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The
PROPHET'S
HANDBOOK

A GUIDE TO PROPHECY AND ITS OPERATION

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A GUIDE TO PROPHECY AND ITS OPERATION

PAULA A. PRICE, PH.D.



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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THE PROPHET'S HANDBOOK:
A Guide to Prophecy and Its Operation
trade paperback edition

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PREFACE

God is reinstating the office of the prophet as a standing institution in the New Testament church. The pervasive rise in occult activity, coupled with the church's naiveté in spiritual matters, are two of the main reasons why He must do so. In view of His divine agenda, questions concerning the office of the prophet and its modern-day functions in the local church are on many leaders' minds. Discussions are held regularly by church officials who ask how to engage prophets in the local church without surrendering authority over their sheep and control of the church's mandate. Their questions include how they should install their church's prophetic institution and administrate it effectively. They ask, "Is there some sort of ceremony that should be held for inaugurating those who occupy the place of the church prophet?" Furthermore, they wonder if there are professional credentials for prophets. If there are credentials to certify and authenticate them, who devises the criteria and how is the officer to be equipped to succeed? Should the church have its own prophetic training program, and if so, who delivers it?

Once the issues of installing the prophetic in the local church as an institution are resolved, the next most pertinent question becomes, "What are the prophets to do?" This generation wants to know how contemporary prophets are to be

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employed in their churches, and how they are to benefit and profit the church. According to Jeremiah 23:32, prophets exist in the houses of the Lord to profit them. That is a powerful statement on its own, because people rarely think about prophetics and profitability going hand in hand. Yet, that is what they are intended to do, based on the wording of 2 Chronicles 20:20.

The Prophet's Handbook shows how churches can multiply their harvests through a quality prophetic institution. It boldly delves into these matters and answers the questions above and many others essential to validating prophetics today and the officers and ministers who handle it. For the pastor who wants to know how to comply with the Lord's new and insistent prophetic move, this book can be an indispensable tool. No longer do devoted shepherds have to choose between ignoring the imposing unction of the Lord to open their churches up to the prophetic or risk exposing their flocks to irresponsible prophets. With this book, it is now possible to evaluate the prophetic messenger(s) you engage and confirm their eligibility and compatibility with your church before they are presented to your congregation. It is suggested reading if you are a prophetic educator, minister, or trainer. In this book, you get help as a pastor in developing budding prophets, redefining the seasoned ones, and educating the congregation on the subject as a whole.

The Prophet's Handbook frankly addresses pastors' concerns over installing the prophets they feel are assigned to their congregations. In response to the Lord steadily advancing the prophetic in these last days, this book clarifies for church leaders the best way to integrate resident prophet ministries in their churches. You will find it contains sound, balanced guidelines for the institution and regulation of the

officer in the churches of God using His wisdom. This book takes you into the world of the prophetic and shows you how the prophet's ministry and mantle are invaluable for pastors and others. You receive details on the responsibilities, duties, and privileges of prophets in the house of God.

You are provided with suggestions for compensating staff prophets, training and qualifying them for service, fine-tuning their behavior, and fixing their range of authority. Also, there are guidelines for assessing prophets' performance and effectiveness, as well as strategies for managing difficult or untrained prophets. There is counsel for resolving conflicts with difficult prophets and advice on how to protect your flock from them. Emerging prophets in the church who read this book can find themselves, understand what the Lord is doing with and through them, and receive guidance on how to approach and work with their pastors in their new callings. Such information helps churches determined to have a quality and professional prophetic institution.

Candidly discussed are other prophet-related issues, such as the godly church prophet, prophetic protocols, parameters, limits, and government. Besides these, the most critical subject of all is treated forthrightly: the relationship between the pastor and the prophet. This vital discussion encompasses advice on the boundaries to be put on the prophet's interactions with the sheep and correcting errant prophetics. It talks openly about the necessary shifts in normal prophetic authority that must take place if a congregation is to be edified by the church prophet without sacrificing the pastor's position. Also covered are how and why the pastor is not subject to the prophet but is urged to create a cooperative alliance between the two mantles. The common recurring theme of the book

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stresses the importance of quickly establishing a functional pastor-prophet relationship. It is necessary that the first link in the prophetic institution's chain of events be forged between the pastor-prophet ministry. Such requirements are vital if the arrangement is to benefit the church's vision and edify its members.

