

Prophecy and Prophets ~ Part 1

In my last post, we concluded our exploration of the life of **Elisha** as we learned of **Elisha's Death**. As I stated then, after studying the lives of **Eliyahu** and **Elisha**, I wanted to look at this whole concept of what is a prophet and are prophets still on the scene today. I had been intrigued with **Eliyahu** and **Elisha** because they were prominent figures in the **Tanakh** but had not written one of the canonical prophetic books.

Despite my verse-by-verse exploration of **Revelation** in the **End Times Series** during 2017, I don't consider myself a "prophecy nut or expert." I am quite satisfied that God is still on the throne and only He knows when He will return to vanquish the wicked and begin His millennial rule.

A reliable source tells me that at least two more years will be needed to reach the last known people groups on planet earth that have not heard the Gospel message, don't have the Bible in their language and have not formed a local **Kehilah**. That said, why am I interested in exploring further what is a prophet and are prophets still on the scene today?

I started the research for this series not in my extensive library, but on **Google**. My query for a list of prophets in the Bible led me to **GotQuestions**. Their definition for who was a prophet is "someone in the Bible who revealed God's message to others." Note the past tense in that definition. Some heard directly from God and passed on the words through writing or speech. Some interpreted dreams or visions of others. The messages could be prophecies of the future, messages for the listener, or warnings for others.

Interestingly, **Noach** was the first name on the list. I recalled that God talked to him several times as recorded in Genesis 6-9, but I didn't recall **Noach** talking to his neighbors about what God had told him. Messianic Jews 11:7 has been interpreted by some to mean that God told Noach to preach against his evil neighbors, but I don't see that. ***By trusting, Noach, after receiving divine warning about things as yet unseen, was filled with holy fear and built an ark to save his household. Through this trusting, he put the world under condemnation and received the righteousness that comes from trusting.*** ~ Hebrews 11:7 (CJB) OK, so his righteous living in trusting God to build the ark was a witness to his faith.

The list goes on with some notable patriarchs and others, including **Avraham, Ya'akov, Yosef, Moshe, Aharon, Miriam** and the seventy elders of Israel (see Numbers 11:25). The list goes on to identify twenty others by name and multitude unnamed prophets before **Eliyahu** and **Elisha** arrive on the scene.

The last prophet to prophecy in Israel was **Mal'akhi** until the angel visited **Z'kharyah**, the father of **Yochanan the Immerser**. **Mal'akhi's** message was a call to obedience and a promise of the coming **Messiah**. Following his oracle, there was a divine silence for 400 years. Sometime down the road, I may do another character study on one of the other prophets in the Tanakh.

The list of named prophets in the **Brit Hadashah** is much shorter. As mentioned above, **Z'kharyah** is first on their list followed by **Miryam, Elisheva, Shim'on**, and **Hannah** all surrounding the birth of **Yeshua**. So much for the end of divine silence. **Yochanan the Immerser** spent his life exhorting people to confess their sins, turn to God and follow **Yeshua**. There is a multitude of others in the Brit Hadashah mentioned in the list which we look at in future posts.

In my next post, I want to dig into the references in my library to see if we can pin down a definition of prophecy and what makes someone a prophet. Not yet sure when I will get to the spiritual gift of prophecy and the office of the prophet within the Kehilah, but we will cover that as well.