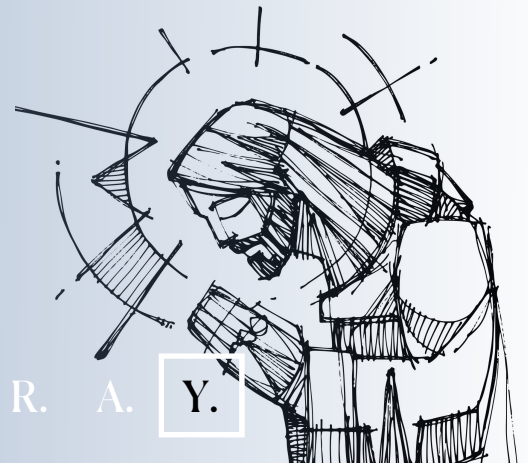


TOPICAL STUDY

NT Prophecy & Prophets



P. R. A. Y.

Nature of prophecy

- Prophecy is a gift from the Holy Spirit. Romans 12:3-8; 2 Pet. 1:19-21
- Prophecy functions in the context of other gifts. Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-11
- The purpose of spiritual gifts is unity and the edification of the Body of believers 1 Cor. 12:1-7, 11, 25-27
- Love is the necessary context for all gifts. 1 Cor. 13:1-13
- Gifts will end. Faith, hope and love will not. 1 cor. 13:8-13
- Having the gift of prophecy does not make one more important than others. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-27
- Prophecy has particular importance for the edification of the whole body. 1 Cor. 14:1-26
- Prophecy is not impulsive but can be managed through self-control. 1 Cor. 14:31-32; 2 Pet. 1:19-21

Who are prophets?

- Jesus is the Prophet. Matt. 13:57; 21:11; Mark 6:4; Luke 4:27; 7:16; 13:33; 24:19; John 4:19, 44; 6:14; 7:40; 9:17; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37
- There were multiple prophets in the NT, and not all were named. Acts 11:27; 13:1; 21:9; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; 14:29, 32, 37; Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11; Rev. 18:24; 22:6, 9
- NT prophets mentioned by name: Barnabas (Acts 13:1), Simeon (Acts 13:1), Lucius (Acts 13:1; 15:32), Manaen (Acts 13:1), Saul (Acts 13:1), Silas (Acts 15:32), Judas (Acts 15:32) and Agabus (Acts 11:28; 21:10).
- Prophets are not often honored in their hometowns and/or households. Matt. 13:22, 57; Mark 6:4
- Not everyone prophesies. Romans 12:4, 6; 1 Cor. 12:29

Church & prophets

- The church is built on the foundations of prophets & apostles; prophets are part of the key leadership. Eph. 2:20; 3:4-5; 4:11
- Prophets/prophecy was an expected gifting as part of the church. Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Acts 11:27-30; 15:32
- There is reward for receiving a prophet, welcoming the prophet into the community. Matt. 10:41

- NT churches dealt with false prophets. Matt. 7:15; 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; Luke 6:26; Acts 13:6; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10
- False prophets are a possibility for the present-day church and must be dealt with. 2 Pet. 1:19-21
- Believers must "test the spirits" to see if they are of God. 1 John 4:1
- They are identified by the fruit of their lives. Matt. 7:15
- They can lead people away from the faith. Acts 13:6-12
- Severe rebuke is sometimes required. Acts 13:6-12; Titus 1:10-11

Church & prophecy

- NT assumed that prophecy was part of worship. Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 14:29, 32, 37; 15:32
- Prophecy in assembly meetings should be done in an orderly fashion 1 Cor. 14:29-33
- Prophecy has particular importance for the edification of the whole body. 1 Cor. 14:1-26
- Prophecy encourages and strengthens believers. Acts 15:32; 1 Cor. 14:3
- Prophecy can convict unbelievers of sin. 1 Cor. 14:24-25
- Prophecy/prophets was a regular way that the church received direction & encouragement.
- Antioch's prophets & teachers. Acts 13:1-3
- Agabus. Acts 11:28; 21:8-14.
- Judas & Silas in Antioch. Acts 15:32
- Timothy received instruction & spiritual gifts through prophecies when he was commissioned. 1 Tim. 1:18; 4:14
- Action is taken in response to prophecy
- Needs of communities are identified. Acts 11:27-30
- Leadership is identified, commissioned and empowered. Acts 13:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:14
- Prophecy must not be despised or rejected. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22