

Prophetic Jesus

-Prayer-

How many people here today know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

Excellent then we have that clearly established up front. What I want to talk about today is prophesy and the prophetic role of Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament we see many prophets such as Isaiah, Elijah, Elisha, Moses, Ezekiel, and so on. What is not commonly known is that there is a period of time between the Old Testament and the New Testament. This period of time is called the intertestamental period. The gap between the Old and New Testaments is about 400 years.

During the intertestamental period there was a distinct cessation of prophesy. People stopped prophesying and all that was heard were echoes of prophesy.

We are going to look at a few facts in today's lesson; then we are going to look at the role of prophetic Jesus in the book of Luke

I need to establish a few facts here:

- 1) In the Hebrew Bible the Spirit of God is neither fully personal nor the third member of the Trinity. These are Christian rather than Hebrew truths.
- 2) Christ was a Jew who went to synagogue, he was not a Christian. He established Christianity.
- 3) In Judaism the Jewish faith, the Spirit is directly associated with prophesy and inspired speech.
- 4) Jesus was a descendent of David the King
- 5) The Spirit of God prior to the Charismatic Gifts imparted from Christ has a role that is distinct and divided up into five phases in the political and religious development of the nation of Israel
 - a. The founding of the nation of Israel in the wilderness
 - i. Spirit activity:
 1. Imparting Skills to Craftsmen
 2. Empowering Leaders
 3. Inspiring an itinerant non-Israelite to prophesy
 - b. The period of the Judges
 - i. Spirit activity:

1. Restricted to the Judges of the nation only
- c. The founding of the Monarchy
 - i. Spirit activity:
 1. Imparted to Saul
 - a. Saul prophesies (1 Sam. 10:1-10)
 - b. Spirit on Saul (1 Sam. 11:6; 19:23)
 - c. Spirit on messengers (1 Sam. 19:20)
 2. Imparted to David
 - a. At anointing(1 Sam. 16:13; 2 Sam. 23:2)
 - ii. Kingship become hereditary
- d. The time of Elijah and Elisha
 - i. Spirit activity:
 1. Calling Israel back from its Apostasy (turning away from God) back to faithfulness in the Lord.
 2. Spirit has moved Elijah (2 Kings 2:9)
 3. Spirit is transferred to Elisha (2 kings 2:15)
- e. The period of exile and restoration
 - i. Spirit activity:
 1. Power of the Spirit (Ezek. 2:2; 3:12, 14, 24; 37:1; 43:5)
 2. Ezekiel consistently associates the Gift of the Spirit with inspired speech
 3. Spirit emphasis on prophets and priests
 - a. Spirit given to Amasi (1 Chron. 12:18)
 - b. Spirit given to Jahaziel the Levite (2 Chron. 20:14-15)
 - c. Spirit given to Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest (2 Chron. 24:20)

An analysis of the breakdown:

The offices that correspond to the five periods of political and religious development are:

- Fledgling Nation – Founding Fathers
- Tribal Society – Charismatic Judges
- Tribal Confederation – Charismatic Kings
- Apostate Israel – Charismatic Prophets

Why this lesson in history? To establish a single fact

The Spirit of God is successively concentrated on founding fathers, Judges, Kings and Prophets... In short leaders, not on all people as it is today...

Charismatic activity of the Spirit of God usually occurred with the transfer of leadership. It had a twofold purpose:

- 1) To authenticate new leadership
- 2) To bestow skills for leadership

Need an example: Moses puts the Spirit of God on the Seventy in Numbers 11:17 "I will take the Spirit who is upon you and will put Him upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you."

The purpose of the imparting of the Spirit of God was to equip for divine service.

Into this model we see prophesy of the messiah who is to come:

We read that he will be "a shoot... from the stem of Jesse"

"And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." Isa. 11:1-2

These are the Gift of the Spirit to our messiah, the Prophetic Jesus. Yet and this is an exciting bit:

In the coming age, they foretold that the Spirit is not intended to rest exclusively on the messiah, but that he would share the charismatic giftings will all of God restored people.

"And it will come to pass after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams and your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days." Joel 2:28-29

This is powerful. Do you know why? Because this prophesy of Joel foretells that the Holy Spirit would not just be given to leaders but to everyone in the community of Christ who seeks it. God's people for the first time as a group have the opportunity to experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

But before this happens we have an intertestamental period of 400 years... wherein the charismatic, vocational and experiential activity of the Spirit of God appears absent.

In a non-canonical (not of the bible) book of the period this fact is evidenced by many different historians. For example in the book of 2 Baruch 85:3 it reads: "But now, the righteous have been assembled, and the prophets are

sleeping. Also we have left our land, and Zion has been taken away from us, and we have nothing now apart from the mighty one and his law.”

You see it was when the last of the Old Testament prophets died. That is Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi that the presence of the Holy Spirit ceased to be seen in Israel. For 400 years people yearned to hear the voice of God, but heard only echoes of the Spirit.

Okay... So why is that significant?

