



## Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

**RS-017**

## LESSON SEVENTEEN

### MODERN PROPHETS AND VISIONS

**Teaching code - in “teacher notes”.**

- 1. Underlining - designed to get class participation.**
- 2. Bold items - messages to instructor.**
- 3. All other copy - information designed to go directly to class.**

**Place Lesson #18, Exhibit 1, and Amazing Facts Folder H at each student location before session begins.**

## A Hearty Welcome and Opening Prayer

## Lesson Seventeen

## MODERN PROPHETS AND VISIONS

**Straight intellectual truth presented without warmth, love, and enthusiasm is like a car without an engine.**

In our last lesson I was made glad  
as we studied how there IS a  
“Land of Beginning Again.”  
Thank God for such a message.  
We can start all over new!

I also rejoiced because of those  
of you who expressed the desire  
to allow God to work the miracle  
that would let you begin anew.

Tonight we will study  
about a gift God gave to His church,  
to keep us forever being renewed.  
God gave to us the gift of prophecy  
through which He speaks to His children.  
Thank God for such a gift.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY  
IS THE GREATEST PRODUCT OF  
THAT GIFT? (Wait for answer)  
Answer – the Bible.

## Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

### Decision Questions

1. Answer by placing "X's" on your Quiz Envelope. Place the first "X" if you believe that the Bible teaches that God will use prophets to help the church in the last days.
2. Place your second "X" if you are ready to say that God's true church will have the gift of prophecy in the last days.

**Talk up next lesson.**

### Closing Prayer

**Dr. K.S. Wiggins tells the story of a large tent meeting, where he made a call to come forward for baptism. Many came forward, including a Baptist minister. Dr. Wiggins asked why a Baptist minister would come forward for a call for baptism. The minister's reply was, "I have been baptized into nine of God's commandments; I'm now going to be baptized into all ten of them."**

**This illustration is extremely effective – present it in Christian joy!**

**Refer to this story in presenting lesson 18, also in later lessons.**

## A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE **REVELATION SEMINARS**



### MODERN PROPHETS AND VISIONS

Prophets are people signally honored by God. In Revelation, an angel twice told John that he considered the prophets his brothers. A dozen times Revelation mentions either false or true prophets.

Old Testament prophets bring to mind dramatic miracle workers of great courage and power. Daniel, the prophet, was Prime Minister of two notable world-wide empires. Moses, a very outstanding prophet, was leader of a nation. Isaiah's message was so forceful and convincing that an evil king had him sawed asunder.

Paul, a New Testament prophet, who received many visions, II Corinthians 12:7 (1703), could face down an opponent no matter how brilliant. John was so convincing and influential in presenting Jesus that his enemies tried to kill him by placing him in boiling oil. When the oil failed to harm him, he was banished to the island of Patmos, a prison fortress, where he was forced to work in the mines. But, there, Jesus gave Him the precious book of Revelation.

The Scripture, itself, came to us from prophets who were guided by the Holy Ghost. The church is indebted to prophets to a degree almost impossible to calculate.

Have you ever wondered why, in these challenging and crucial days for God's people — just before the second coming of Jesus — we no longer have prophets? Is John the last prophet that Jesus has spoken through? Why did God quit speaking through prophets or DID HE? If you met someone who claimed to be a prophet, how would you react? Does God, indeed, still speak through prophets today? Are psychics and astrologers prophets?

This is a most stimulating and challenging subject. As we get into it, please pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit who guided the prophets of old.

1. The very book we are reading  
and studying in this course  
is a product of God's prophetic gift.  
We can learn a lot about  
how God uses this gift  
by studying the book of Revelation.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS WHICH GOD USES IN  
BRINGING A PROPHETIC MESSAGE TO MAN?

2. Amos 3:7 shows God's love and  
concern for man.  
He won't leave us  
in the dark.

Now get response to question #2.

3. I thank God for the gift of  
the Holy Spirit, don't you?
4. CAN YOU GIVE ME THE NAMES OF  
AT LEAST TWO TRUE PROPHETS  
WHO DID NOT WRITE A BOOK  
OF THE BIBLE?
5. How about two names of women prophets.  
**A.** Miriam  
**B.** Hulda  
**C.** Deborah  
**D.** It is clear God uses women as well as men.

Mention names only if class cannot.

25. John the Baptist did not write a book of the Bible but he was a true prophet. Whose counsel does the Bible say people rejected when they rejected John's counsel? Luke 7:28-30 (1504)

Ans: They "rejected the COUNSEL of GOD".

