

Modern-Day “Prophets”

I. Introduction

A. Though the written Word of God has been complete for nearly two thousand years, there are still many who claim to be “prophets,” asserting that God has revealed truth to them that He has not revealed to anyone else. It is crucial to test such claims according to God’s written Word, and respond appropriately. **Matthew 7:15; 1 John 4:1**

II. Prophets in the Early Church

A. Scripture affirms that, in times past, God gave some the miraculous ability to prophesy. This was true before the Christian dispensation, and it was also true in the early church. **Acts 21:10-11; 15:32**

III. Prophecies Were to Cease

A. The early church was told that such prophesying would not last indefinitely. Scripture shows us that miraculous abilities to prophesy were needful for the early church *prior to the written Word being complete*. When that which is perfect (the complete written Word) would come, it was promised that what is in part (miraculous gifts such as prophesying) would be done away with. There is *no longer a need* for God to communicate truth through divinely inspired people currently walking the earth. **1 Corinthians 13:8-10**

IV. God Has Spoken

- A. The reason modern-day “prophets” are not needed is because God has *already spoken*. God’s Word needs no additions, revisions, etc. The Gospel has been revealed in full. The Bible contains all of the spiritual nourishment we need, and we must be content with that. **Jude 3**
- B. The sharp language used in rebuking the Galatians gives us an indication of how God will view us if we seek to “improve” upon His Word. **Galatians 1:6-9**

V. The Secret Things Belong to God

- A. Perhaps part of the reason that modern-day “prophets” are so prevalent is because God has not revealed every answer to every question we might have. While God provides us all things *that pertain to life and godliness*, He does not answer every question modern-day “prophets” claim to have the answer to. **2 Peter 1:3**
- B. An example of this is seen with the specific timing of the Day of Judgment. While many modern-day “prophets” have claimed to have the answer to this, we must be humble enough to acknowledge that we simply don’t know. **2 Peter 3:10**

VI. Conclusion

- A. God not only exhorts us to “test all things” (including modern claims of prophecy), but He also fully equips us to do this. May we not be deceived by false claims of prophecy, but respond in ways that accord with the truth that has been once for all delivered. **1 Thessalonians 5:21**