

ROLES &
RESPONSIBILITIES
—• FOR •—
TODAY'S PROPHETS
(OF THE LORD)



KOLLIN L. TAYLOR

Roles &
Responsibilities
for Today's Prophets
(of the Lord)

Kollin L. Taylor



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DEDICATION

To my Dad, and the voices crying out in the wildernesses,
preparing the way for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
#PitBullFaith

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord) is a condensed but not all-inclusive guide for and about today's prophets. This book is deeply rooted in the Word and the Spirit of God. It simply extrapolates and compiles examples of how God used prophets in the past, and how He will use them in the future, to provide greater context and clarity on how He uses His prophets today.

Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord) is meant to clarify what the Bible says about God's prophets, and to correct many errant Lord pervasive doctrines about prophets and prophetic ministry in the contemporary environment.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Heavenly Father, I bless and praise Your holy name for this assignment to educate people about Your messengers, the prophets. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth for the glory of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

PROLOGUE

I was on assignment in Jamaica, listening to the Bible while working, when I received the inspiration to write this book about contemporary prophets. In the now fifty-one published books I have been inspired to write, this joins the following as the eleventh book about prophetic ministry:

*Raised in the Wilderness:
Rogue Reformers, Rallying the Remnant*

So, You Want to be a Prophet... ARE YOU CRAZY?

The Process: The Refiner's Fire

So, You Want to Marry a Prophet... ARE YOU CRAZY?

The Prophet and the witch: Under the Influence

The Blind Seer: Seeing in the Dark

Psalms Arise: Beyond the Music

Intercessory Birth Pangs: The Prophetic Intercessor

The Watchman: What Do You See?

Child Soldier: Train Up a Child for [Spiritual] Warfare

After years of study and observation, I have witnessed some errors in prophetic ministry. Many of them stem from

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people not having intimate knowledge about prophets, and more so prophets of the Lord. Unfortunately, some of the people in error are those who the Lord has called as His prophets. They are uncertain about what a prophet is, what prophets do, and specifically what the Lord requires of them. For some people, when the Lord called them, they did not realize the process would be so long and arduous prior to God publicly establishing them as His prophets.

Prophets are often classified as inspired speakers, with the inspiration coming from a god. But I am inspired to define a prophet as a communicator for a deity, either God or the devil; a prophet also represents his or her God/god here on earth. Prophets do not only speak, but they also communicate, which is what God does; He communicates. As a result, prophets do not only receive audible revelations from the Lord.

Jeremiah was a prophet to the nations, and instead of always speaking, sometimes he sent letters to reach the Lord's intended audience (Jeremiah 29:1). The Persian King, Cyrus, made a declaration because the Lord stirred up his spirit/heart (Ezra 1:1). Jesus showed the power of God's nonverbal communication when Peter denied Him as He had prophesied. After the rooster crowed, Jesus just looked at Peter, which caused the apostle to flee in tears (Luke 22:60-62).

Since many people do not know what prophets are, and what they do, *Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord)* is meant to remedy that. It is a Biblically based job description for the Lord's prophets. This book features numerous things prophets are expected to know, be, and do for God's glory. Each short easy-to-read chapter is packed with Biblical references primarily featuring the prophets of the Bible. The chapters encapsulate the Skills, Knowledge,

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and Attitudes (SKAs) required for those functions, both what prophets should do and not do.

Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord) is a reminder to return to the basics, which is the prophetic foundation established in the Bible. Times have changed, but as the Apostle Paul wrote, the need for prophecy that edifies, exhorts, and comforts has not ceased (1 Corinthians 14:3). The Bible had not yet been canonized when Paul also wrote this statement to testify that it is a tremendous blessing to have the Scriptures:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. ~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Despite the stated power of the Scriptures, the Lord has other ways of providing reproof to compliment the Scriptures:

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ~ Hebrews 4:12

The powerful and sharp Words of God are not limited to His written Words in the Bible. They also apply to His spoken Words, such as through His human or angelic messengers, as seen in this proclamation:

Is not My Word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? ~ Jeremiah 23:29

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There were Scriptures to edify, exhort, and comfort Zechariah when he was doing his priestly duties in the Temple of God. Yet, the Lord sent one of His angels, named Gabriel, to prophesy to him. Undoubtedly, Zechariah knew the Scriptures about how Abraham and Sarah had trouble conceiving a child until the Lord changed their lives with a series of prophecies. Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were also elderly and childless, but that changed with the angelic visitation of Gabriel. The angel prophesied that the Lord was going to do the seemingly impossible by blessing them with a child. To add to Zechariah's shock, the angel brought Scriptures to life for the priest, because his son, whom he should call John, was prophesied in the Scriptures as a voice crying out in the wilderness to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah (Isaiah 40:3). His son John would be the prophesied second coming of the Prophet Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 11:13-14). Despite having the Scriptures, Zechariah did not receive those revelations while reading them. Instead, God sent one of His angels to prophesy to the priest, which shed light on those Scriptures (Luke 1).

There were also Scriptures when kings such as David, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Ahab, and Jehoshaphat sinned, but God sent prophets to rebuke them.

When considering the power of God's Words, please keep in mind that the prophecies of most of the prophets in the Bible are NOT recorded in the Scriptures. Sometimes their names are not even mentioned, but that does not mean they or their ministries for the Lord were irrelevant or lacked God's power. Scripture even states that everything about Jesus's ministry is not included in the Bible, but that does not diminish any of His unpublished works for the Father's glory.

Again, the written Words of God are powerful, but so are His spoken Words. King David had the wholesome desire to

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build a temple unto the Lord. But instead of using the Scriptures, God used the Prophet Nathan to tell David that He had chosen one of his sons to succeed him as king, and that son would build God's temple. In addition, David's kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom, which signified that the Messiah would come from his lineage (2 Samuel 7). The Lord revealed those things to David, not through Scriptures that existed at the time, but through prophecy, His spoken Words.

Despite now having the Bible, the Lord will still raise up two prophets who will prophesy around the time of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 11). Being so close to the cusp of Judgment Day makes it even more important to have prophetic voices calling people to repentance. In addition, as an act of God's mercy and grace, they can proclaim that these are the times that were prophesied in the Bible and remind people to not take the mark of the beast or worship his image. I use the term "prophetic voices" not in the way people who are afraid to call themselves prophets do; it is a reminder that angels also prophesy. Angels will prophesy after the death, resurrection, and ascension of the two prophets (witnesses) as foretold in Revelation 14. Note, the Bible does not negate the need for prophets and prophecies in part because everyone does not and will not read the Bible. In fact, the Bible is illegal in some countries.

In addition to the Lord communicating through His written and spoken Words, prophets must have a level of sensitivity to God's nonverbal communications, which are discerned with the help of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 13:2 is a reminder that many people have unknowingly been in the presence of angels (holy or satanic). An example of a holy appearance is when Jesus, after His resurrection, appeared to and walked with two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus. They could not physically recognize Jesus at the time because

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their eyes were spiritually covered. He spoke with them along the way, and they constrained Him to dwell with them. The Lord spiritually opened their eyes to the truth shortly before disappearing from their presence (Luke 24:13-31). After His disappearance, the disciples who unknowingly walked with Jesus, made this comment that they could discern they were in the presence of someone special:

Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures? ~ Luke 24:32

Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord) is more than a job description, and a study guide for the Body of Christ, especially prophets, those who oversee them, and recipients of prophetic ministry. May it stir up the gift of prophecy in you, open the Scriptures to you, and cause the Word of God to be as fire shut up in your bones.

SKA 1

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

What do you think the differences are between Old Covenant prophets and prophecies versus New Covenant prophets and prophecies?

Some people would respond with the possible consequences for an errant prophecy, particularly the potential death penalty for a false prophet. However, my perspective is a bit different.

The potential consequences for a failed prophecy or being a false prophet remain unchanged. That is because those who falsely speak in the name of the Lord or give the appearance of doing so (without using His name), will face profound consequences from God if they do not repent. While many people focus on prophets facing death to prophesy, the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death, applies to prophets from either Covenant.

My take on the differences between Old and New Covenant prophets and prophecies is simply that prophets under the Old Covenant, prophesied, through Words and/or

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deeds, of the coming Messiah. Particularly during the time of Moses and up until the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, they pointed people to God through the Law of Moses. Conversely, prophets under the New Covenant prophesy, through Words and/or deeds, of the second coming/return of the Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, they point people to God through His Son, Christ Jesus, and the Law of Christ.

Through both eras, one of the constants is that prophecies from God came from spirits of God, such as Holy Spirit and the Lord's holy angels.

Prophets under the Old Covenant either did not have as much clarity on certain things that prophets now have, or they were not allowed to reveal such things. Yet, prophets from both eras had to/must live by this Scripture from the New Testament:

*And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for **the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.** ~ Revelation 19:10*

To illustrate this point, you may expect me to pull from one of Isaiah's or David's Messianic prophecies about the Lord Jesus Christ, but I will not. I am inspired to cite a prophet of ill-repute, one who at times resorted to divination. However, when the Lord put a Word in his mouth, even Balaam, under the Spirit of Prophecy, gave this testimony of the coming Messiah:

And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the

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commandment of the Lord, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the Lord saith, that will I speak?

And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

*And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the Words of God, and knew the knowledge of the Most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: **I shall see Him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.** And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for His enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. Out of Jacob shall come He that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city. ~ Numbers 24:12-19*

Therefore, one of the things contemporary prophets do, just like their predecessors, and even more so that the Messiah is known by name, they must testify of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. The accuracy standards for prophets have not changed because God still is NOT a liar; the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. Also, the consequences for using the Lord's name in vain remain severe.

John the Baptist had a unique assignment as an Old Covenant prophet because of how the Lord used him to bridge the gap. John did not simply prophesy of the coming Messiah. Instead, he prophesied that the Messiah was already among the people, and after God revealed His Son, John declared that Jesus was the Lamb of God (John 1:1-39). One of a prophet's primary responsibilities is to proclaim that Jesus the Christ is Lord, and that He came to sacrifice Himself to

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save all humanity. However, He will return to wage war against His enemies and judge (Revelation 19:11).

Prophets from both eras have the same Holy Spirit. But contemporary prophets have the advantages of knowing who the Messiah is, and the Scriptures Holy Spirit uses to point back to Jesus and to test the spirits. They also have the Bible to help sharpen their gifts and callings because they can learn and grow from the successes, failures, and shortcomings of the Bible's prophets.

Again, prophets from both eras serve the same God, have the same Holy Spirit, face the same consequences on Judgment Day for falsely prophesying and/or using the Lord's name in vain. While many people focus on the potential execution of false prophets, they often overlook or forget about the execution of the prophets of the Lord who told the truth.

SKA 2

SMELTING POT

I know of a pastor who prophesies as if the Spirit of the Lord was speaking directly to or through him. But among his many errors, he shared a platform with a corrupt elder pastor, and even lauded him. The elder pastor is more popular, controversial, and wealthier, but with a horrendous history of major failed prophecies from which he has NEVER repented. But instead of the junior pastor, who has his own platform, coming out from among the heretical false prophet, he leads people to him. Yes, Jesus spoke of the wheat and the tares, and allowing them to grow together, the Scriptures however also state:

 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. ~ Romans 16:17-18*

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✠ *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the Light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. ~ Ephesians 5:11-13*

The wheat and tares will grow together until the time of the harvest, but Jesus did not say the wheat should vouch for the tares. At a minimum, as the Lord leads, prophets should identify and mark the tares for others to see.

There are numerous Biblical examples of holy men and women of God in the same space of the unrighteous, but there was a clear distinction. For example, despite who Daniel worked with, please note what the queen said to King Belshazzar about the Lord's prophet:

*O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed: **There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the King Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.** ~ Daniel 5:10-12*

Daniel was the master of the occultists, but they were not his masters. So, despite Daniel's appointed position, and

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those whom he worked with, there was a marked difference between Daniel and his pagan counterparts. Daniel had the Spirit of God, and it showed in his words and deeds to the point where unbelievers in Yahweh recognized the differences.

In another example, Jeremiah was present when Hananiah falsely prophesied in the name of the Lord. But he voiced his dissent and later prophesied against Hananiah in accordance with the Word of the Lord (Jeremiah 28). Jeremiah did not allow their shared space in the house of God to even give the appearance of unity. The Apostle Paul wrote to "Abstain from ALL appearance of evil", which is what ALL prophets should do (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Being a prophet of the Lord requires more than accurate prophecies. Just as the Lord spoke to Ezekiel, ministers (prophets) are required to separate the holy from the profane, and to teach people the differences between them (Ezekiel 22:23-31, 44:23). Jesus spent time with the Pharisees and they with Him, but especially based on His admonition of them in Matthew 23, no one ever confused Jesus with a Pharisee. Even in a smelting pot, the dross is made evident.

SKA 3 TEST

Prophets are fallible messengers of God who may err in their prophecies due to internal and/or external sources. As a result, the discerning of spirits is one of the most important spiritual gifts for a prophet to have (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Prophets must discern where communications come from.

Many CHRISTians are very familiar with this Scripture, which they typically use against perceived or actual false prophets:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. ~ 1 John 4:1-3

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Prophets should not rush to prophesy, particularly in this age of social media where one prophecy can launch a prophet's ministry to the international stage. A part of testing the spirits is the prophet examining him or herself to ensure there are no selfish agendas behind a prophecy, such as what the Lord warns about in Jeremiah 23. Prophets who seek fame and/or fortune more than exalting the name of the Lord Jesus Christ put themselves in peril of self-deception and deception from the enemy.

A prophet may communicate a seemingly good thing that may not be of God. An example is how Nathan told David to build a dwelling place for the Ark of God as he had purposed in his heart. But the Lord later told the prophet that David should do no such thing. Instead, the Lord would bless David with a son who would accomplish that task (2 Samuel 7). Nathan did not falsely prophesy or have a selfish agenda, but he spoke too soon; he spoke presumptuously. In addition, regardless of how noble it was, the prophet did not inquire of the Lord prior to trying to cosign with the king's desire.

Unlike Nathan, when prophets are driven by vain glory, they may speak to appease an audience instead of truly representing the Lord. That makes them vulnerable to a plethora of deception, including spiritual deception, which happened to King Ahab's prophets who sat at Jezebel's table. They prophesied in the name of the Lord, but they were under the influence of a spirit the Lord had sent to deceive them. Of the hundreds of prophets who appeared before the kings of Israel and Judah that day, only Micaiah, who did not sit at Jezebel's table, was willing to offend King Ahab with the truth. Consequently, the king hated him for telling the truth. Sadly, even when, by the Spirit of God, Micaiah revealed the deception, none of the other prophets discerned it. They were

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thoroughly deceived into thinking they had heard from the Lord and Micaiah was wrong (1 Kings 22).

Satan has his ministers, those who know they are serve him despite their guise of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). He also has angels, who will at times pretend as if they are angels of Light. The Lord's angels are sources of prophecies. An angel prophesied the birth of Samson (Judges 13). Likewise, an angel told Joseph that he should take Mary as his wife, when to flee Israel with his family, and when it was safe to return (Matthew 1-2). Satan's angels will try to deceive the Lord's prophets, to either singularly or continually use them for his purposes. Never forget that the devil tried to get Jesus to serve him (Luke 4:5-8).

The Apostle Peter serves as an example of why prophets should be slow to speak, why they should test the spirit before communicating a revelation, and why CHRISTians should be slow to condemn anyone who errs with a prophecy but is willing to repent.

Peter accurately answered Jesus by saying He was the Messiah, the Son of God. Yet later, in the same chapter of the Bible, from the same man, came some words that earned a sharp rebuke from the Lord. When Peter erred, Jesus looked at him and rebuked Satan. In both instances, Jesus discerned when Peter spoke under the influence of the Spirit of God and when it was from the devil (Matthew 16:13-28). Prophets should not hastily share revelations with the public simply because they believe the revelations are from the Lord. When prophets want fame, the devil can and will give it to them. If prophets want prophecies, the devil can also give those to them abundantly, but they will most likely not be accurate, and will lead to the prophets' damnation.

Paul wrote on the importance of discernment when he addressed the churches of Galatia. He stated that any human

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or even an angel from heaven who preaches another gospel, other than that which has been preached, that the messenger will be accursed. The true gospel is about, from, and points to the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:6-17).

Yet, there are religions, to include forms of Christianity, that were formed because a prophet received a revelation from an angel that contradicted the Bible. A part of testing the spirit is to check things with the Words, will, and ways of God. Prophets under the Old Covenant had some Scriptures, but they were also doing and writing things that would be added to those Scriptures to form the Bible. Testing the spirit in accordance with the Words, will, and ways of God requires comparing revelations to the Bible, to ensure that spirit is not trying to contradict what is written.