INTRODUCTION: THE SITUATION

Why was this book written? What makes it advantageous at this period in the Christian church's existence? There are three answers to these questions. The first one is the Lord's imposing and relentless revival of His prophetic institution to serve, recover, and secure His church in this era. The second is that contemporary prophets need to learn how the Lord operates prophetically as distinguished from how He moved evangelically over the past century or so. This distinction is vital if they are to respond to His heavenly initiatives the way their predecessors did, as Yahweh's voice to ancient Israel and the world. Many of the prophets answering God's prophetic restoration call have been trained by evangelists and pastors. Their ministries have been standardized and regulated by the Lord's *derived* mantles of pastor and teacher, which came from the apostle. As a result, His prophetic overtures are largely unfamiliar to prophets and therefore seem foreign and hard to accommodate.

The third answer is this generation's criteria for fulfilling God's mandate today. To begin with, modern prophets

should first divest themselves of their society-imposed fear of backlash and become fearless. To face off with what awaits their readiness, they should become competent and shrewd enough to tackle what vies for this prophetic era's seats of authority. Prophets answering God's call today require unique training, government, empowerment, and organization to be used by Him the way He always has used His prophets since time began. The dark, archaic spirituality of the BC world now popularizing itself rivals this by blanketing the earth with its devious ilk in an effort to overshadow Christ's hold on it. Such a deadly vision more than substantiates the Lord's global reinstatement of the prophet's mantle. In the process it also impels prophets' need for high quality education to equip them to counteract it with the Almighty's wisdom and righteousness.

Moreover, witchcraft and demonism's invasion of the (heretofore) Christian world is especially ruinous because of its declared strategy, which is to syncretize traditional Christianity to blend its faith and practices with those of the old religions Christ deposed by the cross. Their effort appears to succeed in large part due to the New Testament church's slumber, a lack of biblical training, and an absence of spiritually sound exposure or experience with the supernatural. Fear of the dark drove the Christian church into a corner and sealed it off from spirituality, favoring instead an intellectual stronghold. The result has been the mainstreaming of primordial demonism that saturates every stratum of modern society.

Not since Christ restored the world to the Almighty after His triumph on Calvary has such a brazen effort to convert it to the old destructive gods and religions that felled ancient civilizations been so well-orchestrated. Over the last several decades, agents of this destructive campaign have worked

feverishly to halt the spread of Christianity and to neutralize the Christian church's impact in the world. They infiltrated all of its systems and institutions to do so. Boldly these dark agents declared their campaign mission: to return the modern world under Christ's light and life to its BC era, and to return its dethroned gods to their pre-Calvary seats of power. Using the media, politics, education, and amusements such as cunningly downplayed video games, these forces condition their adherents to crave this movement. For nearly half a century, they stealthily waged war on Christianity while numerous Christians never caught on to it. Idealistically, they were deceived into embracing the romanticized notions of pagan dreams, surrendering themselves, their influence, and credibility to New Age, occult, and witchcraft movements. Without ever realizing it, seducing spirits beguiled many of our Christian ancestors into displacing Christ's throne with the virtually extinct deities of the old world.

Naively, many Christian churches and leaders, as well as many Christians themselves, adopted beliefs, practices, rituals, and other occult genres under the guise of religious freedom, God's love, and peace on earth—three objectives the Lord Jesus Himself personally repudiated as not His primary aims. Yet, because of the widespread abandonment of God's Word (see Luke 18:8) and the dumbing down of the Bible and its principal doctrines, the church has become desensitized to its calling and disconnected from its Founder. The redemptive grace Jesus brought to the planet is now taught licentiously, with God's people becoming libertines instead of His liberated sons and daughters. Admittedly, the strategy against true Christianity has been brilliant and its damnable results inarguably impressive to date, but God is not going to let it stop there. He set out on His campaign to win eons ago, and He is

nowhere near ready to give up His fight. Insistently, over the last several decades, the Lord has been encroaching upon the secularists' stronghold, stealthily taking back territory promised and granted to His Son for His victory on the cross.

Mainly through the prophets, the Lord has been addressing the devil's attempted coup for some time. His initial step was to reactivate the mantles of His two prime ministers (see 1 Corinthians 12:28) of His new creation church in an attempt to curtail Satan's rampage. However, at every stage of His revival and restoration program, He consistently meets with a common obstacle, naiveté—the oblivion of those He summons to His true problem and its solution.

