

The Prophetic Gift Lesson 9 1Q 2009

The Integrity of the Prophetic Gift

The question the lesson authors want us to address this week regarding prophetic writings is, are they reliable? And what if a prophetic writer borrowed writings from another person?

Does it matter?

Any examples from scripture?

How about if the prophetic writer not only borrows but makes a new interpretation or application than the original author?

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” —which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23,24

This text is referenced in your margin to Isaiah 7:14. The question, was Isaiah, when he wrote 7:14 speaking about the Messiah? And was he speaking about a virgin?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 NIV

Well then, the Lord himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 GNT

Which was Isaiah referring to a virgin or young woman?

(*āl·mā(h)*): Str 5959; TWOT 1630b—LN 9.34-9.40 **young woman**, i.e., sexually mature female of marriageable age,

which may or may not be sexually active (Ge 24:43; Ex 2:8; Ps 68:26; Pr 30:19; SS 1:3; 6:8; Isa 7:14), note: context will demand or suggest if the young woman is sexually active, note:

What is the context of Isaiah 7? Judah was being threatened by invaders, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of the king of Israel. The Lord sent Isaiah to King Ahaz, King of Judah to encourage him. Isaiah tells King Ahaz that the invasion will not happen and to ask the Lord for a sign but Ahaz refuses. Therefore Isaiah says in Chapter 7:

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. ¹⁶ But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”

What does this sound like? What was the purpose of Isaiah’s prophecy to king Ahaz? Was it to promise a Messiah hundreds of years in the future or was it to promise deliverance from their current threat?

If we read further in chapter 8 of Isaiah:

Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said to me, "Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. ⁴ Before the boy knows how to say 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria." (verses 3,4)

Thoughts? Did Matthew borrow from Isaiah? When Isaiah wrote chapter seven do you think he was referring to the Messiah hundreds of years on the future? Is it okay for one inspired person to reinterpret and reapply the writings of another?

Does this undermine our confidence in Jesus' birth and the promise of a redeemer? No, because we have another child promised by God in the prophecy of Isaiah, in chapter 9:6,7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

What child is this text referring to? Clearly the Messiah!

Any other examples of Bible writers borrowing?

Hebrews 8:10 – borrowed from Jeremiah,
A great portion of the NT is borrowed from the Old

SUNDAY

Read 1Kings 22:1-23

Thoughts?

Is God a liar? Does God send angels to lie? Does God instruct His prophets to lie? Does God use deception, deceit and falsehood?

Who is the father of lies? Satan! (John 8:44)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; James 1:13

If God doesn't lie or instruct His angels or prophets to lie, then why does 1Kings read as it does?

In Old Testament the people were in serious darkness about God, the Great Controversy, the existence of Satan etc. They attributed to God not only the things He directly did but that which He permitted. This was their mindset, and the Bible writers recorded events in the mindset of the people. Additionally, God's goal is to save and redeem He had His prophets speak a language that the local people would understand.

Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me.”

But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it. ⁵ When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him. ⁶ So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day. 1Samuel 31:4-6

How did Saul die?

Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD; he did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance, ¹⁴ and did not inquire of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse. 1 Chron 10:13,14

Was the prophet who wrote Chronicles lying? Did God kill Saul? Why is this language used? Because in the mind of the people if God didn't stop it they considered Him doing it.

Therefore, when God didn't stop evil angels from influencing the false prophets in their minds it was the same as God doing it. Micaiah capitalized on this and spoke a language the people would understand. And the essential message that the two kings needed to hear was – God is not telling you to go into battle you are being deceived.

Did Saul know the truth? But did Saul want to follow the truth? What is the lesson? Those bent on evil and not interested in following the truth the truth does them no good.

Consider those coming to arrest Christ, did they want the truth? Divinity flashed before them and they were struck down, you think they might have gotten a clue? Peter cuts off Malchius' ear and Jesus puts it back on in front of them, did they see the truth? Incredible, this is what happened to Ahab as well. He didn't want the truth. It didn't matter what Micaiah

said, but the way Micaiah said it was most likely to get through to Ahab.

Ahab himself rejected the report that they should go into battle. Then Micaiah, in the common mindset of the day, said that the message they had been given by the 400 prophets was a lie.

1 Kings 20:35-42

Thoughts?

The prophet was not lying but revealing truth through an enactment, a drama, a lived out parable. The prophet represents Ahab, the captive represents Ben-Hadad. God had delivered Ben-Hadad into Ahab's hands to be destroyed. Instead Ahab made a treaty with him and let him live. Several years later Ahab died in battle with the forces of Ben-Hadad.

MONDAY

Read top paragraph "A few months after..." thoughts? What message did Jeremiah give them about their plan? What did the people do? Why didn't they listen to Jeremiah?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph "The prophets repeatedly..." thoughts?

Divine Authority – what is it? What gives a message divine authority? If someone comes and say "Thus says the Lord..." Does that mean their message has divine authority? Why or why not? How about if you know the prophet is a true prophet of God and he says, "An angel of God came to me and by the word of the Lord..." Is that authoritative? What cautions, if any, should we take?

The old prophet answered, "I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD:

‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’ ” (But he was lying to him.)

What would you do if a person you believed had the gift of prophecy came to you with such a message? What is the point? Even if a prophet of God says “thus says the Lord” each person must still be fully convinced in his own mind.

What do you use to become convinced in your own mind?

How does God use His authority?

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” Luke 1:27

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:1,2

What is the authority? Is it the ability to perform miracles? Why are miracles not authoritative? Miracles can be counterfeited. What about driving out of demons? Do these texts add insight?

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:1-3

How does Christ give eternal life? What authority does Christ have to give eternal life? What is eternal life? Knowing God,

what is Christ's authority? The truth about God which destroys the lies and reunites us with God!

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20

What authority do we have? The authority of truth to teach them everything Jesus taught us about God, His kingdom of love, His methods of truth, His character!

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph "Prophets did not..." thoughts?

Why is this important? Could a prophet write something and not understand what it meant? What does this mean for us? Could it mean a prophet might not get everything right?

Read green bottom section – thoughts?

Will we grow in grace to be friends of God if we let prophets do our thinking for us?

THURSDAY

Read top dark section "What was wrong..." thoughts? Could David tell that Nathan was speaking only on his own?

Read first paragraph "The prophet Nathan..." thoughts?

When David called Nathan to ask him about building the Temple was David asking Nathan as a friend or because Nathan was the prophet?

Read last paragraph, “We must remember...” Thoughts? What is the take home point when reading any inspired writing? We must think for ourselves.

- What is actually said,
- Who was it’s primary audience,
- What did it mean in the context,
- Does it have any relevance to me today? If so what?
- Has more light been shed since the message was given?

Bottom green section read – thoughts?

What happens if we constantly focus on perceived error or mistakes? Do we grow in grace or do we grow in doubt?

FRIDAY

Why do you think it is so important for some to defend Ellen White the person rather than examining the message itself for its quality, truthfulness and accuracy?

Why do you think it is so important for some to attack Ellen White instead of examining the message she gave for its quality, truthfulness and accuracy?