

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC24 “Our Glorious Prophet”

**Pastor walks his children through** Westminster Shorter Catechism question 24—especially explaining how Christ has been our glorious Prophet from the beginning, during His earthly life, in the apostolic period of the church, and ever since.

Q24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? *Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by His Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.*

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

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Shorter catechism lesson this week is. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet? And the answer is that Christ executed the office of a prophet in revealing to us. By his word and spirit, the will of God for our Salvation. So, the Lord Jesus has been doing this.

Uh, ever since there was Manito. And he, Did this in his Earthly Ministry? He did this. Especially. His ministry to, and through the Apostles, prophets, and evangelists. And he continues to do this. Today.

In the way that God created man in his own image. Uh, the Breathed into the man whom he had formed breathed into his nostrils. And so you have A appearance of God and communication. Um, by God of himself in which the first thing? That man is aware of at all.

Is that the Lord is breathing or has just breathed. Into his nostrils. And so you have a christophany. Pre-Incarnation. Appearance of God, the word. As the scripture sometimes calls him, God, the son is the scripture all often calls him. The Lord Jesus, as he now is unto us. After having been incarnate,

And then in all of, The words of Prophecy that were given. Uh, up until the coming of Christ. Though men did not speak of their own or from themselves. But holy men spoke from God. As they were carried Along by the Holy Spirit. Second Peter chapter 1 tells us And 1st Peter, chapter 1 when talking about The words of the prophets.

Uh, specifically. Calls the Holy Spirit, the spirit of Christ who is in them and testifying So, all of the words of the Old Testament, all of the true words of Prophecy. Or from Christ from God, the son, God the word as he calls himself in scripture by his Spirit.

Uh, and then having spoken Uh, by his Spirit, by the spirit of Christ. At various times in various ways, it was always by the spirit of Christ, but then he spoke by Christ himself. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his son. And so, the Lord Jesus came.

And the Lord Jesus in his Earthly Ministry, he came especially preaching. Uh, repent for the Kingdom of Is at hand. I forgot. Now the name of our Or which of our reformed. Forebears. Took note of this in this way. But uh one of those faithful Men said the Lord has but one son and he made him a preacher.

Uh, reminding Those who are studying for the ministry or in the ministry. Or under the ministry. Now that would be all of us. And that the ministry of preaching is a great thing, indeed. Because now, God speaks to us by his son, when preachers preach Profits now are not like prophets then.

In which they were. Um, Speaking Christ's words by the spirit of Christ. In a separated way, but in a more immediate way. The Lord Jesus says that he addresses. From. Now. When? His preachers by his Spirit address, our ears that much is Uh, Christ speaking. By his spirit and to be received as the word of God just as much as All of God's speech from before the Lord, Jesus came is to be received as the word of God.

Uh, those words were no less the word of Jesus, but now we have the word of Jesus in a different way.

More direct and immediate way to the heart. As. His own words are spoken by others. Uh, to our ears. Uh, and As it were to our minds. And so, you had Uh, the Lord Jesus. Speaking. In his Earthly Ministry. And there were those who, Not just beheld him, but heard him.

And there were some who heard him who resisted him, the vast majority. Uh, heard him and even many, who said they believed, Uh, it was of a superficial Consent, mental consent. Sort of Belief. Because when further pressed they departed from him, But there were others who when they heard him.

He also addressed their hearts. Giving them Life by his Spirit to believe and not just have mental consent. But heart and soul conviction. So in one moment, when some of the former sort were leaving, he asked his disciples. Are you going to leave too? You remember Peter's answer was where would we go?

You have the words of eternal life. And so, Jesus had addressed his heart in a way. Uh, and that was convincing to him and he knew Jesus, not only as a prophet Little P, like many of the others had known Jesus, but as the prophet capital P. The one who in Deuteronomy, uh, 18 had been promised by Moses as greater than Moses as the one.

Concerning him. Your eternal life or your Eternal death. Depends on whether you hear Jesus. We don't just mean, hearing with the ear, we mean that hearing with the heart and which he convinces your heart. That his are the words of eternal life because he is God, the son, God, the word Who has redeemed us?

And so, Um, Tells us by his word and spirit the will of God for our Salvation. Uh, we realized that he himself is the will of God. For our Salvation. Another example, during his Earthly Ministry after his resurrection, Is, as he's talking to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

He's not just talking in their ears. Um, he is making their hearts burn within them. Uh, and this is helpful because sometimes the Lord is giving us Uh, doing that word work on our souls and we aren't as aware of it as we ought to be. But praise God, our dullness does not um disprove or undo what he's doing.

Uh, because they didn't get it until he broke the bread, and they, and that was that, which he used to confirm his word. Very similarly. Uh, often he will. Uh, do that word work in our hearts while we hear the preaching. And then he'll come and he'll add force and life to what he's doing?

Give Clarity. To what he's doing as he affirms. His gospel that he has preached to us when we come to the table. It's a very similar the road to Emmaus. Uh, the word work, that the Lord Jesus did in the heart, the confirmation and the breaking of the bread, which already Reminded them.

Of course, of many times that he had broken bread. And, and he had done that many times with the Um, intention of building up and teaching us. About the supper that he was going to Institute. And so some of the most important instruction about the Lord's, Supper actually takes place in John 6.

Uh, in a discussion about the feeding of the 5,000 which they wanted repeated, but he was trying to make them to understand. Was about the true food and the true drink. And so, the Lord Jesus. Was, of course, the great prophet capital P. Uh, to his people during his Earthly Ministry.