As a consequence of the church's myopic overemphasis on God's love, world peace, and religious harmony (even to the exclusion of His stipulated plan of salvation and sanctification), many of those answering the call to the prophetic today are conditioned to relegate the Lord's program to the world's political agenda. Incognizant of the battle raging against their faith's freedom going on behind the scenes, many are deluded by fantasies of what awaits them in God's prophetic ranks. They are misguided by incompatible training, and what they call prophetic service is drastically different from the age-old institution God established under Samuel. Many prophets' mantles are presently unprepared to face and overturn what lies ahead for God's people. Quite a few of them are unenlightened on what the word of the Lord is for this time in human history and cannot connect the Bible's prophecies with current events to recognize the work this generation needs them to do.

Modern Christian prophets, having been unprophetically trained, operate and think very much like evangelists.

They want to saturate the world with prophecy, exercise some spiritual gifts, and hold prophecy sessions the way evangelists hold altar calls. After these meetings, they send their audiences back home with nothing but a prophecy to fix their lives. In subscribing to this approach to ministry, many earlier prophets of this move overlooked that even a thirty-page prophecy is but a single moment (a day, hour, or year) in their hearers' lives. The absence of criteria, standards, protocols, and even a valid position description prevented them from discerning what else their hearers needed from them as prophets beside their predictions. Because, as first- and second-generation transitional prophets, they entered the ministry on the evangelist's fundamental credo, "Win the lost at all costs," often God Himself was included in their costs and risks. After their prophetic careers took off, these early messengers added the pastor's ministry mode to their service to maintain their ministries. While not all of them pastored, their mentality resembled nonetheless the fourth member of the Ephesians 4:11 staff.

For the sake of clarity, the aim and function of the pastor's office are akin to a nation's domestic agents. Pastors are the equivalent of the kingdom's household ministers. Based on this comparison, previous prophets took up the pastor's ministry type because the duties, responsibilities, outlets, and even compensation of their mantles' sphere were as yet unopened to them. So instead of functioning as divine communicators for God's kingdom, all prophecy became predictive and confined to the local church and its pastors, ignoring the world outside the church walls. Limiting prophecy to the local church left the world's interest in God and the supernatural to be handled by psychics, an attitude completely opposed to the ancient prophets' mind-set. They understood their prophetic charge to

be to summon God's people back to His fold and faith because as watchmen, they were also gatekeepers.

True guardians of the Lord's gates equate to His spiritual border agents. They are not inclined to admit whosoever will come into the Lord's family or community (or to usher them into His presence) any old way. Unlike evangelists, the prophets' call is to filter and sanctify. They demand that candidates for Christ's blessings, deliverance, and other spiritual provisions reserved for His family of citizens come by way of Calvary. Prophets validate people's salvation and thus divine citizenship by requiring proof of their repentance and conversion. Entrants into Christ's eternal life should declare their faith to enter His kingdom as He stipulates. To remain in His house, they should live according to the Almighty's government in their lives. Jesus is not just the door to salvation, but He is the guardian of its entryway as well. Doors swing open and shut, and the Lord says in Revelation 3:7 that He shuts as well as opens the life's doors. (See Isaiah 22:22.)

Therefore, the Lord's converts are expected to prove daily to the indwelling Holy Spirit that their names remain written in the Lamb's book of life—Christ's eternal registry of redeemed souls. Prophets, as well as all loyal ministers of Jesus Christ, demand God's kingdom and church entrants renounce their faith and service to other gods and convert their entire public and private existence to the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Because prophets are sifters. Their mantles filter and screen out what does not meet the criteria of heaven for its citizens. The evangelists may accept all who come, but it is the Lord's prophets and apostles who determine all who stay. From time immemorial, the Lord's representatives have accepted that He is holy and that only those who share His holiness can enter and partake of His family.

As committed officers of the Almighty's kingdom, prophets uphold His law of righteousness and refuse to allow any to escape sin's death sentence apart from repentance, Jesus Christ's justification, and His righteousness. True watchmen revere the Savior as the door to eternal life and will not allow those who would be transformed into His image and likeness to forgo His requirements. Prophets, as God's genuine custodians, are eternity's customs agents, permitting entry into God's kingdom only to those modeling His pattern of the perfect human and divine citizen. Ephesians 3:5 says that the Lord manifested the revelations that enable this work to be done in the saint to His apostles and prophets.

