

# “Especially Prophecy”

## *Part 5: Use Bible Verses!*

(preached 2/20/21)

Please turn to *2 Peter 1*.

### **Sermon #1: Let's Report What God is Saying.**

- We're God's media, so let's report what God is saying and doing: we report and the hearers decide.
- Let's crucify any personal desires, biases, and limited perceptions and share only what God is showing and telling us, should we pursue the prophetic gifts.

### **Sermon #2: Two & Three Witnesses.**

- Whether hearing or giving a word of knowledge, wisdom, prophecy, or interpretation of tongues, let's seek out 2 or 3 confirming witnesses who have received the same from God. It's Body ministry.

### **Sermon #3: Fear of the Lord is the Beginning....**

- Translates to “terrifying moral reverence.”
- We can have the peace, love, and joy of Father God at the same time we hold Him in terrifying moral reverence—they're not exclusive to each other.
- To unbelievers God is a Judge Who punishes them according to His Law to satisfy justice.
- To believers God is a Father Who disciplines His kids for the sake of their holy character. Jesus paid the price for all justice on our behalf.
- Instead of risking the taking of His name in vain by saying “thus says God” when we prophesy, let's come before each other in humility with words like “I believe God told me” or “I think God showed me.”
- By doing so we're showing proper deference to Father and submitting respect to each other.

### **Sermon #4: Prophecy According to Your Faith**

- Faith is measurable and we don't all have the same amount: small, moderate, and large.
- The mustard seed needs to be planted, nurtured, and grow into a mighty tree before we speak so as to remove mountains.
- Small faith yields small results, big faith yields big results.
- Thus let's prophesy within the amount of faith God has given, and not above.
- Level 1: Personal Prophecy for me.
- Level 2: Personal Prophecy for others.
- Level 3: Group/Regional Prophecy.
- Level 4: Nationwide/Worldwide Prophecy.

- Prophecy is meant to be heard by God and human listeners. (The dry bones Ezekiel spoke to was the people Israel and not actual skeletons.) Prophesying whilst alone and then never sharing it with a potential human witness is useless.
- Error happens when we try and prophesy above our measurement of faith.
- GOOD NEWS: we can ask for more faith! We are encouraged to!

**TODAY: the most effective and accurate prophesying comes when it connects to verses of Scripture.** In Peter's second letter to his church, he reminds them that they're now part of the divine nature of Jesus Christ and have been given all things that pertain to godliness and faith. Peter knows his time in this world is almost over, as Jesus prophesied to him, and he encourages his disciples that they too will receive the same glorious resurrection from the dead someday! Immediately after this encouraging reminder, and in reference to the OT Scriptures, Peter goes on to say:

## **2 Peter 1:16-21 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

<sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"

<sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

<sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**Verses 16-18:** Peter is referring to himself, John, and James witnessing Jesus amazing transfiguration into His glorious Revelation 19 Lion of Judah form!

**DILEMMA?** It's likely Peter's disciples trusted and believed him, but they only have his testimony that he saw all these things and heard the audible voice of Father God. So now look where Peter directs them in verse 19: to "the prophetic word more fully confirmed." He tells them that **\*\*they\*\*** need to pay good attention to said word, because they didn't see what Peter saw. Since they didn't have the honor of watching Jesus go from Son of Man to King of kings, they must operate by faith....

**ADDITIONAL WITNESS.** Peter is careful: he's **\*\*not\*\*** merely saying: "trust me people! I saw it and you can take that to the bank!" He assuring them they have a faith-based confirming witness through a prophetic word.

WHAT'S THE WORD? What is this mysterious prophetic word Peter is talking about? He tells us in the middle of verse 19: “as a lamp shining into a dark place.”

### **Psalm 119:105 (ESV)**

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

THE BIBLE! The confirming prophetic word Peter is referring to is the OT Scriptures which is confirmed in the next two verses where he states:

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

<sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

CLARIFYING THE BIBLE. Let's talk about the Bible and the prophecies contained therein—both OT and NT—for just a moment so that we may *properly test and vet anything we receive or hear*.

***All the prophecies written in the Scripture fulfill 2 Timothy 3:16 being God breathed and Holy Spirit inspired—absolute truth established by the Lord from the beginning of time to the end.***

**There will be no more prophecies, doctrine, or theology that is on the same level. The Bible cannot be added to or taken away from.**

FEAR GOD. To go back to my “fear of the Lord” sermon, this is another reason why I'm greatly hesitant to declare “thus says God” whenever I prophesy... **I don't want anyone believing that my prophecy is equal to or changes the Scriptures in any way.**

ASKING? You might be asking “*what's the point of prophesying then? If the revelation of the Bible is complete and can't be added to/taken away from, why bother with words of wisdom, knowledge, & prophecy? Why can't we just read the Bible and get everything from there?*”

PARTNER WITH HOLY SPIRIT. God's Word is living and active...it's not just written words on a page. *It takes the Holy Spirit to be our Divine Teacher and give us revelation that delves deeper than an intellectual understanding or memorization.*

**The wisdom in the Bible is like an onion that needs to be peeled—which the outer layer is still true, the deepest layer contains much more flavor and richness.**

***As the Lord deepens our understanding, He will miraculously apply verses to our lives, those of others, groups of people, or an entire nation.***

YOU. Perhaps you've cried out to Him in moment of great sadness and loss, and this verse jumps to your mind:

**Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

OTHERS. God has given you a word for someone else at church and you don't know why, but He brought you to this verse:

**Isaiah 43:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins."

Suddenly that person breaks down and admits they were feeling condemned, thinking God was disappointed or even hated them. You read their mail! The Lord spoke His Word through you and yes, it was a word of knowledge.

