

With whom God works and speaks

Part 2 of 2



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary: *We're being inundated with "prophets" who say "The Lord told me to say ..." or claim to have had a vision or dream from God. Some boldly say Christ appeared to them. As usual, there are false prophets BUT there WILL also be people in the last days who WILL be genuinely receiving revelations, dreams and visions and even visits from angels and maybe even Christ himself. You'll be surprised who those people could tend to be. Don't miss them. And learn to spot the phonies – it's all here in this sermon.*

To whom does God reveal himself and speak? Is it possible that he could reveal himself even to – you – or someone you know who isn't anyone all that great? God picked people a lot of times who were not religious leaders. This is part 2 to the Sermon.

We're getting ever closer to the end times and we know from God's word that he plans to reveal himself and his plans in dreams and visions and appearances to a lot of people. If we aren't ready for that, or resist that, we're going to miss out on a lot. This is not to say that everyone who claims to be a prophet is a true prophet. More on that later.

Hello everyone, I'm Philip Shields with another message from Light on the Rock. I hope the topic today will broaden your horizons on God's revelations. Be sure to tell others about us if you get instruction and inspiration from our messages. We always make it our goal that our messages help us all build a heart-bond with God and one another.

We are living in exciting "Bible times" and days. Someday people will seek you out and ask you to tell them what it was like in 2020, 2021 and the years ahead. You're in "Bible TIMES"! It's EXCITING and will get even more so. People in the future will ask you what it was like.

We're going to see a LOT of true revelations from all kinds of sources. You know how I know that? Because God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6), he's the same yesterday, today and forever and there's "no shadow of turning" with our God. He stays the same. SO the methods he used in the past – and how he revealed himself – will continue. Be ready for it!

But first let's praise our God and believe he remains active. The government may try to close the churches – thinking “church” (ekklesia) means the BUILDING but it does not. We have the Holy Spirit inside of us and nobody can shut us down. We ARE the church; we don't GO to church. **God's presence and spirit is IN us and no man can take that out of us.**

God never loses. Sometimes we get down and depressed. God will give the victory in his time and way. **So we're not panicked!** We're temporarily disappointed and are down here in America – but we'll get over it for our eyes our own our Father and Savior! God never loses. If it looks like we've lost, God has another plan. Wait for him – but praise and sing his glory! **Let's pray!**

OPENING PRAYER

Back to the sermon:

I'm discussing this topic because scripture is clear: We're in exciting Bible times! We're seeing more and more who claim to be prophets – and maybe some are, but clearly some are false prophets NOT sent by God. But there WILL be genuine prophets coming too. We have to be careful – and we'll review that lightly in this, but hope you'll listen to part 1 first.

If you Google topics like prophecies for 2020, the election, President Trump, etc. – there are LOTS of people claiming to be prophets who are saying without a doubt that President Trump will win. He still could, but by now, it's Nov 11 as I record this – it will take a huge miracle and intervention from God. I know God says it upsets him when he sees unfair balances, or holes being dug for people to fall into (**Ecc. 10:8**) and lying and cheating. And so I still believe God could still turn it around now – or in 2024. I don't have a revelation from God on this, but just expressing hope. But those who gave definite and dated prophecies that failed, simply were not speaking for God.

God in the past DID speak to us through his prophets.

Hebrews 1:1-2a

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...”

But as I started to show last time, God does not LIMIT himself to revealing his word to us by his prophets.

- And in fact, he warns us that in the last days there will be many FALSE prophets, even admitting Yeshua/Jesus is the Messiah – but God did not send them (**Matthew 24:11, 24**). Peter and John also warn us to beware of false teachers and prophets (**2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1**).
- It will culminate in the end time **great false prophet, the Anti-Christ**, who is so persuasive that he comes close to deceiving God's very elect. Scripture is clear that some will get their miracle-working power from demons.

