

MEMORY VERSE: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" Isaiah 6:8, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson looks at several examples of Bible prophets to better understand their unique calling.

1. Prophets are simply (and uniquely) God's spokespersons (Sab)

- Many assume prophets are fortune tellers or future tellers.
 - Last week's lesson, however, correctly states that prophets are simply "individuals whom [God] has chosen as His spokespersons." Qttly, Lesson 1, Thu, par 2
 - The call of Moses demonstrates this clearly (Ex. 4:14-16; 7:1).
- Prophets are called by God (Num. 12:6), but maintain their unique personalities.
 - Lesson 5 will address the mechanics of revelation and inspiration, but for now let's just be clear that God doesn't dictate word-for-word through the prophet (sometimes referred to as "verbal dictation" or "verbal inspiration").
 - Instead, God communicates to His prophet and trusts him or her to convey the message in their own language and personality ("thought inspiration").

The writers of the Bible had to express their ideas in human language. It was written by human men. These men were inspired of the Holy Spirit. 7BC 945

- The examples highlighted in this week's lesson illustrate this point: Abraham, Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel, and John the Baptist all had distinct personalities and different styles of communication.

2. Prophets speak with "the prophetic voice" (Sun-Fri)

- True prophets speak with the authority of a "thus saith the Lord." This is the true "prophetic voice."
 - "Not all prophets were called by God to warn of impending doom. All were called, however, to restore the people to faithfulness and often to warn against apostasy, against oppression of those who were poor and needy, and against violation of the covenant and its stipulations. Most important of all, however, the prophets were to reveal the promise of salvation found in the Messiah." Qttly, Sun, par 3, 4

- The examples cited this week spoke with “the prophetic voice.”
 - **Abraham:** Lead the family of faith. (Gen. 12:1-3; 18:19; 22:1-14)
 - **Elijah:** Confronted apostasy (1 Ki. 17, 18)
 - **Isaiah:** Foretold the Messiah (Is. 6:1-8; 53)
 - **Daniel:** Prophesied end-time events (Dan. 2, 7, 8-12)
 - **John the Baptist:** Prepared the way for Christ (Lk. 3:3-14; Mt. 11:7-11)

3. Bible prophets foreshadow God’s end-time church (Sun-Fri)

- God’s people today should have a daily witness like these biblical prophets.
 - **Abraham:** “As paganism and idolatry ran rampant in Abraham’s day, so today many of the world’s competing ideologies aim to eliminate or marginalize Christianity. In contrast with much of the prevailing culture, God’s people today are called to reflect His image faithfully in their daily interactions with others, including their proclamation of the three angels’ messages.” Q’tly, Sun, par 5
 - **Elijah:** “Just prior to Christ’s second coming, God commands His church to proclaim the Elijah message again, and for people to turn away from their ‘idols’ and be ready to stand in the great day of the Lord.” Q’tly, Mon, par 3
- Like **Isaiah**, the “Gospel prophet,” God’s end-time people will uplift Christ as the only hope for the world (see Rev. 14:6).
 - The remnant church will know and proclaim Bible prophecy to prepare people to for the coming of Jesus.
 - **Daniel:** The same judgment that Daniel foretold, the Remnant church will declare “has come” (Rev. 14:7).
 - **John the Baptist:** Just as John the Baptist prepared people for Christ’s first coming, the Seventh-day Adventist Church was raised up to prepare people for Christ’s second coming.
- **Ellen G. White** exemplifies the same prophetic calling and mission of biblical prophets (see Friday’s lesson).

CONCLUSION

“Being a prophet was a difficult calling. Their lives were often not easy but filled with sorrow, rejection, misunderstanding, and frustration... Today, in a generation flooded with violence, greed, immorality, exploitation, and all manner of satanic influences, the prophetic voice is often rejected or simply ignored. We are called to heed the voice of God’s prophets and to be messengers of the hope given to us through the prophets.” Q’tly, Sab, par 2, 4