When Jesus came as the Great Prophet, just as His Old Testament predecessor Moses prophesied centuries before, He took up the very prophecies that predated and foretold Him. As a prophet, He spearheaded the Lord's plan to offer Israel's commonwealth blessings, privileges, and provisions to the whole world and competently executed the office with resolve, strength, solidarity, and skill. Resolutely, Jesus went about His ministry duties, manifesting the prophet's mantle to the full in every detail, for those who want to see it. He was then sent to take the world from the savage grip of darkness that abused it; and today in response to what Satanists want to accomplish in this era, the mission is the same.

The Lord once again revitalizes the mantle of the prophet to deliver His people and beloved planet from the barbarity of the fallen spirits that prey on them. From Abel to Christ, this is what the Creator did to either recover His people from devilish strongholds or authority over a geographic territory or sphere of humanity's existence. In this movement, His objective is both. The only difference is how the Lord executes this phase of His plan in modern times. Prophets are going to be

used differently in this next dispensation, and because of it they will be more stringently regulated and directly managed by Him than ever before in the church's history.

Not deviating from His biblical precedents, in transitioning from this era to His next age of humanity, God's commencement of His program with the prophets stays with His well-documented, scriptural methods. From the Old Testament to the New, it is shown that God invariably marks creation's changes with His prophets. They are the timepieces that set the tempo and pace of His momentum. For example, in taking His people from the old to the new covenant, the Lord marked the change with John the Baptist, a prophet. When John appeared on the scene, the Lord's people were infused with paganism and demonics, and enslaved to other gods. So indisputable was this fact that the first encounter Jesus had with any power on earth was with the devil, *"who taketh Him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple...into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them...in a moment of time"* (Matthew 4:5, 8; Luke 4:5). As the Prophet sent by God with a power greater than their own, He was able to free people from sin's grip.

To deliver His people after a long period of apparent silence, the Lord resumed His prior actions and set out to recapture the hearts and souls of His beloved family again. We can recognize His historical way of moving because the Lord stays true to Himself. He always regains dominion of His world and control of His kingdom through His prophets because He never did away with Amos 3:7, and the *"Scriptures must be fulfilled"* (Matthew 14:49). Scripture records God's prophetic episodes from Enoch to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to Joseph, and from Joseph to Moses. Joseph was God's prophet in Egypt, where Moses was inducted.

The mantle was resurrected in Samuel, who restarted God's prophetic clock and standardized the institution for Him under Moses' Law. Since him, the pattern has remained the same. When the earth is threatened to be overrun with Satanism and the potential for Satan to bully and abuse humans reaches proportions that recall Genesis 6:5, the Lord reacts by raising up His prophets to counterbalance the darkness with His light and life. When the Mosaic era was replaced with Christ, the pattern varied somewhat as Jesus instated and dispatched His apostles. This change too was initiated with the prophets.

Another impressive fact that makes this book timely is the advent of God's apostolic restoration. Keeping with His biblical pattern, since the New Testament's inception it has been noted that the Lord always foreruns apostolic reinstatements with the prophets. He does so because only His prophets can verify His emerging apostles. To be successful in this duty, this generation's prophets must possess a means of assessing, rightly placing, and regulating themselves to accurately and uniformly identify God's true apostles. *The Prophet's Handbook* facilitates their capacity to do just that, and much more. As a practical tool, this handbook allows kingdom leaders, especially apostles, prophets, and senior church leaders, to introduce and practice this dispensation of Christ's prophetics capably and responsibly. Using it as a guide, prophets and prophetic ministers can now be screened and intelligently made to understand what the prophet in God's service exists to do. An instrument such as this permits kingdom leaders to train, govern, guide, structure, and supervise their prophetic officers and affairs.

As a prophet, future prophet, or kingdom leader, you get from this book solid direction in the education, mentorship, coaching, and development of your prophetic people for

your service. This compendium of guidelines, explanations, policies, strategies, and procedural regulations aids your administration and execution of God's supernatural spheres, being specifically created with the Lord's prophetics in mind. You hold in your hand today a powerful organizational, operational, and supervisory tool as a means of properly justifying the existence of the prophetic and instructions for establishing a prophetic company. This manual guides the assessment and screening all leaders should conduct with their prophets and prophetic candidates. It offers a prudent way to measure their capacity for reliable service and gives some clues to where each prophet's unique gifts would serve best. Equipped with this information, prophets can be better utilized in their organizations and properly placed in God's service. Now the prophetic can find its place and duty in all of the Lord's realms and enterprises. The examples and illustrations contained in this handbook demonstrate the powerful difference a well-tooled and organized prophetic institution can make in our times.

