

Are there still Prophets today?

The word “*prophesy*” is the Greek word “**PROPHETEIA**” which means, “*the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God.*” Therefore, a “**Prophet**” or in the Greek: “**PROPHETES**” is “*a proclaimer of a Divine message.*” “**REVELATION**” is the Greek word “**APOKALUPSIS**”, meaning: “*The communication of the knowledge of God.*”

To understand the role of Prophets in the New Testament Church, we must go to I Corinthians 12:28-31: “*And in the church God has appointed first of all Apostles, second PROPHETS, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having the gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and finally those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all PROPHETS? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.*”

Then Paul goes on in the next chapter 13:8-12: “*...But where there are PROPHECIES, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we KNOW (as in REVELATION) in part and we PROPHECY in part, but when PERFECTION comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now (as when Paul wrote I Corinthians to these early Christians --- before there was a “perfect” or completed New Testament) we see but a poor reflection, then (when the New Testament was finally “completed” and “finished”) we shall see face to face (as in a “perfect” “mirror”). Now I know in part (because when Paul wrote these words the Spirit had only revealed a fraction of the New Testament); then I shall know fully (because the Spirit would reveal everything Jesus Christ and God wanted Christians to know), *even as I am fully known.*”*

The word used here for “*perfection*” is the Greek word “**teleion**” which is translated “*perfect thing*” (not masculine or feminine, but neuter). Therefore, it cannot be referring to Jesus coming back (Jesus is not a “*thing*”). In other words, Paul said he and the Christians in Corinth that he wrote his first letter to, only knew “*part*” of God’s divine revelations or “*knowledge*,” because the prophets had only told “*part*” of God’s prophecies or messages. **But, when the “PERFECT THING” appeared, the “PROPHECY” “KNOWLEDGE” AND “TONGUES” (which would be speaking the knowledge and revelations of God in different languages) would “DISAPPEAR.”**

So, what is this “perfect thing” that Paul told the Corinthian Christians would “appear”? **READ JAMES 1:22-25:** “*Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says! Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM (which is the “mirror”), and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it --- he will be blessed in what he does.*”

The word for “*perfect*” used here by James, is the exact same word (“*teleion*”) used by Paul in *I Corinthians*! THEREFORE, THE “*PERFECT THING*” PAUL SAID WOULD “*APPEAR*,” IS, according to James, “*THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM*” -- WHICH, IS THE NEW TESTAMENT! As James continued in **James 2:12**: “*Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM.*” Remember, in **John 12:47**, Jesus said that He didn’t come to judge us --- it was His “*WORDS*” that He spoke (New Testament, or Perfect Law that gave freedom) that would judge us!

So, when Paul said in **I Corinthians 13:12** that “*now we see but a poor reflection, then we shall see face to face.*” He was referring to the same “*mirror*” that James talked about --- which was the “*Perfect Law that gives freedom!*” In other words, when the Apostles spoke to the early Christians, they had not yet written down the entire New Testament (they had only a “*poor reflection*” of the New Testament). For example: When Paul wrote these words, he had not yet written *II Corinthians*. And when James wrote his words, John had not yet written the book of *Revelation*, etc. The Apostles only knew the parts that God revealed to them at the time. Not until John wrote the Books of **John, I,II,III John and Revelation**, was the New Testament “*perfect.*” REMEMBER, THE WORD “*PERFECT*” OR “*TELEIOS*” MEANS: “*SIGNIFIES HAVING REACHED ITS END (TELOS), FINISHED, COMPLETE, PERFECT.*” IN OTHER WORDS, PAUL TOLD THE EARLY CHRISTIANS THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES (KNOWLEDGE OR REVELATION, AND PROPHECY) WAS NOT YET FINISHED, OR COMPLETE --- BUT WHEN IT WAS FINISHED OR COMPLETED (AS WE NOW HAVE), THE KNOWLEDGE (DIVINE REVELATION) THAT WAS GIVEN TO US THROUGH PROPHECY IN EVERY TONGUE SPOKEN ON EARTH THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WOULD CEASE OR DISAPPEAR! **Why? We now have everything God wants us to know in the New Testament Scriptures. That is why Paul told the early Christians in I Corinthians 4:6: “*Don’t go beyond what is written!*” John told the early Christians in Revelation 22:18,19: *Don’t add anymore new revelations to the Bible, and don’t take any of the one’s that are already written away. As Hebrews 13:8,9 adds: “*Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever; do not be carried away by strange and varied teachings.*” For if we change anything in this “*Perfect Thing*” that James called “*The Perfect Law that gives freedom,*” and that we call the New Testament; Paul said in Galatians 1:6-10 that we would be “*eternally condemned!*” So, as you can see, NOW THAT WE HAVE THE COMPLETED NEW TESTAMENT, TRANSLATED IN EVERY LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD --- WE NO LONGER NEED ANY NEW REVELATIONS OR PROPHECIES FROM GOD.***

