



# Prophetic Group

UNIT 6: BIBLICAL SYMBOLISM AND IMAGERY

# Activation

- ▶ Ask God, “what percentage of peace you are currently feeling?” (0% to 100%)
- ▶ Ask God, “was my peace stolen or did I give it away?”
- ▶ Ask God, “can I have that peace back?”
  - ▶ Do you need to let go of any disappointment
  - ▶ Release to God any situation or barrier
- ▶ Now what is your peace percentage?



# Core Topics

- ▶ Love God: Abiding, listening, connecting
- ▶ Love Others: Compassion for Others
- ▶ Raised Expectations: Biblical Basis for Prophecy
- ▶ Prophetic protocol and testing
- ▶ Dreaming Biblically
- ▶ **Biblical symbolism and imagery**
- ▶ Words of Knowledge
- ▶ Discernment
- ▶ Corporate prophecy and intercession

# Recap 1: Abiding

- ▶ Abiding in God's love
  - ▶ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide** in my love.” - John 15:9
  - ▶ Identity as children: “for in Christ Jesus you are all **sons** of God, through faith.” - Galatians 3:26
  - ▶ “My **sheep** hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” - John 12:27
- ▶ Practical Steps
  - ▶ Journal - write down what God says to you directly or through others
  - ▶ Let God choose the topic
  - ▶ Write down your dreams

# Recap 2: Loving one another

What are some of the things we can say to one another?

- ▶ I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. (Col. 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)
- ▶ I am forgiven and blameless. (1 John 2:12, Colossians 1:22)
- ▶ I have been made complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10)
- ▶ I am a son of light and not of darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
- ▶ I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- ▶ I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling. (Hebrews 3:1)
- ▶ I have the right to come boldly before the throne of God to find mercy and grace in a time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)
- ▶ I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. (1 Peter 2:5)
- ▶ I am anointed by God. (1 John 2:27)
- ▶ I am a child of God. (1 John 3:1,2)
- ▶ I am loved. (1 John 4:10)

## Recap 3: OT vs. NT Prophets

- ▶ Discussions on these topics should be encouraged in church:
  - ▶ Dreams
  - ▶ Visions
  - ▶ Trances
  - ▶ Audible voice of God
  - ▶ Seeing pictures
  - ▶ Angelic Encounters
- ▶ All believers have the indwelling Holy Spirit and do not rely on an OT prophet

## Recap 4: Practical Love

- ▶ All prophetic utterance are to be done in love
  - ▶ Values the person in front of you
  - ▶ Puts the person's feelings before the need to give a prophetic word
  - ▶ Love is accountable (go with a witness)
  - ▶ Love is not long winded or out to force a point
  - ▶ Love considers the person's emotions (what happens if this word fails... healing, marriage, children, ...)
  - ▶ Write the words you give down and test them, apologize when wrong



## Recap 5: Dreams

- ▶ “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall **dream** dreams” Acts 2:17
- ▶ “For God speaks ... in a **dream**, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds, then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings, that he may turn man aside from his deed and conceal pride from a man; he keeps back his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.” – Job 33
- ▶ Write down your dreams...



# Bible Study

- ▶ My friend met a lady at a church conference. He heard the word “Amber” and thought he would test to see if it was her name. It was not. But she said, she had been studying for a week the word “amber” in the Bible and all of the symbolism of the color. Because of this word of knowledge she was given, she felt seen by God and that He was pleased with her study of the Scripture.

# Biblical Symbolism

- ▶ Why symbols and pictures?
  - ▶ Illiteracy
  - ▶ Convey large amounts of information in a picture
- ▶ Tabernacle / Temple
- ▶ Names
- ▶ Colors / metals
- ▶ Numbers
- ▶ Objects

# Tabernacle / Temple

- ▶ Gold – **diety**, divinity, pure gold, crowns, kingly attire and thrones
- ▶ Silver- **redemption**, Joseph and Jesus were sold for silver, not mentioned in heaven (Ex 30:16)
- ▶ Bronze – **judgement**, strong, heat resistant, bronze serpent (Num 21:9)
- ▶ Blue – **heaven**, sky, hem of Jesus garment was traditionally blue (Matt 14:36)
- ▶ Purple- **royalty**, kingly, (Judges 8:26)
- ▶ Red – **sacrifice**, blood that was shed
- ▶ Linen- **purity** and righteousness, white, angels and heavenly armies in linen (Rev 15:6, Rev 19:14)

