

These Perilous Times

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Prophecy, and the Prophetic Gift

{Remedial Study}

Part I

Prophets and the prophetic gift, and the substantiation of what constitutes a true Bible-based prophet of God has always caused controversy among Christians of all denominations; especially concerning last day prophets!

Today even among God's remnant people some are questioning the validity of the prophetic gift that God has blessed His last-day church with!

After prayerful consideration because of disbelief, and dissent concerning the prophetic office, the next few issues of "These Perilous Times" will look into the **functionality** and Bible criteria for prophets, and the prophetic Gift in God's remnant church.

Old Testament Prophets

To ensure that God's chosen people of antiquity wouldn't fall into the perverted practices of the heathen nations around them that they would come in contact with, our Loving God chose spokesmen and women to convey His divine messages.

Words from God to His Servant Moses

“When thou art come into the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the *abominations* of those nations... For all who do these things are *an abomination unto the Lord* and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out before thee... Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God... The Lord thy God will raise unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken... I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put *My words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.* And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall not hearken unto

my words which he shall speak in My name, I will require it of him. But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.”

Deuteronomy 18:9-20

A Prophetic Message to King Jehoshaphat

“Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, was distressed. Enemy troops were closing in, and the outlook seemed hopeless. “And Jehoshaphat... set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah,” {II Chron. 20:3, 6}. The people began streaming to the Temple to beg mercy and deliverance of God.

As Jehoshaphat led out in the prayer service, he called upon God to change the circumstances. He prayed, “Are you not **God in heaven**, and do you not **rule over all the kingdoms of the nations**, and in **Your hand is there not power and might**, so no one is able to **withstand You?**” Hadn’t God specially protected

His own in the past? Hadn't He given this land to His chosen people?

Jehoshaphat pleaded , "O our God will You not judge them? For we have no power... nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You, {verse 12}." As all Judah stood before the Lord, one Jahaziel arose. His message brought courage and direction to the fearful people.

He said , "Do not be afraid... for the battle is not yours but God's... You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, ... for the Lord is with you," {Verses 15-17}. In the morning King Jehoshaphat told his troops to "Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe the prophets, and you shall prosper." {verse 20}.

So fully did this king believe that little known prophet, Jahaziel, that he replaced his front-line troops with a choir singing praise to the Lord and the beauty of holiness. As the anthems of faith filled the air, the Lord was at work bringing confusion among the armies allied against Judah. The slaughter was

so great that no one... escaped, “ {Verse 24}.
Jahaziel was God’s mouthpiece for that special time,
¹ {Emphasis provided}.

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

It should be no surprise to God’s remnant people that when God raises up a true prophet for special times, Satan always directs his counterfeit prophets to try to counteract the work of God’s true prophets by stirring up doubt, and disbelief! ²

No need to worry!

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals
His secrets unto His servants the prophets.” Amos

3:7

¹ Seventh-day Adventist Believe, Chapter 17, “*The Gift of Prophecy*,” Hardback Copy, 1988, p. 217.

² Matthew 24:3-5; 11, 24; I John 4:1-3; See also Prophecy of Hope, Lesson # 24; Amazing Facts Lesson # 24; Encounter with the Apocalypse, Text Guide # XXIII, “Prophets of the Last Days.”

When God's people remain faithful; according, to "His" Holy Word He usually doesn't raise up prophets, seers or prophetesses to guide His church, however when He has a special message or revelation, i.e., Present Truth, for a specific time period, or a change of plans, the Lord God gives His messages to His servants the prophets to convey His plans.

A Message from an Isle in the Aegean Sea

John the beloved, while a political prisoner of Rome on the isle of Patmos, {around AD 90-95} was given an urgent message from God to deliver to the seven churches of Asia Minor, {now western Turkey}, concerning their spiritual condition, {from John's time to Christ's second coming} and the changes that needed to be made to ensure their salvation. ³

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto him, to shew unto His servants things which

³ Revelation, Chapters 1-3.

must *shortly come to pass*, and he sent and signified
it by his angel unto his servant John. Who *bare*
record of the word of God and *the testimony of*
Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.”

Revelation 1:1, 2

To be continued