From situations to simulations, this instrument of quality prophetic service shows how to apply God's historical and spontaneous wisdom in modern societies. Its keen insights, profound truths, and pragmatic guidelines help any organization orient itself to the prophetic and ably install a quality prophetic division to preserve its existence. With the skills and abilities presented in this book, God's prophets, prophetic people, and their leaders can identify what best serves His interests and theirs to facilitate prophets' ministerial purpose in today's world. Sometimes a textbook and at other times a training document, this text is structured to enable you to institute spiritually and biblically sound prophetic bylaws and policies that actually function in the real world.

Next to your Bible, this will become a constant companion that you will strive to become well-versed in as a prophet to do your job effectively. Assimilating its wisdom into your readiness path enables you to excel in your prophetic training. Leaders will discover how to prove and verify their prophets using realistic methods, such as a probationary period. Anyone called by the Lord to touch this ministry in any way will feel equipped and secure in his or her actions and duties as a prophet. Those called to be chief, global, or supervisory prophets can feel secure in their oversight of those assigned to them.

Prepared under the auspices of the Holy Spirit with the Lord's Word as its wisdom, this handbook disseminates God's judgments, decisions, and decision-making policies and procedures on the prophetic so prophets and their colleagues can flood the earth with His mind. Expect to receive from this material insight into the Lord's motives and sovereign governance of this world. Knowledge gained from it gives the rationale of His government and encourages its incorporation in all prophetic tasks and duties.

PART ONE

THE CHURCH PROPHET'S ROLE IN THE WORLD TODAY

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW

The Overview covers the following information:

- How pastors can accept and manage the prophetic in their churches
- How to select and prove prophets for their churches
- What people want to know about the prophetic
- God's prophetic sphere
- Why all Christians should learn about the prophetic
- Prophetic subject matter
- About God's prophets and prophecies
- Full prophetic knowledge
- Are prophets for today?
- Dreaming, advance knowledge, and the prophet

Pastors wanting to fulfill the will of God concerning the prophetic in their churches regularly ask me how to go about it and what criteria they are to use to do so. They want to grasp the wisdom of installing and working with a church prophet beforehand in order to protect

their congregations. Generally, pastors desire some reliable tools to evaluate their prophetic ministers (past, present, and future) and guidelines that enable their proper use of the ministry in the local church. Whenever questions arise over the matter, it is not resistance I most often meet, but confusion and curiosity.

Many pastors say they would gladly comply with the Lord in His present prophetic move if they could just understand how. They are rightfully concerned about how to install church prophets without disrupting their church order and unduly exposing their flocks to immature or incompetent prophets. They want to understand further how to set the mantle of the prophet within an existing church structure while keeping the balance of control and power intact. *Intact* means not letting pastoral authority be swept out of their hands by prophetic fascination. Frankly, I agree with them and hold similar reservations when acknowledging and developing budding prophets entrusted to my care. Before all else, I emphasize the importance of knowing the prophet's history. Factors like the character and ability of ministers should be thoroughly explored. Their background, prophetic track record, and relations with others, if they are not members of the congregation, should be investigated with care and discretion. Such information is helpful in gauging the potential success of prophetic candidates.

For example, it is defeating to use a prophet with less experience and expertise than the number of years the church has been in existence. It is also imprudent to use a prophet who has no heart for the sheep, whose time is spent doing anything but helping to nurture the flock of God. If the pastor is the only one who arouses the prophet's responses or interest, and he or she remains unaffected by everything

else related to the church, then such a person may not be a good church prophet. He or she may serve well as an itinerant minister brought in at strategic times in the church's progress but should not be trusted with long-term prophetic duties or authority. Factors like these require meticulous attention to qualify the prophets themselves and protect those with whom they work.

The underlying aim of stringent investigation is prudence. It is necessary to assure the facilitation of the prophet's ministry in the church and to enable God's unimpeded access to the ears, hearts, and minds of His people. What makes this process indispensable is its ability to curtail prophetic incompatibility and expand the presently narrow ministry field of prophetics ordained by God to this generation. Beyond that, it furnishes earnest church officials with reliable measures for their developing prophetic institutions and promotes healthy prophetic growth, maturity, and stability at the same time. In addition, it protects this all-important ministry in the New Testament church.