Matthew 24:24

“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders *to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*”

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

“The coming of the lawless one **is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs,** and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

So remember, there ARE “ground rules” about listening to those claiming they had a vision or appearance from God or an angel or had a vision or dream.

GOD’S Ground rules for dealing with prophets:

- **Many claim Jesus or God spoke to them when GOD says he did NOT send them (Jeremiah 14:14; 23:21). Remember there will be many false prophets in these last days.**
- **If a so-called prophet does not teach God’s word, they are not sent from God (Isaiah 8:20) and have no light in them.**

Isaiah 8:20

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

- **If someone gives a specific event and date that does not come to pass, he’s a false prophet and not sent from God Deut 18:20-22).**

It’s OK to give opinions – if clearly stated as such. But not OK to say your predictions are from God unless God really spoke to you. We are to TEST the spirits to see if they are from God (**1 John 4:1**).

God makes no mistakes about what’s about to happen. So if someone says “The Lord told me” such and such, and it doesn’t happen, he’s a false prophet. *If someone says “In my opinion, I think such and such will happen” – that’s OK. He was just stating opinion – and not claiming it was from God.*

We’re told God does not change (Malachi 3:6). He’s the same today, yesterday, and forever. (**Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17**) So the patterns we see God using in the past could well be what he does in the future.

Last time I also showed how God – who changes not – periodically used world leaders, even men who were evil pagans at times! Check out the last sermon.

- Pharaoh and the dreams about the fat and lean cows
- Nebuchadnezzar and the statue with a gold head, bronze chest, etc.
- Belshazzar – Daniel 5 – saw a hand writing on a wall. So this revelation also given to a drunk leader in an orgy.
- Isaiah 45 – God mentioned by name – Cyrus, a world leader, 150 years before he was born. God called that pagan leader, “my anointed”

God doesn’t change. He could, in our day, reveal prophecies to another world leader. There’s MUCH MORE information in part 1 – so be sure to check it out.

We ended Part 1 with the discussion about **how God has often used CHILDREN** to reveal his plans – young ones like to Samuel, Joseph’s dreams, Jeremiah, David when he

was anointed as a future king – all were so young, just children. **Are you and I ready to listen to a dream, a revelation, God could give to a child? Are you? (Example of angels marching in the mulberry trees is 2 Sam. 5:22-25).**

Would any of us have believed Joseph and his dreams? Would we have accepted teenager (or younger) Jeremiah as God's prophet? Would we? Will we be receptive to a young child telling us he/she had a dream from God?

Let's continue now with that theme **of God using youth and young men and Young women.** Will we be ready to accept God talking to ordinary young folks – and old folks as well in the coming years?

BE READY FOR GOD to be revealing himself and his words, out of his profound MERCY for humanity.

YOUNG MEN & WOMEN AND OLD MEN WILL HAVE VISIONS AND DREAMS

Do you remember what **Peter said in Acts 2** when all 120 gathered there on the Day of Pentecost – men and women – were filled with God's Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages?

He referred people who came in -- to Joel 2. And remember he and the early apostles thought it was just a matter of a very short time before Christ would show up again and set up his reign on earth. Note that Joel's prophecy was specifically for the "last days". So here's what Peter said on Pentecost:

Acts 2:15-21

"For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel (he now quotes Joel 2:28-32)

17 'And it shall come to **pass in the last days**, says God, ("last Days" – in God's view, a day is as a thousand years --2 Peter 3:8, so even 2,000 years in God's view is just a couple days.)

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your YOUNG MEN shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 **And on My menservants and on My MAIDSERVANTS**

I will pour out My Spirit in those days; *And they shall prophesy.*

19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood,
BEFORE the coming of the great and awesome day of YHVH.

21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of YHVH
Shall be saved.'

Are you and I ready for this?

So this happens *before* the 6th seal of **Revelation 6:12-17** – which is about the heavenly signs. This could also happen before the 5th seal too, the Great Tribulation. But are we ready for God to be giving literal dreams and visions from him to young men and women and old men? Are we?

