

The Prophet

I. Jesus is our prophet

- Longed for in the OT:
 - Deut 18:15, 18: “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ... [now YHWH is speaking] And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”
 - Isa 49:6: “It is too light a thing that you [the servant] should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
 - Isa 61:1: “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...”
- Identified as such in ...
 - John 4:25: the Messiah will “declare all things to us”
 - John 18:37: “For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.”
 - Luke 13:33: (speaking of himself) “it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.”
 - Acts 3:22, 26: Peter quotes Deut 18:15, 18, and then says about Jesus, “God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”
 - Rev 1:5: Jesus is “the faithful witness”; 3:14: “the faithful and true witness”
 - Also: Luke 2:32 (quoting Isa 49:6); Luke 4:18 (quoting Isa 61:1)

II. What Jesus does as our prophet

- Represents God authoritatively to the people
 - Is a faithful transmitter of revelation. “What I hear, I speak.”
 - John 8:26–28; 12:49–50; 14:10, 24; 15:15; 17:8, 20
 - Vs. the false prophets in Jer 23:21: “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.”
 - Reveals God to us in a whole new way.
 - John 1:18: “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”
 - John 14:9: “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”
 - Prophets were always about “the man is the message”; Jesus takes this to a whole new level.
 - He actually *is* the word of God:
 - John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
 - Rev 19:13: “the name by which he is called is The Word of God.”
- Declares God’s judgment:
 - Covenant lawyer who demonstrates sin and pronounces judgment
 - Matt 23 (7x): “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”
 - Matt 24–25 (and parallels): the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

- Calls people to repentance
 - Matt 4:17: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- Is rejected and endures unjust suffering:
 - Mark 12:1–12: the wicked tenants reject the whole stream of prophets, culminating in their rejection of the son and heir.
 - See also: Matt 23:37; Luke 13:34
- Yet he prays for the people
 - Luke 23:34: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
 - See also: John 17
- Imparts hope:
 - Mediates a new and better Covenant: Luke 22:20
 - Gives light in people’s darkness:
 - John 1:9: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.”
 - John 8:12: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
 - See also: Matt 4:16; Luke 1:79
 - Shows the good end of history before it happens: Rev 21–22

III. More than a prophet

- He’s “greater than Jonah” (Matt 12:41); greater than John the Baptist (John 5:36)
- He’s greater than Moses: Matt 5 (5x): “You have heard that it was said ... But I say ...”
 - Matt 7:28–29: “And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”
 - Jesus appears with Moses and Elijah, but God says, “This is my Son. Listen to him!” (Luke 9:30–35)
- “A Son”: Heb 1:1–2: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”
 - Vs. “my servants the prophets” (Jer 7:25; Heb 3:5–6)

IV. Implications

- Woe to any who neglect so great a prophet! (Heb 2:1–4)
- Jesus as the prophet who explains all the other prophets to us (Luke 24:27)
 - He has given the authoritative final word on these prophets’ message. Indeed, it was *his Spirit* who inspired the prophets! (1 Pet 1:10–12)
 - Therefore we must interpret the whole OT in light of the New.