

November 6, 2011

“The Spirit’s Role in Prophecy...”

1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:19-21

One thing which is abundantly clear in Scripture is that our God is a Communicator! Nowhere is this more clear than the first chapter of John where we read about God’s own Son, Jesus Christ; described as the WORD made flesh – John 1:1 & 14. Yet, as much as Jesus is “the WORD” the Holy Spirit is the power behind the giving of God’s COMMUNICATION / KNOWLEDGE / PROPHECY!

I. Let us rightly understand Old Testament Prophecy – for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21 NKJ)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16 NKJ)

What is prophecy? How was it given?

1. Moses was a prophet, a writer of God’s Word – But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, (Deuteronomy 34:10 NKJ)

- A. God spoke to him “face to face” not with dreams or visions –*
- B. He wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*
- C. All of the OT and even Scripture in general (the NT) is in a broad sense prophecy, given by inspiration of God – 1 Timothy 3:16, meaning the Holy Spirit is the ultimate Author of All Scripture!*

2. There were many other prophets, consider how their prophecies came, no true prophecy came but by the Holy Spirit –

²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21 NKJ)

A. Joseph and Daniel had and interpreted dreams –

*So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find *such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?*” ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, *there is no one as discerning and wise as you.* (Genesis 41:37-39 NKJ)*

⁸ But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying:

⁹ “Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.

(Dan 4:8-9 NKJ)

B. Ezekiel was carried from place to place by God’s Spirit –
NKJ Ezekiel 11:1 Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the East Gate of the LORD’S house, which faces eastward; and there at the door of the gate were twenty-five men, ..., princes of the people.

² And He said to me: “Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and give wicked counsel in this city, ...”

⁴ “Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man!”

⁵ Then the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said to me, “Speak! Thus says the LORD: ... (Eze 11:1-5 NKJ)

²⁴ Then the Spirit took me up and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to those in captivity. And the vision that I had seen went up from me.

²⁵ So I spoke to those in captivity of all the things the LORD had shown me. (Eze 11:24-25 NKJ)

C. Zechariah was given wonderful visions by the Spirit of God – So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6 NKJ)

D. Balaam a false prophet was forced to bless God’s people by the Holy Spirit -

And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him. (Numbers 24:2 NKJ) ...

“He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?” “Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you.” (Numbers 24:9 NKJ)

II. What were, what are, the important themes of Old Testament prophecy?

1. Salvation, Christ, His cross and His coming –

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating

when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things which angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:10-12 NKJ)

A. *Salvation was a clear theme – 1 Peter 1:10*

B. *The Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of Christ” because He has always taught, prophesied and made / makes Christ KNOWN –*

Note How verse :11 fits with Jesus’ teaching about the Spirit -

,¹¹ *searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*

¹³ *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

¹⁴ *“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
(Joh 16:13-14 NKJ)*

C. *Note Christ’s sufferings are part of that prophecy as is obvious in Scripture passages like Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 -*

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? (Psa 22:1 NKJ)

⁵ *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
(Isa 53:5-6 NKJ)*

2. *Yet, the other great theme of Old Testament prophecy was the judgment of sin and promised calamity upon sinners -*

²⁰ *Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God: ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.’” (2Ch 24:20 NKJ)*

²⁴ *For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the LORD delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. (2Ch 24:24 NKJ)*

This denouncing of and prophesying against sin divided the false prophets from the true -

From the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely.

¹¹ *For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace.
(Jer 8:10-11 NKJ)*

²¹ *“There is no peace,” Says my God, “for the wicked.” (Isa 57:21 NKJ)*

III. OT prophecy and the Spirit’s work in us NOW!

1. *Note the GREAT VALUE of Christ & our salvation, something to look into:*

A. *The prophets inquired and searched carefully – 1 Peter 1:10; Daniel 9*

B. *Angels desire this – 1 Peter 1:12*

2. *Now, the Spirit preaches and promotes a Christ (Prophet) Who has already come –*

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (Hebrews 1:1-2 NKJ)

²² *“For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.’²³ ‘And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’
(Act 3:22-23 NKJ)*

3. *The salvation Christ brings is one we dare not neglect –*

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Hebrews 2:1-4 NKJ)

4. *For judgment and wrath against sin are still prophesied / promised against those who reject Christ / who continue in sin – John 3:36; Romans 1:18*