



Prophetic Group

UNIT 3: BIBLICAL BASIS FOR PROPHECY

Activation

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



Core Topics

- ▶ Love God: Abiding, listening, connecting
- ▶ Love Others: Compassion for Others
- ▶ Raised Expectations: Biblical Basis for Prophecy
- ▶ Prophetic protocol and testing



Recap: Jesus is our example

- ▶ “For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.” -John 12:49
- ▶ “So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.’” - John 5:19

The Father seems to be continually speaking and showing, and Jesus continually watching and listening.

Recap – 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
 - ▶ Spend time listening through the week
 - ▶ Let God choose the topic

Did you take time this past week to listen?

Activation

- ▶ “Put on the whole armor of God,... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” –Ephesians 6:11,17
- ▶ God is handing you a sword.
- ▶ What does it look like? Or how is He describing it?
- ▶ What do you do with it?

Recap – Blessing others

- ▶ “Let your speech always be gracious” -Colossians 4:6
- ▶ “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [rhema], so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” –Ephesians 5:25-27
- ▶ Much of prophesy is encouragements, blessings, and timely Scripture passages or images

Recap- Truth Statements

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)

Activation

- ▶ Go around the room and give one word to each person
- ▶ One word

Old versus New Testament

- ▶ “among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is **greater than he**” – Matthew 11:11
- ▶ John the Baptist was considered a special OT prophet who got to announce Jesus and baptize Him
- ▶ All NT believers know the crucifixion of Christ or His glorious resurrection
- ▶ **All NT believers have the indwelling Holy Spirit and are greater than any OT prophet**



Overview

- ▶ Old Testament and New Testament prophetic
- ▶ Asking for more: Visions, dreams, angelic encounters...

OT vs. NT Prophets

► Deut 18:15-22

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me from among you ... just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb..., when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ 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 shall speak to them all that I command him.**’¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall **die.**’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.”

OT vs. NT Prophets

- ▶ Old Testament (Duet 18:15-22)
- ▶ The people could not hear God for themselves. They relied on prophets.
 - ▶ Now we are His sheep and know His voice
- ▶ The prophet had to speak what he was commanded to say
 - ▶ Not everything we hear God say, we have to say
- ▶ Death was the consequence of a wrong prophesy or attributing it to a god
 - ▶ Death is not longer the consequence
- ▶ The people had no expectation of discernment. If the prophesy did not happen, then it was not the Lord speaking
 - ▶ We are expected to discern good from evil and we are to test prophesy and **keep what is good**

Prophets

- ▶ Quick survey or a few prophets
- ▶ Be looking at how God spoke to them and the rather large ways he interacted... have you ever experienced God showing up or communicating in any of these ways?
- ▶ Many of these “large” encounters with God show up in both the NT and OT. What if it happened in your life? Should we desire it?

Moses

- ▶ “When the Lord saw that Moses was coming closer, He called to him from the middle of the bush and **said**, ‘Moses! Moses!’” –Exodus 3:4
- ▶ “And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the **LORD knew face to face**” -Deut 34:10
- ▶ Moses asks to see God’s glory and God shows Moses his goodness... But... cannot see His face, “for no one may see me and live” –Exodus 33:18-20
 - ▶ “his **face was radiant**, and they were afraid to come near him” –Exodus 34:30
 - ▶ “But whenever he entered the LORD’s presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that **his face was radiant**. “-Exodus 34:34-35

Joseph

Dreams - Gen 37:5-10 and Gen 40-41

- ▶ Genesis 37:5-8 “Now Joseph had a **dream**, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, ‘Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.’ His brothers said to him, ‘Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?’ So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.”
- ▶ They did not question that God spoke to him in a dream. Spiritually inspired dreams are accepted in many cultures. Abraham, his great-grandfather had a dream in Gen 15:12 and his dad Jacob had a dream in Gen 28. And Joseph goes on to interpret dreams in prison.

Jeremiah

- ▶ God speaks in visions or pictures:
- ▶ Jeremiah 1:11-12 “And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you **see**?” And I said, “I see an almond branch.”
12 Then the LORD said to me, “You have **seen well**, for I am watching over my word to perform it.”
- ▶ Jeremiah 24:1-5 “the Lord showed me this **vision**: behold, two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the Lord. One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten. And the Lord said to me, “What do you **see**, Jeremiah?” I said, “Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten.” Then the **word of the Lord came** to me: “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah”

Daniel

- ▶ Daniel 7: 2-3 “Daniel declared, “I saw in my **vision by night**, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts”
- ▶ Daniel 7:15-16,28 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the **visions** of my head alarmed me. I approached **one of those** who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things...” “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart.”
- ▶ Daniel 8:2-3 “And I saw in the **vision**, and I was at the Ulai canal. I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the canal.”
- ▶ Daniel 8:15-17 “When I, Daniel, had seen the **vision**, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the **appearance of a man**. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, “**Gabriel**, make this man understand the vision.” So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face.”

Women

Miriam

- ▶ Ex 15:20 “Then Miriam the **prophetess**, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing.”

Deborah

- ▶ Judges 4:4-6 “Now Deborah, a **prophetess**, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time... and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak...” and prophesies he is to start a battle.

Isaiah's Wife (Isaiah 8:3)

Huldah (II Kings 22:14)

Non-Prophets

King Saul

- ▶ I Sam 10:11 “And when all who knew him previously saw how he **prophesied** with the prophets, the people said to one another, ‘What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?’”
- ▶ I Sam 19:23-24 “And **the Spirit of God came upon him** also, and as he went he **prophesied** until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, ‘Is Saul also among the prophets?’”

Balaam, non-Israelite diviner (and a donkey)

- ▶ Balaam’s donkey sees an angel: Num 22:23 “And the **donkey saw the angel of the LORD** standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand.”
- ▶ Balaam: Num 22:31 “Then the LORD **opened the eyes** of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face.”
- ▶ Num 22:12 “**God said** to Balaam, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.””

NT Prophetic

- ▶ “I will **pour out my spirit on all flesh**; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy” (Joel 2:28).
- ▶ And when the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, Peter said: “this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel” (Act 2:16).
- ▶ I Cor 14:1 “Pursue love, and earnestly **desire** the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.”
- ▶ I Cor 14:29-32 “Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others **weigh** what is said. ³⁰If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. ³¹For you can **all** prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, ³²and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.”

Believers

Paul

- ▶ II Cor 12:2-4 (Paul) “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was **caught up to the third heaven**—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was **caught up** into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— and he **heard** things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.”

John on Patmos

- ▶ Rev 4:1-2 “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in **heaven!** And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, ‘**Come up here**, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.”

Believers

Paul

- ▶ Peter fell into a **trance** – Acts 10:9-11 “Peter went up on the roof to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven open and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.”
- ▶ Paul Acts 22: 17-18 “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a **trance** and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’”

Unbelievers

God speaks to unbelievers

Saul of Tarsus

- ▶ Acts 9:3-7 “suddenly a **light** from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a **voice** saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” **The men** who were traveling with him stood speechless, **hearing the voice** but seeing no one.”
- ▶ Everyone heard something

Activation

- ▶ Get in groups of two or three
- ▶ What is the biggest God experience you have had?
 - ▶ Dream, vision, angel encounter, His presence during worship ...
 - ▶ Did you feel more known or loved because of it?

Activation – if time...

Write a blessing note for the person on your left...

- ▶ 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)