

## Outline 23

# Turning Prophets Into Profits: Are All Modern Prophets a Scam?

### I. The true Bible gift of prophecy:

- A. Jesus indicted those who rejected the prophets of their own \_\_\_\_\_ while pretending to revere the ancient prophets. **MATTHEW 23:29-34 (960)**
- B. Jesus called John the Baptist the \_\_\_\_\_ of the prophets. **MATTHEW 11:2, 3, 11 (944, 945)**
- C. God identified His end-time people as those who “keep the commandments of God and have the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.” **REVELATION 12:17 (1182)**
  - 1. The “testimony of Jesus” is defined as the “spirit of \_\_\_\_\_” (the testimony Jesus sends His people through prophets). **REVELATION 19:9, 10 (1187)**
  - 2. The “spirit of prophecy” is the presence of the prophetic gift in a community. **REVELATION 22:9 (1190)**
- D. Why did God call some to be prophets?
  - 1. Our loving Father has revealed His \_\_\_\_\_ to His children through prophets. **AMOS 3:7 (889)**
  - 2. Prior to every major world event, God has alerted His people through messages to His prophets (e.g., Noah, Moses, Isaiah, and Jeremiah).
  - 3. John the Baptist was sent to \_\_\_\_\_ people to receive Jesus as the Messiah.
  - 4. It would make sense that God would also send an end-time prophetic messenger to help people be \_\_\_\_\_ for the second coming of Jesus.
- E. The gift of prophecy did not \_\_\_\_\_ with the New Testament. **ACTS 2:17, 18 (1052)**

### II. Clarification on the qualifications of a prophet:

- A. One need not have \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible to be a great prophet. (John the Baptist, e.g.)
- B. One need not have \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible to be a prophet. (e.g., Elijah, Elisha, Gad, Ahijah, Shemaiah, Iddo, Obed, Nathan, and others). **1 CHRONICLES 29:29 (408)**
- C. One need not be a \_\_\_\_\_ to be a prophet (e.g., Deborah, **JUDGES 4:4 (230)**; Huldah, **2 KINGS 22:14 (375)**; Anna, **LUKE 2:36 (992)**; Philip’s four daughters, **ACTS 21:9 (1076)**)
- D. John the Baptist’s mission, to \_\_\_\_\_ people to receive Jesus as the Messiah, qualified him as the greatest among the prophets.

- E. It would be consistent of God to raise up a prophetic messenger along the lines of these qualifications to help prepare people for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

### III. There are Bible tests for a true prophet.

- A. Does the prophet’s prediction come \_\_\_\_\_ ? **DEUTERONOMY 18:21, 22 (184)**
  - 1. Even charlatans can guess the future once in a while. Satan himself can predict the future and then try to make it come true. **DEUTERONOMY 13:1-3 (179)**
  - 2. If a prediction does come true, advance to the other tests to confirm authenticity.
- B. Do they teach according to the law and to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Scripture)? **ISAIAH 8:20 (661)**
  - 1. The Bereans were commended for not merely listening to Paul’s message, but for also checking it by the Old Testament Scriptures, the only Bible they had. **ACTS 17:11 (1071)**
  - 2. Every false prophet will eventually try to get you away from the \_\_\_\_\_ and onto their own interpretations or writings.
- C. The true prophet today will be passionately \_\_\_\_\_ -centered. **1 JOHN 4:1-3 (1170)**
- D. The \_\_\_\_\_ (lifestyle and results of their work) of a true prophet will reflect the spirit of Jesus. **MATTHEW 7:15-20 (941)**

### IV. Consider the life and work of someone who meets all the biblical criteria of exercising the genuine prophetic gift.

- A. She wrote 5,000 articles and 26 books (over 100 titles now in print, including compilations from her 55,000 pages of manuscripts), and may be the most translated woman author ever.
  - 1. More than 10 million copies of *Steps to Christ* have been published in more than 135 languages.
  - 2. She wrote on a wide range of subjects including education, health, family, Christian nurture and mission, prophecy, creationism, and the origin of life.
- B. She helped raise up a Christian movement that offers the largest Protestant educational system and the most extensive Protestant health system in the world.
- C. Who is this author and spiritual leader? \_\_\_\_\_ G. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- D. She had a passionate love for Jesus, and a passion to save the lost.
- E. In a survey of more than 8,000 active church members, those who were regular readers of her writings scored higher in all 20 spiritual categories measured, including feeling close to Jesus, assurance of salvation, active in Christian service, and daily personal Bible study.
- F. It’s still true today: “Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe in His prophets, and you shall \_\_\_\_\_ .” **2 CHRONICLES 20:20 (425)**

*ANSWERS: (I) A: generation; B: greatest; C: testimony; C-1: prophecy; D-1: secrets; D-3: prepare; D-4: prepared; E: end (II) A: writings; B: writings; C: man; D: prepare; E: return (III) A: true; B: testimony; B-2: Bible; C: Christ; D: fruits (IV) C: Ellen, White; F: prosper*