LESSON 3 | TUESDAY

Functions of Prophets

QUESTION SCRIPTURE WORD STUDY KEY POINT

LESSON FOCUS: Prophets carry God's message to leaders, the church, the public, and the world - often at great personal cost.

I. Human Messengers Carry God's Word

- We established last week that God could write His will in the sky or speak it from the heavens.
  - But He is deliberate in using PEOPLE.

Q. Why?

- Remember what we said about God being a God of love.
- This is an act of love.
- God draws people into His work and entrusts His message to human vessels.

Q. What does a prophet do?

II. Prophets Serve as Spokespersons

Exodus 7:1-2, KJV

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

- Moses receives the message.
- Aaron communicates the message.
- Aaron is called Moses' PROPHET.

This is important because we often reduce prophecy to:

Predicting future events.

KEY POINT: A prophet's value rests in carrying a word from God.

III. Prophets Speak to Those in Power

Jeremiah 1:18-19, KJV

18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

Jeremiah's audience included:

- kings
- princes
- priests
- people

KEY POINT: God deliberately places His Word where people in power can hear it.

IV. Prophets Warn and Restore God's Intention

1 Samuel 8:5, KJV

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Samuel 8:10-11, KJV

10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

- Samuel gives the warning of what the result of becoming like the world will be.
- While reminding the people of God’s original intention while warning them

V. Prophets May Face Opposition or Death

KEY POINT: God enables His messengers to carry His Word with courage.

Matthew 23:37, KJV

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Who is Jesus talking about??

- One possibility is Zechariah

2 Chronicles 24:20-22, KJV

20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.

22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it.

VI. Prophets Serve the Church

Leviticus 8:10-13, KJV

10 And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them.

11 And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.

12 And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron’s head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.

13 And Moses brought Aaron’s sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Prophets not only rebuke error; they also establish and strengthen God's people.

Quick Q. How can a prophet have authority to do this?

A. No office is above the Word of God.

VII. Prophets Teach the People

The lesson points out that “Prophets were teachers of the people” (2 Chronicles 34).

2 Kings 17:13, KJV

> 13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

The prophet teaches by bringing God’s people back to what God has already said.

VIII. Prophets Speak Beyond the Church

They speak to the world because the gospel - the good news - is for EVERYONE.

Jonah 1:1-2, KJV

> 1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
>
> 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

God’s message is never merely tribal. The God who speaks to Israel is Lord of the whole world.