

Let me first distinguish that we are not talking about the gift of prophesy but rather the ministry gifts of a prophet, a seer & the watchman So we understand each role clearer These ministries may well move in the prophetic gifting as well as a number of the other gifts of the Holy Spirit

The role of these giftings have not been encouraged or appreciated over the other five-fold gifts Ephesians 4:11 They are absolutely necessary part of the Church A true prophet is Gods voice, trumpet, spokesperson for what's ahead To warn & prepare His people of what's to come

I personally find it an indictment against the Church in New Zealand that there is confusion as to who are our prophets as compared to a prophetic gifting There is a difference Recognition by the Body of Christ is essential as there is a danger of self-proclaimed prophets arising in these latter days which we are warned against called false prophets

WHATS A PROPHET

A

prophet is just a person who has been divinely gifted with the nature & ability of Christ the Prophet John 21:15-23 When Christ calls & gifts a man or woman they are commissioned by the Holy Spirit to the office of a Prophet The prophet when ministering in their Prophetic anointing has the same authority to reproof, correct, direct & instruct using the rhema Word of God that Jesus had

HOW IS ONE CALLED AS A PROPHET?

Just as with the other five-fold ministries Pastor, Teacher, Apostle, Evangelist A Prophet is called by God Jeremiah was called as a prophet in his mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5) They also must be recognized by the Body of Christ confirming with a time of dedication, recognition & releasing of the ministry There is also where the gift is imparted by another recognized prophet Elijah & Elisha passing on the banner as it were There is no room for self-proclaimed prophets who are not accountable to the Body of Christ In my understanding as these are potential false prophets This criteria doesn't just apply to prophets but to all the fivefold ministries

WHAT IS THE PROPHETS FUNCTION? Again let me say the prophet will function in many of the gifts including prophecy Lets briefly look at prophecy which is a gift opposed to a ministry for the edification, exhortation & comfort of the saints in any congregation 1 Corinthians 14:3 A prophet can do this but this is not usually there prime ministry of reproof, correction, direction, warning & giving instruction Looking at this list it's not altogether positive That's why you don't usually put your hand up to be a prophet & why the Church will not always adhere to the Word The Old Testament was no different But if we don't listen to the prophets we do it at our own peril

TEST PROPHETS WORD We do this by 3 means
it bears witness with our Spirit that it is the truth

1 if

2 other prophets are saying the same thing or prophets confirm the Word is true

3 that it is based on the Word of God

INTERESTING TO NOTE The ministry of the Prophet is the only consistently functioning throughout the Bible from Genesis through Revelation But in our time it is somewhat been neglected, yet for the Church to fully function, to fulfil the purposes & plans of God it must operate alongside the other five-fold ministries When they function together, they become the headship establishing biblical principles, teachings, doctrine, discipline, equipping, bring revelation, bring order & balance

All through the of love of Christ 1 Corinthians 13

I haven't mentioned the Apostles which of course we know Paul was as was Peter, John & James too But today they are few & far between As I understand the Apostle's function is to establish the new work as they have multi giftings working with prophets, teachers, pastors & evangelists to see the Kingdom extended & established Lord raise up Apostles & Prophets in your Church today In the Old Testament prophets were a travelling ministry, today most function out of a Church & travel as well

PROPHETIC CHARACTER/TRAITS

They are different

They aren't usually waiting to be lead

They know their role - what to do & say

They speak on behalf of God

They have a Word to say & must declare it (usually with urgency)

They don't tolerate religious politics

They don't care about being popular

They are driven by the Holy Spirit urgings whether it be a Word, dream or vision

They can be confrontational

They are intercessors, crying out to God for His Church

They are spiritually very sensitive to the Spirit realm

PROPHETIC CHURCHES ARISE

God in these last days is raising up a Prophetic Church not just a lone voice but a prophetic people Who hear revelation 'the living Word' as a corporate Body Administered to with power & authority 'He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches' Revelation 2:29

