

The background of the slide features a dramatic, ethereal scene. In the upper left, a winged figure, possibly an angel or a personification of Victory, is depicted riding a white horse. The figure holds a trumpet aloft in their right hand and a spear in their left. The scene is set against a backdrop of soft, glowing clouds in shades of teal and yellow. In the lower right, a large, detailed winged figure, likely an angel, is shown in profile, looking upwards. The overall atmosphere is one of divine light and prophecy.

A Primer On Prophecy (pt.1)

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The Agenda

BRIEFLY OBSERVING THE WORD *PROPHECY*.

PROPHETS AND THEIR FUNCTION.

THE QUALITIES OF PROPHECY.

Word Study (Noun)

The Hebrew word for *prophecy* is נְבוּאָה (pronounced *něbuw'ah*). This word occurs 4x in the OT (NASB) (2 Ch. 9:29, 15:18; Neh. 6:12; Dan. 9:24).

The Greek word for *prophecy* is προφητεία (pronounced *prophēteia*). This word occurs 21x in the OT (NASB).

The word for *prophet* is נָבִיא (pronounced *nabiy'*). In the OT this word occurs 220x (NASB).

The first occurrence of this particular word *prophet* is found in Gen. 20:7 (God states that Abraham is a prophet)

Word Study (Noun)

The Hebrew word for *prophets* is נְבִיאִים (pronounced *nevi'im*). This word is the noun plural form of prophet. (89x in the OT).

The Greek word for *prophets* is προφήτης (pronounced *prophetes*). This word (and its respective forms) occurs 149x in the NT.

Word Study (Verb)

The Hebrew word for *prophecy* is נָבֵא (pronounced *naba*). This word occurs 111x in the OT (KJV).

The Hebrew word for *prophecy* is προφητεύω (pronounced *propheteuo*). This word occurs 28x in the NT (NASB).

Things to Mention About Prophets/Prophecy

- Prophecy, before the nation of Israel was **rare**, and **unusual**.
 - **Enoch**: mentioned by Jude as having prophesied (Jude. v.14-15). This is the only record of Enoch's prophecy.
 - **Abraham**: Is mentioned as being a prophet (Gen. 20:7), but there is no record of him prophesying to another person.
 - Interestingly Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph had extraordinary encounters with God, but they are not observed as prophets of God.
- Moses is mentioned as being a prophet to the nation of Israel (Deut. 34:10) (this is to underscore that God has chosen Moses to be His mouthpiece and that Israel could trust Him).

Things to Mention About Prophets/Prophecy

- Prophecy, before the Second Coming of Christ, will make a comeback with Israel (Joel 2:28-29).

The Function of Prophets/Prophecy

- To disclose unique or extraordinary information (e.g., God, the prophets of Israel *by the Holy Spirit*).
- To give direction to the **entire** nation of Israel (c.f., 2 Chron. 15:8).
- To give promise to the **entire** nation of Israel in regards to their future (c.f., Mic. 4:1-8; Jer. 33:1-26).

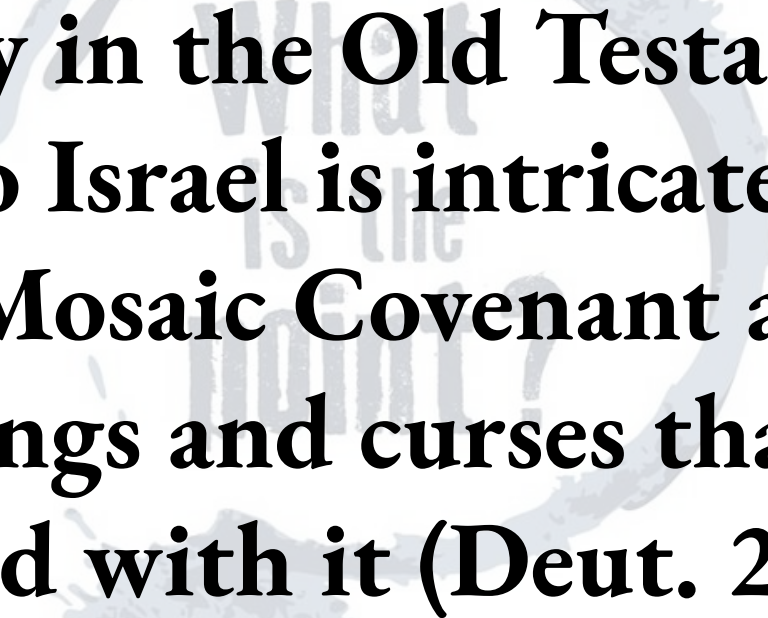
The Function of Prophets/Prophecy Cont.