When the Church was first started on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit spoke through the Twelve Apostles (who were baptized or immersed in the Spirit’s power --- SHOWING THAT THEY WERE TO BE THE CLEAR LEADERS OF THE LORD’S FIRST CHURCH). The Apostles had all the gifts (prophecy, teaching, miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation, administration, and helping others). When an Apostle (AND ONLY AN APOSTLE) laid hands on Christians, who, as the Apostle Peter explained in **Acts 2:38**, had been “*baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins*

and the gift of the Holy Spirit” (meaning the Holy Spirit was the gift they received --- not special powers), the **Holy Spirit** (not the Apostle, according to Paul’s own words in *I Corinthians 12:11*) would give that person one or more of these special powers (**READ ACTS 8:9-19**). In other words, the Holy Spirit would “*come upon*” a Christian in one of these special powers, only through an **Apostle**, who laid hands on them. It was when the Apostles laid hands on people, that those Christians received one or more of these special powers. NO ONE ELSE (including the great Evangelist Philip, who had the Apostles lay hands on him in *Acts 6:1-6*, and thereby was given “*great powers*” by the Holy Spirit, according to *Acts 8:6-13* --- for even though Philip did “*great signs and miracles*”, and baptized many in the name of Jesus; HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PASS ANY OF THESE SPECIAL POWERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON TO ANYONE --- **HE HAD TO SEND FOR AN APOSTLE according to Acts 8:14-19.**

ONLY AN APOSTLE COULD WRITE DIVINE REVELATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, AND ONLY PROPHETS COULD WRITE DIVINE REVELATIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

The Prophets of the New Testament simply were able to speak the revelations that the Apostles wrote down (**they couldn’t come up with new revelations that did not come from an Apostle**). Remember, the same Holy Spirit that told the Apostles what to write (New Testament), is the same Holy Spirit that told the Prophets what to say. That is why *I Corinthians 4:6* says we cannot go beyond what is written (**that includes a prophet**); and *Hebrews 13:8,9* says Jesus is the same forever, so don’t be carried away by strange and varied teachings --- or new revelations made up by so called prophets. **A true prophet won’t go beyond what is already written; and won’t add to or take away from what is already written, according to Revelation 22:18,19. IF THEY DID, THEY WOULD BE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED ACCORDING TO GALATIANS 1:6-10!**

In *Ephesians 2:20*, Paul said Christians were built on “*the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.*” Peter clarified in *II Peter 3:2*: “*I want you to recall the words spoken in the past (Old Testament) by the Holy Prophets, and the commands given by our Lord and Savior (New Testament) through your Apostles.*” In other words, Christianity was built on both the Old and New Testaments, through the Prophets and Apostles. That is why Paul continued in *Ephesians 3:3-6*: “*That is the mystery made known to me by revelation (OR “KNOWLEDGE”), as I have already written briefly (remember, only an Apostle could write Scripture). In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s Holy Apostles and Prophets. This mystery is that through the Gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel.*” In other words, the Prophets who are responsible for our Old Testament prophesied that Jesus would come and bring a new covenant or testament which would include the Gentiles, so that everyone could be saved.

Remember the words of Paul in his second letter to the Corinthian Christians (II Corinthians 3:3,14-18 & 4:3-6: “You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God...for to this day the same veil remains when the Old Covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But when ever anyone turns to the Lord, ‘the veil is taken away.’ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (AS IN THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM). And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect (AS IN PAUL AND JAMES’ “MIRROR”) the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, WHO IS THE SPIRIT...but even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge (AS IN THE DIVINE REVELATION GIVEN TO US BY THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS) of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MORE YOU LOOK INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM --- THE MORE YOU WILL START LOOKING LIKE JESUS!

ARE THERE STILL PROPHETS TODAY? ONLY IF THEY “DON’T GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN!” Now that we have a clear “reflection” of a “perfect” or “completed” or “finished” New Testament “Law that gives freedom” --- we no longer need prophets with new revelations or “knowledge” from God; and with this “completed” “finished” or “perfect” New Testament “Law” put together in one book and translated for us in any language --- we no longer need the Holy Spirit to give us the ability to speak it in other languages in order for them to hear it.

“But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”

If we still had prophets giving us divine knowledge or revelations from God, then it would render the New Testament obsolete, and we would no longer need it. It has been up-dated and changed many times over by thousands of the so-called prophets and popes who have added to it and taken away from it over the years. How do you know who to believe? Can anyone back up their authority to do so as the Apostles did, with *signs, wonders and miracles* (including raising the dead)? How else would you know who to follow? Who would keep track of all the new revelations and deletions from the Bible that all these prophets keep making? And, is there anyone you know of who can speak any other language on Earth perfectly without study or an interpreter? THIS IS WHY PROPHECY, KNOWLEDGE AND TONGUES CEASED WHEN THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS “FINISHED” “COMPLETED” AND MADE “PERFECT”! NO ONE CAN ADD TO IT WITH NEW REVELATIONS OR “KNOWLEDGE,” OR TAKE AWAY THE REVELATIONS ALREADY WRITTEN IN IT --- IF THEY DO, THEY WILL BE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED!