

DIVINE

PLACEMENT

advocate

corrector

reformer

cause-driven

questioning

challenging

PROPHETIC

passionate

principled

justice-minded

loyalist

truth-teller

EPHESIANS 4:7-14

⁷ BUT GRACE WAS GIVEN TO EACH ONE OF US ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF CHRIST'S GIFT. ⁸ THEREFORE IT SAYS, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH HE LED A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." ⁹ (IN SAYING, "HE ASCENDED," WHAT DOES IT MEAN BUT THAT HE HAD ALSO DESCENDED INTO THE LOWER REGIONS, THE EARTH? ¹⁰ HE WHO DESCENDED IS THE ONE WHO ALSO ASCENDED FAR ABOVE ALL THE HEAVENS, THAT HE MIGHT FILL ALL THINGS.) ¹¹ AND HE GAVE THE APOSTLES, THE PROPHETS, THE EVANGELISTS, THE SHEPHERDS AND TEACHERS, ¹² TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST,

EPHESIANS 4:7-14

¹³ UNTIL WE ALL ATTAIN TO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, TO MATURE MANHOOD, TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST, ¹⁴ SO THAT WE MAY NO LONGER BE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO BY THE WAVES AND CARRIED ABOUT BY EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY HUMAN CUNNING, BY CRAFTINESS IN DECEITFUL SCHEMES.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPHET

- **QUESTIONS WHAT HAS BECOME NARRATIVE IN CHURCH LIFE AND THE BROADER CULTURE**
- **AGITATES FOR POSITIVE CHANGE**
- **DISCERNS THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE AND SPEAKS A NECESSARY, AND OFTEN NEEDED CORRECTIVE WORD TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD**
- **THE PROPHETIC WORD IS OFTEN OF AN URGENT NATURE, EMPHASIZING WHAT IS NEEDED TO HAPPEN OR CHANGE “NOW”**

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPHET

- IS DEEPLY COMPASSIONATE BUT DESIRES ALL MEN TO HEED GOD'S WORD AND APPROPRIATELY RESPOND
- MAY SOMETIMES USE DRAMATIC COMMUNICATIVE METHODS TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS IN A VERBAL AND NON-VERBAL MANNER

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ACTS 11:23-30

²³ WHEN HE CAME AND SAW THE GRACE OF GOD, HE WAS GLAD, AND HE EXHORTED THEM ALL TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE LORD WITH STEADFAST PURPOSE, ²⁴ FOR HE WAS A GOOD MAN, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND OF FAITH. AND A GREAT MANY PEOPLE WERE ADDED TO THE LORD. ²⁵ SO BARNABAS WENT TO TARSUS TO LOOK FOR SAUL, ²⁶ AND WHEN HE HAD FOUND HIM, HE BROUGHT HIM TO ANTIOCH. FOR A WHOLE YEAR THEY MET WITH THE CHURCH AND TAUGHT A GREAT MANY PEOPLE. AND IN ANTIOCH THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED CHRISTIANS. ²⁷ NOW IN THESE DAYS PROPHETS CAME DOWN FROM JERUSALEM TO ANTIOCH.

ACTS 11:23-30

²⁸ AND ONE OF THEM NAMED AGABUS STOOD UP AND FORETOLD BY THE SPIRIT THAT THERE WOULD BE A GREAT FAMINE OVER ALL THE WORLD (THIS TOOK PLACE IN THE DAYS OF CLAUDIUS). ²⁹ SO THE DISCIPLES DETERMINED, EVERY ONE ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY, TO SEND RELIEF TO THE BROTHERS LIVING IN JUDEA. ³⁰ AND THEY DID SO, SENDING IT TO THE ELDERS BY THE HAND OF BARNABAS AND SAUL.

ACTS 13:1-3

¹ NOW THERE WERE IN THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH PROPHETS AND TEACHERS, BARNABAS, SIMEON WHO WAS CALLED NIGER, LUCIUS OF CYRENE, MANAEN A LIFELONG FRIEND OF HEROD THE TETRARCH, AND SAUL. ² WHILE THEY WERE WORSHIPING THE LORD AND FASTING, THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID, "SET APART FOR ME BARNABAS AND SAUL FOR THE WORK TO WHICH I HAVE CALLED THEM." ³ THEN AFTER FASTING AND PRAYING THEY LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM AND SENT THEM OFF.

ACTS 15:30-35

³⁰ SO WHEN THEY WERE SENT OFF, THEY WENT DOWN TO ANTIOCH, AND HAVING GATHERED THE CONGREGATION TOGETHER, THEY DELIVERED THE LETTER. ³¹ AND WHEN THEY HAD READ IT, THEY REJOICED BECAUSE OF ITS ENCOURAGEMENT. ³² AND JUDAS AND SILAS, WHO WERE THEMSELVES PROPHETS, ENCOURAGED AND STRENGTHENED THE BROTHERS WITH MANY WORDS. ³³ AND AFTER THEY HAD SPENT SOME TIME, THEY WERE SENT OFF IN PEACE BY THE BROTHERS TO THOSE WHO HAD SENT THEM. ³⁵ BUT PAUL AND BARNABAS REMAINED IN ANTIOCH, TEACHING AND PREACHING THE WORD OF THE LORD, WITH MANY OTHERS ALSO.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROPHETIC

- **SOME WORDS FROM A PROPHET MAY LEAD US TO HASTY CONCLUSIONS (SEE ACTS 21:7-13; CF. ACTS 20:22-23)**
- **THE SPIRIT OF A PROPHET IS SUBJECT TO THE PROPHET (1 COR. 14:32) AND IS NOT TO BE SEEN AS BEING OUT OF CONTROL WITH ONE'S ACTIONS OR BECOMING CYNICAL WITH ONE'S WORDS**

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROPHETIC

- **THE WORDS OF A PROPHET SHOULD CALL PEOPLE BACK TO GOD AND NOT FURTHER ONE'S OWN MINISTRY; GOD'S LOVE OF PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO BE SEEN IN THE MOTIVE OF THE PROPHET; DISTANCING ONESELF FROM THE CHURCH WILL LESSEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPHETIC VOICE BEING HEARD IN A MANNER THAT WILL PRODUCE FRUIT IN THE LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE**



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