

Resources:

George P. Pardington - *Outline studies in Christian Doctrine*. Pg 248-249

Charles Ryrie - *Basic Theology*. Pg. 292-293

Lewis Sperry Chafer - *Systematic Theology Vol. 4*. Pg. 285-295

John Miles - *Doctrine 2 Notes* - FSB. Pg. 8

What we are going to learn tonight is this:

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS A PROPHET OF GOD WHO PERFECTLY FULFILLED THE OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTION OF THE MIGHTY PROPHET THAT WAS TO COME.

Question #1 What is a prophet?

An English dictionary will tell you that a prophet is one who utters divinely inspired revelation and who foretells future events.

The word "prophet" comes from two Greek words: *Pro* and *Phemi*. *Pro* means before. *Phemi* means to speak. If we put the two words together, we have one who speaks beforehand.

According to the Bible, a prophet is a person who is God's spokesperson. He or she speaks for God. A prophet gives God's revelation to man. A prophet reveals to man what God says.

Exodus 4:10-17. In Exodus 4, we have the development of this office of prophet. This is the first time in the Bible where we learn about how a prophet works. The office of prophet is pictured in the role that Aaron played in being Moses' mouth piece.

The original name for a prophet was a "seer." A seer is a person who can see beyond what others can see. While the original word was "seer," in **1 Samuel 9:9**, we learn that the term "seer" was replaced by the term "prophet."

Question #2 What do prophets do?

There are primarily 2 functions of a prophet.

(Function #1) Teaching

The prophet had *insight* from God in which he is able to teach the truth of God to the people. A word often used to describe a prophet's teaching role is *forthtelling*. He proclaims to the people the truth of God. In the Old Testament, this most often involved calling the nation of Israel to repentance and included calling the nation out on sin that had been committed. A prophet would warn the nation of coming judgment if the nation did not heed the warning and the plea for the people to return back to God.

Ezekiel 2:1-7. This text describes that Ezekiel's role emphasized speaking to the people on behalf of God about their current rebellious condition. This is an example of the teaching function of a prophet as compared with the second function.

(Function #2) Predicting

The prophet had *foresight* from God in which he is able to explain details of the future with accuracy, because his message was coming from the all-knowing (omniscient) God. A word often used to describe a prophet's predictive role is *foretelling*. God would reveal to a prophet information that concerned the future. The prophet did not necessarily understand all the details of the predictive material, but it was his role to record what he was told and time would reveal the details of the prediction.

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18. Daniel was a prophet of God who saw visions of future things, and it was his job to interpret his own dreams and the dreams of the king of Babylon as to what would take place in the future. Daniel was called to predict things that would take place throughout the centuries. He predicted accurately the rise and fall of Alexander the Great, even though Daniel prophesied long before Alexander the Great was born. This is an example of the prediction function of a prophet as compared with the teaching function.

Prophets fulfilled their ministry role by teaching and prediction.

Question #3 - Are there any other distinguishing features of a prophet?

In this question, we are asking, "Are there any other noticeable characteristics of a person that made it obvious he was a prophet?"

There are 2 other unique traits of a prophet worth mentioning.

(Distinguishing Feature #1) Prophets were divinely empowered.

True prophets of God had a unique power behind them that made it obvious to others that he had a power beyond himself. His power was from God. He had a divine power that enabled him to do what finite humans could not do. For example, Moses split the Red Sea in order for the nation to walk on dry land. That is found in **Exodus 14:21**. Moses didn't do that on his own. God did it through Moses. His power was from God. Elijah called for fire to come down from heaven and burn up a sopping wet altar, and fire immediately consumed the entire altar. That event is found in **1 Kings 18:36-38**. Elijah clearly had a power that was from Almighty God, and it was obvious to others.

(Distinguishing Feature #2) Prophets were always right about their predictions.

For a prophet to be a true prophet for God, that prophet needs to be tested and confirmed. The test of a true prophet is found in **Deuteronomy 18:20-22**. Back in the days of Moses, God declared in His Word that any one who comes with the claim that he is a prophet of God can only truly be a prophet if what he says comes true. If what he claims does not come true, the people of God have no need to listen to him because he isn't of God. He is a liar.

The New Testament confirms over and over again that things took place in order to fulfill what was said of an Old Testament prophet (Matthew 12:17).

Question #4 Was Jesus a prophet?

Yes, and I'll give you 4 defenses for our answer.

(Defense #1) Jesus functioned as a teacher of the truth of God and a predictor of the plan of God.

Jesus was able to teach on a level far beyond any Scribe, Pharisee, or teacher of the Law. He taught with authority. No man ever spoke like Him. **Matthew 7:28-29**

(Defense #2) Jesus displayed the miraculous power of God during His ministry.

All through the gospels, you read of Jesus healing people (Luke 4:40). He had command over the demons (Mark 5:1-20). He had command over the weather (Matthew 8:26). He even had command over His own death and resurrection (John 10:18). Jesus' power was a divine power. He did what He did with a supernatural power. His power was of God. One text that connects Jesus' power with Him being a prophet is found in **John 6:14**.

(Defense #3) Jesus' words and predictions have literally come true.

Jesus spoke much about the future. We see that especially in **Matthew 24 and 25**. Although much of what Jesus said in His predictive function as a prophet is still future events, there are still things that Jesus said would happen that came true literally.

Jesus predicted the establishment and continuation of the Church in **Matthew 16:18**.

Jesus predicted a world wide spread of the gospel in **Acts 1:8**.

Jesus said wherever the gospel is preached, a woman would be remembered. **Matthew 26:12-13**.

Jesus predicted that saints of God would be hated in **John 15:19**.

Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection **Matthew 20:18-19**

(Defense #4) The New Testament affirms that Jesus is the prophet that Moses predicted would come.

Peter connected the prediction of Moses concerning a prophet to Jesus. **Acts 3:20-26**.

Question #5 Why was it important that Jesus be a prophet?

I'll give you 3 reasons for the importance of Jesus being a prophet.

(Reason #1) Jesus needed to be a prophet because Moses predicted that the person Israel needed to listen to one day would be a prophet.

Deuteronomy 18:15-18. Moses, a prophet of God, spoke of a particular prophet of God that was to come. This prophet that Moses spoke up has been understood as also being the Messiah to come. If Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, He needed to be a prophet because He needed to speak on behalf of God and be God's mouthpiece to the world.

(Reason #2) Jesus needed to be a prophet because He claimed to be a prophet.

If He claimed to be a prophet, He needed to truly be one in order to authenticate His claim. Jesus directly said that His words were from God in **John 12:49-50**. He also called Himself a prophet. It is recorded in **Matthew 13:57**, **Mark 6:4**, and **Luke 4:24** when He said that, "no prophet is acceptable in his hometown."

(Reason #3) Jesus needed to be a prophet if He was truly going to be God's revelation to man.

A prophet revealed God's word and God's will to mankind. While prophets reveal God's word, will, and plan to man, Jesus is God's revelation of God to man. **John 1:18** teaches that Jesus is the revealer of God to man. He is the ultimate prophet. He has made God physically manifest to the world, so much so that Jesus said to Phillip in **John 14:9** that, "if you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father." Jesus needed to be a prophet if He was going to reveal God to man.

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