Because when Christ hits the Scene, is anointed and commissioned, his ministry as a Prophet begins. We have the big picture and know that he is the messiah, but that fact wasn't really revealed until later...

We will be discussing Christ's prophetic role as Royal Prophet, but at this point, I want to point out that Pentecost was a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophesy in Joel.

As we look to the book of Luke we can see several points where God the Father interacts with Jesus. A appearance or manifestation of God is called a theophany.

In the infancy narrative of Luke (Luke 1:5-9:50)

We have an angelic announcement that the son that will be born to Mary will be "the Son of the Most High" that is "the Son of God" (Luke 1:32)

Jesus declares his status to his parents in the temple when he says in Luke 2:49: "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

And so on...

This is the most important fact about Jesus. He is the Son of God, but as I said I wanted to look at how the Son of God functions and ministers as the eschatological (end day) prophet

Jesus is anointed at his baptism by John the Baptist (Luke 3:21-22)

Remember what I said a theophany was "an appearance or manifestation of God" Well... There are two signs in the commissioning theophany of Jesus baptism.

- 1) The voice from heaven identifying Christ as the Son of God
- 2) The descent of the Spirit upon Jesus

During his baptism and the subsequent time in prayer, Jesus is commissioned for his ministry. From that point forward Jesus is the servant prophet. (Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1-2)

Jesus re-establishes prophesy after 400 years of silence...

In his ministry as royal prophet many of the charismatic elements of Elijah and Elisha were typical in Jesus ministry and Jesus begins to experience the same type of rejection that the earlier prophets experienced. (Luke 4:18-30; 2 Kings 17)

Just a few weeks after his baptism, Jesus is reading at the synagogue in Nazareth. He reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 which explains his baptismal reception of the Holy Spirit and details his anointing for ministry. Specifically as we know his ministry shows the Lords gracious favour.

Jesus is commissioned to minister to the poor, the downtrodden, the captives, and the blind. He ministers to people regardless of their social status, whether or not they are spiritually paralysed, whether or not they are in physical or spiritual bondage, whether or not they are physically or spiritually blind.

Why the uproar after Jesus reads the scripture in Isaiah 61:1-2?

At the front of the synagogue in Nazareth like other synagogues, there was a seat that was known as the seat of Moses. This seat declared the authority and prominence in the synagogue. We see that Jesus even refers to it in Matthew 23:3 where he says that "the teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat" Only the Rabbi of that synagogue was permitted to sit in that seat of authority. This was a very sacred place in the synagogue and it was believed that the second Moses or the Messiah would sit there. There is only one chair at the front where Jesus was reading and it was the seat of Moses that he sat in. In this way both through the reading and his actions, he declared himself to be the messiah.

John the Baptist

In light of Jesus ministry and his acts, we see a slight confusion in John the Baptist. John has been declared by Christ to be the greatest of all the prophets (Luke 7:26-28) yet he does not understand Jesus agenda. John you see was preaching of the impending fires and Gods Judgement and Jesus was preaching and enacting the message of Gods favour. So what does John do?

He sends Jesus a message in Luke 7:20: "Are you the coming one or do we look for another?" Jesus reply clarifies the situation. We know that Jesus is coming to judge and condemn to the lake of fire, but his mission at that time was to spread the good news of God's grace. Jesus answered and said:

"The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear; the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them"
Luke 7:22

Here is the point:

Wherever Jesus is... his people will experience God's favour.

You see Israel was oppressed by the Romans. They were looking for a king to come and deliver them from the oppression of the Romans a victorious messiah, not a prophet preaching love and acceptance. Remember prophesy had ceased for over 400 years. Jesus was born to be King, (Luke 1-32-33) but this role would not come back into play again until the final days of his ministry in Jerusalem (Luke 18-23) but you see as you study these events you will see that Luke reports the rebirth of prophesy through Jesus Christ. Jesus exemplifies the prophets of old:

Jesus identifies himself as a prophet:

- A prophet (Luke 4:24)
- like Isaiah (Luke 4:16-23)
- like Elijah and Elisha (Luke 4:24-27)
- The rejected prophet (Luke 4:24, 28-30)

He is also identified later as a prophet like:

- Moses – By Transfiguration
- David – By Crucifixion

Simeon identifies Jesus' future when he states: "a Light of revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32 note: Isa. 42:1)

Luke reports in Luke 4:24-27 that like a Elijah and Elisha. "No Prophet is welcome in his hometown." Just like Elisha we see Jesus healing the leper Naman (1 Kings 5:2-14) Jesus Controls nature, just like Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17:1; 2 Kings 2:8,14. 19-22) Just like Elijah and Elisha Jesus multiplies food (1 Kings 17:16; 2 Kings 4:3-7, 42-44) and Jesus raises the dead just like earlier Elijah and Elisha did (1 Kings 17:17-23; 2 kings 4:32-35) – Elijah and Elisha ministered to strangers not just to God people as did Jesus.