The Holy Spirit must be involved in the process of testing the spirits. That is because when satan tried to tempt Jesus to sin, he quoted Scripture (Luke 4:8-13). In addition, some things may seemingly contradict the Scriptures and God's character, but they do not, it is simply based on a unique way the Holy Spirit wants to apply the Word of God based on the circumstances. Such situations present significant challenges to discerning what is of God versus what is not. However, some things clearly contradict the Bible, such as saying there is no hell and the sufferings in the lake of fire and brimstone are not everlasting. Jesus spoke of hell numerous times, and some of the horrors of judgment day are prophesied in the Bible. There are also those who have been deceived into doubting the Sonship and deity of Jesus. Some prophets have claimed that God has no Son, even though God is quoted as saying that Jesus was His Son (Matthew 3:16-17, 17:5).

This is a test that many prophets fail, which is why many CHRISTians do not believe the Lord has prophets today, and they instead harp on the sufficiency of Scriptures, the Holy

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Bible. When a prophet prophesies something that does not come to pass, and rather than repenting, they double down on their assertions. Repenting would include rebuking the spirit that gave the failed prophecy and severing any type of relationship with it. Instead, they continue obeying that spirit as if it is a spirit of and from God, despite the physical and Scriptural evidence that God had not communicated with them. If the prophecy were from God, He would have made it happen. But in their efforts to save their reputations, prophets who try to override what is written in the Bible about God's character, inadvertently destroy their own reputations instead. That is because they ultimately fight against God under those circumstances; *let God be true, but every man a liar* (Romans 3:4). The reputational damage is heightened in the sight of those who study the God of the Bible and expect His prophecies to come to pass.

It is noteworthy how the Bible states that the Lord did not let any of Samuel's prophecies fall to the ground. That raises questions about if other prophets' prophecies fell to the ground, like how Nineveh was not destroyed in forty days as Jonah had prophesied (1 Samuel 3:19, Jonah 3). At least we know the Lord had spoken to Jonah, twice, and how much the prophet suffered for initially disobeying and rebelling against God. Also in Jonah's case, even though not stated in the Bible prior to Jonah finally obeying God by going to Nineveh to preach, the Lord's aim was for the Ninevites to repent. As a result of their repentance due to Jonah's preaching, God relented on His threat to destroy the city. However, the Lord eventually destroyed Nineveh (Nahum 1).

Prophets may get led astray through self-deception, from their own human spirit. The deception may also come from the works of evil spirits. Either way, if deceived, they must be

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quick to repent, lest they find themselves in a situation such as this:

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. ~ 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

Therefore, prophets who serve the Lord must also love Him, which means to love the truth because Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6). A prophet who does not love the Truth will make up or adopt excuses for failed prophecies, as if God had truly spoken, despite Scriptures such as these:

 *God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? ~ Balaam (Numbers 23:19)*

 *...The Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for He is not a man, that He should repent. ~ Samuel the Seer (1 Samuel 15:29)*

 *...When the Word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him. ~ Jeremiah 28:9*

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The Lord is not obligated to fulfill the words of a prophet. His only obligation is to fulfill His Words, and God never fails. It is important for prophets to know the God of the Bible. That knowledge includes His ways, like Moses's desire and proposition to the God whom he had been serving (Exodus 33:12-13). Knowing the Lord's ways will help prophets increase their discernment in knowing what is of God versus what is not. Testing the spirit is an important prophetic function, particularly in light of what comes next.

SKA 4

DISCIPLE

Many people have heard the Lord or received communications from Him in other ways but hardened their hearts towards His messages. That should not be the case for prophets. One of the lessons from the rise and fall of King Saul is to obey God (1 Samuel 15 - 16). Jesus spoke of the responsibilities and severe consequences for leadership failures (Luke 12:47-48, Matthew 23:1-14). A disciple of God must not only follow Him; the disciple must also obey Him, and that applies to prophets who say Jesus is their Lord.

Being a professed prophet of the Lord is not enough, for as Jesus stated, some prophets will go to hell (Matthew 7:21-23). Obedience to the Lord is one of the signs that a prophet belongs to Him. As previously stated, prophets are expected to test the spirits to see if a revelation is from God. Satan and his emissaries are capable of quoting Scriptures, which makes sense why Jesus said His sheep would know His **voice** instead of simply His Words (John 10:27). Prophets should remain vigilant for *seducing spirits*, which are adept at trying to use

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the Lord's Words, voice, and His image and likeness (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

This should be of special note and interest for those who were deceived into thinking something was from the Lord and acting accordingly. God understands if you have become like Gideon, because now you may want multiple confirmations to reassure you that you heard from Him before acting (Judges 6-7). Yet, in the end, your responsibility is the same as others who do not require as many confirmations, which is to obey God. Regardless of the length of time that is required for you to test the spirits, the next step is to obey what the Lord has revealed and commanded.

Obedience and being a disciple of the Lord are intertwined. When Jesus's family came to get Him, because, like His friends, they thought He had lost His mind, His response encapsulates the importance of obeying God:

And He answered them, saying, Who is My mother, or My brethren?

*And He looked round about on them which sat about Him, and said, Behold My mother and My brethren! **For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is My brother, and My sister, and mother.*** ~ Mark 3:33-35

Confirmation to back that up is when Jesus said:

And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? ~ Luke 6:46

Discipleship requires doing the Lord's will. After all, your lord is the one whom you obey (Romans 6:16).

The Prophet Abraham demonstrated his servitude to the Lord through his obedience, which makes it no surprise that

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he is called *The Friend of God* (James 2:23). When the Lord told Abraham to leave his family and go to a strange land, Abraham left (Genesis 12). Later, when the Lord told the ninety-nine-year-old Abraham to get circumcised and to circumcise all the men of his household, Abraham obeyed God on the same day (Genesis 17:23-27). Likewise, when the Lord told Abraham to sacrifice his only son whom he loved, Abraham rose early the next day to execute the Word of the Lord by sacrificing his beloved son Isaac. It was in the process of obeying God that he found out it was only a test, and he did not need to put a scratch on his beloved son (Genesis 22).

Conversely, there are consequences for disobeying the Lord. When Jonah disobeyed God and tried sailing west to Tarshish instead of going east to Nineveh to deliver the Word of the Lord, he suffered the consequences. Jonah was comfortably sleeping on the ship when the Lord sent a storm to destroy the vessel. The only way to quell the storm was for Jonah to get off the ship, so the men threw him overboard at his behest. That was when the fish famously swallowed Jonah, who cried out to the Lord and after three days of hell. Jonah could have averted everything by simply obeying God (Jonah 1). After all, he was not confused or otherwise deceived about who had told him to go prophesy against Nineveh.

There is also a lesser known but equally important story of another disobedient prophet. Sadly, a lying older prophet from Bethel deceived a Judean prophet into disobeying the Word of the Lord (1 Kings 13). That story illustrates why it is important to test the spirits, and to obey God. Unfortunately for the Judean prophet, his disobedience, even though a result of deception, cost him his life.

When the time of testing the spirits ends, if something was from God, the time for obeying the Spirit of God begins.

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Prophets are required to obey their Master. This Scripture is about the Lord Jesus. But it also applies to His prophets, who will endure seasons of being crushed to learn obedience to the Lord their God:

*Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto **all them that obey Him**; Called of God an High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. ~ Hebrews 5:8-10*

SKA 5 FRIENDS

The Lord Jesus Christ stressed the importance of friendship with Him. In one instance, He spoke about rebuking and rejecting minister who did wonderful works in His name. But despite them correctly identifying Him as Lord, He never knew them. That means they were never friends and will never be friends (Matthew 7:21-23). In another case, the Lord said this about friendship with Him, and its importance:

This is My Commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are My friends, IF ye do whatsoever I command you.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you FRIENDS; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.

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Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.

These things I command you, that ye love one another.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the Word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for My name's sake, because they know not Him that sent Me. ~ John 15:12-21

Scripture also says this about friendship with God:

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. ~ James 4:4

Just like how Abraham was a prophet and a friend of God, so should every living prophet of the Lord be. That friendship is cultivated by spending time with the Lord, and as Jesus established as a condition for friendship with Him, by obeying His commands (John 15:14).

Jesus also spoke of friends knowing the Father's business more so than servants knowing their lord's business. Friendship with God means being privy to certain information that others do not know, such as in this prophecy:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets. ~ Amos 3:7

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However, like Abraham, as a friend of God, a prophet should not disclose everything the Lord reveals to him or her. For those who seek friendship with the world instead of God, they will release everything He shares with them for the sake of notoriety. How would you feel if you told a friend a secret and that friend in turn broadcasts that revelation to others, especially without your knowledge and permission. Revealing the Lord's secrets without His authorization is how many people started well in prophetic ministry, but things ended poorly.

A part of being the Lord's friend is for Him to be able to trust you with anything. That was the case with these men who took some of the Lord's secrets with them to the grave:

 *But thou, O Daniel, **shut up the Words, and seal the book**, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. ~ Daniel 12:4*

 *And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, **I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and WRITE THEM NOT.** ~ Revelation 10:4*

 *It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that **he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable Words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.** ~ 2 Corinthians 12:1-4*

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A prophet must choose to be a friend of the world or a friend of God, but either type of friendship has conditions, such as obedience and trust. It is important for a prophet to have a friendship with God. But please note that as a friend of God, everything He shares with you is not for the public.

Please note that some heavenly encounters may be shared, such as what Isaiah and Micaiah witnessed in heaven (Isaiah 6, 1 Kings 22:19-23). There are also numerous examples of people who shared experiences they had with angels of the Lord, both while asleep and while awake (Genesis 16:7-20; 2 Kings 1:3, 15-17; Zechariah 3-6).

SKA 6 PRAY

Some people are renowned for getting prayers through to God, as evidenced by the trail of their tangibly answered prayers. Oftentimes, when tumult arises, people go to them for prayer. A part of why they receive favorably answered prayers is not simply because they pray only in accordance with God's will, it is because they have a friendship with the Lord. They know Him, and more importantly, based on the Lord's Words in Matthew 7:23, He knows them. Job was God's friend, and after enduring his trials, the Lord sent Job's friends to have Job pray for them lest He unleash His wrath on them (Job 42:7-9).

Likewise, a prophet's friendship with God will help in an important yet frequently overlooked prophetic function, which is intercession, especially since intercession is frequently a labor of love that is done in private. Abraham is the first person in the Bible whom the Lord specified was His prophet (Genesis 20:7). But at that point, Abraham was communing with God, receiving revelations from Him, and

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making covenants with the Lord. There is no evidence of him going around prophesying to kings and kingdoms. When Abraham had the opportunity to change that, he did not. Because of Abraham's friendship with the Lord, God revealed His planned destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah to him. But, instead of running ahead of the Lord to prophesy to them, Abraham tarried with the Lord and interceded on their behalf. He continued with his intercession to lower the bar to the point where even the wicked people of Sodom could have escaped God's planned judgment (Genesis 18:16-33).

The Prophet Moses also had a friendship with the Lord, which contributed to his successes as an intercessor. After their liberation from Egypt, the Israelites were trapped at the Red Sea with the Egyptian army in rapid pursuit to bring them back into captivity. But the people cried out to Moses who in turn cried out to God, and the Lord answered by parting the sea to make a way of escape for His children (Exodus 14). Another of the many examples of Moses's successful intercessions to the Lord is when the Israelite committed idolatry and other sins. The Lord was getting incensed and was going to destroy them and make a new nation of Israel through Moses. However, Moses boldly stood in the gap for them before the Lord's anger wax hot enough to execute His proposed judgment (Exodus 32).

Both prophets had a track record of interceding to the Lord. Their relationship with God is demonstrative of the importance of when the Lord said this about His prophets beseeching Him:

But if they be prophets, AND if the Word of the Lord be with them, let them now make intercession to the Lord of Hosts...~ Jeremiah 27:18

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Other examples of prophets making powerful intercession to the Lord on behalf of others include Daniel and his intercession to end the Israelites' seventy-year exile (Daniel 10). Based on the Word of the Lord, Elijah prophesied that it would not rain or dew until he gave the Word (1 Kings 17:1). His prophecy resulted in a 3.5-year drought, that, based on the Word of the Lord, he prophesied and then went into deep and persistent intercession to the Lord until He brought forth the drought-ending rain (1 Kings 18:41-46). Then there is this earthly reward for this prophetess who is more renowned for dedicating herself to intercession than for prophesying:

*And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the Temple, **but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.***

And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. ~ Luke 2:36-38

Anna, a dedicated intercessor, by the Spirit of God, was among those who had no problems recognizing that Jesus was the promised Messiah, even when He was an eight-day-old infant. Anna, the Praying Prophetess, was a friend of God. The Lord reveals much to His friends, the praying saints.

Abraham is known for interceding for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. But many people may overlook how he prayed for Ishmael after the Lord told him that Ishmael, his firstborn son, was not the child He had promised him. As a result, He was going to bless him with the promised son, whom he should name Isaac. Abraham asked the Lord to

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bless Ishmael also. The Lord graciously complied, but stated that despite blessing Ishmael, His covenant would be with Isaac, the child He had promised Abraham (Genesis 17). Similarly, some people have credited their salvation to someone who prayed for them, oftentimes a long deceased praying grandmother.

Intercession is based on having a relationship with the Lord, or He may not answer or even hear those prayers. After King Saul had continued in his willful rebellion against the Lord, and hardened his heart towards God and His servants, the Lord stopped communicating to the king. At one of Saul's darkest hours, possibly when he craved hearing from the Lord the most, God did not speak to him via dreams, Urim, or prophets (1 Samuel 28:6). That was the hour of Saul's judgment at the hand of the LORD God (1 Chronicles 10:13-14).

The Lord spoke of the same silent treatment towards those who had rebelled against Him on three occasions. In response, God told the Prophet Jeremiah to not intercede on behalf of the children of Israel, specifically Judah, because He was going to judge their rebellion (Jeremiah 7:16, 11:14, 14:11-12).

Likewise, after Jesus healed the man who was born blind and the Pharisees were interrogating him, please note when the man said:

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth. ~ John 9:31

A man who had been born blind and had just received his sight had more spiritual insight than those who never had such struggles with their sight. His statement, which is based

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on Proverbs 15:29, shows the importance of being God's friend and its impacts on intercession.

The importance of the Lord's prophets having a relationship with Him, and how that relationship impacts their intercession to Him, cannot be overstated or overlooked. That includes if or when God does the seemingly unthinkable, by commanding His prophets/intercessors to stop interceding for someone, a group or nation. The Lord knows how and when to move on. This is evident when He told Samuel to stop mourning for King Saul because since the king had rejected Him, He in turn rejected Saul as king (1 Samuel 16:1).

Intercessors stand in the gap for others, and based on this, woe unto those for whom there is no intercessor and/or intercession:

And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord God, when the Lord hath not spoken.

The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it: BUT I FOUND NONE. Therefore have I poured out Mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God. ~ Ezekiel 22:28-31

A prophet of the Lord must be His friend, and a "prayer warrior".

SKA 7 LEADER

Throughout the Bible, prophets called people to remain in a right relationship with the true and living God, warned them when they were about to stray, and as a last resort, called them unto repentance. The Lord spoke about how He sent His servants, His prophets, raising them early and sending them to people, who frequently refused to listen (Jeremiah 7:25, 25:4, 26:5, 29:19, 35:15, 44:4). In one instance, Joshua gathered the people of Israel and told them to choose which god they would serve, and he told them that as for him and his house, they would serve Yahweh (Joshua 24). Other examples of prophets fulfilling the above roles include:

- ✠ Jacob gathered his family and instructed them to put away their strange gods (Genesis 35).
- ✠ Elijah implored the Israelites to choose which god they would serve, either the false god Baal or Yahweh, the true and living God (1 Kings 18:21).

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Contemporary prophets are required to do the same, even if people refuse to listen and obey.

It is ironic that when the Lord was writing the Ten Commandments by His own hand on two stone tablets, and giving them to Moses, that the Israelites were in the valley breaking those Commandments. When Moses confronted them, he broke the tablets in anger. Moses's actions prophetically represented God's anger towards the Israelites for breaking His Laws. Moses called them to repentance and began to purge the wickedness from the camp (Exodus 32).

Moses later wrote that God would raise up a Prophet like him, who the people should listen to and obey (Deuteronomy 18:18). That Prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ, one who every prophet should emulate. Therefore, regardless of how many prophets are cited throughout this book, prophets should remember to be like chief and best Prophet, Jesus Christ.

There are layers to why Moses proclaimed that God would raise up a Prophet like him. Yahweh used Moses to give people the "Law of Moses", but He used Jesus to give the "Law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). When Moses saw the people breaking God's Commandments, he broke the tablets before their eyes and purged some of the evil people from their ranks. As a Prophet like Moses, Jesus took similar actions. When He saw what people were doing in/to the Temple of God, He said no stone would remain on top of the other. The Lord braided a scourge, turned over tables and drove out the moneychangers from His Father's House. In the zeal of the Lord, Jesus said the Temple was meant to be a house of prayer instead of a den of robbers (John 2:13-22, Luke 19:41-48).