# Tabernacle / Temple

- ▶ Goats hair (skin) – cursed sin offering, clothes of poverty, (Heb 11:37)
- ▶ Ram skin (dyed red) – substitutionary sacrifice
- ▶ Badger skin – unattractive
- ▶ Acacia wood – hardwood, insect proof
- ▶ Oil – anointing of the Spirit, I Sam 16:13
- ▶ Menorah for light – 7 lights, only source of light in the holy place, God's presence with His people
- ▶ Almond – “awakening one”, first tree to bloom in spring, tradition holds it was the tree of life in the garden of eden
- ▶ Palm trees- victory, triumphant entry had palm frawns, Ps 92:12, Rev 7:9
- ▶ Pomegranate – tradition holds it was the forbidden fruit in the garden of eden

# Colors

- ▶ Red – blood, earthiness, mankind or flesh (Adam, Esau, Edom), worm
- ▶ Yellow – trials and purging, fire, purification process, joy, glory of God
- ▶ Blue / sapphire – heaven, blue hem of the garment (healing), sky and presence of God
- ▶ Green – life, springtime, resurrection, flourishing, new beginnings
- ▶ Purple – royalty, priesthood, kingship, wealth, prosperity, luxury
- ▶ Orange – fire, deliverance,
- ▶ White – bride of Christ, righteousness, purity, light
- ▶ Black – sin, death, separation, mourning, suffering
- ▶ Turquoise- river of God,
- ▶ Amber – glory of God,
- ▶ Twelve colored stones on the priests garment

# Numbers

- ▶ One – union, oneness
- ▶ Three – trinity, three heavens, (prophet, priest, king), (body, soul, spirit), temple sections
- ▶ Seven – completion, perfection, rest, 7 Spirits of God, 7 churches, 7 judgements
- ▶ Two – witness – two tablets, two spies, two of every animal, two angels at the tomb
- ▶ Four – creative works of God – 4 winds, 4 rivers, 4 directions, 4 seasons,
- ▶ Five – humanness, weakness – 5 fingers and toes, 5 books of the law, 5 husbands (well woman)
- ▶ Six – fallen man, evil of man – fall short of 7 and perfection, 6 days of work, 666
- ▶ Eight – new beginnings – regeneration, resurrection, 8<sup>th</sup> day circumcision, 8 on the ark,
- ▶ Nine – finality and faith, 9 fruits of the Spirit, 9 gifts of the Spirit, 9 beatitudes
- ▶ Ten – completion, 10 plagues, 10 spies fail, tithe, 10 lepers,
- ▶ Twelve – God's government, 12 tribes, 12 Apostles, 12 months, 12 gates
- ▶ Forty – trial, probation, testing, 40 years in the wilderness, 40 day flood,

# Animals

- ▶ Lion – (120 references) Jesus, Lion of Judah, also Satan described as a lion
- ▶ Lamb – Jesus innocents, sheep – believers; Goat – unbeliever
- ▶ Human, ox, lion, eagle faces – Ezekiel
- ▶ Leopard – (6 times) predator, watching / observing, camouflage
- ▶ Bear – man-killer, strength to dismember,
- ▶ Wolf – lamb killer
- ▶ Calf – luxury meat versus idolatry, oxen- service animals
- ▶ Eagle – flying, defensive, fly away on wings like eagles
- ▶ Serpent /dragon – devil, deceiver, but bronze serpent is a type of Christ,
- ▶ Scorpions – power in the tail, whips, chastisement, power
- ▶ Locust- crop pest, devourer, Frogs – pervasive (false doctrine)
- ▶ Horse – authority, wealth, but weaker than expected, trust in the Lord and not horses



# Name meanings

- ▶ Peter – “stone or rock”, “And I tell you, you are Peter [Petros], and on this rock [petra] I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”  
Matt 16:18
- ▶ Moriah – “seen by Yahweh”, mountain where Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac
- ▶ Anna/ Hannah – grace or favor
- ▶ Naomi / Mara– “bitter”
- ▶ David – “beloved”
- ▶ Adam – “to be red” or of the color of human skin
- ▶ Eve – “living” or “to breath” or “to give life”
- ▶ Jehoshaphat – “Yahweh has judged”
- ▶ Jeremiah – “may Jehovah exalt” or “exalted of the Lord”