GROUP/REGION. Reading through Revelation 2 you come across the following verse:

**Revelation 2:9-10 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

YOUR CHURCH. After reading this, the Holy Spirit reveals it applies to your church who was on the receiving end of unjust slander by another group of "believers." You believe the Lord is prophesying that further persecution is coming and that He's encouraging the congregation to hold fast to the truth!

NATIONAL. Last September our church took part in "The Return" with Jonathan Cahn and, when I listened to his sermon that culminated in him breaking the potter's vessel, I believed and still believe the Lord was prophesying through Rabbi Cahn to our entire nation. Even to our leaders, all the way to the top! In that sermon Cahn quoted verses directly on many occasions and also compared our current situation to the days of Jeremiah. The comparisons were so timely and pointed I was getting chills!

**OUT LOUD.** God's written word is meant to be spoken out loud. In the Jewish faith since the days of Moses, for example, when they gathered the Torah is read out loud...every time. In Luke 4 Jesus is attending synagogue and what does the rabbi do? He gives Jesus the scroll of Isaiah to read out loud.

**SWORD.** God's written word declared with the human tongue is the famous Sword of the Spirit in Ephesians 6. Just as Father spoke all of creation into being in Genesis 1, when you and I speak His word out loud it binds and releases that which is in Heaven to be bound and released on earth.

**Prophecy is far more accurate and effective when the HS leads us to verses of the Bible.**

**GUIDELINES.**

- Any word of prophecy, wisdom, or knowledge that contradicts, adds to, subtracts from, or changes the Scriptures is not from God and should be ignored.
- Think of Bible verses like bullets in an ammo belt—the Holy Ghost will use whatever we have to prophesy with.
- We can add bullets to our ammo belt by reading, studying, and meditating on the Bible more!
- The Lord will help us peel back the onion layers to go deeper.
- Prophecy from the Scriptures.

**RELATIONSHIP.** Father God desires a relationship with us, and even though the Bible represents God's complete word, He wants us to know Him. If my wife were to write a complete book about herself including her history, plans for the future, and what's she's like she would be pleased to see me reading it! At the same time, how would she feel if I ignored HER and only read her book? There would be a disconnect in our marriage, yes?

**TALKING TO US.** Seeking words of knowledge, prophecy, and wisdom is to hear God's voice...He's talking to us. He wants us to read our Bibles, but to do so with HIM. We neither ignore God to read the Bible, nor do we ignore the Bible to hear and speak to God. God is Spirit and part of us is physical. The Scriptures act as something here on earth that helps us to get to know Jesus better so that we can connect with Him in the spirit—in our hearts—better.

**DAD & I IN RECLINER.** As a child I used to sit with my dad in his brown recliner and he would read to me...that was far superior than him just handing me the book, telling me to read it, while he goes and does his own thing.

**LIVING AND ACTIVE.** When you and I are truly meditating on the Bible, we're seated in the heavenly places next to Father while He reads to us! He makes the words come alive and be active in our lives! We can read the same Psalm 99 times and, for whatever reason, the 100<sup>th</sup> time is a BOOM moment and we get it! It renews our minds, refreshes our hearts, and feeds our spirits! It transforms us from glory to glory and we can't believe we never saw it before!!!

**NOT LIMITED.** We're not "limited" by the revelations God has for us in Scripture, we're freed by it! I've been an ardent student of the Bible for years now and He continues to blow me away with something new and fresh all the time!

**UPPER ROOM.** I end with this: after the Ascension of Christ to Heaven, the 120 disciples were in the upper room for 10 days when there was the sound of a rushing mighty wind, cloven tongues of fire, and the works. They were completely immersed in the Holy Spirit, burning with the holy fire for God! They burst out of the upper room and because it was the Feast of Pentecost, thousands of people were gathered there.

**FIRST THING WAS...?** They could have started laying hands on to heal, but they didn't. They might have started casting out demons, but didn't. They could have rebuked the priests and Pharisees, but didn't. Bold Peter stepped forward and prophesied to the entire crowd...what did he say?

**PETER'S SERMON.** He was filled with the Spirit, likely more so than at any other time in his life! What words of conviction, truth, and inspiration came out of his mouth? He quoted directly from the Bible:

**Acts 2:14-21 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

<sup>15</sup> For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

<sup>16</sup> But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

<sup>20</sup> the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Now that he has their attention, he goes on:

### **Acts 2:22-28 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—

<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

<sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

<sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him, “‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

PROPHESED FROM BIBLE. The Holy Spirit burning within Peter led him to quote the Bible. We started today with Peter and ended with him, in reverse order. I began by quoting one of his last writings before he would be crucified upside down in Rome and die. In the beginning of his ministry and at the end, Peter pointed everyone to the Scriptures.

Let’s read, learn, and meditate on God’s written word and add more ammo to our belts! Our lives and those we minister to will be far greater!