

Luke 4:16-21 | And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

## Christ our Prophet | Advent 2025

We’re spending this Advent looking at Christ in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Last week we established that Christ is our Redeemer. For the remaining three weeks of Advent we’re looking at the offices which Christ performs as our Redeemer. Our outline is in WSC Q 28.

WSC Q 28: What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A: Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Christ is our prophet, our priest, and our king. This is the outline of the next three Sundays beginning with this Sunday where we see how Christ executed the office of the prophet.

WSC Q 29: How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A: Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

The word I want to dial in on in the answer to this catechism is “revealing.” The will of God for our salvation is not something that can be discovered, rather it is something that must be revealed. My wife almost exclusively reads books about British people killing each other. Part of the appeal, I hope... is the longing for revelation. You get to find out whodunnit. We’re living in a time hungry for grand reveals. Is there anything foggier than the truth, and is there anything more ambiguous than the people and documents that are supposed to reveal it? More information than ever, in a perpetual surveillance state, and yet the truth seems blurrier than ever.

“God knows,” we say. And it’s a double confession. Just like when we say I am not the Christ we are doubly confessing that Jesus *is*. And when we say “God knows” we are doubly confessing that we don’t. Christianity is revealed because we know that the truth only and finally belongs to God. If we were to receive the truth itself it must be revealed to us by God. Only the omniscient can know it all from beginning to end, and tell us where we are in it. God only knows. If God only knows, how could we? He must reveal it to us. Those who reveal the word of God are prophets, let’s look at a few.

## 1. Prophets

Exodus 3:1-2 | Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

The Angel of the Lord appears to Moses in the midst of fire in a burning bush whose fire is not consuming the bush. Regular old shepherding day, until God spoke to me from the bush. Moses is called to go rescue God’s people from their captivity in the land of Egypt. You might say his call was to “proclaim liberty to the captives.” Hear Moses’ response.

Exodus 4:1 | Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’”

Exodus 4:10 | But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”

The Lord overcomes both of Moses’ objections and Moses becomes like God to Pharaoh and the Israelites he is meant to rescue as he speaks the very words of God to them. Or consider Isaiah.

Isaiah 6:1-3 | In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Isaiah is taken up in a vision to the throne room of God. The train of God’s robe fills the temple. And above the Lord are the Seraphim, six winged angels of fire, each calling out to another singing a hymn of praise to the holiness and glory of God. Let’s see Isaiah’s response,

Isaiah 6:5 | And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Isaiah's response to the call of God is utter humiliation. He is a prophet who has been proclaiming woes against other nations but here he pronounces a woe against himself. He realizes in the presence of God his own uncleanness in his mouth, the very place a prophet serves the Lord. But God calls him to be a prophet no less.

Isaiah 6:6-7 | Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

It's such a glorious picture of the gracious cleansing of the Lord and the calling to be the prophetic voice of God. After his cleansing Isaiah famously answers the call of God, "Here I am send me!" Jeremiah is another great prophet of the Lord. Here is his call, by now you should guess the pattern.

Jeremiah 1:4-7 | Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,  
<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
 and before you were born I consecrated you;  
 I appointed you a prophet to the nations."  
<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I  
 am only a youth." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me,  
 "Do not say, 'I am only a youth';  
 for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,  
 and whatever I command you, you shall speak."

A true prophet is called directly by God to speak the words that God gives to him. He cleanses and empowers him by the Spirit of God and sends him out to proclaim. The prophet is reticent to receive this office, but the Spirit of the Lord works to set this person apart to the Lord for this work of revealing the truth of God. All three of these, have a direct encounter with God, resist his call, are prepared to obey. Each of them speak the very words of God but in doing so they proclaim someone beyond themselves.

Moses: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen" (Deuteronomy 18:15)

Isaiah: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Jeremiah: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." (Jeremiah 23:5)

## 2. Jesus the Prophet

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus goes to his hometown and his home synagogue and as was his custom he takes for himself the scroll of Isaiah and reads it to the people.

Luke 4:18-21 | “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
 because he has anointed me  
 to proclaim good news to the poor.  
 He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
 and recovering of sight to the blind,  
 to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”  
<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat  
 down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

The reading is the announcement of a prophet. The claim that the Spirit of the Lord is upon me is evidence that he is a prophet. That he has been uniquely anointed by the Lord to proclaim the words of God is evidence of being a prophet. And look at the news itself, it is gloriously good news. The captives are freed. The blind see! The oppressed are free! The year of the Lord’s favor has arrived. He rolls up the scroll and gives it back to the attendant and sits down. Everyone is prepared to hear his sermon. The scripture takes a beat. (The scripture never takes a beat). The eyes of all are fixed upon him.

Luke 4:21 | And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Only Jesus says, “those words are about me.” They are my words and I am him. He is the fulfillment of all the prophecy and he is the true prophet. He is the revelation of God. he is the one who proclaims the very word of God. More than that, he is the word of God. He proclaims the truth of God. He is the truth of God.

And what does he reveal and proclaim, but that he himself is our salvation. All of the prophets have been speaking the words of *His Spirit*. *All the others prophets proclaim him*. The true and final prophet proclaims himself. The red letters are his prophetic voice, and they reveal, all the black letters are too. The people respond how they did with all the other prophets. They try and kill him. Eventually they will be successful. And he will rise on the third day and send his Spirit upon his church so that we might hear the revelation of God.

Hebrews 1:1-3 | Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high