

# The Prophetic Books

Major and Minor Prophets have to do with length of the book, not importance. It is important to note they are not in chronological order. Two Questions to ask about the Prophets:

1. When did they Prophesy? Pre-Exilic, Exilic, or Post Exilic 2. What was there message?

**Prophet** – First occurrence of the word Prophet is found in **Genesis 20:7** in reference to Abraham. **Exodus 7:1** is in reference to Aaron, the second occurrence of the Bible. Aaron was to be Moses' prophet.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-4** *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*

A prophet's sole job was to be the mouthpiece for God. In some cases, this resulted in an acting out of the message, in some cases in involved miracles, and in some cases, it involved the telling of future events. The message of the prophet, was often times immediately relevant to the audience they were speaking (forthtell). Sometimes the prophet spoke of things to come as well (foretell). It is a mistake to think that prophets only told about future events. The word prophet literally means in the Greek to "foreteller" – in other words telling forth God's council.

**Modern day** - No office of Prophet or Prophetess exists, only the gift of Prophesying. This is nothing more than rightly dividing God's truth to the people, forth telling the scriptures. This must be conducted within the bounds of scripture, i.e. "Not subverting the authority" of God's divine order of things.....

**I Timothy 2:11-12** *Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

A woman could exercise in modern day the spiritual gift of prophesying (preaching, teaching) for lack of better term but under the prescription of the NT guidelines

Prior to the completion of the Scriptures there was still a need of foretelling and forthtelling "giving direction" until the scriptures were complete.

## **Two examples in the NT:**

**Luke 2:36** *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;*

**Act 21:8-9** *And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.*

## **Old Testament Examples:**

**Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4, 2 Kings 22:14, 2 Chronicles 34:22, Nehemiah 6:14, Isaiah 8:3**