

Why Spiritual Gifts Exist Today (13) by Rev Dr Jim Master

Prophecy part 3: Are the Old Testament prophets New Testament Apostles

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PROPHECY		
by Dr. Jim Master		
<i>Old Testament Prophecy vs. New Testament Prophecy</i>		
Category / Feature	Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Prophecy
Infallibility & Word Origin	Prophet was infallible when prophesying because God put His exact words into the prophet's mouth.	Prophecy is revelation from God expressed in human words and therefore must be evaluated.
Holy Spirit's Operation	Holy Spirit came upon the prophet (Numbers 24:2). Holy Spirit overpowered the prophet during prophecy.	Holy Spirit dwells within the believer; the prophet remains in control. "The spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets" (1 Corinthians 14:32).
Physical / State of Mind	Prophet entered an open-eyed trance (Numbers 24:4,16).	No open-eyed trance is required.
Communication & Human Expression	God spoke word-for-word through the prophet. Prophet spoke God's words exactly as received.	God gives revelation, but the prophet communicates it in his own words, sharing revelation using human language and understanding.
Control & Interruption	Prophet could not alter or interrupt God's message. Prophet could not simply stop prophesying at will.	Prophet can stop speaking when instructed (1 Corinthians 14:30). Prophet can speak one at a time and then sit down (1 Corinthians 14:30-31).
Testing & Evaluation Criteria	If one prophecy failed, the prophet was considered false (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Entire prophecy was judged as one complete unit.	Prophecies are tested and evaluated (1 Corinthians 14:29). Each part of the prophecy is judged separately (diakrino—to distinguish or separate).
Margin for Error	No room for error while prophesying. Accuracy was absolute because God controlled the words.	Human expression means details may contain error while the revelation remains genuine. Accuracy is discerned by the church through biblical evaluation.
Authority & Relation to Scripture	Prophecy carried the authority of God's exact words. Old Testament prophecy became part of inspired Scripture.	Prophecy is subject to Scripture and never equal to Scripture. New Testament congregational prophecy is not added to Scripture.
Penalties & Consequences	False prophets faced the death penalty under the Mosaic Law.	The church discerns and tests prophetic words rather than imposing Old Testament penalties.
Primary Purpose	Primary purpose was to declare God's authoritative message to Israel and the nations.	Primary purpose is to strengthen, encourage, and instruct the church while remaining subject to biblical testing.
Role & Covenant Function	Prophet functioned as God's authoritative spokesperson under the Old Covenant.	Prophet functions as a ministry gift within the body of Christ under the New Covenant.
Biblical Examples	Balaam (Numbers 24), Samuel, Elijah, Old Testament prophets.	Agabus (Acts 21:10-11), prophets in the Corinthian church.

The question is how the Old Testament was put together and written by Old Testament Prophets.

382–400 AD: The Council of Rome affirmed the scriptural list, and St. Jerome translated and compiled the first comprehensive Latin edition (the Vulgate).

Ezekiel 13:9-13 KJV

9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord God.

10 Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

11 Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

12 Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it? 13 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it.

These false prophets

They're not in an open-eyed trance by God.

The Spirit of God did not come upon them.

What they see is vanity

We know the prophets wrote the Old Testament, but who wrote the New Testament?

The New Testament is also inspired and inerrant.

Number 1.

The first characteristic of an Old Testament prophet was that he had to be **sent by God**

The word apostello, or apostelos, means one who is sent.

Number 2.

The second characteristic of an Old Testament prophet was that he had to **speak the Lord's message.**

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 Peter 3:1 KJV

That ye may 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 Saviour: 2 Peter 3:2

The word '**before**' in verse 2 refers to the Old Testament but Peter also commanded his readers to be mindful of the writings of the apostles.

2 Peter 3:15-16

15 And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, **just as they do with other parts of Scripture.** And this will result in their destruction.

"other parts of Scripture".

this is referring to the Old Testament.

Peter placed Paul's writings on the very same level as the Old Testament scriptures.

speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

The epistles or letters the apostle Paul wrote that the apostle Peter is referring to.

- * Galatians
- * Colossians
- * Ephesians
- * Titus
- * First and Second Timothy
- * First and Second Thessalonians.

²⁵Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Colossians 1:25 (KJV)

Fulfil

Greek: πληρώω

Transliteration: plēroō

Pronunciation: play-ro'-o

1 Corinthians 14:37-38 KJV

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

Commandments

Greek: ἐντολή

Transliteration: entolē

Pronunciation: en-tol-ay'

If any man thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:37 KJV

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. 1 Corinthians 14:38 KJV

According to Peter and Paul, the office of the New Testament apostle was equivalent to the office of an Old Testament prophet.

“Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. John 4:19 NLT

One of Crete’s own prophets has said it: “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” Titus 1:12 NIV

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.

Deuteronomy 18:18–19 NIV

And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.

Hebrews 3:1 NIV

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:19–20 NIV

“Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. Luke 11:47 NIV

So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. Luke 11:48 NIV

Because of this, God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’ Luke 11:49 NIV

Second Timothy is the last book that Paul wrote.

But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:14–15 NLT

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 NLT