

A DISCUSSION OF PROPHECY AND THE MODERN DAY MOVEMENT

WHAT IS THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT?

The participants of the modern prophetic movement believe they are experiencing the fulfillment of the restored apostolic and prophetic manifestations of the Holy Spirit as described in New Testament. They believe that they are experiencing a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit as described by the prophet Joel.

After this I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. (Joel 2:28 HCSB)

Joel's prophesy is fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ Jesus (not now), which is obvious as we continue reading the passage...

I will display wonders in the heavens and on the earth: blood, fire, and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and awe-inspiring Day of the Lord comes. (Joel 2:30-31 HCSB)

“What does the prophetic movement have to do with us?” The movement is alarming when one understands their intent...

What is about to come upon the earth is not just a revival, or another awakening; it is a veritable revolution. The vision was given in order to begin to awaken those who are destined to radically change the course, and even the very definition of Christianity. The dismantling of organizations and disbanding of some work will be a positive and exhilarating experience for the Lord's faithful servants. A great company of prophets, teachers, pastors and apostles will be raised up with the spirit of Phineas....¹

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. And men from among yourselves will rise up with deviant doctrines to lure the disciples into following them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for three years I did not stop warning each one of you with tears. (Acts 20:28-31 HCSB)

At the heart of the prophetic movement is the belief that God speaks today through prophecies, and those revelations of God are more apt for today than the Bible, which is understood as “past truth.” This concept is expressed in the introduction of “God Chasers,” a very popular book written by Tommy Tenney.

God chasers have a lot in common. Primarily, they are not interested in camping out on some dusty-truth known to everyone. They are after the fresh presence of the Almighty. Sometimes their pursuit raises the eyebrows of the existing church, but usually they lead the church from a place of dryness back into the place of His presence. If you're a God chaser, you won't be happy to simply follow God's tracks. You will follow them *until you apprehend His presence.*

¹ Rick Joyner, *The Harvest*, op. cit. “Joel's Army”.

The difference between the truth of God and the revelation is very simple. Truth is where God's *been*. Revelation is where God is. Truth is God's tracks. It's His trail, His path, but it leads to what? It leads to Him. Perhaps the masses of people are happy to know where God's been, but true God chasers are not content just to study God's trail, His truths; they want to *know* Him. They want to know where He is and what He's doing right now.

Sadly, today the bulk of the Church is like some proverbial detective holding a magnifying glass in his hand and studying where God has been. Unfortunately, the Church today spends countless hours and much energy debating where God has been, how heavy He was when He was there.... To true God chasers, all these things are immaterial. They want to run hard and hot on this trail of truth until they arrive at the point of revelation, where He presently exists.

A God chaser may be excited about some dusty truth, and may even be thrilled somewhat over determining the weight of the *kabod*, or glory, that passed in the path, and how long ago it was. But that's just the problem. How long ago was it? A true God chaser is not happy with just past truth; he must have *present* truth. God chasers don't want to just study from the moldy pages of what God has done; they're anxious to see what God is doing.

There is a vast difference between present truth and past truth. I'm afraid that most of what the Church has studied is past truth, and very little of what we know is present truth.²

God's Truth... God has spoken very clearly about the fullness and completion of His Holy Word, the Bible.

For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart.
(Hebrews 4:12 HCSB)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17 HCSB)

First of all, you should know this: no prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God.
(2 Peter 1:20-21 HCSB)

ARE PROPHETS AS DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE STILL ACTIVE TODAY?

The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then, the good news of the kingdom of God has been proclaimed, and everyone is strongly urged to enter it. (Luke 16:16 HCSB)

Clearly the role of the OT prophets changed with the preaching of John when he pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God, who fulfilled the Messianic prophecies. But prophesy continued in the early church after the ascension of Jesus into heaven. The prophets in the New Testament were leaders of the early church. Throughout the early years of the church, 62 AD and before, the church was led by the apostles and prophets, who were laying the foundation of the church based on Jesus as the Cornerstone.

² Tenney, Tommy, "The God Chasers." Destiny Image Publishers, Inc. 1999. (Introduction pages).

So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. (Ephesians 2:19-20 HCSB)

The early church was led by apostles and prophets rather than pastors, elders and bishops as later described. There was a change in leadership in the middle of the Book of Acts. The leading role in the church began transitioning from the leadership of apostles and prophets to elders, pastors and overseers. This is evident in Acts 14:23, *"They had appointed elders in every church."*

When problems arose in chapter 15 and 16 instructions were given to go to the elders and apostles for answers rather than to prophets. From that point forward in time (Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, 1 & 2 Peter, Hebrews, James, Jude, 1, 2 & 3 John and Revelation) there is no mention of an active prophet in the church other than those who are false prophets.

The teaching of Jesus was all that the church needed, and all the modern church needs today. The New Testament was given by God; it is the revelation of God for the church then and now. At the conclusion of the NT, in the last book, in the last chapter are these words...

I testify to everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this prophetic book, God will take away his share of the tree of life and the holy city, written in this book.
(Revelation 22:18-19 HCSB)

Clearly, prophets like that of the Bible are not active today by the design of God. Be careful not to base your understanding and wisdom on your feelings or experiences.

Evil people and imposters will become worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing those from whom you learned, and that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:13-17 HCSB)

IF SOMEONE CLAIMS TO BE A PROPHET OF GOD WHAT IS THE STANDARD THAT GOD REQUIRES OF THEM?

The Bible gives us an easy to use test for all prophets—they must be 100% accurate to speak on God's behalf.

You may say to yourself, 'How can we recognize a message the Lord has not spoken?' When a prophet speaks in the Lord's name, and the message does not come true or is not fulfilled, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.
(Deuteronomy 18:21-22 HCSB)

The charismatic movement believes that accuracy in prophetic revelations is not that important.

Bob (Jones) was told that the general level of prophetic revelation in the church was about 65% accurate at this time. Some are only 10% accurate, a very few of the most mature prophets are approaching 85% to 95% accuracy. Prophecy is increasing in purity, but there is

still a long way to go for those who walk in this ministry. This is actually grace for the church now, because 100% accuracy in this ministry will bring a level of accountability to the church which she is too immature to bear at this time....³

“Beware of false prophets.... You’ll recognize them by their fruit. ...In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.” (Matthew 7:15-20 HCSB)

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Don’t add to His words, or He will rebuke you, and you will be proved a liar. (Proverbs 30:5-6 HCSB)

The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then, the good news of the kingdom of God has been proclaimed, and everyone is strongly urged to enter it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter in the law to drop out. (Luke 16:16-17 HCSB)

Our faith is centered on the Bible. It is so dear to us... so real that it cannot be altered (taken away from or added to).

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:14-15, 17 NKJV)

Pastor’s Suggested Daily Bible Reading...

Monday	March 17	Numbers 26
Tuesday	March 18	Numbers 27 – 28
Wednesday	March 19	Numbers 29
Thursday	March 20	Numbers 30 – 31
Friday	March 21	Numbers 32 – 33:39
Saturday	March 22	Numbers 33:40 – 36
Sunday	March 23	Deuteronomy 1

³ The Prophetic Ministry, The Morning Star Prophetic Newsletter, Rick Joyner, n.d., Vol 3, No. 2, pg. 4.