



# PROPHET

EXPLORING THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRIES

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## WHAT A PROPHET BRINGS

Prophets hear from and listen to God. They speak out revelation.

They tune into God's will for the moment, challenging any accommodation to the culture and resisting the status quo. They help people connect with God's heart, and they long for people to hear His voice.

They can see the big picture and understand the times. They call people to be faithful and obedient.

They are passionate about dealing with injustice and helping the oppressed. They feel God's heart for people.

They may have a vivid imaginative life in dreams, images and words. They may be drawn to the creative and the arts.

They can prepare the way for change. Without the prophetic ministry the sense of intimacy with God, or hearing from God will be lacking.

## BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PROPHETS

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Old Testament prophets. John the Baptist.

Anna (named as a prophet) and Simeon prophesied over the infant Jesus.

Agabus predicts a famine and prophesies about Paul. (Acts 11:28 and 21:10) Philip's daughters were all known as prophetesses. (Acts 21:9)

## JESUS THE PROPHET

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He is the "fulfilment of the prophetic tradition." (Walter Brueggemann) Not only did He fulfil OT prophecy, but His every word was revelation from God. He knows His Father's will and calls people to have "ears to hear." He exposes evil, confronts injustice, and often foretold events such as Peter's denial and the details of his own death. He is all a prophet should be.

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FUNCTION / CALLING:  
**PROPHETIC / PROPHET**

<b>Theological Roots</b> (APEST in the doctrine of God)	<b>Archetypes and Heroes</b> (APEST patterns laced in and throughout creation)	<b>Reconstituted APEST</b> (Redeemed and exemplified in Jesus)	<b>APEST Functions (Implicit)</b> (Given to and coded into <i>ecclesia</i> )	<b>APEST Callings (Explicit)</b> (Practitioners)
Holy, Faithful, Incarnate Transcendent, Covenantal, Just and True, Omnipotent	Seer, Warrior, Poet, Reformer, Iconoclast, Meaning-maker  <b>Examples:</b> Artists, Poets, Shamans, Ethicists, Activists, Liberators, Meaning-makers, Iconoclasts, Revolutionaries, Advocates, Existentialists, Anarchists, Hackers, Spiritualists, Mystics, Environmentalists, Whistle-blowers, Feminists, Aid workers, Psychologists, Politicians, Futurists, Quality controllers	Word made flesh, God's New Covenant, Faithful Son, Prophet (speaks and acts for/ as God), Calls to repentance, The way/truth/light, Demonstrates perfect holiness and faithfulness, Speaks truth to power (both religious and secular), Ushers in <i>kaïros</i> time, Radical ethics of the kingdom	Maintain God focus/orientation, Require conformity to covenant obligations, Demonstrate right faith/ fullness, Develop prefigurative community, Bring words of knowledge, Give prophetic insight	Intercessor, Social activists, Questioners of the status quo, Worship leaders, Holy rebels, Ethical leadership

TAKEN FROM 5Q BY ALAN HIRSCH

## THE DISCIPLESHIP OF A PROPHET

Prophets enjoy being alone with God and listening. They may value symbolic prayer and ritual – the creativity and colour, the use of physical senses or imagination. They may be able to listen to God and celebrate in the midst of a poor or difficult environment, as their inner attentiveness to God is so strong.

## WHAT A PROPHET NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL OF

Offering the interpretation of what they are sensing from God themselves, rather than letting the community test it.

Having too strong a sense that they are right (even though they often may be!) and alienating others.

Necessarily seeing a church's faults, but offering the critique as an insider, not from the outside.

Resisting the temptation to believe they are the only "faithful" ones.

Finding themselves too easily at the edge of a community.

Resisting accountability because of their strong sense of God's call.

## QUESTIONS FOR A PROPHET TO REFLECT ON:

Am I helping people to hear God's voice?

How am I walking alongside them?

Am I offering constructive critique to the church?

How am I responding to the personal challenges being prophetic can bring?

Where do I see the need for the prophetic ministry in my church or workplace?

What is God saying and how might I respond?

