

THE PROPHETS I - THEIR MISSION AND MANNER

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Prophets Were Spokesmen For God: *Inspired Interpreters Of History.*
- B. The Prophets Of God Were Righteous Reformers Of Their Own Generation And Predictors Of Future Events.
 - 1. Prophecy *was not* a product of mere observation, speculation or human reason. (*Read Deut. 13:1ff*)
 - 2. Prophecy *was* supernatural in origin and miraculous in its revealing. (*2 Pet. 1:19-21 cf. 1 Pet. 1:10-12*)

II. AIM.

- A. To Gain An Understanding Of The Kind Of Persons The Prophets Were And An Appreciation Of The Role They Played In God's Plan.
- B. To Learn The Details As To Their Manner And Mission.

III. OUTLINE.

A. THE PROPHETS' MANNER.

- 1. They were human. (*2 Pet. 1:21*)
- 2. They were uncompromising: (*Micah 3:8; Amos 7:14ff cf. 1 Kings 22:13-14*)
 - a. Were not bound by public opinion.
 - b. Were not restrained by hirelings (i.e. false prophets).
 - c. Were insistent upon applying God's truth to life!
 - d. Were disturbers of people's minds; denouncing sin and exhorting to a closer walk with God in all holiness.

3. They were conscious of a divine call. (*Jer. 20:9 cf. 1:1-10*)
4. They were conscious of Jehovah's authority; "*Thus saith the Lord*" was their constant thesis. (*See Amos 3:8*)
5. They were usually men of rugged individuality and action (e.g. Ezekiel, Elijah, Amos).
6. They were outspoken critics of specific evils in the 1) *social*, 2) *political*, and 3) *religious* orders of their day.
7. They were cleansed and consecrated in conversation and conduct. (*2 Pet. 1:20 cf. Acts 3:21*)
8. They were God's agents in revealing the future. (*1 Pet. 1:10-12 cf. Acts 3:22-24*)

B. THE PROPHETS' MISSION.

1. As seen by the *definition* of words.
 - a. The Hebrew words 1) *Nabi* (prophet), 2) *Roeh* (prophet), and 3) *Hozeh* (seer) denote the prophets' work. (*See 1 Chron. 29:29* where these three terms are used.)
 - 1) *Nabi* (prophet) which literally means, "*to boil forth; to speak forth*" stresses the active work of God's messenger.
 - 2) *Roeh* (prophet) and *Hozeh* (seer) emphasizes the manner of receiving divine revelation.
 - b. Therefore, the prophets' mission is declared to be "*to speak the words of God which have been divinely revealed to him.*"
2. As seen by the *usage* of these words. (*Read Exod. 7:1-2; 4:16; Jer. 1:7; 15:16; 23:16; Isa. 1:20; Amos 3:8 and Haggai 1:13*)
 - a. The prophets were the divinely appointed moral and ethical preachers and teachers of true religion to their own generations. (*See Isa. 58:1 and Mal. 4:4*)
 - 1) Admonishing, and rebuking negligence and indifference.

- 2) Denouncing prevailing sins.
 - 3) Threatening and warning of the terrors of divine judgment.
 - 4) Calling to repentance and assuring of pardon and comfort.
- b. The prophets were the *predictors of future events* concerning the nations of Israel and Judah, Gentile nations and the Messianic age that was to come which was realized in *Christ Jesus - The Savior and Lord of ALL.*
- 1) *Isa. 2:1-4.*
 - 2) *Isa. 28:16; 53:1ff.*
 - 3) *Jer. 31:31ff.*
 - 4) *Ezek. 37:24ff.*
 - 5) *Hos. 2:23.*
 - 6) *Hag. 2:4, 6-9.*
 - 7) *Zech. 6:12-13.*
 - 8) *Et al.*

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Summation.

1. The name "*prophet*" indicates his function.
2. The *prophet* is the person who speaks forth a message that is God-committed.
3. The *prophet* receives messages from God and is therefore a revealing spokesman of Jehovah.
4. The *prophet* is a man raised up by God for special purposes.
5. The *prophet* is a special, authorized representative for Jehovah.
6. The *prophets* were endowed with special powers.

7. The *prophets* revealed to the world that God was One; the Holy One, Jehovah is His Name!

B. Conclusion.

1. The *prophets* were public men *transacting history*.
2. The *prophets* were literary men *recording history*.
3. The *prophets* were preachers *interpreting history*.
4. The *prophets* were inspired seers revealing Jehovah's *purpose in history*.