# Elements and objects

- ▶ Jesus – rock, door, light of the world, bread
- ▶ Fruit of the Spirit – peace, joy, love, patience... Gal 5:22-23
- ▶ Fire – for purification or judgement
- ▶ Water/ streams/oceans – cleansing, judgement, healing
- ▶ Wind of the Spirit, John 3:8
- ▶ Rock – “And Moses lifted up his hands and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly...” Num 20:11 Jesus is the rock Ps 118:22 “The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone”
- ▶ Salt – we are referred to as “the salt of the earth” Matt 5:13

# Parable Images

- ▶ The disciples ask Jesus what the parable of the sower means and He explains the symbols. Matt 13
  - ▶ seed- the message of the Kingdom
  - ▶ birds- evil one
  - ▶ rocky ground, little soil – joy at first but takes no root
  - ▶ thorns - the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word
  - ▶ good soil – receptive, growth, multiplication
  - ▶ enemy - devil
  - ▶ harvesters - angels
  - ▶ wheat / tares , mustard seed, yeast, more birds, pearl, fishing net

# More Biblical imagery

- ▶ Christ – warrior, rose, commander of an army, branch, lion, servant, foundation, sanctuary, prince  
(Ps 24:8, SS 2:1, Jos 5:14, Jer 23:5, Rev 5:5, Is 53:11)
- ▶ Holy Spirit – rain, fire, dove, oil, wind, water  
(Ps 72:6, Mat 3:11, Mat 3:16, I Sam 16:13 / Ps 45:7, John 3:8, Rev 22:17)
- ▶ Father – father, audible voice
- ▶ Saints – treasure (jewels), trees, deer, sheep, eagles, runners, soldiers, bride  
(Ex 19:5, Ps 1:3, Ps 42:1, Ps 68:13, Ps 78:52, Ps 103:5, I Cor 9:24, II Tim 2:3)
- ▶ Satan – thief, lion, red dragon, serpent (John 10:10, I Pet 5:8, Rev 12:3,9)
- ▶ Angels – messengers (mailmen), lights, stars

# Imagery - possibly not from the Bible

- ▶ Vehicles - pictures of ministry or churches, car- personal ministry, bus-local ministry, airplane – larger church with international missions
- ▶ Shoes – a gifting you walk in, your calling to walk in; Clothes – gifts you wear
- ▶ House – tells of a time period of your life, or a spiritual lineage
- ▶ Flying – being lifted by the Spirit, using your gifting, getting above the physical world
- ▶ Running – chased by your calling, your current speed with Jesus
- ▶ Volcanos, whirlwinds, earthquakes, rain, snow, rainbows
- ▶ Pregnant /midwife – birthing something spiritual
- ▶ Deceased people – usually not positive
- ▶ Purse / wallet – your identity
- ▶ Missing clothing items – vulnerable. Lost, can't run, being chased, late...

# Interpreting Prophecy

- ▶ Many issues with prophecy are in the interpretation...
- ▶ Is it a figurative word or a literal word?
  - ▶ Example: An unmarried woman consistently got a word “I see you as a bride.” “You are going to get married” would usually be the next statement. She did not get married. She was a wise unmarried woman and had asked God and He consistently told her, “I call you My bride.” It was a spiritual statement and not literal.
  - ▶ Same things happens when you see babies or children around someone. Are they literal babies or spiritual children?

# Interpretation

- ▶ ALWAYS ask the Holy Spirit for interpretation of an image first
  - ▶ ALWAYS test everything against Scripture
  - ▶ NEVER use a new age website/book for symbolism
  - ▶ NEVER assume a symbol has an exclusive meaning (ex. lion – Jesus or Satan)
  - ▶ Write down what you do not understand... in time it may be repeated
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- ▶ Interpretation of prophecy is from the Holy Spirit; we cannot do it with our minds (or books) alone. Daniel and Joseph attribute interpretation of dreams to God. And the disciples asked for parables to be explained. ALWAYS rely on the Holy Spirit.



# Activation

- ▶ Ask God for a color for the group (hear it or see it), ask for the interpretation
- ▶ Ask God for a fruit for the person on your left. Ask what that fruit represents.
- ▶ Ask God for an object for the person on your right. Ask for the interpretation.
  
- ▶ Homework: ask God to show you a story, get the whole thing before you go for an interpretation... (ex. once upon a time there was a princess that...)