals into the Kingdom
		- divination
		- sorcery [magic]
		- spiritualism [listing to ancestors]
		- self-deification
		- depersonalizing God.
		- Not preaching the Gospel
		- Evolutionary Theology
		- Horoscopes
		- “**Believe in yourself**”: This New Age slogan glorifies self. “Listen to your own heart” [often heard on Hallmark] The Bible says that the heart is deceitful. Proverbs 3:5-6 says that we must trust God, and not lean upon our own understanding.
		- **Kenosis and Arianism Heresies**: The teaching that Jesus was just a human (Arianism heresy), and not God; and the teaching that Jesus emptied his divinity during his earthly ministry (Kenosis heresy). Pure blasphemy, with new age and occult roots.
		- **The Enneagram**. This personality test is not from a psychologist or from a Christian. It was created by a man named Claudio Naranjo, who said that he created the Enneagram test from “automatic writing,” which is a dangerous occult practice of getting messages from unfamiliar spirits. Even though the Enneagram has been touted as Christian, it has no biblical basis.
		- **“Little gods”: Psalm 46:10 is taken out of context in the New Age**. “Be still and know that I am God” New agers believe that they are in training to become a “little god.”  While we become co-heirs with Christ, it is because of God’s grace and Jesus’ sacrifice. We become part of the “Second Eve” molded into a character like Jesus. We are restored into the Image of God [Gen 1:26], but we never become a god! We are qualitatively different—we are spirit plus earth.
		- **Crystal Idolatry**: Viewing crystals as having “special healing powers” is idolatry. Jesus has healing powers. Anything we view as having more power than God is an idol. Anything we focus upon more than God, is an idol. The Bible forbids idolatry and worshipping the creation; we are only to worship the Creator.

**Exodus 20:3-5a—**3  [3](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-20-3/)Thou shalt have no other gods before me**.**[4](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-20-4/)**Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:** [5](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-20-5/)Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:

* + - **Praying to angels**: nowhere in the Bible does anybody call upon an angel. No one is praying to the angels. No one prays to Archangel Michael in the Bible. Paul says that we should not worship angels (Colossians 2:18). Asking to speak with angels is not wise, for Satan masquerades as an angel of light [2 Corinthians 11:14]. When the apostle John bowed before an angel, the angel told him to stop bowing
* Revelation 22:8—8 And [John,](https://biblehub.com/greek/2491.htm) who heard [and](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [saw](https://biblehub.com/greek/991.htm) [these things.](https://biblehub.com/greek/3778.htm) [And](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [when](https://biblehub.com/greek/3753.htm) [I had heard](https://biblehub.com/greek/191.htm) [and](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [seen them,](https://biblehub.com/greek/991.htm) [I fell down](https://biblehub.com/greek/4098.htm) [to worship](https://biblehub.com/greek/4352.htm) [at](https://biblehub.com/greek/1715.htm) [the](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [feet](https://biblehub.com/greek/4228.htm) [of the](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [angel](https://biblehub.com/greek/32.htm) [who](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [had shown](https://biblehub.com/greek/1166.htm) [me](https://biblehub.com/greek/1473.htm) [these things.](https://biblehub.com/greek/3778.htm) **9 But** he said to me, “Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers, the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!”
* If God did send an angel to speak to you, the Lord expects you to test that angel to see if it is a reliable, true messenger from the Lord. 1 John 4:1-3—1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2**By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3**and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
* Books [Harry Potter, etc.], TV shows, and films [*Twilight* series] that normalize and support forbidden practices. Just because they are popular, does not mean that they are the type of item we should pay attention to. These items are like delicious chocolate cake that has been mixed with a scoop of dog poo and a portion of poison before the cake is cooked and decorated.
* **Astrology and Horoscopes**: The tolerance for these idolatrous practices is increasing. When astrology is mentioned in the Bible, it is associated with pagan idolatry. The 3 magi [the wise men] were not called “astrologers.” They were following the Messianic prophecies in the Bible, which led them to Jesus. They didn’t look at constellations or use astrological predictions; the magi studied the Biblical prophecies about Jesus.

Structure vs. Being

* While “structure” is necessary to do the work of the ministry, the structure of a church organization is never to become the heart of the ministry or the center of focus for the ministry. Instead, in their “being,” their hearts and minds, believers are to focus on worshipping God, loving those around us, developing intimacy with God, and only then doing the work of the ministry that God directs us to walk into. At all times, a believer should be in a growing relationship with God, whether He or she speaks to nations or quietly serves in the shadows.
* When a problem led the apostles to appoint deacons in the Jerusalem church [Acts 6], all seven selected were
* men of good reputation [men of godly character and moral integrity
* full of the Spirit and of wisdom. [Acts 6:3]
* Two of the deacons in Acts 6 were great men of God, known already for their works and walk with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 6:5—5 The suggestion pleased the whole congregation; and they selected [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27107d)]Stephen, a man full of faith [in Christ Jesus], and [filled with and led by] the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas (Nikolaos), a proselyte (Gentile convert) from Antioch.

* Their work within the Jerusalem church's structure was subservient to their walk with the Lord.
* Phillip became known as a great evangelist who was responsible for the foundation of the Ethiopian church.

