

# The Prophetic Stream

## Introduction

As we saw in the previous lesson, there is a difference between operating in the “gift of prophecy” as given as a “*charisma*” of the Holy Spirit and operating as a “prophet” as given as a “*doma*” of Jesus. We saw that we can operate in the gift of prophecy whenever we assemble as the people of God and, yet, still not be a prophet, one of the ascension gifts given by Jesus to His people. We saw how the gift of prophecy is primarily oriented toward the individual while the work of the prophet is primarily oriented to the corporate Body of Christ. We saw that there was a change between the prophets of the Old Covenant and the prophets of the New Covenant in the manner in which the prophetic word is manifested.

The last sentence of Revelation 19:10 says, “...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” This is a key operating directive for prophets. The testimony of Jesus is that He came to reveal the Father; He came to destroy the works of the devil; He came to offer His body as a sacrifice and His blood as an atonement for sin; and, He came to fulfill the purpose of the Father. All of these aspects of the testimony of Jesus are contained in the last one—fulfilling the purpose of the Father. Remember that Jesus, as our sacrifice, was slain from the foundation of the world.<sup>1</sup> The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus has all been within the plan and purpose of God. So, one who is a prophet will have a heart of understanding concerning this and will bring forth words that fit into and are a part of the plans and purposes of God. This is the spirit of prophecy.

## Standing in the Prophetic Stream

All that God is doing now and will do in the future is a continuation of what He has done. Because we don't understand or comprehend the magnitude of God's purpose, we don't see how all that God says or does is linked together. When it comes to the prophetic, all that God is saying today is a continuation of what he has said previously and is building toward the completion of His purposes. Anyone who is truly a prophet understands this. Anyone who doesn't understand this is not a prophet; regardless of how many prophetic words he brings by the gift of prophecy.

There is only one stream of God's purpose. It flows through history from before the foundation of the world to the passing away of this world and the creation of the new heavens and new earth. All that God intends is already completed in Eternity. However, time, as a created construct of God, is only a temporary “bubble” in Eternity and will pass away with this world when God's intention is completed. We see His purposes “unfolding” in a systematic, orderly manner that is moving toward the fulfillment of God's purpose in time. Any “prophetic word” from any so-called “prophet” that doesn't fit appropriately into the stream of God's purpose or is contrary to the stream is not a “prophetic word” from the Lord.

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 13:8 KJV

When a prophet speaks a prophetic word, he is not standing alone. He is linked to all true prophets of the past and those of the future. He is standing in the flow of the prophetic word from the past to the future and must be in alignment with it so that it is one contiguous line of revelation of the purpose of God.

## An Example from the Scriptures

A clear example of what we are discussing concerning the prophetic stream of God's purpose is given to us in the covenant promise that God made to Abraham.

### Genesis 15:18 NASB

- (18) On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

There are two important prophetic points made by this covenant word to Abraham.

1. God was giving a land to Abraham's descendants **before** Abraham had any descendants.
2. God was giving a land to Abraham's descendants **before** Abraham had possession of any part of the land that was promised.

For our example, this prophetic stream starts here with God's promise to Abraham because God had purposed to give Abraham's descendants a specific land, which was occupied by specific nations of people. [Now, we know that this prophetic stream is even bigger because the descendants of Abraham are more than those who have a natural lineage, but, are also those who have a spiritual lineage and the land is greater than the inheritance of a physical geography, but, also includes the inheritance of the Kingdom of God. However, let's keep it simple for this example so that we can clearly see the principle we are discussing.]

God gives us further details that are part of this prophetic stream as He tells Abraham some other details about the future history of his descendants.

### Genesis 15:13-14 NASB

- (13) *God* said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.
- (14) "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.

Now, we can see more of the prophetic stream. Abraham's descendants will be enslaved in a land that doesn't belong to them and they will be oppressed for four hundred years. However, God will judge the nation that enslaves them and Abraham's descendants will come out of slavery with many possessions.

All of this is built into God's covenant promise to Abraham, which means that it will happen as God has said. No one can change it because it is in the flow of God's purpose. It is part of the unfolding of

God's plan and purpose in the earth.

Suppose for a moment that you are one of Abraham's descendants that is enslaved in Egypt. Both your father and grandfather were slaves before you were born. Now, a person comes forth that says he is a prophet of God and that God says, "You have been oppressed for 100 years. I have heard your cries and I will send a deliverer before the year is finished. I will rain fire down upon your oppressors and set you free." You immediately rejoice because this is exactly what you and the rest of your fellow-slaves want.

However, anyone that understands the prophetic stream, immediately knows that this is a false word from a false prophet, no matter how good it sounds. Why? Because is it contrary to the flow of God's purpose as revealed in His promises to Abraham. Any prophetic word from anyone that is not consistent with what God has already said is automatically a false word.

Of course, we know from the Scriptures that, when the time had come, God did send a deliver, Moses, to accomplish His purpose. From our prophetic stream example, this means that God had to get Israel out of Egypt with many possessions, get them to the land that was promised to Abraham's descendants and get them into the land to possess it according to God's word.

Moses was God's key man to get them out of Egypt and he was God's key man to get them through the wilderness to the land. But, he was not God's key man to get them into the land to possess it.

