

PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING

Part 3



Feb. 26, 2017

“The Old Testament Office of Prophet”

Introduction

- The pattern of the Threefold Office can be traced back to God’s original instructions to mankind in Genesis 1-2.
- The prophetic, priestly, and kingly roles God intended for mankind at the beginning were also expected of Israel when they were constituted as a nation in Exod. 19. This pattern was also reemphasized in the instructions given to them in Deuteronomy as they were about to enter the Promised Land.
- Though God intended for Israel as a whole to exhibit these characteristics, within the structure of the nation these each became separate offices.

What is Prophecy?

- We need to think of prophecy more in terms of _____ than in terms of _____.

⇒ The primary task of the prophet was _____!

Prophecy Defined:

The Word of God spoken or written by a prophet to those for whom it was intended so that they might know the promises of God and respond accordingly.

The Characteristics of an OT Prophet:

He was an Israelite (Deut. 18:15)

He was called by God (Jer. 1:4-5)

The Holy Spirit was upon him (Num. 11:17)

He spoke for God (Deut. 18:18-19)

The authority and revelation from God (Ex. 7:1)

His ministry was accompanied by signs

(1 Kings 13:5, Isa. 8:18, Ezek. 4:3)

Moses: The Fountainhead of Prophecy

- Moses is considered to be foremost among the OT prophets because of the significance of his prophetic ministry to the people of Israel as well as because of his instructions to them regarding prophetic office.

Deut. 18:15-22—15 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16 just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ 17 And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. 20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ 21 And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?’— 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

1. God will raise up prophets from among the people.
2. The words of the prophet are not ultimately his own, but they are the words of God.
3. The people are accountable to God to respond properly to the words of the prophet.
4. The people were warned that false prophets will arise from among them.

Important Observation: God communicates His Word to His people in order that they might _____.

The Prophet's Calling and Mission: The Example of Isaiah (Isa. 6:1-13)

- Isaiah was called by God in the form of a vision (6:1)
- The Word of the Lord was proclaimed first to the prophet himself (6:3)
- In light of Who God was in His holiness, the prophet recognized his own sin and limitation (6:5)
- Good news was proclaimed to the prophet (6:7)
- The prophet was then commissioned by God (6:8-13)

What will be the effects of his proclamation of the Word of the Lord?

1. _____ — Most people who hear Isaiah's message will not respond in faith but will instead continue in their sin until the time of God's wrath comes upon them.

Isa. 6:10—“Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

2. _____ — Some will hear the words of the prophet and respond in faith. This will be a remnant from among the wider group who rejects the Word of the Lord.

Isa. 6:13b— “The holy seed is the stump.”

⇒ Consider that the content of Isaiah's message included oracles of God's coming judgment (Isa. 1-5) as well as the good news of the coming of the Lord (Isa 40:1-11) and the promise of a New Heaven and New Earth (Isa. 65:17-66:24).

The Need of a “Greater” Prophet

- The OT prophets were limited in many ways. At best they could only describe God and communicate His Word which was spoken to them. They could not, however, convey God in His fullness because they were only men.
- In Acts 3:17-26, Peter proclaimed to the Jews in the Temple that Jesus was the fulfillment of Moses' words in Deut. 18:15.

How does Jesus' Prophetic Role Function Today?

- Christ is the Living Word of God who is revealed in and speaks through the written Word of God. Therefore, the prophetic ministry of Christ is incredibly significant in our lives today and is inextricably bound to Scripture.

1. We need someone to proclaim the Word of God to us with _____ and _____.

2. We need someone to call us on our _____ and to exhort us to _____ of it.

3. To proclaim _____ to us.

Rev. 2:3-7 — 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.