

Jan 22, 2023 Bible Prophecy

Review:

PROPHET SEER AND REVELATOR taken from Wikipedia

Prophet: a person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God.(in Christian use) the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the twelve minor prophets.

Seer: A person who is supposed to be able, through supernatural insight, to see what the future holds. A person who sees something specified.

Revelator: one that reveals especially one that reveals the will of God.

Prophet, seer, and revelator - Prophet, seer, and revelator is an ecclesiastical title used in the Latter Day Saint movement. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) is the largest denomination of the movement, and it currently applies the terms to the members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Taken from Study of the Prophets “The Fruit Of A True Prophet” from Bro. Mauricio’s lesson.

- 1 Prophets are called – ordained by the angels according to the standards of God. D/C 129; D/C 77:11.
2. Must present witnesses. Witness must testify as to the validity of this happening.
3. Prophecy of the future. Documented by the fulfillment of the prophecy. The devil, false prophet, can not tell the future. But he can imitate miracles of healing and good works in his name.

Amos 3:7 KJV

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his **secret** unto his servants the prophets.

Another description of Amos 3:7

The Lord never sent judgments upon any generation of which we are aware, before he raised up prophets and qualified men to warn the inhabitants of the earth of the calamities that come with his judgments upon the children of Adam.

The Lord uses prophets to teach, warn, alert, or condemn those who do not heed the words of his emissaries in all past dispensations, and into the restoration of the gospel of Christ in the 19th century through his prophet Joseph Smith Jr.

Because of the Lord's compassion for us, he sends prophets to warn us of the consequences of sin. Those who reject or deny the words of the prophets will suffer these consequences. Its not like the consequences go away. That is the point of listening to the prophets. It also means that the same consequences of the warnings from the Old Testament can apply to today's world through the coming forth of the plates which were given to Bro. Mauricio by the Angel Moroni. We need to consider the teachings and the warnings of the Sealed Book. We also need to continue searching for and asking for more information concerning the teachings of the Sealed Book.

So let's talk about Old Testament Prophets.

I don't know a lot about the Old Testament so I hope that I have gotten most of this correct. A lot of this is taken from LDS Seminary Studies.

If we view the Old Testament as sections we find 1: The first part is the Torah. 2: The second part is historical, 3: The third section

is /Wisdom/Poetry (mainly psalms and proverbs) and 4: The last part is where we read what the prophets have said. Also, if we understand the political nature of the times when each prophet is speaking we can understand the message much better. Pulling together the political atmosphere will show how prophesy pertains to our times.

In Jerusalem:

Prior to the split of the Northern and Southern Kingdom, things were generally pretty calm. The Israelites (1) were pretty righteous. They were respected as the United Kingdom of Israel. David and Solomon were highlighted at this time. King David reigns as king over all the tribes of Israel. His son Solomon was given the task to build the temple. He is blessed by the Lord with great wisdom and wealth. He was very righteous early on. But later he began to marry outside of his religion in an attempt to increase his wealth. By doing this he allowed the building of temples to pagan idols and the Israelites became disobedient to the teachings of Our Lord. **The message given by the prophets at this time was one of warning and of the condemnation that would come to them if they did not repent. Which they did not do.**

This is the where the split of the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms starts coming into play. The 10 tribes of the North is where we find Elijah, Elisha, and the minor prophets Amos, Hosea and Jonah.

The Northern Kingdom continued to follow the path of idolatry, sexual disobedience and unrighteous. The result was the fulfillment of the prophecies related to condemnation. This is where we see the conquering of Israel by Assyria. Assyria also tried to conquer the Southern Kingdom but they were still righteous at this point so Assyria was not able to prevail against them.

Now the tribes in the Southern Kingdom, Judah and Benjamin, watched this happening to the Northern Kingdom over the course of 200-300 years. But they also did not learn and did not repent. Nor did they listen to their prophets: (more minor prophets -Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nehum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Lamentations and Jeremiah). (There is a lot of discussion of what is a major or minor prophet from the Old Testament. According to one thing I read, major or minor has to do with the length of the book. But I believe that Isaiah is more of a Major Prophet.)The message again was of repentance. Repentance brings God's Blessings. The House of Israel is to be redeemed and made glorious. Great prophecies concerning the Messiah, the Redemption of Zion and latter day events. There were also prophecies of Jerusalem to fall. Repentance would avert disaster; Judah and Israel eventually to be restored. Zion to be redeemed. And latter day events.

It is at this point, that Lehi and Nephi leave Jerusalem. They repented and followed the teachings of the prophets and left Jerusalem before its destruction.

Now, lets go back to Solomon for a minute. What did he do? He built the temple. It was after his death that the ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom and the 2 tribes formed the Southern Kingdom, called Judah. At the time that Lehi left Jerusalem, the temple was still standing. Jerusalem had not been destroyed. The two tribes who were still in Jerusalem though they were getting away from God's prophets foretelling of this destruction. So what happened? Babylon was becoming a leading power. The outcome was that Babylon moved into Jerusalem, conquering and destroying it. Many of the Jews were killed and the rest were taken captive.

2 Chronicles 36:16-20 describes how this happens.

16: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, until there was no remedy.

17: Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all unto his hand.

18: And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

19: And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

20: And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia.

So Jerusalem is invaded. The Jews are taken to Babylon in captivity. And what happened to the temple. **Destroyed**. But wait! Jerusalem is the birthplace of Jesus . So how is it going to be restored if the Jews are in captivity? Are the prophecies wrong?

It turns out that Babylon is not destined to be in power forever. Eventually they are overthrown by Persia who has become a world leader. At this point the prophets could just be wrong. Their telling of future events could not be true. And maybe they are not true prophets after all.

Remember that Bro. Mauricio has said that prophets tell of the future. The prophets that spoke from the beginning of the time of the Southern Kingdom were: Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah,

Hanum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Lamentations and Jeremiah. Isaiah prophecies, among others, foretells of the apostasy, the Restoration, and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Israel will be scattered because they rejected the Lord and the prophets. People will turn away from the Lord and become wicked before the Second Coming. Zion will be supported by its stakes. The Lord will punish the wicked at the Second Coming. Isaiah 28-35.

Because of the Lord's compassion for us, He sends prophets to warn us of the consequences of sin. Those who reject the words of the prophets will eventually experience the judgments of God. Even after the Jews were conquered and carried into captivity, the Lord continued to call prophets. This is where Daniel and Ezekiel come into the picture. This is at the time of Babylon's domination. Other prophets noted around this time are: Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, Nehemiah and Malachi.

But we know there is a prophecy that says the the Jews will be allowed to return to Jerusalem and be able to rebuild the Temple. This happens when King Cyrus of Persia allows the Jews to return. His heart is softened by the Lord and 50,000 Jews are sent to Jerusalem specifically to rebuild the temple. (The Temple needed to be rebuilt before Rome took over. The city needed to be repopulated in preparation for the birth of Jesus.)

This is a condensed version of the prophets of the Old Testament and their messages.

Israelites vs. Jews

The decendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob (Israel) made up the nation of Israel and were sometimes called Israelites. Exodus 9:7. When the nation divided, the ten northern tribes gave themselves the name Israel, and the two southern tribes of the nation of Israel, became known as Judah. The term Jews was first used to describe the inhabitants of Judah. The

terms Israelites and Jews are close synonyms and are often used interchangeably. Since the Israelites were God's chosen people of the Old Testament, in the New Testament the terms Jew and Israel are occasionally used figuratively to represent God's chosen people today. (Taken from an article "Is There A Difference between Hebrews, Jews and Israelites? By Harold Hancock.)