

Acts, Part 11

The Office of the Prophet

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 7/8/20

Text: Eph. 4:8, 11; Acts 13:1

Introduction Summary

In this study, we will learn about the offices of the prophet and teacher. There is a lot of misunderstanding about the office of the prophet, in particular. Many people's lives have been ruined because they listened to a, so called, prophet. We do not want to be deceived in these last days. Therefore, using God's Word as our standard, this lesson will help us to know how to recognize a true prophet from a biblical standpoint.

- I. **Acts 13:1:** There were prophets or prophet/teachers.
 - A. 1 Cor. 12:27-28: God set these gifts in the church.
 - B. Eph. 4:8: These people are specially anointed to do their job.

- II. There is a difference between the Old and New Testament prophets.
 - A. The Old Testament prophets were not born again.
 - B. They don't have the same status.
 - C. The Old Testament prophet was the only ministry in operation from the standpoint of divine preaching and teaching (Eph. 4:11).
 - D. Old Testament only the prophet, priest and king were specially anointed.
 - E. In the New Testament every believer is to follow the Holy Spirit for himself.
 - F. This wasn't true under the Old Testament (Rom. 8:14).
 - G. Under the Old Testament there was a sacrificial system for worship because God was dealing with spiritually dead people. New Testament believers can and be led by the Spirit.
 - H. In the Old Testament only the prophet, priest and king were anointed.
 1. Kings were not anointed to preach.
 2. The priest was anointed but they were not preachers.
 3. The prophet was the only one who could speak for God as inspired by the Holy Ghost with certain exceptions (Judges 6:36-40).

- III. The Old Testament the people had to go to the prophet for guidance.
- IV. In the New Testament every believer is guided by the Holy Spirit within them.
- V. Our covenant is stronger, because the Holy Ghost is in us (Heb. 8:6).
- VI. New Testament all believers are made kings and priests (1 Pet. 2:9, Rev. 1:5-6).

- VII. Old Testament and New Testament prophets have some similarities.
 - A. They are seers; they see into the spirit realm and know things supernaturally by the gifts that reveal something (1 Cor. 12:8-10).
 - B. In the Old Testament they had the schools of the prophet. Today there is basic ministry training for all five offices. One is not higher than another.

- VIII. New Testament a prophet is a preacher or teacher of the Word. Jesus taught first, then preached then healed (Mat 9:35; Hos. 4:6).
 - A. Prophesying and giving personal messages is not the main thrust.
 - B. Prophecy means 'to speak for another.' Prophets are inspired to speak under the unction of the Holy Spirit.
 - C. Prophets don't know everything (2 Kings 5:20-27). But, you never know when the Spirit of God has told them.

- IX. At the end of days there will be many false prophets that deceive (Mark 13:22).
- X. A person that stands in the prophet's office, must not be novice (1 Tim 3:6).
- XI. Christians must find their place. Get in it. Stay in it and have faith to finish it.
- XII. By taking time to pray and find out my calling, it changed the course of my family's life.

- XIII. **Acts 13:1:** There were teachers at Antioch (Eph. 4:11).
 - A. The teacher ministry gift is someone with a special anointing to give information. It's an anointing to explain rather than proclaim.
 - B. Apollos was called to be a teacher (Acts 18:24-25; 1 Cor. 3:4-6).
 - C. Paul was an apostle and teacher.

- XIV. Giving opened doors for Barnabas (Acts 4:37).

- XV. You minister to the Lord when you obey Him (Eph. 5:16-19; Pro. 19:17). God is moved by your prayers, your *songs of praise and worship* and your giving. *God inhabits your praise!*

- XVI. When my daughter was five years old, she knew what her daddy told her was the truth. When someone came and said otherwise, she said, "That's not what my daddy said!" I was moved by that. So when sickness and disease, lack and all the devil's lies say you have to die or you have to be broke. You can say, "No way! That's not what my Daddy said!" God is pleased with that!

Closing Summary

Because God has given us His holy written Word, we do not have to be deceived in these last days. He has laid it all out in the open for us to learn from the five-fold ministry gifts. The Bible clearly reveals the purpose of these gifts so that the church can become mature and be a body unified in Christ Jesus.