

Kingdom Prophetic Ministry; From Old to New

By Max Ruschmeyer

Much of the biblical examples we have of prophetic ministry comes from the old testament and therefore under the **Old Covenant**. But we are no longer in the Old Covenant so we therefore need to put on New Covenant glasses when we examine prophetic ministry. (**All scripture quoted is from the NIV unless otherwise noted).

Old Covenant ministry; from **Exodus 19** through till the last chapters of the gospel accounts when Jesus initiates the new Covenant. Matt 26, Mark 14, Luke 22.

So what is it about the O.C. That makes prophetic ministry different than in the N.C.
Old Covenant

Mt Sinai (Exodus 19); the people meet with God (Deuteronomy 5..re-told 40 years later). Gods covenant design is rejected by Israel and they opt for a lesser.

Moses, the mediator

The law is given

The people say; just give us the rules and we will try to obey

The Old Covenant prophet was to represent God (speak for God)

Remind the people of their need for obedience

Give recognition when they were faithful

Give warning or pronounce judgement when disobedient or in rebellion

Declare that God was holding there sins against them (each will die for their own sins)

Remember in the O.C. The Holy Spirit was not poured out on all flesh (as in Acts 2) but would only visit certain individuals.

Prophets

Priests

Kings

Leaders

The Holy Spirit did not “remain” upon them as he did on Jesus (see John 1:32).

In O.C. You see this phrase often: Then the word of the Lord came to.....

There are dozens of references like this in the Old Testament.

Through-out the Old Testament this is a common statement *even before Moses*.

This phrase only appears once in the New Testament: To whom?

Luke 3:2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

O.C.: Receiving

John was the last of the Old Covenant prophets

N.C.: Perceiving

John warned judgement against the religious leaders. Matt 3:7, Luke 3:7

John rebuked King Herod for violation of the Mosaic Law (adultery) Luke 3:19-20

Jesus said of John; Matt 11:7-11Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. **For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.**

Also Luke 16:16 Law & Prophets proclaimed until John, since that time the good news of the kingdom is being preached.....

***** These are transitional verses*** Jesus is saying that things are beginning to change!**

John the Baptist had his head removed. Matt 14:8, Mark 6:24.

John fulfilled his purposes of preparing the way of the Lord.

Beheading was unusual in Jewish custom

Prophetic picture that those who are in the kingdom are connected to a new head.

Who is that? **Christ!** Eph 4:15, 5:23, I Cor 11:3, Col 2:10

Old Covenant there was a veil separating man from the presence of God (Holy of Holies).

When Christ was crucified that veil was torn from top to bottom. Math 27:51, Luke 23:45

Jesus made access to the Father available to all, not just a few.

Jesus was still operating under the Old Covenant system in His ministry, but at the same time he was demonstrating the emerging New Covenant (Kingdom of God) system.

“The beatitudes” in Matthew chapter 5-6 Jesus clearly shows a transitional world view.

You have heard it said.....but I say to you.....

These are all transitional statements declaring a new way of thinking.

At the same time, Jesus was very harsh with the religious leaders of the day. Matt 21, 22, 23 Luke 19:27.

So this begs a question; If Jesus was judgmental with some people; why shouldn't we be?

He was God in the flesh.

He was with-out sin yet chose to die for the sinner.

He is the King of kings; every knee will bow to Him.

He is the Messiah (the anointed).

He was never judgmental to the common sinner; only those who were supposed to be the spiritual leaders who were miss-representing God.

Jesus the redeemer: To redeem means to buy back, to set free, ransom, rescue, to deliver from sin and it's penalties, to atone for. **Our prophetic words should do the same!**

What about Agabus who prophesied the coming famine? Acts 11: 27-30

No judgment in it, just preparing the people for what was coming and to be a blessing to others.

What about Agabus prophesying Paul's arrest and imprisonment? Acts 21:10-14

Again it was just preparing Paul and the believers of the journey Paul was to take.

(Note; Paul did not change his plans from this word).

So where do we get our New Covenant model for the prophetic ministry?

I Corinthians chapter 12, 13, 14 primarily. Chap 13? Love; the foundation of all ministry.

II Corinthians 5:11-21 Ministry of Reconciliation! Not counting mens sins against them!

John 3:16-17...For God did not send His son to condemn the world but to **SAVE** the world.

John 12:47.....for I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

Jesus; our Passover Lamb. (Israel in Egypt; death angel passed-over the blood)

Messiah Mandate; **Luke 4:18-19** (Isaiah 61)...no vengeance.

Eph 4:14-16 Paul says; Speak the truth in love.....to grow the body of Christ.

Lets “speak the truth in love”.....not just “love to speak the truth”.

We not only need to hear (perceive) the voice of the Lord but we must also capture the heart of the Lord. These two together are what will cause us to represent the Lord to people as ambassadors of the New Covenant and the Kingdom of God.