Lesson 10 **November 28-December 4*

Prophetic Authority *and* Relevance

Sabbath Afternoon

Read for This Week's Study: *Exod. 4:10-16, Luke 8:22-25, John 3:1-10, Acts 16:25-34, 1 Cor. 5:1-5, Luke 7:28.*

Memory Text: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-

edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" *(Hebrews 4:12, NKJV)*.

n November 9, 1989, Günter Schabowski's statement on live TV in Communist East Germany set in motion the fall of the Berlin Wall. Speaking as East Germany's press spokesperson, Schabowski botched a statement during the televised press conference. Instead of announcing that East Germans *may* be allowed to visit Western Europe after the lengthy and difficult process of obtaining the proper visas, he simply said that East Germans *would* be permitted to visit Western Europe. When a

reporter asked when the policy change would take effect, Schabowski said, “As far as I know, this enters into force . . . immediately, without delay.” Within minutes people began pouring toward border checkpoints, demanding to be let through, as the government had announced.

People have often been delegated authority to speak for a company, or even a country. But what about those who speak for God? This week we will examine what authority biblical prophets possess, and what, if any, authority is held by prophets who never wrote a book of the Bible, such as Nathan the prophet, John the Baptist, and, yes, even Ellen G. White.

**Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, December 5*

Sunday

November 29

Mediating God's Authority

Before giving a person permission to speak for you, would you not be sure to choose someone you trusted? It would be important that he or she knew your position and faithfully expressed it.

ITS A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT WITH GODS SPOKESPERSONS. WHILE THEY ARE CALLED TO REPRESENT GOD, IT IS GOD WHO DICTATES HIS WORD THROUGH THEM. THEY DO NOT COME UP WITH THEIR OWN AGENDA. BALAAM AND EVEN KING SAUL AT TIMES WOULD BE EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO PROPHESIED DESPITE

THEIR NOT RIGHTLY REPRESENTING OR BEING TRUSTED BY GOD.

MOSES THEN, OR ANY PROPHET, IS SIMPLY RELAYING GODS WORDS TO THE PEOPLE. IN THE CASE OF MOSES,AARON IS ADDED TO THE PICTURE AS WE WILL SEE. GODS WORD SPOKEN TO MOSES AND THEN COMMUNICATED TO THE PEOPLE BY AARON DUE TO MOSES FEELINGS OF INABILITY.

Read LETS COMPARE Exodus 2:11-15 and Exodus 3:1-3, 10-13. How did Moses' time as a shepherd prepare him to be a spokesperson for God?

Moses had spent the first 40 years of his life getting the best education that Egypt had to offer, but this would not prepare him to become God's messenger.

"And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand." (Exodus 2:11-12 KJV)

THE EGYPTIAN EDUCATION HAD TAUGHT MOSES TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS, TO DO THINGS BY HIS MIGHT AND POWER AND TO USE DECEPTION. MOSES FELT READY TO ACT ON GODS BEHALF TO FREE HIS PEOPLE BASED ON HIS OWN METHODS, PLANS, AND IMPULSES WHEN IN EGYPT.

BY THE TIME WE ARRIVE IN EXODUS 3 EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED.

"And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11 KJV)

AFTER 40 YEARS OF SHEPHERDING THE FLOCKS, MOSES FELT UNPREPARED, RELUCTANT AND UNQUALIFIED. WHAT A CHANGE! HOW VASTLY DIFFERENT MOSES FELT TO DO GODS WORK WHEN HE WAS DIVESTED OF HIS SELF RELIANCE.

He had to spend the next 40 years in the wilderness as a shepherd, without the distractions of the world. In many ways he had to undo much of what he had learned as a prince. Before he could cooperate in freeing Israel,HE HAD TO UNLEARN THE EDUCATION OF SELF DEPENDENCE AND REALIZE HIS ENTIRE DEPENDENCE ON GOD Moses

had to get to know the God on whose behalf he would be speaking.

Read Exodus 4:10-16. What can we learn from this discussion between God and Moses about how prophets are called and how they work?

“But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron,

your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."" (Exodus 4:10-17 ESV)

GOD PROMISES TO QUALIFY THE CALLED, RATHER THAN CALL THE QUALIFIED.

Moses was asked to play the role of God, with Aaron assuming the role of Moses' mouthpiece *(Exod. 4:16; see also Exod. 7:1)*. As He did with Moses and Aaron, God helps His

prophets find the best way to deliver the message that He gives them.

Moses knew that he had previously failed. He remembered his last encounter with fellow Israelites, when his authority had been questioned *(Exod. 2:14)*. God understood Moses' apprehension. He dealt patiently with his fears. All grounds for excuse had been removed, but, even then, Moses resisted the call. His fears had crossed over into unbelief. By his reluctance, he was questioning God's ability to use him. It was then that God issued an unqualified command to get the reluctant prophet moving *(Exod. 3:14-17)*.

You may not be a prophet, but what has God called you to do for Him during your lifetime? What is the best way to prepare yourself for this calling?

1. SURRENDER YOUR HEART -

2. **FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS -**
3. **DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU - tend sheep**
4. **STAY CLOSE TO GOD IN DAILY CONNECTION - on the mount**
5. **WILLING TO BE MADE WILLING.**

NEXT WEEK - PROPHETIC MANIFESTATIONS IN CRUCIAL MOMENTS