I have so much more to say to prepare you and me for looking at the right places for all the places of revelation from God that will start to come. Yes, we have to test them. Yes, we have to make sure that what they say squares with God's way and scripture. Yes, we have to see if what they say comes to pass or not.

But let's not scorn or spurn God's word coming from unexpected sources. And I'm just warming up! Be sure to continue listening in Part 2 where we go into many types of situations where God could speak to us in the years ahead.

So who else has God chosen to work through in the past?

MOST of the prophets and apostles even were not close to GOD when God chose them. Imagine THAT!

Moses – didn't even know the true God's name. Remember? He kept asking what this Being's name was in Exodus 3:13. Moses was a felon on the run for having killed a man when the Almighty chose HIM to be his prophet. Who would have thought!?

Isaiah, what a great book of prophecy he gave us – started as a man of unclean lips. He admitted to having a filthy mouth. You'd never know that now from the gracious words he gives us in the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 6:5

So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! **Because I am a man of unclean lips,**
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King, YHVH of hosts."

The "minor prophet" Amos – was simply a shepherd from Tekoa (Amos 1:1), about 6 miles south of Bethlehem. He was unschooled as a prophet, but God chose HIM, a simple shepherd during the height of Judah's and Israel's prosperity. God didn't choose the high priest or the Levites, no. Just a shepherd. Would we have listened to a SHEPHERD? Ponder that.

Ezekiel was a son of a priest. But not all the prophets had that background.

We know precious little about the backgrounds of Joel, Elijah, Micah, Nahum, Malachi, and others. But God used them – unknowns, nobodies. That could happen again.

Would you listen to someone you never heard of before or who was a nobody in the world's eyes?

THE 12 APOSTLES – most of them were nobodies of their day too. At least 4 were **fishermen** (Peter, Andrew, James, and John. It's possible that Philip, Thomas, and Nathanael could also have been uneducated fishermen). One – **Matthew** - was a despised tax collector who no doubt had done much wrong. We know little about Thomas, Philip, and the others. These men chosen to have their names on the foundation of the wall in heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 21:14) were considered uneducated and unlearned and the religious leaders of their day were amazed at how much they knew about the scriptures.

Acts 4:13

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus”.

Today of course we know they were greatly used by God. But at the time, they would have appeared as ordinary and unlearned folks. They had no degrees, no Harvard degrees – no, just ordinary men.

Some of those God used as judges and prophets were sinful and imperfect.

Actually we've all been sinners.

David numbered Israel for the wrong reasons and committed adultery then killed her husband. But God gave him a lot of revelations we still cherish in his Psalms in spite of that. *But some of you would probably not care to sit next to him in your church, or to have dinner with him – unless you knew it was David.*

Samson broke his Nazarite vows and seemed to be a womanizer. But they're part of the Faith chapter of Hebrews 11 as righteous men.

My point? Don't automatically disdain or reject someone with true revelations just because they've done some horrible things in their past. If someone has revelations from God, he may not be a superbly righteous person - unless you see past that to the righteousness of God given to us by faith through grace (Philippians 3:9-11). *Remember, God is all about redemption* and new starts and forgiveness and acceptance.

GOD USED “NOBODIES” for many of his revelations

The Shepherds in the field by night.

To whom did God initially choose to reveal that His Son – the Savior – had been born? To the High Priest? No. To the Pharisees and scribes? No. To king Herod? No.

God Almighty chose lowly uneducated and poor and maybe even illiterate shepherds to be the ones given the revelation that their Messiah had been born in a manger in Bethlehem. (**Luke 2:8-20**) They got to see and hear an angelic choir! Imagine it.

But think of it: how receptive would any of US have been to a bunch of uneducated shepherds trying to tell us that an angelic choir appeared to them and sang! Let's get used to it! It could happen again.

