

## Things I Have Learned About Prophecy

Over the past five years of listening to prophets, I have come to realize a few things. One is that **prophets have different personalities, and God speaks through people in different tones and with different wording**. Some prophets are very bold and expressive, while others are quieter and more reserved. Both are good, but **one prophet will not necessarily suit every believer!** You will find some you really enjoy listening to and others you may not connect with as much.

Another thing I have learned is that God exists outside of time. He declares the end from the beginning. Many times, He uses words like “this week” or “no more,” or the word “now” this or that will come to pass. When He speaks, He is speaking from a perspective in which He has already seen the outcome.

**\*\*Concerning the message of His coming kingdom and the Great and Terrible Day of the LORD, God has been sharing that it is imminent and will happen suddenly, “like a thief in the night.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2)**

His messages are many times like riddles, and can speak from different calendars. The Old Testament established the **Hebrew calendar** for Israel’s appointed times. The Jewish feasts—such as Passover, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles—are **still celebrated according to the Hebrew calendar**.

We use the **Gregorian calendar** today. In Jesus’ time, the Roman world used the **Julian calendar, which today is 13 days before Gregorian dates**.

Therefore, when we look at a biblical feast on our modern calendar, we can convert the **Hebrew date** into a corresponding **Gregorian date**.

All of these things can cause a person to think that a prophet is not hearing from God correctly. Christians are *very quick* to call prophets “false” because things don’t come to pass when it sounded like it would or how we thought it would come to pass. I would caution you to be careful how you speak of God’s prophets.

Now, are there false prophets out there? Yes! The Bible says so, but it says we are to judge **their words**, (whether they are Biblical), but not to make judgements about them personally, telling others *why* they do things, what is in their heart, and revealing their “dirt” to the public. Only God knows a person’s motives. He tells us in Matthew 7 not to judge one another. In 1 Corinthians 11:31, God tells us the only person to judge is ourselves!

**1 Thessalonians 5:20-21** - “Do not treat **prophecies** with contempt, but test **them all**; hold on to what is good.”

**Matthew 7:1-3** - “Don’t judge others, and God will not judge you. If you judge others, you will be judged the same way you judge others. God will treat you the same way you treat others.”

**1 Chronicles 16:22** - “Do not touch my anointed ones! Do my prophets no harm!”

**1 Corinthians 11:31** - “For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”

How do you know the difference between a true and false prophet? Here are three signs of a false prophet:

- 1) They do not acknowledge Jesus as God, leading people away from Him.

1 John 4:2-3 - *“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist.”*

- 2) Their lives will eventually produce bad fruit coming from persistent, unrepentant sin, such as pride, dishonesty, and sexual immorality rather than the spiritual fruit of righteousness, humility, and love.

Matthew 7:15-16 - *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.”*

- 3) They exploit believers for financial gain, using pressure tactics, manipulation, or charging people for prophetic words. This is different from allowing people to give freely and as they feel led by God.

2 Peter 2:3 - *“They will be greedy and cheat you with smooth talk...”*

As we ask God for discernment, we can discover more of God’s ways and His heart towards us through prophecy. I have a list of the prophets I have come to trust over the years. You can find the link below!