

How can we know if someone is really speaking the words of God?

- a) If they say , “I have a message from God.”
- b) If they have Bible college training.
- c) If they help us understand something that we did not understand before.
- d) If they explain what the Bible means to us.
- e) We can hear God speaking most clearly from the Bible so we need to listen to the Bible.

Who would you listen to for instructions on how to live life?

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| a) Someone who says they are a prophet | f) Confucius |
| b) The Bible | g) Friends |
| c) Jesus | h) Parents |
| d) Mohammad | i) Media |
| e) Buddha | j) Government |
| | k) Yourself |

SUMMARY

The prophets taught God’s words and commands to the people of Israel. Their job was to help people remember to obey God and if they forgot God the prophets’ job was to warn them. However the prophets of the OT are only human, they are not perfect in fact many of them are weak and unimpressive. Even so, God chose them because God can use anybody. Jesus came as the perfect prophet, He not only spoke God’s word He is God himself. Many of the OT prophets were just showing people to look out for Jesus when he comes. The problem is they rejected Jesus because they rejected what the prophets said.

What is your attitude towards God and everything that the Bible says?

- a) I don’t really want to be a Christian, I am just interested in learning more about what Christians believe.
- b) I don’t know how I feel about the Bible or God but I like learning about it.
- c) I will change my live and give myself to God once I know that it’s all true.
- d) I am not really interested in the Bible, I just want to practice English and meet people.
- e) other reasons... please specify.



BIBLE STUDY STUDY 7 — THE PROPHETS

WHAT WE MISSED ALONG THE WAY

So far in the story of the Old Testament, we’ve read about God’s patience with his people and we’ve seen how God has given his people the Temple system to deal with their sin and make them acceptable to God. He also allowed them to have kings even though the request wasn’t good (the people wanted to be like the other nations). They were rejecting God as King.

One thing which we haven’t looked at in much detail are the Prophets. The prophets play an important role but who are these people and what do they do? This study we will look at the role of the prophets. The timeline for this study is slightly different from the previous studies. We are looking at the prophets over the entire timeline.

DISCUSS

If someone told you that they had a message from God, how would you know if they were telling the truth?

- a) You know they are telling the truth if you really like the thing they are saying.
- b) You know they are telling the truth if the they thing they predicted really happens.
- c) You know they are telling the truth if they can support their message with other facts.
- d) You can never know whether they are telling the truth.
- e) You know they are telling the truth if they are saying something that you don't like to hear.
- f) You can only know they are telling the truth only if you already know what God wants in the first place.
- g) Other ... please specify.

How can you know that the Bible really speaks God's words and is true?

- a) You know the Bible is true because its facts are historical.
- b) You can never know if it is true.
- c) It is not true, it is all false.
- d) It is true because everything it says about Jesus is true.
- e) It doesn't matter if it is true just as long as you believe it is true. That is good enough.

READ DEUTERONOMY 4:1-8; 6:1-3.

Moses was probably the first true prophet although many people regard Noah and Abraham as prophets too. However Moses was the first prophet who had a proper job description.

From the passages you read, what was Moses' role as prophet?

- 4:1-2,5
- 6:1,2

PROPHETS AND PLACES

There are many prophets in the Old Testament. There are two main kinds of prophets in the Bible: Prophets who did not write anything themselves and Prophets who wrote down their own prophecies. Prophets also speak to the situation of their time so knowing the historical background of the prophet's own times help us understand what the prophet is speaking about.

ACTIVITY

If you have a Bible, look at the contents page of your Bible, and your leaders will help you understand which of these titles are books written by the prophets and which books are written about the prophets.

READ EZEKIEL 3:16-21.

What is a watchman and how is Ezekiel's role as a prophet similar to it?

- v16-17
- v18-19
- v20-21

According to the passage, what is the responsibility of the prophet?

According to the passage, what are the responsibility of the people who hear the message from the prophet?

WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY?

Read Hebrews 1:1-2; 3:1-6.

According to these passages, how has Jesus replaced the OT prophets (like Moses)?

RELEVANCE

How is Jesus better than the OT Prophets?