Jesus is the rejected prophet:

(2 Kings 17:13-14; 2 Chron. 36:15-16) Rejecting Jesus claims to be a prophet the people of his hometown try to put him to death (Luke 4:28-30) which is the punishment for false prophets (Deut 18:20)

Notice that when Peter confesses that Jesus is the anointed one of God that Jesus immediately prophesies about his future rejection and death (Luke 9:20-22) he will die as the rejected prophet (Luke 13:33-34) and will be mocked by the soldiers that arrest him as a prophet (Luke 22:64)

Jesus ministers throughout Galilee as the Spirit anointed, led, empowered prophet (Luke 4:31- Luke 9:50)

Having trouble grasping the connection still:

- Isaiah 42:1 said: "I have put my Spirit upon him"
- Deuteronomy 18:15 said: "listen to him"

Jesus is the Messiah. It was Jesus who brought prophesy back to the people after 400 years. To prove his example he drew parallels to the prophets of old.

Note:

- Jesus has healed a leper just like Elisha healing Naaman
- Jesus administers God's blessings and cursings just like Moses
- Jesus teaches in parables just like Isaiah
- Jesus raises the dead just like Elijah and Elisha
- Jesus multiplies food like Elijah and Elisha

This is why when Jesus asks the question in Luke 9:18-19 he is answered in this manner.

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am? They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

Now Jesus extends his ministry from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-24:49)

Jesus travels on the way toward Judea and ultimately toward Jerusalem; he works in the pattern of Moses. Remember the seventy that helped Moses from Numbers 11:16-29, that the Spirit was endowed upon? Well it is here that Jesus sends out the seventy to minister on his behalf (Luke 10:1-24)

In Luke 10:25-28 Jesus reconfirms the love commands to love God and your Neighbour.

Why is Jerusalem Significant:

Now Jerusalem is not only the city that killed the prophets but it is also the city that crowned King David. It is at this juncture that we see the rejected royal prophet and King trajectories of Jesus ministry begin to merge.

Ever wonder why Jesus birth is defined in terms of his lineage to David?

- Mary's Husband is a descendant of David (Luke 1:27)
- The Lord will give this Son the throne of his Father David (Luke 1:32)
- He will reign over Israel forever (Luke 1:33)
- He is born in Bethlehem of Judea, David's royal city (Luke 2:1-5)
- He is born to be "a Saviour who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11)
- When baptised by John the voice from heaven identifies Jesus as the Royal Son (Luke 3:22 cf. Psa. 2:7)

The blind beggar calls out to Jesus "Son of David" identifying him as the messiah (Luke 18:37-38)

Jesus was not only born to be King, but he will die in Jerusalem as the royal prophet. Jesus was more than just a model of these prophets of old, he is the prophet maker. Jesus has promised us:

- That he would give his Spirit to those who ask him (Luke 11:13)
- The Spirit would inspire words for our defense when we suffer persecution for his name (Luke 12:12; 21:14, 15)
- The Spirit would empower us to witness for him and help us to fulfill our great commission (Luke 24:49)
- That we could be baptised in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5)

Following Pentecost Jesus pours out his Spirit on the 120 disciples present (Acts 2:1-21) Jesus has transferred his Spirit to his disciples (Acts 2:33) It is by this transfer that the disciples of Jesus became Spirit Baptised, Spirit Empowered, Spirit filled prophets (Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4, 17-21)

One thing remained...

Jesus still needed to fulfill the prophecy of John the Baptist. John said that his successor would baptize God's people in the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16; Acts 1:4-5) on the post-Easter day of Pentecost: "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured forth this which you both see and hear (Acts 2:33)

We need to be baptised in water in obedience to Jesus and we need to be baptised in the Spirit to be empowered for witness.

Acts 2:38 tells us to repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In order for Christ to re-establish prophesy in the leadership and personal giftings he came as a prophet to show the way. He came and laid down his life for you and me. He came so we could have hope, life and life more abundantly, he came to save us and restore our relationship with the Father. He came to do so much, do we know who his is and what he has done. Do we even know why he did it? Jesus did so much for us in so many different ways and yet all most will ever know is that they are saved. I ask this today... Is that enough? Is it enough to know we are saved or do we actually want to know our saviour?

In the Jewish culture of the day the Spirit was directly linked to inspired speech or prophecy. Jesus has released a whole charismatic array of gifts to us through his Spirit. It is not just to the leaders or priests anymore, but each and every person, Jew and gentile, male and female, slave or free. When I read Galatians 3:28 I get excited and I know why I get excited....

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Today we are one body, the body of Christ. We all have gifts; let's use them for the glory of God. What has God given you, are you seeking the best gifts?

Jesus has brought prophesy back to the church, He has atoned for our sins. He has brought power and authority to his church. Do you know Jesus? Do you know why he did what he did? If we read and study we can see. There is no easy way. We simply need to read and pray.

Jesus is our King, He died, he rose again and he is coming back to rule and reign where he will be judging and casting those of sin into the lake of fire... Just like John prophesied.

Are you ready?

- Prayer -