It's possible some great revelations will come from the lowliest of our society in the years ahead. Are you ready for that? God changes not! Remember that. Malachi 3:6.

God OFTEN used Shepherds. Even the greatest king of Israel – David, son of Jesse – started out as a lowly shepherd. The Israelites in Egypt were primarily shepherds, disdained by Egyptians (Gen 46:33-34). Rebekah was a shepherd. And on and on.

AMOS was a shepherd and added to his meager income by picking sycamore fruit. (**Amos 7:14-17** – you should read this.)

Amos 7:14-15

Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah:

"I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheep breeder and a tender of sycamore fruit.

15 Then YHVH took me as I followed the flock, And YHVH said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

Because God changes not – it is highly likely that the ones to whom he reveals himself will be truly uneducated nobodies today. It could it even be you! God says he calls the nobodies. "Not many mighty or noble are called, but God chose the weak things of the world..." – **1 Cor. 1:26-29.**

So we've GOT to QUIT thinking that God favors talking to ministers, televangelists, people who call themselves apostles or prophets or popes, cardinals and "men of the cloth".

Sometimes the ones God uses don't even know they're being used!

Now first a caveat – many prophesy in Jesus' name but Yeshua says he doesn't know them – read **Matthew 7:21-23** – "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name?"

But having said that, I love how God used even **CAIAPHAS** the High priest to prophesy about Christ's purpose, and Caiaphas had no idea God was using him to prophesy! So sometimes God even uses FALSE leaders to say something profound! Ponder that one. Let's read it.

John 11:49-52

And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

50 nor do you consider that **it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.**"

51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that *He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.*

The POTTER

There's another example in Jeremiah 18 how God used a simple POTTER, who didn't even know he was being used to be a revelation from God, on how God saw Israel.

God told Jeremiah to go watch a potter and get revelation from a humble potter. Do you think the potter had any idea we'd still be reading about this 2,500 years later?

Jeremiah 18:1-10

"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from YHVH: 2 "Go down at once to the potter's house; there I will reveal My words to you." 3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, working away at the wheel. 4 But the jar that

he was making from the clay became flawed in the potter's hand, so he made it into another jar, as it seemed right for him to do.

5 The word of YHVH came to me: 6 "House of Israel, can I not treat you as this potter treats his clay?"—this is YHVH's declaration. "Just like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, house of Israel.

7 At one moment I might announce concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will uproot, tear down, and destroy it.

8 However, if that nation I have made an announcement about, turns from its evil, I will NOT bring the disaster on it I had planned.

9 At another time I announce that I will build and plant a nation or a kingdom. 10 However, if it does what is evil in My sight by not listening to My voice, I will not bring the good I had said I would do to it."

So stop thinking that all of God's own prophetic words are set in stone. HE HIMSELF says He's willing to change his prophecies. God wants to be merciful.

Are you getting the point of this sermon? God can, and does, reveal himself in all sorts of ways and through all sorts of channels. Will you be open to that in the years ahead?

The regular Levite in Jehoshaphat's day

Now how would we react to someone who is not a known prophet or even a priest of God telling the nation of Judah, all holed up in the walled city of Jerusalem – to leave the city, go out and face the scores of thousands of enemy, and not worry, because God had told him God would fight for them?

Just imagine the faith you'd have to have! This man Jahaziel basically was going to interrupt the KING speaking (v. 5-12). Then we read this!

2 Chronicles 20:13-17

Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before YHVH.

14 Then the Spirit of YHVH came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, **a Levite of the sons of Asaph**, in the midst of the assembly.

15 And he said, "**Listen**, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, **and you, King Jehoshaphat!** Thus says YHVH to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of YHVH, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for YHVH is with you."

Would YOU have trusted or believed that message was from God?

It wasn't like it was from the High Priest using his Urim and Thummin or something like that! Honestly, could you have seen that as a message from God? And would you have gone out the next day to face the armies?