This chapter gives you a quick overview of the essential elements of any serious prophetic discussion. It shows the important pieces of the puzzle for those seeking to learn about the prophet in God's church. As you review the pages to follow, you will get a true picture of the ministry, mantle, and operations of the church in snapshot form.

Following is an overview of what you should study to help you connect with the discussions in this book. The topics are:

1. FAQs—Frequently Asked Questions
2. Concerning the Prophetic

3. Key Terms and Phrases
4. About God's Prophets and Prophecies
5. The Full Spectrum of the Prophetic
6. Are Prophets for Today?
7. Am I a Prophet?

WHAT PEOPLE ALWAYS WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROPHET AND THE PROPHETIC

If you are going to install a prophetic institution, enter the prophetic, and/or fulfill the office of the prophet, you need to be aware of the questions that lodge in people's minds concerning it. Below are frequently asked questions concerning the prophets and prophecies of the office and the officer, dreams and visions, and the validity of the mantle's operations today. Familiarize yourself with them, because the consensus is that if one is going to prophesy and expect to be believed, one should at least be able to answer these questions with clarity. Although not addressed in the listed order, the answers to these questions will unfold as you read through the book. Take time to jot them down as you come upon them. Check off each one as you get the answer to it.

FAQs—FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What is a prophet?
- What exactly is prophecy?
- How does one become a prophet?
- How do prophets do what they do?
- If I'm not a prophet, do I still need to learn about prophecies?

- Why do we need prophets to tell us what God is saying when we have the Holy Spirit?
- How can psychics accurately tell the future?
- Are prophets really for today?
- I dream and know things in advance. Am I a prophet?
- Where does prophecy come from?

GOD'S PROPHETIC SPHERE

The most challenging thought to grasp about the prophetic is that the office is more than a prediction center. Since prophecy is where most people usually encounter the institution of the prophetic, they presume the gist of the office is exclusively prophesying—seeing and saying, predicting and interdicting. However, many things go into enabling a prophet to prophesy accurately.

WHAT EQUIPS THE PROPHET?

Before God releases the officer, He puts the prophet through an extensive training program. God's way of equipping someone for ministry is mainly spiritual. The prophet's function is largely supernatural, and people think there is nothing more to getting a prophet ready for the Lord's service than hearing and saying, "Thus says the Lord." For many people, prophetic preparation amounts to God isolating beginners and streaming prophetic dreams and visions at them. Truthfully, it is somewhat that way, but usually down the line a bit. Nonetheless, dreams and visions are how God usually presents Himself to the new prophet. The reason visions and dreams are the starting point of prophetic education is that God introduces Himself and

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awakens the prophet's revelatory faculties through them. *"If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream"* (Numbers 12:6).

Once the novice prophet is made aware of the calling, the Lord's preparatory methods shift to more stringent and demanding activities. *"The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility"* (Proverbs 15:33) and *"Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility"* (Proverbs 18:12) become the primary lesson objectives. Read the two short passages to discover the Lord's teaching objectives and then relate them to 1 Peter 5:10: *"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."* From these passages you can see that God diligently goes after the inherent and nurtured pride, arrogance, and independence of the young prophet since submission is the predominant requirement of prophetic service. Once this begins, things really heat up.

For a season, it may appear that prophesying is the last thing God wants of His new student. Resetting the newcomer's attitude, perspectives, and priorities to perform reliable prophetic services takes precedence over all else.

The initial classes are largely experiential, the curriculum multidimensional, and the tests excruciating. Yet the Lord finally does get His messengers ready for His service. The requisite areas of learning are spirituality, morality, integrity, discipline, and obedience. Integrated in their dynamics are ancient prophetics and history, revelatory techniques, and the scope of predictive prophecy. Trainers and mentors are selected from every area of human life, since that is the field

the prophetic targets. The developing prophet encounters and interacts with every sphere of human existence so that the mantle is equipped to treat its every condition. Verbalizing may be the medium of administration, but the aims and outcomes of prophetic ministry are far more diverse.

QUICK STUDY CHART

PROPHETIC TRAINING

Following is a list of prophetic subject matter that God teaches His prophets to make sure they are competent in their positions. Review it to comprehend the rationale of God's prophetic training path for you.

