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Prophets and apostles – are not common words we use to describe what we do for a living.

Modern society shies away from someone who would call themselves a prophet. Partly because we have been exposed to false prophets, religiosity, that is extremes. We have a visual, perhaps a distorted picture of what a prophet looks like, behaves like, and it doesn't sound relative or real. Like a character in a story. Tbh, when people say, God told me… I view them with a raised brow.
Prophets and apostles may seem unrelatable and obsolete and yet I would like to convince you that there is nothing more relative and real to the Christian.

What's the purpose of prophets and apostles? Communication. Communication is so important to God. It's the core of everything we see and experience. Whether you are using the language of biology, chemistry, physics, math- communication systems. Communication is at the heart of relationships, health- most definitely faith. Faith hangs its hat on communication.

A Christian believes that God is connected and concerned about this spec of a world; that God communicated Creation into existence; that God didn't just create mankind and leave them, but that daily He met with man in the cool of the day communicating directly with humanity - connecting. Sin robbed God of this connection. Sin has taken us farther and farther away from that original desire and design of direct communication until in our day, it actually seems strange to us that God would seek to communicate directly with us.

There are 2 classes of people that have been given the task, job description of communicating on God's behalf. They have received as direct communication from God as can be experienced by mortal man and they do not keep that communication to themselves. They are tasked with giving that message to others. Those two classes of people: prophets & apostles.
Prophet:
Nu 12 God is speaking directly to Aaron and Miriam in defense of Moses and his wife.
"if there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision, I speak to him in a dream. Not so with Moses, with him I speak face to face, even plainly.
Moses was a prophet – a prophet with intimate relationship with God. They were on face to face speaking terms.
This verse informs us how prophets receive communication through revelation, dreams, inspiration, sometimes directly as we just saw in Nu 12.

It is risky to have someone communicate on your behalf- there is potential for those people to misrepresent you, so God chooses wisely, not according to rank, how well they speak, how old they are, if they are well esteemed in society. God chooses. His choice.

Heb 1 tells us that God at different times and in various ways He spoke to our fathers through prophets.

Prophets don't just hear a message from God for themselves …others. When we look at how the message and the messenger were received in the past we see - unpopular, extremely dangerous position to accept. Even though we dismiss prophets, in heaven's estimation -they are highly honored communicating on behalf of God.

The prophets wrote the OT
Apostles wrote the NT
In between God Himself comes – Jesus Christ and once again talks with man face to face
Apostles = delegate, representative, ambassador, messenger, communicator of what they had seen and heard.

The prophets were not just for OT times and apostles for NT times

2 P 3:1,2 – Peter encourages all who read his letter to "be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior"

The words spoken by the prophets **and** the apostles is what the Christian church is built on.

Eph 2:20 –household of God with its citizens, its members (the Christian faith/church) is built on the foundation of the apostles **and** prophets
Christian churches that only built on NT- on what apostles said are not adhering to what the NT says the Christian faith is built on - BOTH
this verse not saying that we are built on these men – its very natural for us to honor men but the Christian faith is built on their message. Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr – this nation isn't built on them - But what they stood for what they communicated...

Prophets and apostle- typically, not as valued during their life but after they're dead then we're praising them. Jesus told the leaders of his day – you're white washing, decorating tombs, you're erecting monuments for dead prophets but you're proving that you would have killed them too because you reject the very thing they communicated in written form. Lk 11:47-50
We think - If we had lived in those days we would not have been partakers with those who shed the blood of God's servants. Oh ya? How can we know? – how we relate to the message today.

Lk 11:49 **I will send them prophets and apostles** and some of them you will kill, others you will persecute in the synagogue, that on you may come the blood – You will be guilty of rejecting the message of the prophets because they all spoke unanimously, harmoniously from Abel to Zechariah- and Matthew to the end of time the apostles and prophets to come because you will not receive the message from me.
Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' [50] so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, [51] from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah,

There is congruency among all the prophets and apostles. All speaking and writing what they had heard from One

As a young artist Claude Monet was ridiculed, he was told that his art was sloppy. He met with significant disapproval from his own father (impractical, unrespectable) who wanted him to become a businessman. He was so poor he had to write his friends begging for 10 francs. But he continued to paint in his own style. In 2019 his haystack painting sold for $110.7 million

Oh to be someone who would've valued Monet's art in his day and purchased a painting maybe for 10 francs – set up his family financially for generations
Oh to be someone who will recognize the value of the messages at any time in earth's history

God has lines of communication with the world today. Through His appointed agencies, He speaks to the people He is purifying, warning and encouraging them. There are those who listen with open ears and quickened understanding for the words of reproof and encouragement addressed to them... 4LtMs Ms 15 86