Jesus is embodied as a Judge and Lawgiver, like Moses, when He said:

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*Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: **But I say unto you,** That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*

And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

***Ye have heard that it hath been said,** Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*

***But I say unto you,** Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. ~ Matthew 5:38-48

We see more of Jesus's character, and His application of God's Law, shifting some precedents from Moses's era. When an Israelite was found gathering sticks on the Sabbath, they detained him, and Moses consulted with the Lord to adjudicate the case. Based on the Word of the Lord, the man was executed (Numbers 15:32-36). The Pharisees expected the same type of judgment when they tried to tempt Jesus (God) by bringing a woman who they alleged was caught in the act of adultery. But rather than damning her to death, the Lord

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had mercy on her, just like He did with David (2 Samuel 11-12). Jesus simply mercifully forgave the woman and called her to repentance. He said He did not condemn her, even though He did not condone her actions, but that she should go and sin no more (John 8:1-11).

The Lord's actions personified what was spoken of Him, in comparison to Moses:

For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. ~ John 1:17

Being like Christ will cut against the grain of what many people believe and think God will do under certain circumstances. These are things prophets can discern based on their relationship with God, and in turn judge with righteous judgment as Jesus commanded (John 7:24).

Despite Jesus's gentle side, He also warned people about when His grace runs out and judgment prevails. Prophets are responsible for telling people about the goodness and the severity of God, just as it is written.

***Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, IF thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.** ~ Romans 11:22*

Never forget the topic of the first public messages these two prophets preached. When introduced to John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, this was his emphasis:

Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ~ Matthew 3:2

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Likewise, after Jesus endured the devil's spiritual warfare against Him in the wilderness, His first public message was:

Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ~ Matthew 4:17

Both men were led by the same Spirit, which was the Holy Spirit of God, so no wonder they had such similar messages.

Prophets need to heed Jesus's warnings on hypocrisy. It is easy for some prophets to bark at others about repenting when they are living in unrighteousness, even without the Lord commanding them to speak. Remember that Jesus spoke about the reciprocity of the judgment standards used against others. Prophets are also required to address their sins before pointing them out in others (Matthew 7:1-5).

When the Lord sent Nathan the Prophet to confront King David about his adultery and murder, the prophet could not be guilty of those sins while rebuking the king. Prophets must ensure they are not guilty of what they are chastising others about. Please keep this in mind:

*And if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and truth — **you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?*** ~ Romans 2:19-22 (ESV)

The Lord will expose prophets who hypocritically try to expose others (The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, Matthew 18:21-35). Before leading others to repentance, prophets need to ensure they are in a state of repentance. As

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Jesus said, cast the beam from your eye before you address the speck in the eye of someone else.

SKA 8

SACKCLOTH

God still resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5). He also has a history of humbling His servants prior to exalting them; nothing has changed. Even after performing numerous signs and wonders for God's glory, Moses was the meekest man on the earth (Numbers 12:3). Prophets must walk in authority and humility. That may require having a thorn in the flesh, like the messenger of satan who the Lord used to keep the Apostle Paul humble (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Jesus was meek, and to be CHRISTlike, so must His prophets. Meekness is also a part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). And so, a sign that a messenger is of and from the Lord, is that after enduring the furnace of affliction and/or the Refiner's fire, the person will be humble (Isaiah 48:10-11, Malachi 3:1-3).

A prophet must fulfill these requirements in service to the Lord their God:

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*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk **HUMBLY** with thy God? ~ Micah 6:8*

If a prophet does not humble him or herself, God will humble the prophet, publicly if necessary. Regardless of the prophet's level of righteousness, to walk in humility, it is helpful to remember that the righteous are barely saved (1 Peter 4:18). Everyone who makes it into heaven by God's grace does so by the skin of their teeth.

A prophet is not God! He will remind His prophets of that fact by withholding a revelation, giving the revelation without its interpretation or application, or in how He chooses to reveal something. A part of walking in humility is remembering that prophets do not know everything or always get direct revelations from the Lord. Despite his relationship with God, it was Moses's father-in-law, Jethro, who gave him counsel about judging Israel by employing subordinate judges (Exodus 18).

SKA 9

KING JEHU

A prophet's ministry will be filled with opposition. Some of which goes above and beyond the war of words between Jeremiah and Hananiah (Jeremiah 28). The resistance will be a matter of life and death for the prophets, such as how Jezebel killed the Lord's prophets (1 Kings 18-19). It can be said that there is a special place in hell for witches, partially due to the warfare they wage against the Lord's children, especially His prophets. The Lord despises witchcraft as stated in His decree in the Law of Moses:

Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live. ~ Exodus 22:18

I have frequently used the term "New Covenant prophets with an Old Covenant mindset." It is indicative of modern prophets who will not hesitate to proclaim the Lord's severe judgments on the wicked who refuse to repent. That includes prophesying the decree of death the Lord had so many of His prophets in the Bible declare on others.

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If what the Lord said to Moses about dealing with witches seems too harsh, this is what Jesus said about a witch in the New Testament:

*And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; **These things saith the SON OF GOD, who hath His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce My servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.***

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; AND SHE REPENTED NOT.

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I AM He which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. ~ Revelation 2:18-23

Using sexual immorality and foods sacrificed to idols are forms of WITCHcraft.

I make only minor distinctions between Old and New Covenant prophets and prophecies. God does not change, so it is important to know how He feels about witchcraft, such as the following:

 *And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands. And*

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I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities. And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard. ~ Micah 5:12-15

 *And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: **But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know. Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. ~ Isaiah 47:7-12***

In addition to the above citations of how the Lord used His prophets to prophesy against witches and WITCHcraft, it is also important for prophets to at least have a cursory knowledge of these types of witches and WITCHcraft:

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*“And you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, **who prophesy out of their own hearts.***

*Prophesy against them and say, Thus says the Lord God: Woe to the women who sew magic bands upon all wrists, and make veils for the heads of persons of every stature, in the hunt for souls! Will you hunt down souls belonging to My people and keep your own souls alive? You have profaned Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, **putting to death souls who should not die** and keeping alive souls who should not live, by your lying to My people, who listen to lies.*

*“Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I AM against your magic bands with which you hunt the souls like birds, and I will tear them from your arms, and I will let the souls whom you hunt go free, the souls like birds. Your veils also I will tear off and deliver My people out of your hand, and **they shall be no more in your hand as prey**, and you shall know that I AM the Lord. Because you have disheartened the righteous falsely, although I have not grieved him, and you have encouraged the wicked, that he should not turn from his evil way to save his life, therefore you shall no more see false visions nor practice divination.*

I will deliver My people out of your hand. And you shall know that I AM the Lord.” ~ Ezekiel 13:17-23 (ESV)

The above exemplifies why Paul wrote that those who engage in works of the flesh, such as WITCHcraft, will NOT inherit the KINGdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).

As a part of some prophets' process, the Lord may allow them to suffer at the hands of WITCHcraft. Those who do will have a special disdain for WITCHcraft. They will not fear witches or WITCHcraft.

Prophets must be willing to identify and confront witches and WITCHcraft. When Elijah confronted the false prophets

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of Baal on Mount Carmel, he was also confronting WITCHcraft. It resulted in Jezebel's backlash in her stubborn refusal to repent (1 Kings 19:1-2). Despite Elijah's initial response to Jezebel's WITCHcraft, the Lord used him to prophesy His judgment against the wicked queen (1 Kings 21:17-29).

The Lord later raised up a king named Jehu to execute His judgments against Jezebel, and the house of Ahab, as Elijah prophesied. As a result, Jezebel died a gruesome death (2 Kings 9:30-37). Prior to executing that justice, King Jehu said:

*What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her **WITCHcrafts** are so many? ~ 2 Kings 9:22*

A prophet must be willing to cut off WITCHcrafts as the Lord directs, because until then, some of the Lord's children will not have peace. Some prophets will experience the lack of peace because of WITCHcraft, which will include demonic forces. A prophet of the Lord cannot fear devils either.

God is love, but as it is written, He abhors these things:

*These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.** ~ Proverbs 6:16-19*

A prophet of the Lord will also despise those abominations that God hates, and willingly confront them as the Lord allows.

SKA 10

ANTAGONIST

Even dead fish can go with the flow. A prophet is not a dead fish, so he or she must be able to swim or stand against the current. A prophet is an antagonist to the enemy, just like when Elisha shared the Syrian king's war plans with the king of Israel (2 Kings 6:8-13). He was a thorn in the Syrian king's side, as was his predecessor, Elijah, to Ahab:

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

*And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, **Art thou he that troubleth Israel?***

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the Commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim. ~ 1 Kings 18:16-18

Ahab was a wicked king, so the king's reaction was a compliment to Elijah.

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In a subsequent encounter, when the prophet was going to pronounce the Lord's judgment against the king and his household, their relationship had clearly not gotten any better. The resentment had gotten personal:

*And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, **O mine enemy?**
And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord. ~ 1 Kings 21:20*

After that encounter, a comparable event unfolded when Ahab wanted Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to join him in a battle. Ahab's prophets, who sat at Jezebel's table, prophesied of success for the kings. But the Judean king wisely wanted to also hear from a prophet of the Lord. True to form regarding his relationships with the Lord's prophets, this was Ahab's response:

*There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the Lord: **but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.**
And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. ~ 1 Kings 22:8*

In the cases of Elijah on Mount Carmel and Micaiah in King Ahab's court, both prophets fulfilled something God still requires of His prophets. That requirement is to confront false prophets, and for this section of this book, those who will prophesy in the name of the Lord. Both men were outnumbered by an average of 425 to 1, yet they were unwavering in standing on and for the truth in delivering the Word of the Lord and glorifying Him. Other prophets stood against errant and false prophets as shown in Jeremiah 23, 28 and Ezekiel 13:1-16.

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To confront evil, a prophet must be an antagonist, one who is willing to go against the grain. That is in keeping with these instructions from God when He called Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations:

*See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, **to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.***

*...Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls **against** the whole land, **against** the kings of Judah, **against** the princes thereof, **against** the priests thereof, and **against** the people of the land.*

And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I AM with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee. ~ Jeremiah 1:10, 17-19

It seemed as if the Lord wanted Jeremiah to stand against everything and everyone; no one was off limits, not even the priests. Likewise for Ezekiel, to whom the Lord said:

Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against Me: they and their fathers have transgressed against Me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God.

And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with

thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

And thou shalt speak My Words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious...

...Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with My Words unto them. For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto Me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.

Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. ~ Ezekiel 2:3-7, 3:4-9

Prophets must be adamant for the ways and things of the Lord, which is why the Lord's preparation process is so intense. As shown above, a prophet's ministry will come with warfare. And so, prophets must be willing to pay the ultimate price to fulfill their calling.

John the Baptist was an advocate for the Lord but an antagonist for King Herod and his wife Herodias, especially after he spoke out against their unlawful marriage. Speaking the truth led to John's imprisonment, and due to Herodias's cunning, John's execution (Matthew 14:1-12). Even so, prophets must be adamant for the Lord, regardless of the potential costs, as stated in the New Testament:

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*And they overcame him [satan/devil] by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their TESTimony; **and they loved not their lives unto the death.** ~ Revelation 12:11*

Be faithful to the Lord, unto death (Revelation 2:10). As with every ministerial position, when prophets are the light of the world and the salt of the earth as Jesus said, they will face persecution. But prophets are blessed when they face persecution for righteousness's sake (Matthew 5:10-16).

SKA 11

SMALL AXE

John the Baptist may have seemed like he was on the warpath with everyone, as he would rebuke everyone except for Jesus. Like what Jesus did, John rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees:

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, **O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?***

***Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:** And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ~ Matthew 3:7-10*

It is one thing to rebuke subordinates and peers, but rebuking leaders is another story, especially those with the ability to destroy the prophet. But throughout the Bible, that

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is exactly what the Lord used many of His prophets to do. God used Nathan the prophet and Gad the Seer to rebuke King David (2 Samuel 12, 1 Chronicles 21), Daniel rebuked King Nebuchadnezzar and King Belshazzar (Daniel 4, 5), and Samuel the Seer rebuked King Saul (1 Samuel 13, 15). Rebuking leaders is not always fiery or done in public, but the potential consequences for the prophet are the same.

This one may hit home for many because the first prophecy Samuel ever received and delivered was a rebuke, and a confirmation of the judgment the Lord had proclaimed on Eli and his house. Eli was the man who raised and mentored the future prophet (1 Samuel 3). Situations such as that make a prophet's walk a potentially lonely one, or at least where the prophet finds him or herself being frequently alone. But a prophet must be able to function alone or with others. What the Lord used Samuel to do to Eli is also indicative of how prophets may be required to rebuke their own pastor as the Lord directs.

Even though prophets are called to build up the Body of Christ, the Lord will not confine them and their ministries to church buildings, not even under the New Covenant (Ephesians 4, Revelation 11). Joseph was a governor and Daniel was a president, yet it is hard for some people to fathom that a governor or president could also be a prophet of the Lord.

For some people, it would be a more daunting task to rebuke a pastor or other leader in a church, than to rebuke a leader of a nation or other politician. A prophet must be prepared to rebuke anyone who is in error when or how the Lord directs. No one is above God's Laws, and His prophets are among God's enforcers. A prophet is like a sheepdog whose primary responsibility and loyalty are to the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ.

SKA 12

COUNSELOR

People have oftentimes made it seem as if a prophet needs to have a relationship with a person before rebuking him or her. However, when the Lord sent a prophet from Judah to rebuke King Jeroboam of Israel, the prophet was not among those who stayed in the king's court. Likewise for John the Baptist who rebuked King Herod. It points to when Jesus said:

What went ye out into the wilderness to see?

A reed shaken with the wind?

But what went ye out for to see?

A man clothed in soft raiment?

Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

But what went ye out for to see?

A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, which shall prepare Thy way before Thee. ~

Matthew 11:7-10

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John stayed primarily out in the wilderness, unlike other prophets of the Bible who served as close advisors to kings. Yet, leaders would seek and/or summon prophets who were not necessarily their close advisors for GODly counsel. Sometimes they would even visit or pull prophets out of jail for counsel. Examples of leaders getting or seeking prophetic counsel include the Prophetess Deborah summoning Barak to come get the Word of the Lord (Judges 5), King Josiah sent his emissaries to inquire of the Prophetess Huldah (2 Kings 22), three kings sent for Elisha to receive the Word of the Lord regarding their battle plans, etc. (2 Kings 3)

Other prophets wore the soft raiment the Lord spoke of because their gifts made room for them in from of great men (Proverbs 18:16). As a result, they were placed on the leader's full-time staff, even though their primary role was not always to serve as a prophet. Joseph worked for the pharaoh of Egypt as a governor. Daniel served as a governor, president, and advisor to several kings. King David had several prophets and seers on staff such as Nathan, Gad, Zadok, and Heman. It is reflective of how some prophets may be more active in church buildings, governments, and businesses, in comparison to others who may be more active in street ministry or out on missions to potentially isolated regions. The way Jonah preached through Nineveh is how many street preachers function in this era.

When a prophet serves as a counselor, it is a truly CHRISTlike role, especially upon considering this prophecy about the Lord:

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and **the government shall be upon His shoulder**: and His name shall be called Wonderful, **COUNSELLOR**, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His*

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government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His KINGdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this. ~ Isaiah 9:6-7

As was the case with Jesus, some prophets will not get the recognition they deserve from religious leaders, particularly when the Lord called them to minister primarily outside of church buildings. It does not mean they cannot or should not attend a church, but their calling may indicate why they do not always fit in. Remember, most of what is written about Jesus's ministry in the Bible took place outside of the Temple and synagogues. Religious leaders frequently resisted Jesus when He ministered in places where He should have gotten the most support and acceptance (Luke 4, 13, etc.).

A prophet is truly doing the work of the Lord when serving Him as a counselor for others. King Solomon was renowned for his GODly wisdom to the point where other monarchs sought him for counsel (1 Kings 4:29-34, 10).

SKA 13

INTERPRETER

What is clearly communicated is not always clearly understood. That is why even clear communications from the Lord may require interpretation before making a proclamation in His name. Being able to interpret the things of God launched the prophetic ministries of men such as Joseph and Daniel. Today's prophets, with the help of the Spirit of God, will need to do the same. Also, even though providing interpretation of the mysteries of God garnered Joseph and Daniel attention and subsequent promotion, interpretation of GODly mysteries was not their full-time jobs. Likewise, the Lord may anoint His prophets for certain specialties, but He will not always use them in those areas on a regular basis.

There were times when Daniel received revelations that he did not immediately understand, until the Lord gave him the interpretation, which at times came through the ministry of angels (Daniel 9:21-22). Another example is how the Prophet

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Zechariah continually asked the angel of the Lord for the meaning of what he was witnessing (Zechariah 1-6).