PROPHETIC SUBJECT MATTER

- The prophetic as the second most important office in God's supernatural branch of ministry
- The prophetic as an agency
- The prophetic as a commissioned office
- The prophet as an agent of the Godhead
- The prophetic as an agency with indelible functions in the church and the world
- The role and place of the second most important office in God's ministry
- The prophetic's agency status and authority
- The nature of a prophetic commission
- What happens when prophets become God's functionaries
- The prophetic's impact on Creator God's immutable creation codes

IF I'M NOT A PROPHET, DO I STILL NEED TO LEARN ABOUT PROPHETICS?

The answer to this question is an emphatic "Yes!" Everyone who is saved should know about the prophetic because that is how the church came into existence and how the Lord speaks to, and through, His people. The Creator spoke His plans to have a family, a people, and a nation for Himself long before any of it came into being. Those prophetic words acted on creation every day until the vision of God's heart came to be.

Based on God's method of bringing His word to pass in our times, by speaking and thereby causing what He said to come into being, prophecy apparently holds a high place in His mind. When the Lord speaks, His spiritual words encompass natural bodies, making prophecy the only way to get His eternal provisions from there to here. This is how it goes. First come the words, which are uttered outside time. From that seemingly insignificant act comes the natural body for them in time.

All that goes into making a vision a reality and materializing an idea are set in motion by this simple means. What leaves God's mouth is incubated and matured in much the same way an embryo progresses to a fetus and a fetus is born as a baby. Here is the main reason why much of what God says to and through His prophets is equated with impregnation, gestation, travailing women, and birth. The invisible process of God's word coming to pass is precisely like the visible process of conceiving and bearing a child. (See Isaiah 55:11; 61:11.) Isaiah 60:22 speaks of God's words having their time, and Jeremiah 1:12 answers this with prophecy's timing coinciding with His words' performance. Following are some significant words that are helpful to understanding this material.

IMPORTANT PROPHETIC TERMS

KEY TERMS AND PHRASES

- Agent
- Agency
- Biblical Prophetics
- Commission
- Divination
- Divine
- Dreams
- Foundational Studies
- Functionary
- Ministry
- Office
- Officer
- Official
- Prophecy
- Prophet
- Prophetic Attributes
- Prophetic Authority
- Prophetic Delegations
- Prophetic Features
- Prophetic Functions
- Prophetic Jurisdiction
- Prophetic Mantle
- Prophetic Ministrations
- Prophetic Skill
- Prophetic Studies
- Prophetic Sphere
- Protocol
- Protocratic
- Psalmist
- Seer
- Symbols
- Vision

Throughout this book, you will see these terms and phrases because they best define the prophetic. These terms are important for your grasp of the material and for identifying the language applied to prophetic ministry. It is suggested that you research them on your own and get familiar with their usage in general. A brief glossary of their meanings is in the back of the book. We encourage you, as you go through the book, to refer to them again and again to use their meanings

in the prophetic office and its mantle while learning about the subject from your reading.

If you are a class, a learning group, or a prophetic study team, take time to explore the previous list of words and their relevance to competent prophetic ministry. You can find more specific meanings and applications of these words in my book *The Prophet's Dictionary*.

ABOUT GOD'S PROPHETS AND PROPHETICS

The list below shows you the substantial amount of information packed into this book. To operate as a professional prophet people can trust, you need answers to the list of Frequently Asked Questions of those who inquire of God through you. This handy resource is a constant companion in your professional ministry. When you complete this book and its recommended studies, you will be able to intelligently discuss the following:

- What the prophet is
- The nature of the prophetic institution
- Office/gift distinctives
- Office/vessel criteria
- Prophetic duties
- Prophetic territories
- Prophetics in the local church
- The proper prophetic lifestyle
- Twenty-first century prophetics and how the world and the church must be prepared

To get where God needs you to be prophetically, you need to understand the following:

- Prophets and the church
- Prophets and the world
- Prophets versus psychics
- Prophets of old
- Prophets today
- The proper prophetic lifestyle
- Prophetic features and functions

FULL PROPHETIC KNOWLEDGE

When one thinks about the full spectrum of the prophetic, the following should come to mind:

- Native prophetic abilities born in all prophets
- Prophetic personalities that indicate the call to the office
- Supernatural attire, the invisible insignia of power and authority
- Angelic delegation
- Miracles and signs
- Prophetic dreams
- Prophetic order and protocol
- Supernatural orders
- Eternal reasons for the prophet
- Prophetic streams

ARE PROPHETS FOR TODAY?