'I have this day I have set you over the nations & over the kingdoms, to root out, to pull down, to destroy, to throw down, to build & to plant' Jeremiah 1:10 Lets take a look into this verse to fully understand how it applies Nations = natural realm Kingdoms = spiritual realm

Prophets are to ROOT OUT meaning 'to lay ahold of the root of a thing & pull it out root & all' tradition He is called to PULL DOWN, DESTROY & OVERTHROW anything that is not of God it could be sin, demonic, strongholds To expose it before the Church so it is dealt with This is where many Churches & leaders don't want to hear the Word of God So they ignore, right off or excuse it from scripture

It doesn't end there They BUILD & PLANT In order to do this, the ground must be cleared thus needed is order Deal first with the obstacles, your able to build on a solid foundation - one that will last That foundation will be laid in prayer & intercession

To be effective the Body of Christ needs a Prophetic voice Where are the Elijahs, John Baptists, Samuels, Jeremiahs, Ezekiel's, Zechariahs Who are discerning the current/present truth God wants His people to hear The trumpeters, those that sound the alarm, cry out Gods heart, purpose & will

Prophets operate in the miraculous in Elijahs case calling down fire But it appears not all prophets did One thing they have in common is 'their judgement on the nations' Exposing injustice, unrighteousness, idolatry, iniquities, selfishness & pride John the Baptist was called 'a voice/cry in the Wilderness' isn't that so true for Prophets as we the Church write them off, excuse them & even condemn them But what if it is Word of the Lord to His Church Give us ears to hear & eyes to see truth

FALSE PROPHETS Duet 19:22 '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 the Lord has not spoken, the prophet has spoken presumptuously You need not be afraid of Him'

Often today because of misunderstanding prophets are referred to operate in the gift of prophesy which is incorrect & confusing the gift & the ministry The gift according to Paul is available for all This is not the case with a prophet, one who is clearly called by God, for a specific purpose & to be Gods mouthpiece, speaking with His authority & power Using the example of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:8-24 we read of the widow woman, he gave instruction & if she obeyed, she received the miraculous blessing to save her household v22 her son dies because of her obedience, he's brought back to life 2 Kings 4 Elisha this time the Shunammite woman is barren & asks for a son So it's not just prophetic

Jesus gave prophets to the Church, they have all the rights & privileges of the Old Covenant & more We need to recognize days are evil & we need to understand how to join Gods plan of redemption which includes buying back, all the enemy has stolen as a result of sin (Dr Bill Hamon) Eph 5:15

109 times prophet in OT most in Jeremiah 27 in NT mostly refer to Jesus

Surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the Prophets This verses & the verses preceding this verse tell us why we need Prophets & we need to hear what they saying TODAY

WATCHMEN Isaiah 62:6,7 'I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem, they shall never hold their peace day or night You who make mention of the Lord do not keep silent And give Him no rest till He establishes & till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth' Needed men & women called to take up their positions as strategic intercessors & prayer warriors to warn, prepare & declare to His people

There is urgency for prayer against the ungodly world in which we live A desperate cry for our nation & to war the spiritual realm Taking back what the enemy has taken They in essence guard, protecting areas, towns, cities & churches Their job is to keep watch, warn the inhabitants of impending threats

LET'S CLARIFY THE WATCHMANS ROLE

Is to discern coming changes in this season, to awaken the church from apathy & lukewarmness. 1
 to see & prepare His people for end times events & warns of the falling away 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 2 to
 exhort Gods people to live faithfully & be discerning of the anti-Christ spirit, that is influencing our
 society away from the truth of God's Word 1 John 4:4-6 3 to
 To call the Church to intercession To remember God's promises, to pray & not faint Isaiah 62:6,7 4

Prepare laborer's for the coming harvest, to declare the promised harvest, in its abundance John
 4:35 Jesus 'Do not say, there is still four months & then comes the harvest Behold I say to you lift up your
 eyes & look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest' Watchmen see the
 fields are ready & reveal it to the saints