That's what I'm talking about: checking out the message and messenger of the message from God – and asking for God's spirit to help you discern if it's of God. I'm just saying in the years to come, we're going to have to make that decision. **SOME WILL BE** from God. And many will not be.

DREAMS

God will use dreams a lot. Now if you're on medications, be careful – as some medications can clearly give you some strong, weird, dreams!

So yes, be certain that God in these last days will be speaking to whomever he chooses, and they may not always be pastors, teachers, priests, or prophets – but ordinary people. Are we ready for that? The messages will often come in dreams – like Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Joseph had **dreams**, Solomon had dreams, Joseph the husband of Mary did, and so on.

God himself told Aaron and Miriam that he often spoke to men **through dreams and visions (Numbers 12:5-6)**. **Peter** had the vision of Acts 10, for example.

- Sometimes those revelations are just **strong feelings or urges** to say or do something. I've had quite a few of these – to call someone, to do something.
- Sometimes it's from an angel appearing and conveying a message from God – and there are numerous examples of this in the Bible – like to Samson's parents, or to Daniel, and to Mary.

I'm convinced an angel appeared to me and my brother and his wife some years ago at a Panera Bread in Ventura. (Story recounted on the video).

Peter in jail was rescued by an angel (Acts 12:5-15). There are numerous other examples in scripture. God will still use and send angels to us too.

- **And in some cases, it appears that the One we know as Yeshua the WORD of God directly appeared to or spoke to various ones** – as to Samuel in 1 Samuel 3; to Abram (Genesis 15:1, 4). A lot of times it is stated “the Word of the LORD came to ... and said...” You can find numerous examples of this to the prophets like Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah and more.

I'll repeat, in **1 Samuel 3:21** -- it says “YHVH (the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh BY or THRU the WORD of YHVH”. I don't know if every time it says “The Word of the LORD came to...” that there was a visual perception of the presence of the Word of God (Yeshua – John 1:1-3) or if it was just clear thoughts.

Sometimes that phrase could just mean it was a CLEAR VISION, or other times just a strong and clear message they received, perhaps as a strong thought. But so many times the “message” was so long, so detailed, so precise, it's almost like you'd have to be

seeing/listening to someone as you wrote down what He said. At other times, as in 1 Samuel 3:10, 21, it appears Samuel SAW the Word of the LORD.

There are over 100 examples of that phrase “the word of the LORD came to...”

to ABRAM – Genesis 15:1 – in a VISION, also verse 4

to Samuel -- 1 Samuel 15:10

to Nathan the Prophet – 2 Samuel 7:4; 24:11 and to numerous others

to David – 1 Chron 22:8

to Jeremiah numerous times – Jeremiah 1:2, 4, 11, 13; so many more...

Jeremiah 34:12 – “Therefore the **Word** of YHVH came to Jeremiah from YHVH, saying...”

to Ezekiel – NUMEROUS times – Ezek 1:3; 3:16 etc. etc.

this happened also to Jonah (Jonah 1:1; 3:1), Haggai (Haggai 1:1; 2:1, 10, 20) and Zechariah 1:1, 7; 4:8; 6:9, etc.

GOD ALSO REVEALS HIMSELF – for those with eyes to see – THROUGH NATURE –

- The **rainbow** above the ark – GOD’S Symbol; very precious to God.
- Thru **Marriage**, God pictures Christ and his holy bride, the church
- The **rock** that split and produced water

- The ARK for Noah and family – represented Christ on so many levels.
- The colors, animals, priests, altars, menorah etc. of the TABERNACLE...all reveal our great God.

God is not finished revealing himself yet. I’m excited about it! In these last days, He will continue as he has before. He changes not. So be ready for many, many revelations from God in the years and maybe even decades ahead. You’re living in Bible days! You’re not going to miss out on anything compared to the revelations given in the days of Abraham or Moses.

Closing prayer.