NOTE: The counsel of a true prophet is always the counsel of God. To reject it, whether the prophet be a Bible writer or not, amounts to rejecting the Lord's counsel. Such rejection is fatal to a person unless he reconsiders.

Notice some of the titles given to prophets in Scripture?

- a. Prophet — I Samuel 9:9 (453)
- b. Son of man — Ezekiel 4:1; 5:1 (1213)
- c. Seer — II Chronicles 16:7 (720)
- d. Messenger — Malachi 3:1 (1393)
- e. Fellow servant — Revelation 19:10 (1821); 22:9 (1825)
- f. Servant of God — I Chronicles 6:49 (660)
- g. Man of God — II Kings 4:21, 22 (604)
- h. Watchman — Ezekiel 3:17 (1212)
- i. Voice of one crying in the wilderness — Matthew 3:3 (1399)

26. Since God still speaks through prophets today, and since the word of a true prophet is the personal "testimony of Jesus" to you, are you willing to test modern prophets by the Bible and obey those who agree with Scripture?

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_



Jesus in love  
still speaks  
to us, today.

25. Is it startling to you to know that  
we would be rejecting God  
and His counsel  
if we rejected  
His servants – the prophets?

### CLASS APPEAL

I want you to raise your hand if you agree with the following statement. Since God still speaks through prophets today, and since the word of a true prophet is the personal “testimony of Jesus” to me, I am willing to test modern prophets by the Bible and be guided by those who agree with Scripture. If this is your desire – please raise your right hand. Thank you. Thank you.

### PRAYER APPEAL

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. To whom does God reveal His plans for the future? t \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_ the prophets
2. God promises to speak through p \_\_\_\_\_ in the last days. prophets
3. J \_\_\_\_\_ was the prophet who received the Revelation of Jesus Christ. John
4. Prophets are one of the g \_\_\_\_\_ gifts given to the church.
5. Revelation teaches that God's true church for the last d \_\_\_\_\_ will have the gift of prophecy. days

### OFFERING APPEAL

## HOW GOD COMMUNICATES

1. The book of Revelation is a prime example of how the prophetic gift operates. The first few verses explain the steps which are utilized in bringing a prophetic message from God to man. What are these steps? Revelation 1:1-4 (1800)

Ans: a. God gave the message to JESUS CHRIST (verse 1)  
b. Jesus gave it to His SERVANTS (verse 1)  
c. His angel gave it to JOHN (verse 1)  
d. John gave it to the CHURCHES (verse 4)

2. To whom will God reveal His plans for the future? Amos 3:7 (1340)

Ans: THE PROPHETS

3. Where do true prophets get their information? II Peter 1:21 (1787)

Ans: “Holy MEN of God SPAKE as they were MOVED by the HOLY GHOST”.

4. Must a prophet write a book of the Bible in order to be authoritative and true?

Ans: NO

NOTE: At least twelve true prophets, who did not write a book of the Bible, are mentioned in the Scripture. Among them is John the Baptist, of whom Jesus said there was no one greater, Matthew 11:11 (1413).

5. Does God ever prophesy through women?

Ans: YES

NOTE: Several women were mentioned as prophetesses in Scripture: Anna, Luke 2:36-38 (1492); Miriam, Exodus 15:20 (112); Deborah, Judges 4:4 (399); Huldah, II Kings 22:14 (641); and the four daughters of Phillip, Acts 21:8, 9 (1631).

6. Does God promise to speak through prophets in the last days? Joel 2:28-31 (1336)

Ans: YES

NOTE: God promises to speak through both men and women.

7. There are four places where the New Testament lists some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

WHICH GIFT DO YOU SUPPOSE IS THE ONLY ONE MENTIONED IN ALL FOUR PLACES?

Answer – Gift of Prophecy.

8. Ephesians 4 gives a clear picture of God in action to protect His church and to equip it for missionary service.
9. When will it be no longer necessary for God's children to have the "prophetic gift" or the other gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4?



God sometimes speaks to prophets through visions.

## A PROPHETS MINISTRY

21. Are prophets called primarily to serve the church or unbelievers? I Corinthians 14:22 (1685)

Ans: "Prophesying serveth. . .for them which BELIEVE."

22. What is prophecy called in Revelation 12:17 (1813)?

Ans: "The TESTIMONY of JESUS Christ".

NOTE: In light of Revelation 19:10 (1821) the "testimony of Jesus" means the "testimony or message FROM Jesus". When the Holy Spirit inspires a prophet with a message we are to regard it as a message from Jesus. To undermine a true prophet is thus a **VERY SERIOUS** matter. It amounts to calling Jesus a liar, Revelation 3:14 (1804); Revelation 21:5 (1823).

