

Is Prophecy For Today?

INTRODUCTION

I. The nature of Old Testament prophecy.

A. It was direct revelation from God. The prophet was a mouthpiece for God.

¹⁸ ~'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ ~'It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require *it* of him. ²⁰ ~'But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' Deuteronomy 18:18-20 (NASB)

⁹ Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. Jeremiah 1:9 (NASB)

B. It was 100% accurate regarding predictions of the future.

²¹ "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?' ²² "When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. Deuteronomy 18:21-22 (NASB)

C. True prophets pointed to the true God. (Deuteronomy 13:1-5)

D. False prophets were to be killed. (Deut. 18:20; 13:5)

E. Prophets and prophesy were not uniformly distributed throughout time but rather clustered around certain periods of time.

⁷ "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he [Moses] is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours." Genesis 20:7

¹⁰ Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, Deuteronomy 34:10

II. The nature of New Testament prophecy

A. It was revelation from God- 2 Cor. 14:29-30; 2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. ³⁰ But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent. 1 Corinthians 14:29-30 (NASB)

²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,
²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)

B. What was the content of New Testament prophecies?

C. Jesus, the apostles and NT prophets form the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:19-22).

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 (NASB)

D. Prophecy will appear on the Earth before the Day of the Lord (Acts 2:14-21)

E. Based on the above evidence I believe:

III. Application

A. Even if the gift of prophecy is not operating today, the Holy Spirit can still supernaturally reveal information to us.

B. Beware of those who claim the title of apostle or prophet.

C. All messages need to be consistent with the Bible's teachings, correctly interpreted.

¹⁰ The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so. Acts 17:10-11 (NASB)