- To give a particular person their disaster (or favor), usually kings or persons in high authority (1 King 22:8; 2 Chron. 15:8).
- Prophecy was used to underscore recognition that God chose a king or elders for Israel (c.f., 1 Sam. 10:1-17; Num. 11:24-25).

The Function of Prophets/Prophecy

For Israel prophecy, especially for the major and minor prophets followed a particular pattern:

- 1) the divine charges.**
- 2) a general call for them to reconsider their doctrine and their actions.**
- 3) the positive consequences if they turned from their false doctrine and actions that coincided with that false doctrine.**
- 4) the negative consequences if they refused to reconsider.**



Prophecy in the Old Testament, in regards to Israel is intricately linked to the Mosaic Covenant and the blessings and curses that are associated with it (Deut. 28:1-68)!

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The Qualities of Prophecy

- Prophecy is NOT predictive
- **Prophecy concerns God's POV and work.
- Prophecy is (extremely) specific.
- Prophecy shows the arc of God's history.
- Prophecy is corrective.

The Qualities of Prophecy

- Prophecy is comforting.
- Prophecy is directly connected to God's name.
- Prophecy is directive.
- Prophecy often accompanied unique visions.
- Prophecy can be mysterious, but NOT mystical!

The Qualities of Prophecy

- Most Old Testament prophecy concerns Israel, the Nations, and the Messiah's work for Israel.
- Prophecy contains common and unique imagery.
- Prophecy, at times, was physically demonstrated.
- The origin of prophecy is God (spec. The Holy Spirit).

The Qualities of Prophecy

- Prophecy is used to underscore that God is with a particular person or people.

Question

What about the Church?

Things to Mention About Prophets/Prophecy In NT

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- **Prophets are mentioned being in the Church (c.f., 1 Cor. 14:27-32).**
- **Paul writes that prophecy is for encouragement, consolation, and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).**
- **Paul also mentions about the “spiritual” of prophecy, the purpose, and the order by which the spiritual is used (1 Cor. chaps. 12-14).**

Things to Mention About Prophets/Prophecy In NT

- **Paul mentions that prophecy is a “spiritual” from the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1-10).**
- **Prophecies in the New Testament were personal, and local (c.f., Acts 21:7-14; 1 Tim. 1:18).**

Fascinating Information

There are **specific** prophetic instructions for the nation of Israel given by the prophets of Israel (i.e., “thus saith the Lord”). However there are **ZERO** prophetic instructions from prophets of the church recorded in the epistles!

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OKAY SMART
GUY...



Question

WHAT ABOUT PAUL AND WHAT HE WROTE?

Those are never referred to as prophecies,
but mysteries!

The Greek word for mystery is μυστήριον (pronounced *musterion*)

CONCERNING THE GOSPEL (OR CHRIST) (ROM. 16:25; 1 COR. 2:7; EPH. 6:19; COL. 1:26-27).

CONCERNING THE UNION BETWEEN JEW & GENTILE
IN CHRIST (EPH. 5:32).

CONCERNING THE GLORIFICATION OF THE SAINTS (1 COR. 15:51-58).

CONCERNING THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS (1 THESS. 4:15-19).

CONCERNING THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (2 THESS 2:7).

CONCERNING THE STUBBORNNESS OF ISRAEL (ROM. 11:25)

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Interesting Note...

Paul is the **ONLY** apostle to use this word in his epistles. Peter and John (and the other NT authors do not use this word mystery!

Reasons He May Have Used This Word