The Lord's ways and thoughts are not like ours; they are higher (Isaiah 55:8-9). Jesus frequently spoke in parables, the meanings of which were not always easily understood, based on what they meant and who they were for (Matthew 13:34-35). God even spoke of how His communications, even to His prophets, are not always clear or clearly understood:

*And He said, Hear now My Words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all Mine house. **With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, AND NOT IN DARK SPEECHES; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?** ~ Numbers 12:6-8*

Jesus also gives an example of why something from God may need interpretation, because even though clearly stated, was not clearly understood:

*Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this Temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?
But He spake of the Temple of His body. ~ John 2:19-21*

Those who work in the occult will use divination in their attempts to unlock the spiritual mysteries of God. However, true revelation comes from God, such as through His Spirit, about Whom it is written:

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But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ~ 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

Another of the Apostle Paul's writing is demonstrative of a spiritual mystery that could have only come from the Spirit of God. Many people are familiar with the following:

*And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that **Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.***

And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

*And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in Commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. And till Moses had done speaking with them, **he put a veil on his face.***

But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he took the veil off, until he came out.

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And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with Him. ~ Exodus 34:29-35

That is reflective of how Christ was veiled to the Jews at His first coming, but He did not veil Himself to the Father. In addition, the brightness of Moses's face was surpassed by the brightness of Jesus, who is the Light that came into the world. James, John, and Peter experienced the brightness of His glory on what we refer to as "The Mount of Transfiguration" (Mark 9:1-9). The Apostle Paul also experienced the Lord's shining glory when Jesus called Paul to His service (Acts 9:1-9).

Paul later wrote this beautiful Holy Spirit inspired exposition on the prophetic significance of the events in Exodus 34:

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

Ye are our Epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the Epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

*But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that **the children of Israel could not***

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stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious?

For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

*Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as **Moses, which put a veil over his face**, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: **But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.***

Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. ~ 2 Corinthians 3

On the surface, it seemed as if Moses covering his face was because of his humility (Numbers 12:3). But as Paul wrote, there was a deeply profound meaning to it, one that shows again that the Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:10). With the help of Holy Spirit, prophets still serve as interpreters of spiritual mysteries, to include unlocking and exposing the devil's lies.

SKA 14

GPS

Prophetic accuracy is a lynchpin of prophetic ministry. That is commensurate with this message I had just sent to a friend:

Prophetic accuracy leads to credibility, which is easily lost but not easily regained.

It is interesting how of all the prophets in the Bible, Samuel the Seer is the only prophet about whom this statement regarding his prophetic accuracy is made:

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let NONE of his words fall to the ground.

And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord. ~ 1 Samuel 3:19-20

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Perhaps, if Samuel had gone to Nineveh instead of Jonah, the city would have been destroyed within forty days as prophesied.

Prophets are not put to death for a failed/false prophecy nowadays, but it does result in a form of death to and in their ministries. There are also people who take it as their duty to expose anyone who misses the mark regarding prophetic ministry. Biblically, they have a right to do so, and they oftentimes use what Moses wrote on the topic:

But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the Word which the Lord hath not spoken?

*When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, **if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.** ~ Deuteronomy 18:20-22*

Based on the above, even though unnecessary for this type of literature, here are some measures to preserve, increase, or restore one's prophetic accuracy:

 Test the spirits to ensure that a revelation is from God. Repeat as often as necessary to prophesy in accordance with one's faith (Romans 12:6).

 Do not presume to speak a word in the Lord's name. It is cringeworthy to hear people giving prophetic utterances by communicating that they think, believe, or feel. Such things communicate that the Lord did not

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command the person to speak on His behalf, and it does not instill confidence in the potential recipient. A great case study for prophets is Jeremiah 1:11-19, which shows that a dream or vision is not the same as the Word of the Lord, a specific prophetic utterance.

✠ A part of testing the spirits and gauging one's prophetic accuracy is based on the fulfillment of the prophecy. Evil spirits, such as seducing spirits and spirits of divination, will try to pollute prophets. A prophet may not have discerned such spirits and spoken errantly like Peter did in Matthew 16. Under such circumstances, a prophet cannot continue fellowshiping with that devil by claiming what he or she prophesied was the Word of the Lord, and then go deeper into sin by trying to justify their error(s) instead of repenting. The events in Jeremiah 32:6-8 is a notable example of testing the spirit after its fulfillment to verify whether it was from God or not. The prophet's words in Jeremiah 32:8 and 28:9 are interconnected.

✠ Do not let anyone except for God compel you to prophesy, or to repeat what other prophets have prophesied. When Micaiah went with Ahab's emissary, he tried to persuade the prophet to prophesy what the other deceived prophets had prophesied (1 Kings 22:13). If it means giving your mouth over to the Lord for Him to do as He told Ezekiel, which is that He would bind the prophet's tongue at times so he could not speak and loosen his tongue when He wanted the prophet to speak (Ezekiel 3:26-27). If you are uncertain that something was from the Lord, do not share it (publicly). Let the Lord push you to prophesy, like

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when Jeremiah wanted to remain silent, but the Word of the Lord was shut up in his bones like fire and he had to release it (Jeremiah 20:9).

 Do not try to establish yourself as a prophet of the Lord. If you are His prophet, He will establish you like He did with Samuel.

 Do not seek to remain relevant, as if you are a or the spiritual authority on everything. If God gives you a revelation, He may not have commanded you to release it; do not do so presumptuously. A particular snare that many prophets have fallen into on social media is by commenting on every major or breaking news situation. Prophetic maturity is demonstrated by remaining silent when necessary. Moses was silent when the Lord placed His Spirit on the seventy elders who prophesied (Numbers 11). Likewise, as the prophets and those who came close to them prophesied, Samuel the Seer, the senior prophet over Israel, remained silent (1 Samuel 19:19-24).

 It is okay to say you do not know when that is the case. You are not omniscient; only God knows everything, and it is a privilege for Him to share anything with you. When the Shunamite woman went to see Elisha, the prophet admitted that the Lord had hidden why her soul was vexed from him (2 Kings 4:27).

 God may have to humble you, potentially publicly, if you do not continue glorifying Him in your prophetic ministry. That may include allowing your prophecy to fail.

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-  You may have the revelation and interpretation from the Lord, but despite having the Word of the Lord, He only releases another prophet to share such things publicly. Do not exceed the boundaries the Lord places on you. Sometimes He may be training you, such as to ensure you are disciplined. But He may also be showing you other prophets who are receiving similar revelations from Him as you. We see that when Elisha encountered the company of prophets at Bethel and later Jericho. As Elisha told them, despite what you know, you may have to keep your peace (2 Kings 2).

-  Delivering one prophecy that comes to pass does not mean the Lord has called you as a prophet, or that you should go into full-time ministry.

-  Do not get into giving periodic prophecies, especially those which are mere prognostications labeled as prophetic words of the day, week, month, year, etc., unless the Lord specifically commands you to do so. Even if the Lord were to do such a thing, only communicate things He directs you to communicate. Arguably, the world does not need more prophets and prophecies, it needs more accurate prophets and prophecies. For example, when Joseph prophesied that the cupbearer would be restored to his position in three days while the baker would be executed in that time, when those prophecies came to pass, they helped to establish Joseph's credibility (Genesis 40). Likewise, for when Jeremiah prophesied that Hananiah was going to die for teaching lies in the Lord's name, and Ezekiel prophesied against Pelatiah, the son of Benaiah, for devising mischief and giving evil counsel,

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and both men died as prophesied (Jeremiah 28, Ezekiel 11). The same can be said for what Elisha prophesied would happen the next day, and despite people's unbelief and lack of faith, the Word of the Lord still came to pass (2 Kings 7). Elisha also powerfully and accurately prophesied that the Shunammite woman, who had graciously hosted him on several occasions, would give birth to a son the following year (2 Kings 4).

 Bad company corrupts good character, so be careful who you associate with and/or allow to speak into your life. That includes the false prophets in media, such as television personalities who foretell narratives, demonic prophecies from the prince of the power of the air, that are not in alignment with God's Words, will, and ways. The same thing goes for Christian television, where the mostly GODly persons do not always get a platform. Please pay attention to if certain personalities seemingly have a place on every major Christian media outlet. That is a part of why money is involved in so many of their messages because they pay to maintain their presence on so many platforms, even if they get a discount because of their notoriety. Ensure money or contributing to your ministry is not a part of most or all your messages.

 Check your heart before you prophesy. Ask yourself if what you are about to communicate is more your will or God's. Remember, Moses was unwilling to go to Egypt to prophesy to the pharaoh, as was Jonah regarding his assignment to preach against Nineveh.

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Are you willing to die for what you are about to prophesy?

- ✎ When delivering a prophecy, particularly on social media, strip it of any advertising for merchandising or requests for funding. All people should get is the Word of the Lord, just as it is in the Bible. Prophets in the Bible were chased away, arrested, and even killed for telling the truth. They did not try to raise funds after and/or for prophesying. Using branding, such as logos, is acceptable because it potentially deters those who steal prophecies.

An accurate prophet is one who people will fear (respect) and trust. The title "GPS" means God Positioning System, which is indicative of a level of accuracy that only God can provide. A major factor in having that level of accuracy is not simply based on one's gifting from the Holy Spirit, it is more so about the person's relationship with the Lord. When Micaiah told Ahab's prophets that they were deceived into prophesying about Ahab's victory, rather than repenting, they hardened their hearts. A prophet must be sensitive and responsive to when the Lord tries to correct them before they take certain actions that will damage their credibility, and potentially their relationship with God.

SKA 15

EEO

A prophet must be an Equal Opportunity Offender, which means having a willingness to offend everyone but God. Prophets who were in right standing with the Lord were willing to offend anyone. They were not apologetic or tried to soften the blow by making it seem as if it was okay to offend someone because they were like them. Moses was a Hebrew prophet who went to prophesy against Egypt. Jonah was an Israelite who prophesied against the Assyrian city of Nineveh. Daniel refused to worship King Darius instead of Yahweh, despite the offense carrying the death penalty in the lions' den, etc. Prophets do not need to be or look like those to whom the Lord has them prophesy.

Prophets were also willing to speak against their own kind, just like how John the Baptist called his nation to repentance, spoke against the religious leaders, soldiers, and King Herod. Jesus also offended many people, even to the point where they walked away from Him and stopped following Him (John 6:1-66). When His own family tried to stop Him from

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ministering, and people thought He had a demon or had lost His mind, He said something that could or may have offended His own family:

There came then His brethren and His mother, and, standing without, sent unto Him, calling Him.

And the multitude sat about Him, and they said unto Him, Behold, Thy mother and Thy brethren without seek for Thee.

And He answered them, saying, Who is My mother, or My brethren?

And He looked round about on them which sat about Him, and said, Behold My mother and My brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is My brother, and My sister, and mother. ~ Mark 3:31-35

Some may find it shocking that Jesus, who is known as The Prince of Peace, also said:

*Suppose ye that I AM come to give peace on earth? I tell you, **Nay; but rather DIVISION:** For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. ~ Luke 12:51-53*

The Lord also served up this potentially offensive morsel, which is a reminder to prophets of where to place their primarily allegiance:

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He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ~ Matthew 10:37

Many people focus on how false prophets could have been stoned to death for telling false prophecies while overlooking how prophets suffered for telling the truth. When Elijah proved that Yahweh was the true and living God, Jezebel, a worshipper of Baal, tried to kill him (1 Kings 18-19:2). Similarly, Micaiah told King Ahab the truth that he would die if he went to battle at Ramoth in Gilead. The prophet elaborated by saying the Lord had set that trap for him by sending a spirit to deceive his prophets. This was Ahab's response and Micaiah's portion for telling the truth:

*And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, **Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.***

And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me.

And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you. ~ 1 Kings 22:26-28

The Prophet Micaiah offended almost everyone in attendance, such as the prophets who had been falsely prophesying in the name of the Lord, which result in this:

But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the Lord from me to speak unto thee?

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And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. ~ 1 Kings 22:24-25

A prophet must not be offensive simply to be abrasive. But a prophet must be willing to offend people who are about to sin, living in sin, or have sinned but not repented. You may have heard the saying, "Tell the truth and shame the devil." Telling the truth will not shame the devil, but it will enrage him and those who serve him. As a prophet, and an equal opportunity offender, be prepared to find out the applicability of this Scripture to your life and ministry:

*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?
~ Galatians 4:16*

A prophet cannot fear being called slanderous names. The enemy will try to muzzle the Lord's prophets with political correctness, even though God's focus is on being spiritually correct. Jesus called people devils, children of hell, serpents, etc., but He was telling them the truth. As an antagonist to sinners, a prophet must be an Equal Opportunity Offender to anyone who offends God with their sins, transgressions, and iniquities.

SKA 16

SEMPER FIDELIS

Are you willing to die for what you prophesy? David and Elisha died peaceful deaths, on their own beds, but that will not be the case for all the Lord's prophets. The Bible is filled with accounts of prophets who were beaten, imprisoned, and even killed for their prophecies. It is not only God who does not change; the devil does not change either. The same way Jezebel hunted and killed the Lord's prophets is how the enemy still wages war against them. When the Lord called on people to go prophesy, unlike what many people seem to think today, oftentimes, they were not thinking the assignment was going to bring fame and potentially fortune because they knew they were about to risk their lives.

The requirements for prophets have not changed. When Jesus spoke of picking up one's cross to follow Him, it symbolized how being His disciple is a walk of death (Matthew 10:38, 16:24). Those are not Old Testament standards and conditions. The following still apply to

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disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, which includes His prophets:

-  *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou **faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life. ~ Christ Jesus (Revelation 2:10)*

-  *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, **and his angels were cast out with him**. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their TESTimony; **and they loved not their lives unto the death**. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.** ~ Revelation 12:9-12*

-  *And it was given unto him [the beast] **to make war with the saints, and to overcome them**: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. ~ Revelation 13:7*

-  *And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if*

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*any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. **And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because **these TWO PROPHETS tormented them that dwelt on the earth.***** ~ Revelation 11:3-10

Prophets have an enemy, and he hates God and those who lovingly serve Him.

However, please note what Jesus said He would do for us:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a Man lay down His life for His friends. ~ Mark 3:33-35

The Lord certainly did that. But for the prophets who are the Lord's friends, they may in turn have to lay down their lives for Jesus as a part of their service to Him (Romans 12:1).

This is a reminder of what it may take to faithfully serve the Lord as a prophet:

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*And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, **and of the prophets**: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: **And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;** (Of whom the world was not worthy:) **they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.** And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. ~ Hebrews 11:32-46*

When a prophet is so committed to the Lord that he or she is faithful to Him unto death, the prophet lives up to what Jesus called the first and great[est] Commandment, which is this:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ~ Matthew 22:37

SKA 17

MOG/WOG

A man or woman of God is what every prophet should strive to be. Tragically, that is not always the case. One of the things the Shunammite woman discerned about Elisha was that he was a *holy man of God* (2 Kings 4:8-17). Of the two prophets in Jeremiah 28, which do you think was a man of God, Jeremiah who spoke God's truth or the Prophet Hananiah who told lies in the Lord's name? The distinction is even clearer in 1 Kings 13 where it speaks of two prophets. The Judean prophet, whom the Lord had sent to Israel, was referred to as a prophet and a man of God. Conversely, the prophet from Bethel, who lied to the Judean, and led him to disobey God, was never referred to as a man of God. In the same vein, Jesus spoke of Jezebel calling herself a prophetess, and based on her WITCHcrafts, she was not a woman of God (Revelation 2:18-23).

Strive to be a prophet who is referred to as a man or woman of God. In addition to the Biblical record of Samuel's prophetic accuracy, this testament of his ministry is

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something prophets should emulate, particularly if they hope to hear Jesus tell them "Well done...":

And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

*Behold, here I am: witness against me before the Lord, and before His anointed: **Whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? AND I will restore it you.***

*And they said, **Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.***

And he said unto them, The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand.

And they answered, He is witness. ~ 1 Samuel 12:1-5

Despite his gruff appearance and approach, please note how highly Jesus spoke of the prophet, John the Baptist:

And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see?

A reed shaken with the wind?

But what went ye out for to see?

A man clothed in soft raiment?

Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

But what went ye out for to see?

A prophet?

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Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, which shall prepare Thy way before Thee.

*Verily I say unto you, **Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist:** notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. ~ Matthew 11:7-15

Based on Jesus's description, John the Baptist, a wilderness dwelling, locust and wild honey eating prophet, was a man of God.

Prophets and prophetess should strive to be men and women of God, prophets of distinction. Many prophets and prophetesses will go to hell, but none of God's children will (Romans 8:14). Therefore, serve the Lord with integrity, which also means being quick to repent if you err.

SKA 18

AWESOME

Prophets need strength and courage. Their only fear should be of God, and not of people or even devils. A part of King Saul's downfall, as evidenced in his own admission, was the fear of people:

*And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the Commandment of the Lord, and thy Words: because **I feared the people**, and obeyed their voice. ~ 1 Samuel 15:24*

That fear led King Saul to fear and obey people instead of God.

There is also a type of fear that is equivalent to reverence. That may have contributed to the demise of the Judean prophet who listened to the old Bethelite prophet and ended up disobeying God (1 Kings 13).