The new testament watchman has a role to keep alert, to awaken, take heed The
 Greek word for watchman is 'gregorea' meaning 'to watch & remain awake'

Mark 13:27 '...he will find you sleeping And what I say to you, I say to all Watch'

ALL WATCHMAN ARE INTERCESSORS BUT NOT ALL INTERCESSORS ARE WATCHMEN

Watchmen - see/hear, obey. pray, watch, declare, decree & prophesy Watchmen
 see warnings, restoration for individuals, churches, communities, cities, regions, provinces, nations They
 function as intercessors, warriors, priests & prophets speaking His voice

Hab 2:1-3 'I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart And I will keep watch to see
 what, He will speak to me And how I may reply, when I am reproved Then the Lord answered me & said
 Record the vision & inscribe it on tablets That one who reads it may run For the vision is for an appointed
 time It hastens towards its goal & it will not fail Though it tarries wait for it For it will certainly come, it
 will not delay'

Write it down, record the facts you have seen & heard Do not add or take away from it
 Run with it – herald it, warn, mobilize in prayer
 Wait for it to take place God fulfilling His will

Watchmen like Chuck Pierce, Bill Hamon, Cindy Jacobs, James Goll, Sheryl Price ‘The weapons & strategies of the Christian watchmen of the Lord are spiritual & beyond the natural realm for they operate in the realm of the supernatural... but God in his infinite wisdom does not have a limited definition of the prophet He is constantly revealing new dimensions of all His gifts The watchmen is simply a different facet of the prophetic ministry’ (Martha Lucia)

Watchmen is mentioned 19 times in OT only once in NT Ezekiel 2:9; 3:17; 33:7 Isaiah 21:6 Jer 6:17 Hab2:1 Micah 7:4 Job 15:22 1 Sam 14:16 2 Sam 13:34; 18:24 John 10:1-10

Watchmen as a hedge of protection protecting it from sheep in wolves clothing & deception

Hebrew words for WATCH Tsaphah
 – lean forward, peer into the distance, to observe, await, behold, look up, keep the watch. Shamar - hedge about (as with thorns) guard, protect, attend to, beware Be circumspect, take heed, keep, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save, sure, (they lay) wait (for) watch Natsar – guard, in a good sense or a bad one (to conceal) besieged, hidden thing, keep, monument, observe, preserve, watcher (man)

TO SUM UP As the watchman peers into the distance, receiving forewarning from God, he speaks forth the word that can bring preservation, change, protection & strategy The words spoken reveal hidden things which God is disclosing so that we the church, the saints, can be victorious overcomers

A SEER ro-eh ‘to see’ This is the ability to draw back the curtain so your able to see what is hidden This could imply sin but not only Revelation of what's coming is more likely Bringing direction, InSite The word ‘seer’ ra’ah means a beholder in vision In Israel the seer was used for those who desired to inquire of God 1 Samuel 9:9 A receiver of divine guidance To bring hope, purpose, life, guidance, to point the way, to direct your course, to give instruction & provide insight

ALL TRUE SEERS ARE PROPHETS BUT NOT ALL PROPHETS ARE SEERS 2

Kings 17:13 Yet the Lord testified against Israel & against Judah by all the prophets ‘nabiy’ & by all the seers ‘chozeth’ 2nd Hebrew word for seer They are not the same Different roles Some like Samuel was a seer before a prophet But this not in every case backing up the theory that not all prophets are seers

Seers are discerners who operate out of the five senses see, taste, hear, smell & feel things

However it is dangerous to operate out of feelings alone

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| THE PROPHET, SEER & WATCHMANS ROLES | | |
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The term 'seer' carries with it some negative connotations, as it implies one who sees WHAT! 1
Samuel 9:9 'Come let us go to the seer for he who is now called a prophet was formally called a seer'
And Samuel answered Saul & said 'I am the seer' A prophet or a seer or both?

1 Chronicles 29:29 the two witnesses Nathan the prophet & Gad the seer Seer
is only mentioned 11 times all in the Old Testament

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