

Prophets in the Church

Life in Christ: Wealth, Walk, Warfare (Ephesians) – Part 89

Ephesians 4:11a

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And He Himself gave the apostles, and the prophets, and the evangelists,¹ and the pastors and teachers...
(*Ephesians 4:11 DJP*)

Introduction:

I. Witness from the Gospels

A. Prophecy Returns

1. Luke 3:2
2. Matthew 11:9-11

B. Prophecy Continues – Luke 11:47-50

II. Witness from Acts

A. Peter's Thinking: 2:16-18

B. Agabus' _____ing

1. First notice: 11:27-28
2. Second notice:
 - a. _____:10-11
 - b. _____:27-28, 30-33
 - c. _____:17-19
3. Conclusion

III. Witness from Paul

A. Who Paul Termed "Prophet"

1. OT prophets (Romans ____:1-2; also Rom. 3:21; 11:3; 1 Thess. 2:15)
2. ...and NT prophets (Ephesians 4:11; also 1 Cor. 11:28-29; 14:29, 32, 37; Eph. 2:20; 3:5)

¹ Which is to say *tellers of the good news*.

B. How Paul Described “Prophets”

1. Relating to apostles, NT prophets:
 - a. ...stood in *second* place, *after* the apostles (1 Cor. ____:28)
 - b. ...stood *with* the apostles in...
 - i. ...laying the foundation of the Christian church (Eph. ____:20)
 - ii. ...receiving revelation of the mystery of the Christian church (Eph. ____:5)
 - c. ...acknowledged the authority of the apostles (1 Cor. 14:37)
2. Relating to OT prophets, NT prophets *also*...
 - a. Received revelation (1 Cor. 14:29-30; Eph. 3:5)
 - b. Knew what was humanly unknowable (1 Cor. 13:2a; 14:24-25)
 - c. Had to be tested
 - i. Jesus had warned that there would be *many* false prophets (Matthew 24:11; confirmed in 1 John 4:1; cf. 2 Pet. 2:1-3)
 - ii. So: (Romans 12:6 [“in agreement with the faith”]; 1 Cor. 14:29; 1 Thess. 5:20-21; cf. 1 John 4:1-3)
3. Relating to the church, NT prophets ...
 - a. ...edified, encouraged, comforted (1 Cor. 14:3-4, 31)
 - b. ...instructed (1 Cor. 14:31)
 - c. ... provided *parts* of the complete, revealed truth of God (1 Cor. 13:9; Eph. 3:5)
 - d. ...would cease functioning when revelation was complete (1 Cor. 13:8-9)

C. In Sum

IV. Errors to Avoid

A. Non-Charismatic: _____ are Prophets

1. The reasoning
2. The ruination

B. Charismatic: Calling a Parsley a Tree

1. Notion: OT *prophets* are NT *apostles*; NT *prophets* are...something else
 - a. Major spokesman: Wayne Grudem
 - b. Main evidence cited: they say...

C. Playing the Enemy’s Game