Around the time of Jesus's arrest, the apostles ran when faced with death. However, after Jesus's resurrection and being endued with the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostles

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were emboldened after being beaten and facing death in front of the Sanhedrin. Their response is a lesson for all prophets:

*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.** ~ Acts 5:29*

Obedience to God may cause prophets to disobey people, to include both religious and secular leaders. It requires the Spirit of God to know when to comply with them versus when to resist.

A prophet needs to remember this when fear presents itself:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. ~ 2 Timothy 1:7

Testing the source of fear is important, because as Jesus said, there is a type of fear for everyone to have:

*And I say unto you My friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: **Fear Him, which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.** ~ Luke 12:4-5*

In other words, fear God; satan's wrath is nothing compared to God's.

Prophets also need a healthy fear of the Lord due to this:

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ~ Hebrews 10:31

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Many prophets love to cite what the Lord said in Jeremiah 1:5 when He called the young man as a prophet, and he was intimidated by the position based on his age. But they may overlook this portion of Jeremiah's commission, which is applicable to prophets who fear people rather than God:

*Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: **be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.***

For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I AM with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee. ~ Jeremiah 1:17-19

Fear the awesome GOD!

SKA 19

WATCHMEN

Prophetic ministry is heavily focused on future events. There are times when prophets communicate current events, such as when John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus was the Lamb of God, the Christ (John 1:29, 36). But prophecy is future-centric, and especially during these end times, they will not always seem or be positive. For example, when asked about the signs of the end that would mark His return, Jesus spoke of the rise of false prophets and christs, wars and rumors of wars, and a period of tribulation at the hands of the antichrist (Matthew 24). With those things unfolding and more on the horizon, just as in times past, the Lord uses His prophets to warn people of things to come, particularly things that could result in them dying in their sins.

When the Lord uses a prophet to broadcast the enemy's plans, as was the case with Elisha, it will result in spiritual warfare (2 Kings 6). But in that vein of prophets sounding the alarm are the prophets the Lord uses as His watchmen. Ezekiel is the only prophet the Lord specifically called as a

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watchman according to the Biblical narrative. Therefore, he is the prototypical watchman, and a prophet for anyone called as such to study, particularly Ezekiel chapters 3 and 33. Watchmen can also learn a lot from how the Lord showed the prophet the evil that people were doing, some of which was being done behind the scenes (Ezekiel 8). His encounter in the valley of dry bones is a great case study, especially because it showed the prophet was humble, not presumptuous, and he only prophesied as the Lord commanded him to speak (Ezekiel 37).

When the Lord called Ezekiel to take up a lamentation against anyone or place, he cried aloud and spared not (e.g., Ezekiel 19, 26, 27, 28, 32). There are times for prophets to remain silent, but then there are times for them to speak. Some prophets seemingly have what are called “gloom and doom” ministries, which is the hallmark of a watchman’s calling. That is because, like Ezekiel, they have this mandate from the Lord:

*And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, **I have made thee a WATCHMAN unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the Word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me.***

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling-block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die

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in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul. ~ Ezekiel 3:16-21

A watchman is not someone who watches the news and reports those events or uses them to make prognostications. A watchman is a prophet who hears from the Lord, has a burden to warn others, or blood will be on his or her hands for which he or she will have to give an account of him or herself to the Lord. It also appears that the Lord can relieve a person from this burdensome calling based on how He renewed Ezekiel's calling as a watchman in Ezekiel 33.

SKA 20 CANARY

Prophets give warnings and they also serve as warning signs. When the Lord sent Samuel the Seer to Jesse's house to anoint one of his sons as Israel's future king, please note how the elders reacted to the prophet's arrival:

And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem.

*And the elders of the town **trembled** at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?*

And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.

And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. ~ 1 Samuel 16:4-5

In the previous chapter, when Samuel visited King Saul, he did not come in peace. He went to tell the king that God had rejected him as king and had given his kingdom to someone

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better than him. That put Samuel's life in jeopardy with King Saul (1 Samuel 16:2).

But prophets also serve as a sign and a wonder from the Lord, sometimes by their mere presence or via "prophetic acts". Isaiah is famous for his Messianic prophecies, but a part of his prophetic ministry involved this unenviable prophetic act:

At the same time spake the Lord by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot.

*And he did so, walking **NAKED and barefoot.***

*And the Lord said, Like as My servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years **for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;** So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.*

And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory.

And the inhabitant of this isle shall say in that day, Behold, such is our expectation, whither we flee for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria: and how shall we escape? ~ Isaiah 20:2-6

Ezekiel also had to do some practical things that were prophetic signs to others (Ezekiel 4-5). This is one of the more challenging ones that served as a sign to others:

Also the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down. Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put

on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.

*So I spake unto the people in the morning: and **at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.***

And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?

Then I answered them, The Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will profane My sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword. And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men. And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I AM the Lord God.

*Also, thou son of man, shall it not be in the day when I take from them their strength, the joy of their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that whereupon they set their minds, their sons and their daughters, That he that escapeth in that day shall come unto thee, to cause thee to hear it with thine ears? In that day shall thy mouth be opened to him which is escaped, and thou shalt speak, and be no more dumb: **and thou shalt be a sign unto them; and they shall know that I AM the Lord.** ~ Ezekiel 24:15-27*

Abraham did a prophetic act of a similar nature when the Lord directed him to sacrifice his son on Mount Moriah, which marked the area where Jesus, the Son of God, would later serve as the sacrificial Lamb for the entire world. Therefore, Jesus said:

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And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the Light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. ~ John 3:14-21

Jesus also later spoke these Words about how He would soon die:

*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.
~ John 12:32*

A prophet must serve as a sign and wonder for God's glory, through their words and their deeds. It bears noting that when the Lord uses a prophet to perform such prophetic acts, just like when a prophet delivers a prophecy, it is not the prophet's duty to try to force people to accept the message, regardless of how the Lord communicates it. A prophet's job is to be the messenger instead of trying to force people to accept the message. Remember that Jesus willingly gave up

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His life to offer all humanity the gift of everlasting life, but people are free to accept or reject Him, His gift and sacrifice.

SKA 21

GUARDRAILS

Despite people's shared ministerial calling, it is important to note that it is the Holy Spirit who gives gifts as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11). As a result, it is evident that prophets had unique giftings from God. Therefore, if a situation arose that required a certain skillset, prophets should defer to the prophet with that skill (gift). The same applies to prophets yielding to another type of minister who is better suited for the assignment, whether that is an apostle, evangelist, pastor, or teacher. For example, some prophets are great at prophesying but not as skilled in teaching about prophetic ministry.

Some uniquely gifted prophets in the Bible that are not necessarily or typically evidenced everywhere include:

- ✠ Moses called down plagues on Egypt and parted the Red Sea (even though Elijah and Elisha parted the River Jordan). His interactions with the Lord and the level of revelations he received were above those of his

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siblings, Miriam and Aaron, who were also prophets. The Lord even rebuked them for trying to usurp Moses's authority (Numbers 12). In other words, they should have stayed in their lanes.

 Joshua took over for Moses. A unique thing about Joshua's ministry unto the Lord is that he commanded the sun and the moon to stand still in the valley of Ajalon. As a result of his command to the heavenly bodies instead of asking the Lord, the sun and moon stood still for an entire day so the Israelites could prevail in battle over the Amorites (Joshua 10:12-14). But the most unique thing about that event is this: "And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel." ~ Joshua 10:14

 Elijah was empowered to call down fire from heaven, which he did on two recorded occasions (1 Kings 18, 2 Kings 1). He also raised the dead, something which no other prophet before him had done. Elisha, his successor, also raised the dead and other miracles, but there is no record of him calling down fire from heaven. A hallmark of Elisha's ministry was how after he had died, a dead man's body touched the deceased prophet's bones and was brought back to life (2 Kings 13:20-21).

There is no evidence of the Lord empowering and giving prophets authority to do things like Moses and Elijah until the two witnesses, particularly considering how Jesus rebuked James and John (Luke 9:51-56). For the two prophets, it is not only what the Lord gifts them to do that is special, but also

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the broad authority He will give them to do things as they will:

And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, AS OFTEN AS THEY WILL. ~

Revelation 11:5-6

Prophets sometimes get in trouble because they may have a calling like another prophet in the Bible, and they assume they are empowered to do everything that prophet did. Remember, John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. And even though he operated in the spirit and power of Elijah, he did no miracles (Luke 1:11-17, John 10:41).

John did no miracles, but he was a miracle, particularly considering his parents' age and mother's medical condition. When Gabriel prophesied of John's conception and birth, please note how he said the spirit and power of Elijah would manifest through John:

And he shall go before him in the Spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. ~ Luke 1:17

If the Lord calls you to be like a prophet in the Bible, you are NOT that prophet. While many people focus on the spectacularism of Elijah calling down fire on his altar to God on Mount Carmel, something equally as spectacular

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happened prior to that. The magnificent event was when he called people to repentance to choose either Yahweh or Baal as their God/god (1 Kings 18:22).

Sometimes prophets feel inadequate or less than other prophets because of their gifting and how the Lord uses them. Keep in mind that John's ministry lacked miracles, yet Jesus said he was greatest of all men born of a woman. Also, despite their similarities, there is no record of Elijah performing baptisms, and if he did, certainly not as many and with the frequency as John the Baptist.

The Bible does not specify that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were prophets, but what is written about them perfectly illustrates how people with the same Holy Spirit are uniquely equipped:

*As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: **and Daniel** had understanding in all visions and dreams. ~ Daniel 1:17*

God gifted them with knowledge and wisdom, but when it came to visions and dreams, that was Daniel's department, his specialty. The four men had to stay in their lanes, not only because of their spiritual gifts and callings from the Lord, but also due to where God placed them in the kingdoms of the kings they served. An example of getting out of one's lane or jurisdiction is evident in Acts 19:11-17, with the sons of Sceva.

Do not get out of the Holy Spirit's guardrails!

SKA 22

CHRONICLE

Prophets are not simply speakers, they are communicators. A part of communicating things from the Lord is through writing. Please note that most of the Books of the Bible were written by prophets (or their assistants) or about prophets. Moses is credited with writing the first five Books of the Bible, also known as the Torah or Pentateuch. Most of the Jewish Bible, the Tanakh, were also written by or about prophets. Both Books of Kings speak of the kings of Israel and Judah, yet they introduce readers to the lives and exploits of prophets such as Elijah, Elisha, Adonijah, Micaiah, and Isaiah. Some of the Bible's Books are named after prophets, such as 1 and 2nd Samuel, Hosea, Nahum, Obadiah, and Joel.

The Bible specifies a special function for prophets who were also historians as well as heralds. Some of what we know about Israel's history is because of what prophets chronicled, such as in these examples:

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- ✠ *And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo. Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the Seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer. ~ 1 Chronicles 29:29*

- ✠ *Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat? ~ 2 Chronicles 9:29*

- ✠ *Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually. ~ 2 Chronicles 12:15*

- ✠ *And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, are written in the story of the Prophet Iddo. ~ 2 Chronicles 13:22*

- ✠ *Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, who is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel. ~ 2 Chronicles 20:34*

- ✠ *Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, did Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, write. ~ 2 Chronicles 26:22*

- ✠ *Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet,*

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the son of Amoz, and in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ~ 2 Chronicles 32:32

Prophets should still chronicle the revelations the Lord shares with them as He allows. They serve as great references and training tools for when the Lord fulfills His Words, particularly if the prophet did not have clarity about what the Lord meant by what He shared. Even though God can and does bring things back to a prophet's recollection, being able to refer to prophecies is helpful. Recorded prophecies helps the prophet better distinguish the source of revelations to sharpen his/her discernment in testing the spirits, improve prophetic accuracy, increase understanding of the initial revelation and any hidden things within the revelation that are only evident upon fulfillment, and discerning how the Lord communicates to the recipient of the revelations. In some cases, the Lord may give a series of revelations over the course of years, and when combined, those events will give a more complete picture. For example, the Lord spent years communicating with Abraham about how He was going to bless him with a son (Genesis 12-18).

An important caveat is a prophet should not record, or in some cases, share revelations from the Lord, as was the case with Daniel, Paul's testimony of a man witnessing unspeakable things in heaven, and John in the Book of Revelation.

Just like how the prophetess Anna spent much of her life and ministry in prayer and fasting is how the Lord will assign some prophets to write, possibly more than making oral declarations. Paul as an apostle and Jeremiah as a prophet were able to record events because they were taken away from public ministry and put in prison. Therefore, Paul was correct in what he wrote in Romans 8:28-30.

SKA 23

PROGNOSTICATOR

While enroute to the Promised Land, the Lord had Moses warn the Israelites not to do the abominable things like people in their former habitation, Egypt, or the land of Canaan where they would dwell (Leviticus 18:1-4). God gave these specific warnings about occult activities:

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. ~ Deuteronomy 18:10-13

A part of separating the holy from the profane is by not mimicking occultists. Prophets should abstain from the

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appearance of all evil, such as proGNOSTICation. Unless the Lord specifically commands a prophet to do so, avoid giving prophetic words of the day, week, month, year, decade, etc. Such practices are more akin to prognostication than Biblical prophecy. Prognostication is a gateway for a “spirit of divination” to enter a prophet’s life and pollute his or her gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Prophets need to remember this rebuke from the Lord about proGNOSTICators, proGNOSTICations, and those who trust in them:

For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me.

Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.

Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.

Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels.

Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the MONTHLY proGNOSTICators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it. ~ Isaiah 47:10-14

Prophets who engage in what is or seems like periodic prognostications may open themselves to the idols of people’s hearts. That is a part of why some prophets, particularly on

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social media, are so popular. The Lord can certainly grow a person's ministry to have a large following, as was the case with John the Baptist. It is important to note that John did not compromise; He gave the unadulterated Word of the Lord. Jesus also had thousands of followers, that was until His offensive message drove many of them away (John 6). Again, a prophet must be willing to offend everyone (if necessary).

Just as in times past, there is a market for prophets who speak what people want to hear, even when contrary to God's will for them. Prophets must avoid this snare:

*That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the Law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, **Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.** ~ Isaiah 30:9-10*

Delivering periodic prophecies is sometimes a marketing strategy to ensure audience retention on a user's platform. Social media algorithms encourage users to post frequently, as if it is for the amusement of their followers and to feed the beast of the algorithm. Prophets who comply with algorithms more than the Spirit of God may entertain people's idolatry. That results in getting pressured to prophesy, regardless of whether the Lord is communicating with the prophets.

Unrepentant prophets of the Lord could incur His judgment, along with the idolatrous people they try to appease, as evidenced in this Word of God:

*Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. And the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, **Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?***

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Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from Me through their idols.

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

*For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from Me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning Me; I the Lord will answer him by myself: **And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb**, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people; and ye shall know that I AM the Lord.*

***And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I THE LORD HAVE DECEIVED THAT PROPHET, and I will stretch out My hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of My people Israel. AND THEY SHALL BEAR THE PUNISHMENT OF THEIR INIQUITY: THE PUNISHMENT OF THE PROPHET SHALL BE EVEN AS THE PUNISHMENT OF HIM THAT SEEKETH UNTO HIM;** That the house of Israel may go no more astray from Me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be My people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord God. ~ Ezekiel 14:1-11*

You do not want to share in people's judgment from the Lord. As was the case with King Ahab's prophets in 1 Kings 22, when the Lord deceives a prophet, no one will be able to

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convince that prophet that he or she did not hear from the Spirit of God.

Prophets should prophesy how and when the Lord directs. Moreover, they should avoid the appearance of doing what witches do, such as when they publish horoscopes. It is one thing when witches imitate prophets, but prophets should not imitate witches.

SKA 24

MENTOR

Senior prophets may potentially mentor novice or emergent prophets. It was good for Samuel to grow up in Eli's house. The Bible does not refer to Eli as prophet, but if only a priest, he instructed the young Samuel that the Lord was speaking to him, and how he should respond when the Lord called him again (1 Samuel 3). It was also beneficial for Samuel, who was Israel's last judge to learn from Eli, who was a priest and a judge over Israel. One of the things Eli could have mentored Samuel on was not to be like his wayward sons, Hophni and Phinehas.

Similarly, Joshua had years to learn from Moses prior to taking over his position, as was the case with Elisha who served Elijah prior to replacing him as the senior prophet over Israel.

Scriptures also speak of the sons of prophets or company of prophets (1 Samuel 10, 2 Kings 2, etc.). There is safety in numbers, which includes greater fidelity in testing the spirits. Prophets of the Bible did not always fulfill their duties alone.

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Some had an assistant, such as Gehazi to Elisha and Baruch who served as Jeremiah's scribe (2 Kings 4:12, Jeremiah 36:4-6). Interestingly, the Lord directed Elijah to anoint Jehu as king over Israel, but he was taken into heaven without doing it. That placed the responsibility on Elisha. However, rather than doing it himself, Elisha gave the (training) opportunity to a young prophet:

And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead: And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber; Then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith the Lord, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not.

So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead. ~ 2 Kings 9:1-4

An example of how mentorship can help young prophets is featured in this New Testament Scripture:

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. ~ 1 Corinthians 14:29-33

Prophets are not the only ones who can train and mentor other prophets, or judge prophecies, but they are uniquely

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equipped and suited to do so. A part of mentorship includes administering disciplinary actions if necessary. David was a prophet, but God used prophets such as Nathan and Gad to correct the king when he erred.