#### Joshua 1:2-3 NASB

- (2) "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.
- (3) "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

After Moses' death, Joshua became God's new "key man" to continue with the fulfillment of the purpose of God. The key word to Joshua was "just as I spoke to Moses". Joshua stood in the center of the flow of God's purpose in direct line with Moses. He did not stand alone but stood together in a prophetic line that went back to Abraham and forward to David. Each of us must recognize our place in relation to all of those who were previous to us and to those who will follow after us.

## False Words and False Prophets

In our example discussed above, it was easy to recognize a false word from a false prophet because we had a clear picture of what God promised from the Scriptures. In today's environment, that is more difficult because few of us have a clear understanding of what God has promised or of what His intentions are. Others have their understanding so warped by the traditions of men or the doctrines of devils that it becomes impossible to see, much less understand, the prophetic stream of God's purpose. This type of problem can only be solved by the study of the Scriptures and seeking after understanding from the Holy Spirit.

The other type of problem that we have is the current deluge of “prophetic words” sweeping through the people of God. Many of these are in conflict with one another. Others are “ear ticklers”, feel good words that don't really produce anything.

But, I think that the biggest problem comes from those who are “merchandising prophetic words” in accord with the “error of Balaam”.

#### Jude 1:11 NASB

- (11) Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

There are three key errors of the false:

1. the way of Cain—this refers to envy and malice because of actions that are unacceptable as a sacrifice to the Lord.
2. the error of Balaam—this refers particularly to prophets who use what God has given for their own profit. The motivation is greed and the outcome is idolatry.
3. the rebellion of Korah—this refers to those who are ambitious and seditious. Those who have been used of God and aspire to places of importance greater than that which God allows.

The “them” in the “Woe to them” are described clearly by Jude.

#### Jude 1:4 NASB

- (4) For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

#### Jude 1:8 NASB

- (8) Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.

#### Jude 1:10 NASB

- (10) But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.

#### Jude 1:12-13 NASB

- (12) These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;
- (13) wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Basically, these scriptures describe the character and actions of the false ones, who seem to have no fear of the Lord and who seem to act without any understanding of spiritual things. The sad thing is that they are in the assembly of God's people, even participating in the love feasts. But, they are “hidden reefs”. They are under the surface, not easily seen or recognized but a danger to all.

The Apostle Peter also refers to “the way of Balaam” and his love for money. Peter continues on to

describe the attributes of the false ones.

#### 2 Peter 2:15 NASB

- (15) forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

#### 2 Peter 2:17-19 NASB

- (17) These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.
- (18) For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,
- (19) promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

Jesus spoke of the teaching or doctrine of Balaam when He spoke to the Church at Pergamum in Revelation about the things that He had against them.

#### Revelation 2:14 NASB

- (14) 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*.

Even though Balaam had been unable to prophesy against Israel, in order to get the money promised by Balak, he taught Balak how to cause the children of Israel to stumble in such a way that they would come under the curse of God.

It is outside the scope of this lesson to elaborate on these things further; but, I wanted to point out a progression of issues that lead after from being a true prophet toward a false prophet. The **error** of Balaam (selling what God had given) leads to the **way** of Balaam (a lifestyle of unrighteousness), which results in the **teaching** or doctrine of Balaam (opposition to the purpose of God).

Jesus told us in Matt. 10:8, "...freely you have received, freely give". Any attempt sell what God has given is disobedience and will result in a loss of the anointing of the Spirit. If we are operating as a prophet and lose the anointing through merchandising the gift, it is replaced by a deceptive spirit that entices us to further market what God has given, substituting words from our own heart or words that are the most marketable.

Selling what we have received doesn't necessarily mean we are selling it for money. We may be selling it for power, prestige, position, honor, and other similar things.

We need to examine our own hearts for improper motives and we need to examine our prophetic words (both those received and those given) to determine if they are within the flow of God's purpose as He accelerates His work toward the closing down of this age.

## Today's Application

We are living in the last days. The purposes of God are rushing to completion. All things are taking their place in the fulfillment of God's intentions at the close of this age. The Enemy would have us believe that somehow he is thwarting the plan of God and that the outcome of things is in question. This is not only a lie from the father of lies, but is so far from the truth as to be absolutely unimaginable.

God's will is not in question; neither is the outcome of His will in question. God will accomplish all that He said He would. The only question for us is whether we are a help or a hindrance to the fulfillment of all things.

For us to co-operate with the Holy Spirit as He administers the close of this age and completes the work of the Lord, we have to understand the heart of the Father. We have to understand **what** God has done, **why** He has done it, and **how** He intends to do it. That is why a prophet is a gift of Jesus and not a *charisma* of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was “about the Father's business”. He fully gave Himself to fulfill the purpose of the Father and to complete the work apportioned to Him by the Father. After the work of Jesus was completed, the Father sent forth the Holy Spirit to administer the things of Jesus to us so that we might do the works of Jesus and do even greater works in order to participate in the completion of the Father's purpose for the close of the age.

**We cannot** be a prophet without an understanding of the Father's heart.

**We cannot** accomplish the work of a prophet if we don't see the flow of God's prophetic stream.

**We cannot** see the stream's flow if we don't understand the prophetic purpose of those who were prophets before us.

**We cannot** understand the prophetic purpose if we don't understand how we stand in relation to them and to the completion of God's purpose.

**We cannot** get there except the Holy Spirit prepares us and the Lord Jesus appoints and approves us as a *dona* gift to His people.