

I. Popular Understanding of a Prophet

- A. A person who tells the future
- B. A person with peculiar insight into events, able to foresee trends
- C. People who predict events of the end times

II. Biblical (Old Testament) Perspective

- A. Abraham is the first man called a prophet (Genesis 20:7)
- B. Next use of the word is in Exodus 7:1
“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘See I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.’ ”
 - 1. God gave the message to Moses
 - 2. Aaron simply says what he is told to say
 - 3. Moses has the authority and the honor
- C. Deuteronomy 18:9-22
 - 1. Begins by prohibiting occult practices (vs. 9-14)
 - a. Reason: *“For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so” (vs.14).*
 - b. Key Word: **listen** – to hear with the intent of following what is said
 - c. Point: what they hear from these people directs their thinking and actions

Assignment:

Read 1 Kings 12 - 17

2. God's alternative

- a. God will raise up a prophet
 - (1) Speaks of the Lord, the ultimate fulfillment but the passage cannot be restricted to that
 - (2) Significance of these men:
 - (a) I will put My words in his mouth
 - (b) I, Myself, will judge those who hear on the basis of how they respond
 - (3) Difference between an OT prophet and a NT preacher or teacher:
 - (a) In OT God was still speaking directly
 - When a prophet spoke it was literally the word of God
 - Personal responsibility to the Bible, not the preacher
 - (4) Problem: How can I be sure the man is a true prophet?
 - (a) He will always speak in the name of Jehovah
 - (b) When tested, his word will always be true
 - (c) God will work to verify His true servants
 - *not from the Deut. passage*