

NO MORE PROPHETS

Jehovah spoke through Moses promising Israel, “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.” (Deuteronomy 18:18-19) Jesus Christ is that prophet, who fulfilled God’s promise. He claimed, “The Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.” (John 12:49-50) The apostle Peter later preached that Christ fulfilled all “those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets,” applying to Jesus what Moses had said about God raising up a prophet like him (Acts 3:18, 22).

Joel prophesied that God would pour out His Spirit on man, and sons and daughters would prophesy (Joel 2:28). Peter explained that this prophecy began to be fulfilled when the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered them to preach the gospel of Christ in different languages (Acts 2:4, 16). The Holy Spirit also distributed various spiritual gifts to different Christians (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11). One such gift was prophecy. In the first century true prophets of the Lord along with His apostles filled a significant role in laying the foundation of the Lord’s church and making known the mystery of Christ through the gospel (Ephesians 2:20; 3:5). The Holy Spirit guided them “into all truth” (John 16:13). God ordained the work and teaching of the apostles and prophets of Christ as necessary components “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

All who claimed to be prophets in the first century were not prophets of the Lord. Peter warned, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring destructive heresies” (2 Peter 2:1) Therefore, the apostle John instructed Christians, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

Are there any modern prophets of God? What about different religions and faiths that claim to have God-inspired prophets after the completion of the New Testament? Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth (John 16:13). Peter wrote in his second epistle that “divine power” had given them “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). By the Spirit the apostle penned these words because he had been guided into all truth. There is no new truth outside of the gospel of Christ. Paul wrote, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you that what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8).

The work of prophets was essential in the revelation of the gospel of Christ. “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). The same Spirit revealed through the apostle Paul that prophecies would cease and be done away (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). With the revelation of God’s power to save and the completion of the God-inspired New

Testament, there is no need any longer for more prophets. Modern prophets speak presumptuously contrary to God's word. The word of grace that is able to save and able to give an inheritance among the sanctified is complete. God speaks no more through prophets today.