And yet. In his wisdom, he is also that God to us who is father-like and spares us in. Psalm 103, Uh, and he knows our frame and he knew the disciples frame and there were things that were left to say to that they would not be able to bear.

Um, Uh, at the time and he told them that in John 16 but he promised them that the things that remained to be said. Uh, his Spirit, the spirit of Truth whom he would send, would lead them into so he makes this promise in John 16. And, The, the spirit would lead them into all the truth.

And the Lord Jesus does this through. Three sorts of officers during the apostolic period that we have listed. Uh, in Ephesians chapter 4. Apostles, prophets and evangelists. Apostles, the sent ones from Jesus. The twelve in particular. Uh, but there are going to end up being Um, many more than 12 congregations and so forth and need for many more.

Uh, Uh, 12, who are preaching the true word from Jesus Christ by his Spirit as he Uh, comes and addresses the heart. Making. Those who here his word by faith, by the work of the spirit aware that it is the resurrected and ascended Jesus. Now, Who is addressing not just their ears and minds through.

Um, the words, the spirit given words that he is making them to hear but who is even addressing their very hearts. And so there are not just the 12 apostles. There are also the prophets. So men, like Um, James and Jude his brothers. Uh, or Um, Philip prophesies. Um, or others and there are even Um, There are even prophetesses.

Like the daughters of, uh, Philip Uh, who we do not have office in the church. Like the apostles do but they do have. Um, well function. And are to be tested by those who Uh, those who also have Spirit of Prophecy for instance, Um, Paul in First Corinthians. Uh says that uh anyone who has the spirit or is a prophet must affirm.

That First Corinthians is written by the Holy spirit that Paul has the spirit as he writes, but you have Apostles and Prophets James and Jude were not among the twelve. But the Lord used them to write. New Testament books. And then you have evangelists. Mark, and Luke were not among the 12.

Uh, but the Lord used them to write New Testament books. And thus affirmed using two Apostles and two evangelists for the four gospels. He thus affirmed the ministry of the of the Gospel to the Gentiles Mark and Luke were both associated. With the Apostle Paul although many Associate them with Peter but we know second Timothy Uh that Mark was very useful to Paul in the gospel Ministry and he had been with them for the beginning of the first missionary journey.

But you have the Apostles prophets and evangelists. And so there are the John 16 and The. Ephesians 4 list. Both remind us that Those whom Jesus set apart to that concluded the fullness of his words to us. He is our capital P Prophet. But even then also, when he uses Pastor teachers that last Group in the list in Ephesians chapter 4, Jesus is still our capital P.

Uh, profit. Uh, so the Ephesians, he tells them in chapter 2 and chapter 4. Of Ephesians that. Jesus had come to Ephesus and preached. Uh, it says, in chapter 2, he came and proclaimed peace to them. We know that this did not happen during Jesus's Earthly Ministry, chapter 4, Talks about Jesus.

Teaching them the truth, and their believing him. And this. Along the same lines. Then as Romans 10, Whereas properly translated not. Um, how will they believe? In him of whom they have not heard but more literally translated, how will they believe him whom? They have not heard. So faith comes by hearing the word of God.

But, The. The hearing of the word of God comes by Jesus addressing from Heaven. Through the means of a preacher. How will they hear without a preacher? And so preachers. Are his appointed means by which he addresses, our hearts, which is why Hebrews 12 says that we must not refuse him, who speaks from Heaven.

And it identifies him as the one who spoke at Sinai who once shook the Earth and he speaks and Sinai shakes and the people are afraid. Uh, but now Hebrews 12 says he is shaking heaven. Uh, and so Well that shaking that happened at Sinai. That was physical and observable that people could feel it was actually a shadow.

A smaller. It's a cold version. Of the greatness of what is happening when Jesus is in heaven. Speaking, the gospel. Uh, when Jesus, who's blood now has been spilled and he is in glory with his blood and his blood speaks better than Abel more effectively than Abel's blood Abel's blood speaking for conviction of guilt against Cain, Jesus's blood speaking for Vindication and justification and forgiveness of sin for us.

But just as his blood speaks better than that of Abel. So now his addressing Us by his Spirit, through preachers on Earth in the gathered worship. Is a shaking of Heaven, more powerful. Than the than the physical shaking of Sinai at the Ten Commandments. So in a great way, indeed, Not only was Jesus.

Uh, his people's Prophet, declaring to them, the will of God for their salvation. For the entire period before the Incarnation and obviously. So, during his Earthly Ministry during his humiliation, but most greatly. So, Now, in his exaltation, In glory? He reveals to us. By his word and spirit. The will of God for our Salvation.

And he has given us a completed Bible Old and New Testament, and he gives us the preachers that he sends us. And he gives us the same Spirit by whom he carried along the writing of every word. Every pinstroke, Of the Bible, his Same Spirit. Now comes and helps the preachers as they preach and helps the elect as they hear.

And gives us faith and gives us conviction and makes our hearts burn. And confirms the words, by the spirit's use, also of his supper Truly Jesus is our great Prophet. Many focus on Jesus as king. Praise God. He is the great king. Many focus on Jesus as priest. Praise God, he is the great priest.

He has offered the ones for all sacrifice. But truly glorious also. As Christ's executing the office of the Prophet capital P. So, how does Christ execute the office of a prophet? And the answer is Christ, executed the office of a prophet. And revealing to us, by his word and spirit, The will of God.

For our Salvation.