



Most people don't realise there's a difference between a ****New Testament prophet**** and an ****Old Testament prophet****, or between ****Old Testament prophecy**** and ****New Testament prophecy****.

Where he saw the people of Israel camped, tribe by tribe. Then the Spirit of God came upon him, Numbers 24:2 NLT

The message of one who hears the words of God,
who sees a vision from the Almighty, who bows down with eyes wide open:
Numbers 24:4NLT

the message of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who bows down with eyes wide open:
Numbers 24:16NLT

But any prophet who falsely claims to speak in my name or who speaks in the name of another god must die.'
Deuteronomy 18:20–22 NLT

“But you may wonder, ‘How will we know whether or not a prophecy is from the Lord?’ If the prophet speaks in the Lord’s name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the Lord did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared.
Deuteronomy 18:20–22 NLT

Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop.
1 Corinthians 14:29–32 NLT

In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns.

Greek study: diakrino*
“diakrino” (διακρίνω)

Diamond dealers evaluate the carat, cut, color, clarity.

In the Old Testament, prophecies were judged. If one part was wrong, then all was wrong.

In the New Testament, one part may be true, another false—and each part is to be judged separately.

But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged.

1 Corinthians 14:30–31 NLT

Greek study: diakrino*

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If a New Testament prophet operated like an Old Testament prophet—going into an open-eyed trance and having God put words into their mouth—then they wouldn’t be able to stop on command.

Paul commands the prophets to stop when someone else has a revelation.

When the report reached Saul that David was at Naioth in Ramah, he sent troops to capture him. But when they arrived and saw Samuel leading a group of prophets who were prophesying, the Spirit of God came upon Saul’s men, and they also began to prophesy. When Saul heard what had happened, he sent other troops, but they, too, prophesied! The same thing happened a third time. Finally, Saul himself went to Ramah and arrived at the great well in Secu. “Where are Samuel and David?” he demanded.

1 Samuel 19:19–24 NLT

“They are at Naioth in Ramah,” someone told him.

1 Samuel 19:19–24 NLT

But on the way to Naioth in Ramah the Spirit of God came even upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy all the way to Naioth! He tore off his clothes and lay naked on the ground all day and all night, prophesying in the presence of Samuel. The people who were watching exclaimed, “What? Is even Saul a prophet?”

1 Samuel 19:19–24 NLT

In the New Testament, Paul makes it clear: those who prophesy are in control of their own spirit and can take turns.

Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns.

1 Corinthians 14:32 NLT

the message of one who hears the words of God,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who bows down with eyes wide open:

Numbers 24:4 NLT

Acts 21:10–11 (NLT) Prophecy example

Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea. He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, "The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.' "

Acts 21:10–11 NLT

Early on in Acts, Luke shows prophecy recorded and then fulfilled. But in Acts 21, Paul is determined to go to Jerusalem even after warnings.

Acts 21:29–36

What happened

(For earlier that day they had seen him in the city with Trophimus, a Gentile from Ephesus, and they assumed Paul had taken him into the Temple.)

Acts 21:29–36 NLT

The whole city was rocked by these accusations, and a great riot followed. Paul was grabbed and dragged out of the Temple, and immediately the gates were closed behind him. As they were trying to kill him, word reached the commander of the Roman regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. He immediately called out his soldiers and officers and ran down among the crowd. When the mob saw the commander and the troops coming, they stopped beating Paul.

Acts 21:29–36 NLT

Then the commander arrested him and ordered him bound with two chains. He asked the crowd who he was and what he had done. Some shouted one thing and some another. Since he couldn't find out the truth in all the uproar and confusion, he ordered that Paul be taken to the fortress. As Paul reached the stairs, the mob grew so violent the soldiers had to lift him to their shoulders to protect him. And the crowd followed behind, shouting, "Kill him, kill him!"

Acts 21:29–36 NLT

New Testament prophecy is revelation from God expressed in human words—which is why each part needs to be judged.