23. Whom did Jesus say would have very great influence in the last days? Matthew 24:24 (1439)

Ans: "— FALSE Christs, and false PROPHETS —".

NOTE: Peter also warns against the powerful but evil influence of false prophets. II Peter 2:1, 2 (1787)

24. What types of false prophets does the Bible specifically condemn? Deuteronomy 18:9-12 (320); Revelation 22:15 (1826); Revelation 21:8 (1824)

Ans:

- a. "Diviner" – fortune teller
- b. "Observer of times" – astrologer
- c. "Enchanter" – magician
- d. "Witch/wizard" – female/male psychic
- e. "Consulter with familiar spirits" – spirit medium
- f. "Necromancer" – one who supposedly consults with the dead
- g. "Sorcerer" – the modern counterpart of sorcery is spiritism
- h. "Charmer" – one who casts spells or uses charms

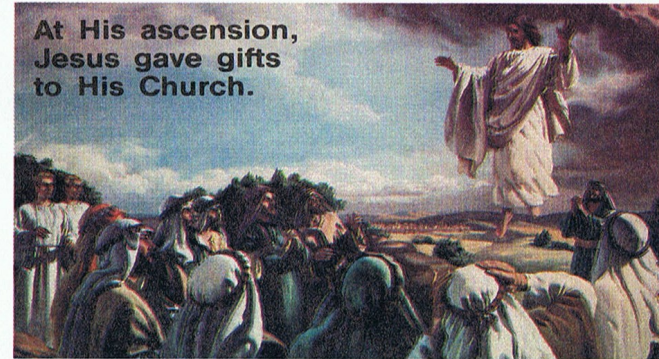
NOTE: The Lord says that all who do the above things are an abomination, Deuteronomy 18:12 (320).

**22. After question #22 and note.**

Further evidence that John in Revelation 12:17 and 19:10 is speaking of the prophetic gift is found in Revelation 22:9 where the angel, in a parallel statement, says he is a "fellow prophet".

**24.** Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24:24 is surely being fulfilled today, when the whole world is infatuated with astrology, witchcraft, fortune telling, and false prophets.

At His ascension, Jesus gave gifts to His Church.



**SPIRITUAL GIFTS TODAY**

**7. When Jesus ascended to heaven He left gifts for the church. What are these gifts? Ephesians 4:7,8,11 (1717)**

Ans: "And He gave some, APOSTLES, and some, PROPHETS, and some, EVANGELISTS; and some, PASTORS and TEACHERS".

NOTE: Jesus listed prophets as second in importance.

**8. Why were these gifts given? Ephesians 4:12 (1717)**

Ans: "For the PERFECTING of the saints, for the WORK of the ministry, for the EDIFYING of the body of Christ".

**9. How long were these gifts to remain in the church? Ephesians 4:13 (1717)**

Ans: "Till we ALL come in the UNITY of the FAITH, and of the KNOWLEDGE of the SON of God, unto a PERFECT man, unto the MEASURE of the STATURE of the FULNESS of CHRIST".

NOTE: These gifts, including prophets, remain in the church until all become completely like Christ, which means they remain until the end of the world.

**10-12 Lead class through questions #10-12.**

**Then**

Isn't that just like God!

- \* Always mindful of our needs.
- \* Always seeking to communicate with His very own children.

If there ever was a time  
we needed the prophetic gift  
it is right now!

- 13.** It is clear that God promised  
to give His remnant church  
the "Gift of Prophecy."

At that same time He cautions us.  
WHAT DID PAUL SAY  
THAT WILL KEEP US FROM BEING DECEIVED?

**After answer #13**

That sounds like pretty good counsel, doesn't it?

Ans: BLIND

**ARE MIRACLES A TEST?**

- 18. Do miracles prove that a prophet is true? Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (312); Revelation 16:14 (1817)**

Ans: No! Because the DEVIL can also work miracles.

NOTE: Miracles prove only one thing — supernatural power. But such power comes from both Satan and God. The magicians of Egypt turned walking sticks into serpents and water to blood, but they were false "prophets" who were empowered by Satan, Exodus 7:10-12, 19-22 (96). The TEACHINGS of a prophet must be tested by Scripture. This is our only safety. CONDUCT may appear to be very spiritual but this proves nothing in itself, II Corinthians 11:13-15 (1702). Unless a prophet's TEACHINGS square with Scripture, he is an imposter.

- 19. God promises to speak to a prophet in one of three ways. What are these three ways? Number 12:6,8 (240)**

Ans: (a) VISION (b) DREAM  
(c) MOUTh TO MOUTh

NOTE: Crystal balls, palm reading, tea leaf deciphering, star gazing and talking with the dead are **NOT** God's methods of communicating with a prophet.