Also, please do not confuse mentorship with the “spiritual covering” doctrine. Sadly, that doctrine is rife with abuses that are tantamount to WITCHcraft.

Mentorship includes stirring up the gift or the Spirit of Prophecy in others. By virtue of their proximity to the company of prophets who were prophesying, even Saul, the son of Kish, and later him and his men when he became king, started prophesying (1 Samuel 10:9-13, 19:18-24). Those two events popularized the saying and question in Israel if Saul was among the prophets (1 Samuel 10:11-12, 19:24). Such an outpouring should be more powerful when a group of prophets are flowing under the unction of the Holy Spirit. That is a part of why in a prophetic company setting Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians 14:29-33, it includes:

...If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace...

Particularly in a group setting, the Lord may give prophets “noncontiguous prophecies”. Conversely, God may also give a “contiguous prophecy” where He uses different prophets to reveal distinctive portions of the puzzle. Therefore, the combined prophecies give a more complete picture than if only one prophet had prophesied. In some cases, as demonstrated with the companies of prophets in Bethel and Jericho, other prophets’ prophecies to Elisha, and later from Elijah, simply confirmed the Word of the Lord to another person. In the case of “confirmatory prophecies”, the

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revelation is simply repeated by various witnesses to verify the Word of the Lord as per Deuteronomy 19:15.

In some cases, a prophetic relationship is not one of a mentor and mentee but that of peers. The Lord sent out His apostles in pairs, as was the case for the seventy disciples who returned rejoicing that demons were subject to them through Jesus's name (Luke 10). Whatever the nature of the prophetic relationship, the most important thing is, as Jesus said:

...If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them. ~ Matthew 18:20

The testimony of Jesus is still the Spirit of Prophecy, and as stated, the Lord will send two prophets to prophesy to the nations as told in Revelation 11.

SKA 25

CHECK FIRE

It is time-consuming enough for prophets to chronicle their prophecies. So, while tracking fulfilled prophecies is a wonderful thing, it is not a requirement. In addition, despite its merits, prophets are not required to show the public when their prophecies are fulfilled. Who kept track of Samuel's prophecies to know and show that the Lord did not allow any of them to fall to the ground? It was the Lord who established Samuel as His prophet, just as it is written (1 Samuel 3:19-20). Ezekiel did not have to prove anything to anyone when the Lord said people would know a prophet had been among them (Ezekiel 2:5). Yes, the Lord later said people would know a prophet had been among them when the prophecy came to pass, but that is not the only way to discern a prophet (Ezekiel 33:33). The Shunammite woman discerned that Elisha was a prophet before any recorded prophecies to her (2 Kings 4). It was the same for the Samaritan woman who accurately discerned that Jesus was a Prophet, which led to Him subsequently letting her know He was the Messiah (John

4:19).

Some prophets have fallen into the snare of trying to validate themselves to people, particularly those who will not believe that they are prophets of God. When Jesus was on the cross, He did not come down to appease His mockers, which would have been pointless for some of them. When Jesus cast out demons, some of His naysayers accused Him of doing so through Beelzebub. Similarly, despite the eye-opening signs upon His death, such as the darkness, earthquake, and the tearing of the veil (from top to bottom) to the “holy of holies”, the massive resurrection of the dead, leaders remain unfazed. Upon learning of His resurrection, rather than repenting and leading the Israelites to repentance, they tried to cover it up. It showed that Jesus rightly prophesied when He said:

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: **therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.***

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, **ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.** ~ Matthew 23:14-15*

A prophet may prophesy, and the Word of the Lord comes to pass, and naysayers may simply say the person was clairvoyant. Let the Holy Spirit guide your actions, which include being humble when God fulfills His prophecies, particularly those that involve the loss of lives (where people go to hell).

In addition, some prophets seemingly speak about their fulfilled prophecies more than the recipients of those messages. Understandably, in part due to their recordkeeping, sometimes prophets remember prophecies

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better than the recipients of the prophecies. And that includes major things such as having a child. That is why it is also important for recipients of prophecies to record them, both to test the spirits and to track their fulfillment or failure.

Please note that Jesus rose to fame in part because people testified of Him instead of Him testifying about Himself. Sometimes He did wonderful works to glorify the Father but told people to not reveal it to others, even though many people disobeyed Him. The Lord even silenced demons when they started broadcasting who He was. Prophets can also learn from angels, such as the one who prophesied to the woman about conceiving and giving birth to Samson, and how she should raise him. The angel refused to give his name when her husband, Manoah, asked (Judges 13:17-18). Remaining unidentified at times is a way to give God all the glory.

SKA 26

FATHER'S HEART

James and John wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan village that had rejected Jesus. They even had Elijah as a Scriptural reference/justification for their actions. However, instead of agreeing with them, Jesus rebuked them and told them they did not know which spirit they were of (Luke 9:51-56). Likewise in each situation, it is important for prophets to serve as a reflection of God's heart and mind, just like how Jesus embodied the Heavenly Father. When the apostles wanted to see the Heavenly Father, Jesus said they had seen the Father because they had seen Him, and He and the Father are One (John 14:8-11).

It is easy to quote Scriptures when dealing with certain situations yet be off base with the Father's heart regarding the applicability of those Scriptures. That is usually the case when Scriptures are not applied based on the Spirit of God. We do not always get the consequences our actions deserve because of God's grace and mercy. Jesus reflected the Father's heart and mind in how He dealt with the woman accused of

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committing adultery, despite what was written in the Law that seemingly applied to her. Likewise for the Lord's actions with the Samaritan woman at the well. Even though Jesus will one day judge us all, during His first coming He said:

I AM come a Light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness.

And if any man hear My Words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My Words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a Commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His Commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak. ~ John 12:46-50

Prophets should reflect the heart and mind of God, but they are not God (and they should not act like gods). Unlike the omniscient God, prophets do not know everything, which is what some people claim to expect from them. They should walk in humility, like Jesus did, and minister with the Holy Spirit as was the case with Jesus (Matthew 12:28).

When the Shunammite woman's son died and she sought Elisha for help, the prophet discerned something was wrong, but he did not know what it was. He said the Lord had hidden it from him and not told him (2 Kings 4:27). Even when the Lord shares with His prophets, they will not know every nuance about the revelation, such as how it will impact others, both now and in the future. Just as it is written, *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*" ~ 1 Corinthians 13:9

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Some people will try to discredit a prophet's ministry based on what they know that the prophet may not know. This is evident when Jesus was a guest at a Pharisee's house. While demonstrating the Father's heart and mind toward a sorrowful woman, this happened:

And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

*Now when the Pharisee which had bidden Him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This Man, **IF He were a Prophet**, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth Him: for she is a sinner. ~ Luke 7:36-39*

Some people's "outstanding" level of discernment is limited to physical things but poor towards those which are spiritual. The Pharisees strained at a gnat and swallowed a camel as Jesus said (Matthew 23:23-26).

Historically, many people have similarly tried to set the bar for prophets so high that no one can be a prophet in their point of view. In addition, people have tried to define the qualifications for a prophet that is not written anywhere except on the tablet of their hardened hearts. Clearly, none of those Pharisees were prophets to make such a statement about what Jesus should know. But an even deeper issue is it is very possible they tried to discredit Jesus as a prophet so they could ultimately discredit Him as the Messiah.

Again, prophets are NOT required to know everything. Trying to know everything is a gateway for familiar spirits to enter a prophet's life and ministry. Also, as Jesus

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demonstrated, when a prophet knows things about others, whether good or bad, it is not always appropriate for the prophet to disclose those things. As a friend of God, a prophet must be willing and able to keep His secrets, such as sensitive things that He chooses to reveal about others.

In addition, God is love. But a part of reflecting Him and communicating His heart and mind is to love what He loves and hate what He hates. For example, the Lord loves righteousness, justice, and mercy (Psalm 33:5, Matthew 9:13, etc.). Among the many things He hates is robbery (Isaiah 61:8).

A prophet cannot be for what God hates and is against. It is important to understand the heart and mind of God, especially when He has mercy on people. Jonah was angry with the Lord for not destroying Nineveh as he had prophesied. Whereas Jonah accurately communicated the Word of the Lord to the Ninevites, the heart and mind of God was that mercy would triumph over justice (James 2:13). Also, it was not God's will that any should perish but that all may come to repentance (2 Peter 3:8-10). Keep in mind that shortly after Abraham interceded for the Sodomites, they wanted to sodomize two angels who were in human form, so the Lord destroyed the city despite his intercession. Jonah could have interceded for the Ninevites, but it was more important for them to come to repentance. At least in their case, God did not immediately destroy the city because they humbled themselves before Him in sackcloth and ashes.

Prophets will not always initially know God's heart and mind in a matter, but they will eventually find out. It is important for prophets to study the Word of God and have a relationship with the Spirit of God, just like how Jesus knew the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

SKA 27

WORSHIPPER

Particularly under the Old Covenant, when fewer people had the Holy Spirit's presence, it was a widespread practice for people to see a prophet to inquire of the Lord on their behalf. But under the New Covenant, people can inquire of the Lord directly, and He can respond in myriad of ways, such as directly through His Spirit, or indirectly through messengers such as His holy angels or prophets. A part of why people could seek prophets was because of the prophets' close relationship with God. Prophets could also seek the Lord without people coming to them. But as a part of being a friend of God, it is important for prophets to go to the Lord with no agenda except to worship Him. How would you feel if you had a friend who only spent time or communicated with you when he or she wants something? When Job's friends visited him after satan's attacks, one of the best things they did for Job was to sit in his presence, in silence for seven days (Job 2:11-13).

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An important aspect of a prophet's ministry is to praise and worship the Lord their God. After the Lord parted the Red Sea to give the Israelites safe passage to the other side, while also using it to destroy the Egyptian army, two prophets, Moses and Miriam, praised the Lord (Exodus 15). When King David brought the Ark of God into Jerusalem, to the chagrin of his first wife, Michal, he publicly praised the Lord:

And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

And as the Ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

And they brought in the Ark of the Lord, and set it in His place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of Hosts. And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

Then David returned to bless his household.

And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

*And David said unto Michal, It was before the Lord, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel: **therefore will I play***

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before the Lord. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death. ~ 2 Samuel 6:14-23

The Lord had said David was a man after His heart, and King David showed it that day with his praise. God had delivered David from many troubles, so he had a lot to praise the Lord about. David's actions to glorify the Lord were not limited to simply dancing. The king also presented offerings unto the Lord, and he blessed the people and his household.

It is worthy to note that David was a psalmist, a type of prophet. He is credited with most of the psalms in the Book of Psalms. Whether the Psalm was a song, prayer, or poem, they are about praising and worshipping the Lord. The Book of Psalms ends with Psalm 150, which reads:

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

David lived up to Psalm 150 when he brought the Ark of God into Jerusalem.

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Intriguingly, it is in times of praise, when even though not seeking it, that prophets receive revelations from the Lord. One of the most important revelations to receive from Him during this time are revelations about His character. That is reminiscent of another psalmist, Moses, whose prayer is counted as Psalm 90. Moses had some truly intimate moments in God's presence, but despite having done the miraculous works to glorify the Lord, he wanted to know God's ways. That would come from having a communicative relationship with God.

Many prophets know the Lord's Words and works but they are not intimately familiar with His ways, which increases the possibility of them inadvertently misrepresenting Him on occasion.

Especially as the end draws nigh, and as Jesus repeatedly warned about end-times deception, knowing the Lord, to include His ways, will help prophets in their functions as sifts and sensors. Prophets are called to discern between good and evil, and as appropriate, communicate those things to others. A woman with a spirit of divination was around Paul and his cohorts, saying the right words for many days. But it grieved Paul's spirit until he eventually turned around and cast the devil out of her (Acts 16:16-18). The right words were coming from the wrong spirit.

A part of discerning evil is by spending time in the Light. Even as a baby in his mother's womb, because John was already filled with the Holy Spirit, he could discern when Mary entered the area with Jesus in her womb. And as previously discussed, because of John's mother's proximity to these events, and the flow of the Holy Spirit, she began to prophesy to confirm the Word of the Lord from Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:39-45).

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Prophets must guard against and even discern vain worship, whether from themselves or others as Jesus warned:

This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ~ Matthew 15:8-9

The doctrines which are the commandments of men are a part of why prophets may be unconventional, abrasive, and even rebellious (to people but not to God).

As prophets come up higher, instead of vain worship, they should worship as Jesus described and prescribed:

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. **God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.** ~ John 4:23-25*

SKA 28

DELIVERANCE TO DESTINY

The Lord uses prophets as “destiny helpers”, servants that help people fulfil His ordained destinies for them. That is accomplished in part through prophecies, which are like signposts that give people direction about their destinies. An outstanding example is the prophecy the Lord used Samuel the Seer to give Saul. It detailed several events that would happen after Saul left the prophet’s presence to return home. And as one would expect from Samuel, the Lord did not let any of his words fall to the ground (1 Samuel 10). Conversely, as a part of the Lord’s “communications blackout” to King Saul, the troubling sign of his damnation was that the Lord did not answer him whether by dreams, Urim or prophets. This was because King Saul had come to the end of the line, which was when he sealed his damnation by resorting to WITCHcraft (1 Samuel 28:7-10, 1 Chronicles 10:13-14). The Prophet John (the Baptist) was also instrumental in Jesus’s journey as He rose from relative obscurity to fulfill His destiny for which His Father had sent Him to the earth

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(Matthew 3, John 1:26-32). John the Baptist was Jesus's "destiny helper".

Prophets in the Bible served the Lord as "destiny helpers" when they prophesied to men that God had called them as kings, whether of Israel or other nations, such as how Elisha prophesied to Hazael that the Lord had chosen him as king of Syria. Hazael returned to Syria and rebelled against his master to seize the crown (2 Kings 8:7-15). Isaiah prophesied about a King who would be named Cyrus, a man he would never meet and a prophecy he would never live to see fulfilled (Isaiah 44:28-45). **That is a reason why prophets should not get caught up in trying to show the world how prophetic they are by listing fulfilled prophecies.** Divination can accurately predict short-term things in some cases. One of the things that separates prophets from diviners is how they can accurately predict things in the distant future, things that may occur after their death.

The Lord also used prophets to install people into their offices by anointing them with oil to serve as kings and priests. Contrary to popular belief, when Moses anointed Aaron as the High Priest, the oil did not run down from his face and beard and unto his sons. Moses anointed Aaron's sons into the priesthood individually (Exodus 30:30; Leviticus 8:12-13, 23-24, 30; Numbers 3:2-3). Unfortunately, some people have hijacked and corrupted the Word of God for personal gain. But God will judge them.

Jesus came to liberate those who were bound, which is a prophetic function to this day (Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:16-21). When Lot and his family were in Sodom about to share in their judgment, Abraham's intercession helped to deliver Lot and his daughters (Genesis 18-19). After being in captivity for 700 hundred years, the Lord mercifully sent two prophets,

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Moses and Aaron, to deliver the children of Israel from the Egyptians. Therefore, it is written:

*And by a **prophet** the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a **prophet** was he preserved. ~ Hosea 12:13*

Daniel's prayers also helped with the deliverance of the Israelites who were taken from Judah to Babylon and held captive for seventy years.

The Lord also uses prophets to deliver people from spiritual adversaries, such as death. He used Elijah and Elisha to raise the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24, 2 Kings 4:27-37, 2 Kings 13:20-21). Jesus later raised the dead and delivered people from something else, evil spirits. An example is the young man who was possessed by a stubborn spirit since his childhood, and it did not want to let him go (Mark 9:17-29). There was also the man who was mercilessly tormented by a legion of demons until Jesus cast them out. Not only was the man delivered from the devils, but the Lord also delivered him into his destiny. The man wanted to physically follow Jesus, but He told him to go tell his friends of the great things the Lord had done for him and God's compassion on him. Consequently, the delivered man went to the Decapolis and did the work of an evangelist (Mark 5:1-20).

Simply sharing his TESTimony was a powerful weapon against the enemy for the Lord's glory, just as it is written:

*And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb, **and by the word of their TESTimony**; and they loved not their lives unto the death. ~ Revelation 12:11*

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The Lord uses prophets to set the captives free, from whatever binds or tries to bind them, and in numerous ways help those individuals fulfil their destinies from God.

SKA 29

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The devil tries to misappropriate and then corrupt or counterfeit the things of God. Hence, it is important to discern the difference between good and evil, the originator versus the imitator. Witches are the devil's counterparts to the Lord prophets. But even though they will try to mimic what prophets do, prophets should not mimic their ways and actions. Inevitably, there are similarities in their operations that will require discernment from the Lord to know the differences. Between the black and white lies a gray zone. For example, prophets are required to recognize the signs of the times, but it is different from the Lord's warning about these abominable practices:

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination

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unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. ~ Deuteronomy 18:10-12

The English Standard Version of the Bible uses the term *interprets omens* instead of *an observer of times*. Yet, Scripture says this about men who served the Lord:

And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment. ~ 1 Chronicles 12:32

This is not to be confused with or misconstrued as divination, reading omens, numerology, the lunar cycle, and other occult practices.

