

# Study Two

## The Spirit of Prophecy—Past and Present



**Read the following Bible story:**  
Daniel 2:1-30 (God reveals secrets to his prophet Daniel)

**The story's lesson for us today:**  
Only God can accurately reveal the future, and he reveals it to his servants (prophets) who abide in him.

**What Jesus said:** “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another [prophet] that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he [John the Baptist] witnesseth of me is true.” John 5:31-32“

**Study Note:** Read each question, and then look up the corresponding text(s) for the Bible's answer.

### 1) What is prophecy?

- A *spiritual* gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
- The will and wisdom of God imparted to man

through the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

- The testimony of Jesus—the sure word and witness of scripture (1 Corinthians 1:5-6; John 5:39)

## **2) Does the spirit of prophecy still exist today?**

- This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant or latter-day church (Revelation 12:17; 19:10)

## **3) What is the purpose of prophecy?**

- A sign to believers (John 14:28-29; 1 Corinthians 14:22)
- To edify, exhort, and console God's people (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- To warn, guide, and reconcile God's people to Himself (Jeremiah 44:4-5; Amos 3:7)
- To expose false prophets and false teachers and their heresies (2 Peter 1:19-21)

## **4) How can we test and discern a false prophet?**

- Miracles alone are not a test of proof (Exodus 7:10-12; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Revelation 13:13-14)
- Their predictions, visions and/or dreams fail to come to pass (Jeremiah 14:13-15; Ezekiel 13:6-7)
- They covet *worldly* things (Balaam's folly: Numbers 22:7, 15-17; 24:10-11; Matthew 6:24; 7:21-23)

- Their teachings misalign with the Bible's teachings (Isaiah 8:20; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4; 13-15; 2 Peter 2:1-3)

**Study Commentary:**

Ever since man's fall from Eden, God has set apart men and women to be his holy messengers (prophets) so as to guide, console, reprove, and warn his people. Noah, who was a prophet of God, warned the people of his day of the coming destruction of the world. In these latter days, the spirit of prophecy is to continue with God's people (Revelation 12:17; 19:10), again warning of the destruction to come upon those who worship the beast and its image (Revelation 14:9-12).

**For further thought:**

"The spirit of prophecy, in consequence of the fall and man's separation from the visible presence of God, became a necessity. This necessity has not been obviated by any past change of dispensation. And no dispensation needs the gifts of the Holy Spirit more than the Christian age; and at no time in the long period of man's separation from God's visible presence, have they been so much needed as amid the perils of the raging tempests of the last days. But when the Redeemer shall come, the controversy be ended, the saints' rest given, and they, all immortal, meet around the throne with angels, and face to face behold the glory of God and the Lamb, the spirit of prophecy will be numbered among Heaven's choicest blessings of the past."

James White, preface to *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 16

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