

Sabbath School Lesson #4 – New Testament Prophets – 17-23 October 2026

Christ is He who gives Spiritual gifts, even the gift of prophecy. It was the Spirit of Christ that was in the ancient prophets (2 Peter 1:10-11), and that same Spirit was in the New Testament prophets and is with His people even unto the end. "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). These gifts are given "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12); but a man may possess these gifts to the edifying of others, and he himself be lost. The apostle Paul had these gifts in greater measure than any other man, yet he had to keep his body under, lest after he had preached to others he himself should be a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:27); and he says that a thorn in the flesh was given him to buffet him, lest he should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations given unto him (2 Corinthians 12:7).

Sunday: Jesus as Prophet – In what way was Christ a prophet as was Moses? Moses was a prophet. The Spirit of Christ was in this leader of the tribes of Israel, and testified, as quoted by Peter: "A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren like unto me" (Acts 3:22; Deuteronomy 18:18). The phrase like unto me, in the above passage, has reference to Christ and Moses as prophets or teachers. In many respects Moses and Christ were unlike; but as prophets they were alike. The principles which they declared to the people came from Him who had said, "I change not." God spoke through them both. Neither Moses nor Christ were law makers. Christ disclaims having anything to do with legislation. "My doctrine is not Mine, but His that sent Me" (John 7:16) "I do nothing of Myself but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things" (John 8:28). "The word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me" (John 14:24). And speaking of the Son, the Father says, "He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him" (Deuteronomy 18:18).

Ellen White tells us: "Through Moses, God's purpose to send His Son as the Redeemer of the fallen race, was kept before Israel. On one occasion, shortly before his death, Moses declared, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken." Plainly had Moses been instructed for Israel concerning the work of the Messiah to come. "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee," was the word of Jehovah to His servant; "and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him." Deuteronomy 18:15, 18." {PK 684:3}. "Moses was a type of Christ. He himself had declared to Israel, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken." Deuteronomy 18:15." {PP 480.1}.

Monday: Apostles and Prophets – We need to appreciate that the apostles preached the same gospel of Christ as the prophets of old preached. When Peter preached Christ to Cornelius and his family, he said, "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). The prophets preached the same Gospel that the apostles did. Of the early Christians we read: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). Read also verses 46-47. We see that this breaking of bread was both in the temple and at home, and, moreover, it was to the disciples a token of fellowship. The question arises: With whom was the fellowship? Some will say at once that it was fellowship with the apostles; but a little study will show that it was fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ that the disciples enjoyed. "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3). Here it is made very plain that "our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." Without this, all human fellowship is nothing. Again: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion [fellowship] of the blood of Christ? The bread, which we break, is it not the communion [fellowship] of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one Bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). The statement in Acts 2:42 that they continued "in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship" is the same as in 1 John 1:3: "That

which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." "Fellowship with us" means the same fellowship that the apostles had, namely, "with the Father and with His Son." We are "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets" (Ephesians 2:20); not on the apostles and prophets, but on the foundation on which they built and were built.

Tuesday: Functions of New Testament Prophets – One way of knowing the functions of New Testament prophets is to read their biographies. Here is a list of the prophets for your reading: Acts 7:37: Christ was a prophet like Moses, one with whom the Lord spoke "mouth to mouth" (Numbers 12:6-8). Luke 1:67: Zacharias, the priest, possessed the gift of prophecy. Luke 2:25-27: Simeon, the priest, was a prophet. Luke 2:36-38: Anna, the prophetess, at the advanced age of eighty years published the news of the Saviour's birth. Matthew 11:9-11: John the Baptist, greatest prophet. Acts 11:27-28: Agabus prophesied of general dearth; Acts 21:10-12: Seventeen years later he gave a personal testimony to Paul. Acts 21:8-9: Philip's four daughters prophesied. Acts 15:32: Judas and Silas were prophets. James 5:1-5: The financial condition of the last days revealed through James. Acts 10:9-17: Peter had visions. Through him was revealed more clearly than by any other prophet the purifying of the earth of fire (2 Peter 3:7-13). Revelation 1:10: The book of Revelation portrays the history of the last days as revealed to John in vision. And 2 Corinthians 12:1-7: Paul as late as AD 60 speaks of the "abundance of the revelations" that were given him.

Wednesday: Female Prophets and Young Pastoral Associates – Notice that while we find female prophets in the New Testament, – Anna (Luke 2:36-38) and Philip's four daughters (Acts 21:8-9), – there were no female pastors. The associate pastors – Timothy (1 Timothy 1:2) and Titus (Titus 1:4) – were male. The New Testament presents women as full participants with men in the religious and social life of the church – they prophesied (1 Corinthians 11:5) and spread the gospel (Philippians 4:3). In Romans 16, Paul begins his commendations with women, and he includes several other women subsequently in the chapter (16:1-5, 6, 12, 13, 15). Widows (Acts 9:39) may have been an organised body for service in the New Testament church. However, women did not serve in the leadership role of elder or pastor in the New Testament (1 Timothy 2:11-14; 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Corinthians 14:33-36).

Thursday: False Prophets in the New Testament – Christ says that just before the end "there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24). Paul says that just before Christ's return, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). True prophets teach the truth. False prophets are false teachers. The true ministers of Christ must not be discouraged when false teachers are numerous and popular. When the magicians with their enchantments were numerous and popular at the court of Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron stood firm and left the time and manner of truth's triumph to the God of Israel (Exodus 7:10-12). When the false prophets were more than eight hundred to one, Elijah put them to a test which proved their overthrow (1 Kings 18:19-24). And when Paul had perils among false brethren (2 Corinthians 11:26); when those turned against him who once would have plucked out their own eyes for his sake (Galatians 4:15-16); when all Asia forsook him (2 Timothy 1:15); and no man stood with him at his first answer before Nero (2 Timothy 4:16); none of these things moved him. He could say, "the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom, to whom be glory forever and ever" (2 Timothy 4:17-18). But let no man apt to teach be discouraged when false teachers are multiplied, nor when applauded by crowds of men of corrupt minds. Let us watch and pray, and teach, warn every one night and day with tears (Acts 20:31).