Prophets are for today as much as anything else that has ever been. Here are some good reasons why prophets are

and will continue to be needed by God for some time. Revelation 11 declares they will be active until the end of this age. The reasons are:

- God, the devil, man, and the world are all interrelated, and prophets are how each one contacts and conveys information to the other.
- It does not matter how modern we appear, closer scrutiny shows we have not progressed so far after all.
- Technology names its work after the same demons the Lord has fought with since antiquity.
- Prophets still confront the same sin in humanity that has existed since time began.
- Television today, and the entertainment media in general, can do little without the same vulgarity that has pervaded the planet since time began.
- Sexual perversion—immorality, obscenity, homosexuality, and lewdness—runs rampant.
- Lust and greed are increasing.
- The devil and his children still operate in deception, delusion, sin, and perversity.

All in all, one can say the people of earth are still bound by the same sins that have always populated the planet. Heaven is still in control, hell still waits, Adam's seed continues to be formed, and the devil waits at their birth to claim them for his fate.

I DREAM AND KNOW THINGS IN ADVANCE—AM I A PROPHET?

Possibly, but remember, prophets are prophets from birth. God deposited their gifts in them from eternity and developed

them over time. What constitutes a bona fide prophet is the prophet's spirit, which will be discussed later. You may, however, be a seer. This can be so if you are an intense prayer warrior, relentless intercessor, or are highly responsive to spiritual matters. Under these circumstances, seers or intercessors can easily be mistaken for prophets when they are not. Psalmists too have been mistakenly declared prophets. In all instances, the common denominator is unusual supernatural interactions, responses, and information. What all three cases lack is the distinct enforcement power and spiritual authority intrinsic to the prophet's mantle.

More than just *seeing and saying*, identifying and combating, or hearing and singing makes one a prophet. The official prophet exceeds all these supernatural manifestations with powerful spiritual latitude. The prophet receives from God, upon completed training, significant license in the spiritual realm. The minister is also given a potent angelic guard that performs his or her words. With these, he or she enjoys a rank in God's kingdom to compel obedience to his or her prophecies over time, unlike the seer.

A seer, compared to the prophet, sees things with his or her inner being (spiritual eyes) beyond the five senses. A seer easily bypasses the natural eyes to accurately detect what is around him or her in the spiritual world. This ability is not limited to time and space. If you are a seer, you may also be a dreamer of dreams, although the two can be exclusive of one another. The dreamer of dreams is similar to a seer except the information received from the spirit world is only received by dreams or in a dreamlike state. Historically this method of revelatory communication has been deemed the most unreliable form of spiritual reception. Prophetic dreams mix too easily with the dreamer's emotions, personality, daily events, and

life experiences, and can contaminate the message's purity. However, the dream remains nonetheless a valid tool of prophetic reception used by the Lord from time to time.

In the prophet, all the preceding faculties work together as one, operating either intermittently in an active prophetic environment or randomly in specific prophetic situations. What distinguishes the prophet is the officer's interpretative, translation, and application ability that enhances his predictions and empowers his faculties. Together these render the prophet's word more useful.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

1. Pastors are more confused and curious about the prophetic than resistant.
2. Pastors should use experienced and available prophetic types in their churches.
3. People's questions about the prophetic focus on ten issues.
4. In God's prophetic sphere, prophecy is more than seeing and saying.
5. Many tools are used to equip prophets.
6. Prophetic subject matter spans at least eleven areas.
7. Every member of Christ's body should learn about the prophetic.
8. At least thirty-two terms explain and actualize the prophetic.
9. God's prophets and prophecies require quality knowledge in nine areas and understanding in seven areas.
10. Full prophetic knowledge encompasses at least ten topical areas.
11. Eight reasons were given to say that prophets are for today.
12. Dreaming and knowing things in advance do not, on their own, make you a prophet.

PROPHETIC ACTION ITEMS

1. Use the chapter introduction to help a pastor you know trust and embrace God's prophetic move.

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2. Develop a ten-point checklist from what you read to screen a church prophet candidate.
3. Use the list of Frequently Asked Questions to help four people unfamiliar with the prophetic to understand it.
4. Use the prophetic subject matter Quick Study Chart to tell a non-prophetic Christian why he or she should still learn about the prophetic.
5. Blend the sections on Important Prophetic Terms, God's Prophets on Prophecies, and Full Prophetic Knowledge to answer the question, "Are Prophets for Today?" Include if dreaming and foreknowledge alone make one a prophet.