Jesus spoke of the signs of the times, such as the changing colors of the sky, and Him being in the earth for three days, like Jonah was in the belly of the fish:

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired Him that He would shew them a sign from heaven.

*He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; **but can ye not discern THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES?***

A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.

And He left them, and departed. ~ Matthew 16:1-4

The sign of the prophet Jonah would be a sign of the times,

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which referred to Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection on the third day. The Lord also gave some major signs of the times when asked this very important question:

*And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be **THE SIGN OF THY COMING**, and of the end of the world? ~ Matthew 24:3*

When comparing the above excerpts from Matthew 16 and 24, an important thing to note is that the Sadducees violated Deuteronomy 6:16, just like satan did in Luke 4:9-13, when he tried to tempt Jesus (God). When His disciples asked, it was a genuine inquiry rooted in reverence for and belief in Jesus as the Christ instead of the unbelief and contempt of the Sadducees.

People who do not believe the Lord has prophets today will try to tempt God in a comparable manner. They do so when prophets refer to themselves as prophets, which is why some people are afraid to use the title "prophet". Naysayers try to shut down prophets by referring to them as "self-appointed" prophets. However, if a prophet chooses to use the title prophet, it is Biblical to identify oneself as such. Conversely, technically speaking, it is also Biblical, but not in a good way, for others to allege prophets are self-appointed.

Starting with Moses, whom God called as a prophet, he identified himself as a prophet when prophesying about Jesus:

*And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. 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*

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shall speak to them all that I command Him. ~ Deuteronomy 18:17-18 (ESV)

People tried to discredit Jesus also, despite the numerous Messianic prophecies He fulfilled from the time of His conception and throughout His earthly ministry. In one such example, some Pharisees rebuked a man whom Jesus healed, which was the fulfillment of clear Messianic prophecies (Isaiah 35:5, 42:7). Sadly, in response, they tried to use this argument to discredit Jesus:

*Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art His disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. **We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this Fellow, we know not from whence He is.** ~ John 9:28-29*

People will claim belief in the prophets of the Bible but will try to use the Bible to prove that God does not have or need prophets today. But even the prophets in the Bible had to contend with the same type of naysayers who would claim they were self-appointed or self-proclaimed prophets. Despite the Lord calling Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations in Jeremiah 1:5, Shemaiah, the Nehelamite, later accused Jeremiah by saying:

*Now therefore why hast thou not reprov'd **Jeremiah of Anathoth, which maketh himself a prophet to you?** ~ Jeremiah 29:27*

There is truly nothing new under the sun. And to paraphrase Jesus, if they did it to the Master, they will do it to His servants. In the case of Shemaiah, the Nehelamite, the Lord did not respond kindly to his false allegations against His prophet (Jeremiah 29:30-32). One of the lessons Job

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learned in life is to not speak without knowledge (Job 42:3). It is a serious transgression to represent oneself as a prophet of the Lord if that is not the case. It is also a sin to refer to someone God appointed as self-appointed; a person needs to be sure prior to making such a charge. It is safe to say that if Ezekiel was warning people as a watchman, and someone called him self-appointed, which resulted in the intended audience of his message not repenting, then blood would be on the accuser's hand.

A sign of the end times will be the rise of false prophets. Their massive numbers will create the illusion that the Lord does not have any prophets left, like when Elijah faced 450 of Jezebel's false prophets. However, even though Elijah lamented that he was the last prophet of the Lord left, Micaiah later had to face Jezebel's remaining 400 false prophets. An overwhelming number of false prophets is a part of the devil's strategy to deceive people into thinking that the Lord does not have or need contemporary prophets. Those prophets will give naysayers of God's prophets and prophecies abundant justifications for their unbelief.

It bears mentioning that Jesus did worse things in the eyes of His contemporaries than simply referring to Himself as a prophet. When the Samaritan woman encountered Jesus at the well, He said some things that caused her to perceive that He was a Prophet. But Jesus did not deny it. In fact, in the eyes of many at that time, and even to date, He did something worse by proclaiming that He was the Messiah:

*...The woman said to Him, "I know that **Messiah** is coming (He who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things."
Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you AM He.**" ~ John 4:17-26 (ESV)*

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To many people, even to date, that was the sin of blasphemy.

The Lord does not always publicly call a person to prophetic ministry, but He will eventually reveal His prophet to the public. People still doubted that Jesus was the Messiah, despite how many prophets and angels had proclaimed it. They still doubted after the Father proclaimed it from heaven. Jesus did not even openly proclaim He was the Messiah as He did with the Samaritan woman at the well, yet look at their response to His actions in a subsequent interaction:

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was His Father, MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD.

~ John 5:17-18

They tried to kill Jesus for telling the truth. The closer things get to the end is the more adversarial people will get towards the truth, and to those who tell it. It will also be harder for many people to discern the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12). Plus, the Lord will hand some people over to a reprobate mind.

Prophets must recognize, and when released to do so, proclaim the signs of the times. As a result, some prophets have been and will be mislabeled as being witches, using familiar spirits, having a spirit of divination, reading omens, etc. Remember, God, as the Creator, maintains His sovereignty over all His creations.

Creation testifies of the Creator (Romans 1:20). God heard the voice of Abel's blood crying out to Him from the ground (Genesis 4:10). The Lord sent out a tempest to destroy the ship

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Jonah was on in his rebellion, and the Lord commanded a large fish to swallow Jonah and later spew him back out (Jonah 1:4, 17, 2:10). The Lord even opened the mouth of Balaam's donkey and allowed the animal to speak with a human's voice (Numbers 22:28-30).

Whatever the Lord receives from His creations, He can allow His servants, in this case His prophets, to receive. Interestingly, not only did Balaam's donkey speak, but Balaam also spoke back to the donkey. In addition, the donkey had seen the angel of the Lord ahead of them and was trying to save her master's life. The Lord had to open Balaam's eyes to see what the donkey had seen (Numbers 22:31).

Similarly, when some Syrian soldiers surrounded the village of Dothan to arrest Elisha, the prophet's servant woke up to the dire situation. But Elisha asked the Lord to open his servant's eyes so he could see what the prophet was also seeing. That was when the servant saw a mountain full of a heavenly host of horses and chariots surrounding them. It showed Elisha's servant what the prophet meant when he said there were more who were for them than those who were against them (2 Kings 6:15-17).

A prophet cannot fear being maligned for doing the things of God, particularly those that seem as if they are from the devil. When King Saul held on to and ripped Samuel's mantle, the seer knew it symbolized that the Lord had torn the kingdom from Saul and given it to another. On the surface this may have looked like the evil act of interpreting an omen:

And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for He is not a man, that He should repent. ~ 1 Samuel 15:26-29

How did Samuel know what that meant?

A distinction that is not easily discerned between interpreting omens and a sign of the times is which Spirit/spirit the revelation came from. Fascinatingly, there is a follow-up to the torn mantle representing the Lord giving Saul's kingdom to another man, which was David. Years later, when Saul was pursuing David, the future king cut off a piece of the current king's garment. It symbolized that the Lord had taken the kingdom from Saul and given it to David (1 Samuel 24).

An omen does not come with the Word of Lord, like natural events from God with supernatural meaning. Other examples of God using natural things to communicate supernatural messages are when He had Jeremiah bury a linen girdle and recover it when it was in tatters and sending him to the potter's house to observe the potter with the clay. In both cases, God used those things to give the prophet the Word of the Lord (Jeremiah 18, 13).

Instead of the word "omen", the term "prophetic types and shadows" is used to represent those omen-like interpretations that are for the Originator, the Spirit of God. When Elijah seemingly simply draped his mantle over Elisha, Elisha discerned it meant the Lord had called him into prophetic ministry. Consequently, he killed the yoke of oxen he had been plowing behind, burned their yoke to cook the cattle,

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and kissed his parents goodbye to follow Elijah (1 Kings 19:19-21). There was nothing to read into, but Elisha's actions signified that season of his life was over. Years later, after Elijah was taken up into heaven, Elisha received Elijah's mantle. It indicated that he had in fact received a double portion of Elijah's spirit (his anointing) as requested (2 Kings 2:9-13).

Revelations from the signs of the times are from the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, instead of an evil one. Prophets must avoid the snare of thinking a particular sign or thing has the same prophetic meaning, or any meaning at all. At best, that is teetering on the line of WITCHcraft, or at worse, it is crossing over that line. Just because the Lord used something from the natural realm to communicate a supernatural truth at one point, it does not mean that will always be the case. That is how prophets and other Christians err. For example, many Christians who see the number "555" oftentimes relate it to a triple portion of God's grace. However, if the revelation is from the Lord, He could be using it to communicate that a person has a history with the 555 "Triple Nickel" Military Police Company. **Holy Spirit revelation requires Holy Spirit interpretation, or it will result in divination. A natural event only has a prophetic meaning if the Lord says it does.**

Prophets need basic knowledge of the brain's Reticular Activating System, particularly how it may cause things to get a person's attention, which may serve as confirmation. However, it is due to a confirmation bias that may exclude or overshadow contradictory information that is correct. The salient information highlighted by the Reticular Activating System may give the illusion that revelations are from the Spirit of God instead of the mind. The Reticular Activating System is a part of why some people latch on to false prophecies and continue holding on to them, despite any

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evidence that they are false. That includes waiting for the resurrection of people who are long deceased. In spiritual warfare, the Word of God is the sWORD of the Spirit, which is a strong, powerful, and sharp weapon, something to war with. On the other hand, a false prophecy is like a sword made from rotten wood that implodes on contact with the truth.

The actions of the Reticular Activating System may explain this warning about self-induced dreams:

*For thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to **YOUR DREAMS WHICH YE CAUSE TO BE DREAMED**. For they prophesy falsely unto you in My name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord. ~ Jeremiah 29:8-9*

As previously stated, because of revelation from the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote of the prophetic meaning behind Moses putting the veil over his face. Prophets need to have ears to hear, eyes to see, and a spirit to receive what the Spirit of the Lord is communicating about the signs of the times without venturing into omenology. **Omens do not come with the Word of the Lord, but the signs of the times from the Lord via prophetic types and shadows do.** Again, the testimony of Jesus is still the Spirit of Prophecy.

SKA 30

“ONE-STRIKE RULE”

Prophets need an awareness of people’s “one-strike rule”. It is the belief that one failed prophecy makes a person a false prophet. But that is NOT necessarily the case, even though a failed prophecy is a serious offense that SHOULD NOT be taken lightly.

When the Lord spoke to Moses about the sign that He had commanded a prophet to speak, He said a failed prophecy meant the prophet had spoken presumptuously (Deuteronomy 18:22). God did not say the person was automatically a false prophet.

Discerning a false prophet from one who erred, using Jesus’s standard of righteous judgment, involves determining if the prophecy was presumptive or malicious. Was it based on ignorance or arrogance? Also, when confronted with the truth, is the prophet willing and able to repent? One of the ways prophets speak presumptively is by disclosing a dream or a vision for which they have no interpretation AND no Word of the Lord. They typically state what they feel or

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believe as opposed to what God said. There are many Scriptural examples of how the Lord showed a prophet something in a dream or vision followed by His interpretation and the Word of the Lord. Two fitting examples of this, which is worthy of studying, are found in Zechariah 4:1-7 and Ezekiel 37:1-14. Unfortunately, even though the Holy Spirit is the Primary Instructor for prophets, many prophets have erred in their ministries due to poor training and mentorship from human vessels.

When judging prophets and prophecies, it is also important to partner with the Spirit of God while considering the following. Prophets of the Lord can get deceived, at least temporarily. The lying Bethelite prophet deceived the Judean man of God with a false prophecy (1 Kings 13). The Bethelite knowingly and willingly lied in the Lord's name, which is a major indication of his heart's condition and fear of the Lord. Because of the Bethelite's lies, his Judean counterpart was temporarily deceived into making a sinful decision.

Prophets can also get deceived by evil spirits masquerading as spirits of God. If a prophet is deceived under such a circumstance, but repents upon discovering the truth, that is different from one who continues in unrepentance. The Lord even spoke about Him deceiving prophets in certain situations (Ezekiel 14:9-10). But that would be under the Lord's judgment, and those prophets will most likely no longer be able to discern and/or accept the truth.

The events in 1 Kings 22 also show how prophets can get deceived by spirits, which is why prophets must test the spirits they are receiving revelations from as stated in 1 John 4:1. The mass deception of Ahab's prophets demonstrates how spirits can work. Yet, in the same Scripture, it displays how the Lord will eventually reveal the truth. How prophets

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respond will determine if they are credited with an errant prophecy or labeled as false prophets. All of Ahab's prophets thought they had heard from the Holy Spirit, especially as demonstrated by Zedekiah's adamant resistance of Micaiah.

Many people wonder how a person, especially a prophet, could confuse an evil spirit's voice with the Lord's voice. But why did Samuel, even though a young man, think Eli had spoken when God had called him (1 Samuel 3)? Also, it is important to remember that angels of God communicated to people in dreams. That opens the possibility that fallen angels can do that, typically while pretending as if they are still angels of Light.

Sadly, based on people's logic for the "one-strike rule", they would classify Aaron as a false prophet for this transgression:

And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ~ Exodus 32:1-4

Aaron, the High Priest and prophet of the Lord, led people to worship other gods, a violation of the Ten Commandments

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(Exodus 20). The offenses angered God. But He did immediately brand Aaron as a false prophet, false teacher, or other slurs people are quick to use nowadays. Instead, Moses came down from Mount Sinai and brought correction to the camp, starting with his brother. Aaron repented and was allowed to remain in his ministerial positions.

Being a false prophet is ultimately a measurement of one's heart, for as Jesus said:

*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but **INWARDLY** they are ravening wolves.* ~ Matthew 7:15

Jezebel called herself a prophetess but led the Lord's servants astray, and because she was false, when given the opportunity to repent, she refused (Revelation 2:18-23). A person God has not called to His service who calls him or herself a prophet or prophetess of the Lord is false. Depending on the back story, the person may not be a ravening wolf (yet), and whichever way the Lord corrects that person, he or she will repent. God must call a person to prophetic ministry.

This bears repeating. Do not sin against God by referring to anyone He called to His service as being "self-appointed". It did not go well for those who slandered Moses, to include his brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam, whom God confronted and rebuked (Numbers 12). The Lord chose a reluctant Moses to go to Egypt and deliver the children of Israel. He also commissioned Moses to lead them to the Promised Land. At one point, the Lord said **HE had made Moses** like a god unto pharaoh, and his brother Aaron would be his prophet (Exodus 7:1). Clearly, God exalted Moses. Yet, in what is typically called "Korah's Rebellion", these three

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men, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, gathered hundreds of men to falsely accuse the Lord's servants:

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord? ~ Numbers 16:3

The Lord judged them swiftly. Whether the Lord judges something now or later, God is not mocked.

Prophets can and do make mistakes, just like how David, a king and prophet, sinned greatly against God with Bathsheba and against her husband Uriah. But the Lord mercifully dealt with David. He put away David's sins without sentencing him to death as the Law stated, and after severely chastising David, the Lord allowed the king to reassume his position. David sinned but he had a repentant heart as evidenced in how he accepted God's judgment through Nathan (2 Samuel 12). He also showed humility when Shimei mocked him. David could have had his mocker killed, but chose this course of action instead:

And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? Let him alone, and let him curse; for the Lord hath bidden him. It may be that the Lord will look on mine affliction, and that the Lord will requite me good for his cursing this day. ~ 2 Samuel 16:11-12

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No wonder why when the Lord spoke with King Solomon in a dream, He said these laudatory things about the king's deceased father:

*And if thou wilt walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My Commandments, **as thy father David did walk**, then I will lengthen thy days. ~ 1 Kings 11:14*

God used David as an example for Solomon to follow, even though that excluded the sinful things David had done. Likewise, the course of action to take if a prophet errs, whether due to missing a prophecy or other misconduct, IF the prophet is willing to repent, is this:

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. ~ Galatians 6:1

The restoration process is dependent on the Lord, and it is not always quick. Upon completion, there will be noticeable changes in how that prophet ministers and lives, particularly regarding humility.

Conversely, IF the prophet is NOT willing to repent, particularly after attempting to bring correction, such as in accordance with the Lord's directives in Matthew 18:15-17, then this applies:

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself. ~ Titus 3:10-11

Another escalatory step is as Paul described:

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Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme. ~ 1 Timothy 1:19-20

A failed/false prophecy is a serious sin; one that can shipwreck people's faith. It is a sin that requires an examination of the prophet's heart regarding the next step. At worst, the person can and will be deservedly called a false prophet for not fearing the Lord. Or best-case scenario, the person will bring forth fruits of repentance, and like how Jesus instructed recipients of His mercy and grace, the prophet will go forth and sin no more. Or, as a stricter measure, go forth and sin no more lest something worse come upon that prophet (John 8:11, 5:14).