Philip the Evangelist –was one of the [Seven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Deacons) chosen to care for the poor of the [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christians) community in [Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_in_Christianity) ([Acts 6](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_%28King_James%29/Acts#6:1)). He preached and performed [miracles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miracle) in [Samaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samaria), and met and baptized a man on the road from Jerusalem to [Gaza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_City), traditionally marking the start of the [Ethiopian Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopian_Church) ([Acts 8:26-39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8%3A26-39&version=NRSV)).

Acts 8:26-**26**But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go south to the road that runs from Jerusalem down to Gaza.” **(**This is a desert road**)**. **27**So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch [a man of great authority], a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship, **. . . 30**Philip ran up and heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” **31**And he said, “Well, how could I [understand] unless someone guides me [correctly]?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him **. . . .** **35**Then Philip spoke and beginning with this Scripture he preached Jesus to him [explaining that He is the promised Messiah and the source of salvation]. **36**As they continued along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch exclaimed, “Look! Water! What forbids me from being baptized?” **37**[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%208&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27214e)][Philip said to him, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] **38**And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. **39**When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord [suddenly] took Philip [and carried him] away [to a different place]; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but he went on his way rejoicing.

 Later, Philip lived in [Caesarea Maritima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caesarea_Maritima#Christian_hub) with his four daughters who [prophesied](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophecy), where he was visited by [Paul the Apostle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle) ([Acts 21:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+21%3A8-9&version=NRSV)). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip\_the\_Evangelist]

* Steven became known for being the first martyr in the Church. Yet in his being, Steven manifested the characteristics of a prophet flowing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12: 8-11—8 To one is given through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] the message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] the word of knowledge *and* understanding according to the same Spirit; **9**to another [wonder-working] faith [is given] by the same [Holy] Spirit, and to another the [extraordinary] gifts of healings by the one Spirit; **10**and to another the working of [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12&version=AMP#fen-AMP-28645a)]miracles, and to another prophecy [foretelling the future, speaking a new message from God to the people], and to another discernment of spirits [the ability to distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine of man-made religions and cults], to another *various* kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. **11**All these things [the gifts, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses.

* Gift of miracles—Steven had power to work great miracles and do wonders [healings among the people.

Acts 6:8— **8**Now Stephen, full of grace (divine blessing, favor) and power, was doing great wonders and signs (attesting miracles) among the people.

* Word of Wisdom—Steven spoke with supernatural, great wisdom that was irrefutable [Acts 6:10
* Through the Holy Spirit, Steven knew what facts to bring up.
* Steven also knew how to present those facts for maximum impact upon those who listened.

Acts 6:10—10But they were not able to successfully withstand *and* cope with the wisdom *and* the intelligence [and the power and inspiration] of the Spirit by whom he was speaking [See Amplified Version].

* Stephen spoke prophetically as He reviewed the history of Israel’s walk with God.
	+ This type of prophesying is called forth-telling. Forth-telling prophecy does not reveal the future by revealing:
	1. what God is thinking or seeing about events or issues. In this case, Stephen revealed God’s perspective on the behavior of the nation of Israel.

Acts 7:51-53—**51**“You stiff-necked *and* stubborn people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are always actively resisting the Holy Spirit. You are doing just as your fathers did. **52**Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who proclaimed beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; **53**you who received the law as ordained *and* delivered to you by angels, and yet you did not obey it!”

* 1. Foretelling is also repeating the prophecies of others or Scripture at critical times. Notice how in Acts 7 Steven repeats the history of Israel by selecting certain critical events and repeating certain prophetic words.
* His prophesying was not sweet or gentle. He boldly exposed heart motivations and denounced hard-heartedness and stubbornness. His supernaturally empowered words caused them to become enraged [7:54]

Acts 7:54—**54**Now when [[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%207&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27171k)]they heard this [accusation and understood its implication], they were cut to the heart, and they *began* grinding their teeth [in rage] at him.

* Had visions of Jesus welcoming him [Acts 7:56]

56and he said, “Look! I see the heavens opened up [in welcome] and [[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%207&version=AMP#fen-AMP-27173l)]the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

* Revealed and reflected the character of Christ in forging his enemies even as they murdered him.

Acts 7:59-60—**59**They continued stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive *and* accept and welcome my spirit!” **60**Then, falling on his knees [in worship], he cried out loudly, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them [do not charge them]!” When he had said this, he fell asleep [in death].

**For future reading, check out these resources:**

Books

*How to Hear the Voice of God* by Mark and Patty Vickler

*The Eternal Church* by Bishop Bill Hamon

*Divinely Commissioned: God’s Delivery Service* by Lynn Watkins

*The Return of the Gods* by Joseph Cahn

To learn more about the prophets in the Bible, here are some on-line resources:

 <https://www.learnreligions.com/major-and-minor-prophets-old-testament-4048175>

<https://cynthiahester.com/2020/12/16/how-many-women-prophets-prophesied-in-the-bible/>

<https://www.womanofnoblecharacter.com/female-prophets-of-the-bible/>

<https://overviewbible.com/prophets/>

The Impact of the Occult on the Modern Church:

<https://midwestoutreach.org/2017/12/27/occultism-in-the-church-part-1/>

<https://www.the-saltoftheearth.com/occult-church/>

<https://jashow.org/articles/examples-of-occultism-in-our-world-and-the-church/>

1. The New Testament reveals that others, such as Enoch [Jude 14-15] prophesied, although Genesis did not call Enoch a prophet. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Remember, the New Covenant was not in effect until Jesus died. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)