

MINISTRY OF THE PROPHET

Part 7

I. SECOND OF FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

- A. Not just confined to Old Testament
- B. Modern day defined as inspired preaching
- C. Two words to help understand nature of prophecy
 - 1. Raba - to bubble up, to gush forth or to pour forth
 - a. Occurs over 400 times in OT
 - b. Emphasizes ecstatic nature of prophetic word
 - 2. Nataf - to drop, to fall as drops of rain
 - a. Emphasis on divine origin of prophecy
- D. Propheteuo (Greek) - NT word means "to say or speak forth or fore"
 - 1. Forthtelling - speaking for message
 - 2. Foretelling - declaring beforehand something that will surely come to pass
- E. Comparison of prophet and priest

II. ORIGIN OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY

- A. Old Testament
 - 1. Abel, Enoch, Noah
 - 2. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
 - 3. Moses, Miriam, Aaron
 - 4. Samuel
- B. Prophet a continuing ministry in Church
 - 1. Prophets in Antioch - Acts 13:1
 - 2. Prophets from Jerusalem - Acts 11:27
 - 3. Judas and Silas - Acts 15:32
 - 4. Agabus - Acts 21:10
 - 5. Anna - Luke 2:36
 - 6. Philip's daughters
 - 7. In Body until...

III. LEVELS OF PROPHECY

- A. The Spirit of Prophecy
 - 1. Special anointing on special occasion
 - 2. Saul and school of the prophets
- B. The Gift of Prophecy
 - 1. Edification
 - 2. Exhortation
 - 3. Comfort
- C. Ministry of Prophet (Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:29; Rom. 12:6)
 - 1. Revelation
 - a. Revelation and insight into God's Word
 - b. Revelation of facts and information about people's lives

- c. Sins and problems
- 2. Exhortation
- 3. Warning
 - a. Acts 21:8-11
 - b. Acts 11:27-30
- 4. Impartation of Vision
 - a. Prov. 29:18
 - b. Jer. 14:14
 - c. Jer. 23:6
- 5. Grounding and establishing churches
 - a. Eph. 2:20
 - b. Eph. 3:5
 - c. Confirmation of Churches - Acts 15:32, 41
 - d. Sending out of ministries - Acts 13:1-3

IV. MESSAGE OF PROPHET

- A. Predictive - that is, speaking of events in the future
- B. Directive -that is not just a Bible teacher in general, but giving specific directions to specific people under a particular circumstance
- C. Corrective - when needed, speaking against sin, rebellion, backsliding, false doctrine

V. THREE SPIRITS INVOLVED IN PROPHECY

- A. Human Spirit
 - 1. Jer. 23:16 "*...they speak a vision of their own heart and not out of the mouth of the Lord.*"
 - 2. Verse 17 - "*...walketh after the imagination of his own heart...*"
 - 3. Verse 26 - "*Yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart*"
 - 4. Ezek. 13:2 - "*Prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts...*"
 - 5. Ezek. 13:17 - "*...set thy face against the daughters of thy people which prophesy out of their own heart...*"
- B. Satanic Spirit
 - 1. Saved and deluded
 - 2. Unsaved, controlled and used of evil spirits
 - 3. I Tim. 4:1-2 - "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devil. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.*"
- C. Holy Spirit

VI. JUDGING PROPHECY - I COR. 14:29

- A. Test of truth
- B. Test of greed
- C. Test of fruit
- D. Test of love

VII. QUESTIONS TO ASK

- A. Is it in harmony with God's Word?
- B. is it given in a good spirit? (Rom. 8:34)
- C. Do words come to pass? (Deut. 18:22)
- D. Does lifestyle reflect godliness? (Jer. 23:15-16)
- E. Does the Holy Spirit within bear witness to the truth? (I Jn. 2:20-21)
- F. Has this been confirmed in the mouth of two or three witnesses?
(II Cor. 13:1)