Do not be like James and John who wanted to take Scriptural yet ungodly action, for which Jesus rebuked them for being of the wrong spirit. Remember, *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.* ~ Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:7)

Prophets should not abuse God's grace. Unrepentant prophets will not get stoned to death for falsely prophesying, but they will go to hell and then the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8). Falsely prophesying is a serious sin, and one mistake could get a prophet labeled as a false prophet. In addition, even if a prophet sins against God by even unintentionally falsely prophesying, the prophet's repentance may not repair the reputational damage. Some people will never respect that prophet again or receive a prophecy from him or her. Yet, if a prophet makes such an error, a part of bearing fruits of repentance is being more vigilant in testing the spirits, to include the prophet's own spirit, and being slow to speak unless the Lord specifically commands the prophet

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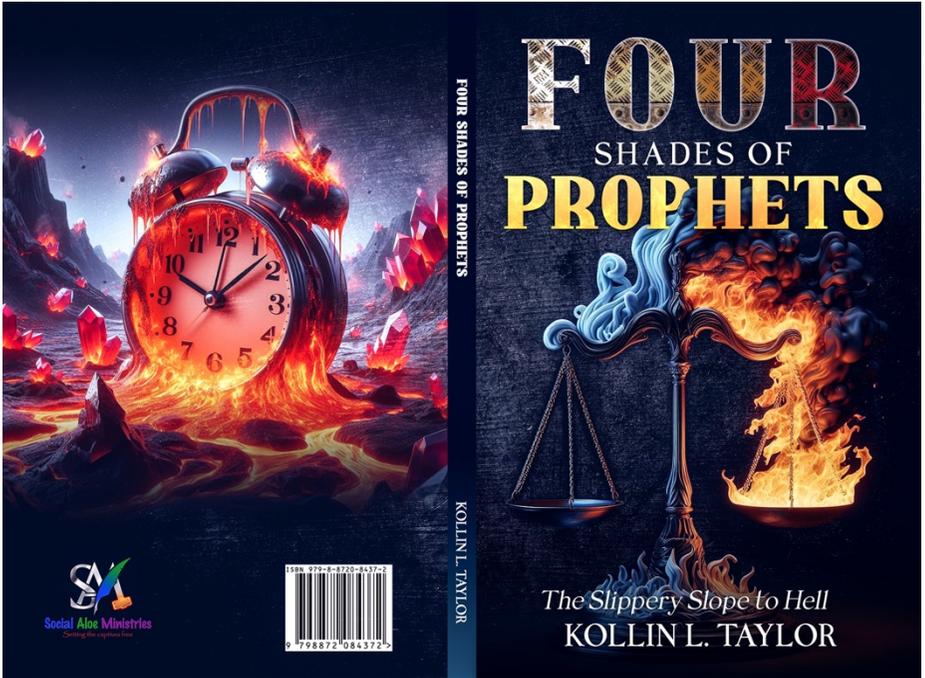
to do so. The old (looser) standards of prophetic ministry no longer apply to that prophet. The prophet must implement more stringent measures. Or in other words, the prophet must return to the Biblical standards for prophetic ministry. If not, the prophet risks going from being mislabeled as a false prophet to becoming a false prophet. One of the pathways for prophets to become false prophets is if they care more about their reputation than their character.

Prophets, it is better to tenure your resignation to the Lord for missing the mark than to walk in the ways of the wicked:

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. ~ Psalm 84:10

Note: Due to the potentially controversial nature of this chapter, the structure and purpose of this book, and the abundance of revelations I have been getting on this topic while this book is being published, I will write publish another book. It will provide greater details about the distinctions between righteous, errant, lying, and false prophets, and when to discard a prophet. To be continued...

[Update: ***FOUR Shades of Prophets: The Slippery Slope to Hell***, the follow-up to and companion to this book, was published on January 11, 2024.]



SKA 31

PROPHECY

Prophets are renowned for prophesying; it is the hallmark of prophetic ministry. Yet, it is the last thing covered in this book. That is in part because the spectacle of putting on a prophetic show has shipwrecked many prophets' ministries. They either spoke when the Lord had not communicated anything to them (in combination with the applicable Word of the Lord), or the Lord revealed something to them but did not command or otherwise release them to share the revelation. Those prophets neglected the other aspects of prophetic ministry, such a righteousness and friendship with God, for what would get them noticed by people. They committed this prophetic sin the Lord rebuke other prophets for:

 *I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My*

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Words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. ~ Jeremiah 23:21-22

 *Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in My name: **I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them:** they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. ~ Jeremiah 14:14*

The testimony of Jesus is still the Spirit of Prophecy.

There are times when it is prudent for prophets to remain silent, such as previously discussed about Moses and Samuel. Sometimes it was not the prophet's message to deliver, yet the prophet ran to proclaim what the Lord had revealed but not commanded him or her to share. As a rule of thumb, it is better for prophets to have one accurate prophecy per year, or even in a lifetime, and be in good standing with the Lord, than to give several false prophecies that place them at enmity with men, and more importantly, with God. It is still a sin to use the Lord's name in vain, especially while telling lies. The Lord will hold everyone accountable for every idle word.

The Lord called Abraham a prophet, yet when given the opportunity to run to prophesy, he used his friendship with God to instead intercede for others. When the Lord spoke to Abraham, he obeyed, such as leaving his family to go to a land He would show him. Abraham was also willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac, at the Lord's behest, a demonstration of his faithfulness, not knowing it was a test. Abraham's faithfulness to the Lord led to him receiving a more esteemed title than a prophet of the Lord; he was called a friend of God. Ministers can go to hell, such as what Jesus stated in Matthew 7:21-23, and about Judas, whom He called the son of perdition (John 17:12). Even though an apostle of the Lord, things did

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not end well for him because he was not a son of God. The only title that will save a person from the pits of hell and the subsequent lake of fire and brimstone is "Child of God".

Ministers can and will go to hell, especially since some are messengers of satan, masquerading as ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-5). Conversely, children/friends of God do not; they have the Lord's imputed righteousness. Therefore, prophets should not rush to prophesy, particularly to try to establish themselves as prophets of the Lord, even though Scripture states:

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. ~ Proverbs 18:16

The Lord establishes His prophets. Joseph was a gifted young man years before the Lord allowed him to appear before the pharaoh and get promoted to be Egypt's governor. No matter what Joseph tried, he could not get out of prison until the Lord's appointed time. Prophets need to remember:

 *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another. ~ Psalm 75:6-7*

 *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. ~ Proverbs 19:21*

Also, prophets need to rebuke satan's efforts to promote them before it is time, which will come at the cost of forfeiting their souls. Prophets need to do what Jesus did when the devil tendered such an offer (Luke 4:5-8).

Many prophets have sinned because of their perceived lack of progress in ministry. But truthfully, it was not their time

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for a certain position, or it was never the Lord's will. Adonijah coveted what God had ordained Solomon to do. He resorted to trying to make himself king while David was alive, even though he knew, from what their father had said, that God had chosen Solomon instead (1 Kings 1-2).

While prophesying is an important prophetic function, equally as important is knowing the Word of God, Jesus Christ and the Scriptures. When John the Baptist baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. In many ways, it symbolized the union of the Word and Spirit. The Word of God that prophets speak from the Holy Spirit, or an angel of God, is like the Lord said to Jeremiah. God's Word is as fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks to pieces (Jeremiah 23:29). Hence, prophecies can set people free by igniting God's actions to bring things to fruition. The Bible also refers to the (written) Word of God as the sWORD of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). Therefore, prophets will be more dynamic and complete by arming themselves through the studying of the Word of God, just as it is written:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. ~ 2 Timothy 2:15-18)

Studying the Word of God is not necessarily a precursor for prophets to become Bible teachers. It is to serve as guardrails to help prevent prophets from exceeding or becoming untethered from the written Word of God. Studies will also help with spiritual warfare. When the devil tried

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Jesus, the Lord's responses typically included Him referring to the Scriptures to rebuke the devil by saying, "It is written..." or "It is said..." (Luke 4:4, 8, 12).

Prophets need to live by the oft stated requirement for the Lord to command them to speak. God is responsible to watch over His Words to bring them to pass, He bears no such responsibility for what prophets may errantly speak. A real prophecy from the Lord is one where prophets may not want to convey; it was not easy for Moses to go to Egypt or Jonah to Nineveh to prophesy. Prophecy may be offensive, simply because it is true, and one way or another, the enemy still tries to kill the prophets. Therefore, prophets must be willing to die for what they prophesy, while simultaneously ensuring they also live for Jesus Christ. Many prophets have fallen into the snare of giving prophecies that rarely, if ever, offend people to either repent or consciously continue in their rebellion against God. The Lord did not always send prophets to people who would listen to them and turn from their wicked ways.

This section is also mentioned last because people, to include prophets, place too much emphasis on prophesying. A prophet can have an unblemished record of prophetic accuracy, in terms of fulfillment (which is not necessarily the same thing as accurately receiving revelations from God), and still go to hell. Jonah accurately heard from God, but he has a blemish on his record in terms of prophetic accuracy because Nineveh was not destroyed in forty days as he had prophesied. However, he accurately heard from God.

Now, regarding accurate prophets going to hell, that is because they have Samuel's record, but they do not have his character in many ways. The building of a strong foundational character is why the Lord allows prophets, particularly emergent ones, to endure such crushing warfare.

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This is an example and a reminder that prophets were not only eligible for execution when their prophecies were not fulfilled:

*If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, **and the sign or the wonder come to pass**, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear Him, and keep His Commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him.

And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee. ~
Deuteronomy 13:1-5

Prophetic accuracy, despite its importance, is not the only thing that matters. It is also necessary to know which God/god the prophecies lead to, and the prophet's character.

Prophets are allowed to accept gifts and ministerial contributions as the Lord allows. Elijah stayed with the widow at Zarephath and her son, as did Elisha with the Shunammite woman and her husband who built an addition to their home for him (1 Kings 17, 2 Kings 4). However, prophets must ensure that they serve God as opposed to mammon as Jesus stated (Matthew 6:24). But there are times

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for prophets to refuse things, “seeds” as they are often called in contemporary ministry. When Saul went to inquire of Samuel the Seer, he did not want to go empty handed. He and his servant only had a quarter shekel of silver. But Samuel did not take it. Instead, he fed Saul and his servant, and delivered a prophecy that changed Saul’s life (1 Samuel 9).

Note: When Samuel prophesied to Saul about his kingship, he did so privately (1 Samuel 9:27-10:1). Likewise, the young prophet took Jehu into a private room to prophesy to him about becoming king (2 Kings 9:1-10). The Bible also states that when God had the Prophet Ahijah tell Jeroboam that he would be king over the ten northern tribes of Israel, the two men were alone in a field (1 Kings 11:29-39). Those prophets did not try to turn the prophecies into spectacles, and neither should contemporary prophets.

In continuance regarding prophets accepting gifts. When Naaman, the Syrian Captain went to Elisha to heal his leprosy, he brought animals loaded with gifts. But the Prophet Elisha did not accept any of it (2 Kings 5). Elisha cursed his servant Gehazi for covertly petitioning Naaman for some of those gifts he had refused.

Balaam prophesied accurate things, yet, upon his death, he was called a soothsayer (Joshua 13:22). Despite hearing from God and accurately prophesying, he had a reputation for resorting to divination and cursing people. Despite Balaam’s prophetic accuracy, his ministry was polluted by WITCHcraft, hence why these things were written about him AFTER his death:

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not;

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*and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: **Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.** ~ 2 Peter 2:12-16*

 *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold **the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.** ~ Christ Jesus (Revelation 2:14)*

Balaam was a prophet for hire, one who used divination and brought ungodly curses upon others. In addition, he did something that God dealt harshly with other prophets, which is the sin of leading others to rebel against Him.

Accurate prophets can go to hell for abusing their gifts and calling, and for using the Scriptures to abuse God's children. Prophets need to avoid asking for financial contributions to "lock in" or "touch and agree" with a prophecy. From a social media perspective, prophets should avoid things such as imploring people to subscribe to their channels and/or liking and sharing their materials. Any form of manipulation is WITCHcraft, and using one's prophetic gift and calling to manipulate people can be classified as "prophetic WITCHcraft". It is bad enough that some people with a

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prophetic gift and/or calling were swooped up into WITCHcraft before God called them into ministering on His behalf. It is worse for the Lord to call a person into prophetic ministry and the prophet becomes a witch afterward, one who uses the name of Jesus but is truly serving satan (Matthew 7:21-23). Remember, promotion comes from God instead of an algorithm; He can and will draw people to you and your messages for His glory.

The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. But prophets testify of Jesus through their deeds in addition to their words. Prophetic ministry is a high calling, so please never forget that Jesus said:

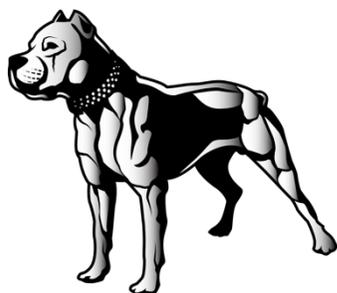
*And that servant, which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to His will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.** ~ Luke 12:47-48*

Instead of prophesying being the hallmark of prophetic ministry, prophets should ensure that Jesus is. Jesus Christ must be the focus, now and forever more.

EPILOGUE

There are many things for prophets to accomplish in their prophetic ministries to the Lord. *Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord)* is intended to help clarify those things. Yet, despite the diverse functional areas of prophetic ministry, prophets should never lose their focus on the most important, which is their relationship with God. Secondly, prophets must help others with their relationships with God the Father, and Jesus the Christ, and Holy Spirit. Proverbs 4:7 tells us to get wisdom, and with all our getting to get understanding. *Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord)* is meant to help give understanding of what the Lord requires of His prophets, and why there is still a place for prophets and prophecies today.

Prayerfully, after reading *Roles & Responsibilities for Today's Prophets (of the Lord)*, especially in conjunction with the Holy Bible, you have a better understanding of prophetic ministry. But more importantly, it will give you a better understanding of God. When you study the prophets, please do not forget to study the greatest and most important Prophet of all, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Almighty God. And never forget that the Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

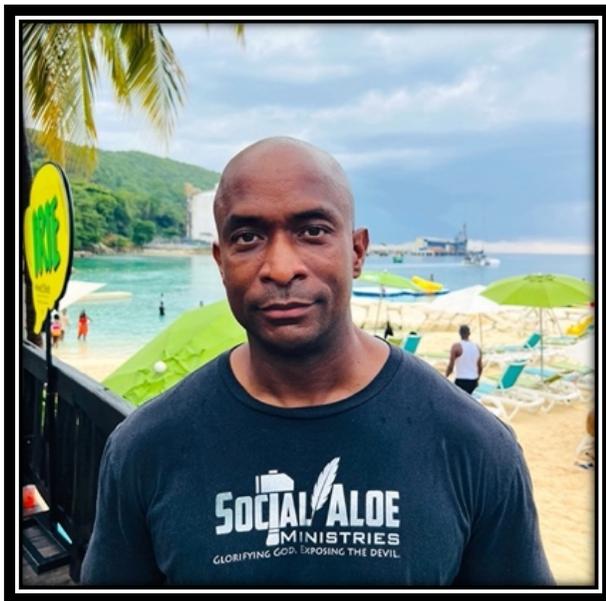
Kollin L. Taylor is a Jamaican born American combat veteran of battles in the natural and spiritual realms whom the Lord Jesus Christ called to “Minister to the people.” He fulfills that mandate in a multitude of ways, such as through the following published books:

Exposed Part 1: The Prelude
Exposed Part 2: Romantic Relationships
Exposed Part 3: Vida
Exposed Part 4: The Journey Continues
Metamorphosis: The New Me
The Phenom: From My Soul
The Aftermath: When the Smoke Clears and the Dust Settles
Resilience: Bend, Don't Break
Perspective: A New Point of View
The Anatomy of a Heartbreak: When SAMson Met Delilah
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Round 3: Still Fighting
Cool Breeze: Irie Man!
Finding Joy in YOU: The Gift of Eternal Life
The Path to Enlightenment
Minister to the People: Answering His Calling
Australia: A Journey Down Under
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The Sound of a Fallen Tree
Survival
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God's Kitchen: His Slow-Cooked Stew
God, the Love of my Life
God Speaks to My Soul
On Trial: A Test of My Faith
Closet Christian: If You Deny Him, He Will Deny You
Soul Food: Thanks Lord, for My Daily Bread
Knowledge is Power: Before You Do What You're Told, Know
What You're Being Told
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The Process: The Refiner's Fire
So, You Want to Marry a Prophet... ARE YOU CRAZY?
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The Devil's War Against Your God-Ordained Marriage
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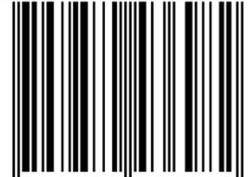


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