GOD SOMETIMES SPOKE TO PROPHETS THROUGH VISIONS. NOTICE HOW THE BIBLE DESCRIBES A PROPHET IN VISION.

- a. Will lose physical strength, Daniel 10:8 (1315)
- b. Then receives SUPERNATURAL strength, Daniel 10:18,19 (1316)
- c. No breath in his body, Daniel 10:17 (1316)
- d. Will be able to speak, Daniel 10:16 (1316)
- e. Will not be conscious of his surroundings, Daniel 10:5-8 (1315) II Corinthians 12:2-4 (1703)
- f. His eyes will be open, Numbers 24:4 (263)

- 20. What happens to a person who believes and obeys true prophets? II Chronicles 20:20 (727)**

Ans: "Believe His PROPHETS, so shall ye PROSPER."

NOTE: There is no chance for a person to prosper spiritually if he refuses to believe a true prophet. John, in Revelation 1:3 (1800), says we must READ, HEAR and KEEP the things in his prophecy.

**18. First read question #18 and have class read Revelation 16:14 together.**

In Revelation 16:14 it is clear that "miracles" do not prove God is speaking.

**WHAT DO MIRACLES PROVE?**

Answer — Supernatural manifestation  
(can be from God or Satan).

**19. After getting answers to question #19 and noting description of prophet in vision, ask:**

Why do you suppose God caused the prophet to have such unusual manifestations while in vision?

**After a brief discussion offer following suggestion:**

God recognizes man's need not to be deceived.  
He also knows there are people  
who might pretend to be inspired of God.

A manifestation of that which  
is clearly "Supernatural" gives to the  
honest seeker a  
basis for testing.

Then Bible tests are to be applied  
in order that we may know,  
"Is this of God or Satan?"

**GOD'S CHURCH TODAY**

**10. When you find and enter the church with all these gifts what will it do for you? Ephesians 4:14 (1717)**

Ans: "That we henceforth be NO MORE children,  
TOSSED to and FRO and CARRIED  
about with EVERY WIND of doctrine".

NOTE: When one enters the church with all the gifts, he is immediately anchored and no longer flounders around aimlessly. Satan's objective is to remove at least one of these spiritual gifts from the church, knowing that the result will be to send Christian people into a spin.

**11. Did God's New Testament church have the gift of prophecy? I Corinthians 1:6 (1669)**

Ans: "Even as the TESTIMONY of CHRIST  
was CONFIRMED in you".

NOTE: I Corinthians 1:7 (1669) says they had ALL the gifts and verse six specifically mentions the testimony of Christ, which is the spirit or gift of prophecy, Revelation 19:10 (1821).

**12. Does Revelation teach that God's true church for the last days will have the gift of prophecy? Revelation 12:17 (1813); Revelation 19:10 (1821)**

Ans: YES

NOTE: In our next lesson, we study God's true church, which is pictured in Revelation, chapter 12, under the symbolism of a woman. The dragon is the devil, Revelation 12:9 (1813). Verse 17 clearly says God's last day church will keep His commandments and have the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit or gift of prophecy, Revelation 19:10 (1821) cf Revelation 22:9 (1825).

**TRUE PROPHETS OF GOD**

**13. What three things does Paul command regarding prophets? I Thessalonians 5:20, 21 (1737)**

Ans: a. "Despise not PROPHESYING".

Ans: b. " PROVE all things".

Ans: c. "Hold fast that which is GOOD".

**14-16 Lead class through #14-16.**

**Then**

God doesn't want any of us deceived.  
That is why He has given us  
such clear tests that we may apply  
to those who profess to be prophets.

- 17.** It is an act of love on God's part  
to give eyes to the "Remnant church", at  
the very end of time –  
time of the final and greatest crisis.

God's prophetic gift is very important  
at this time, when  
Satan is going forth to deceive  
as never before.



**Test a prophet  
by the Bible.**

- 14. How do I test, or prove, what a prophet says, to see if the prophet is true? Isaiah 8:19, 20 (1034)**

Ans: "If they SPEAK not ACCORDING to  
this WORD it is BECAUSE there  
is NO LIGHT in them".

- 15. What other things will be true of a prophet of God?**

Ans:

- a. Prophecies as he is moved by the Holy Spirit, not by man's will, II Peter 1:21 (1787).
- b. Doesn't give his own interpretation of prophecy, II Peter 1:20 (1787).
- c. Points out sins of people against God, Isaiah 58:1 (1094)
- d. Warns of coming judgment, Isaiah 24:20, 21 (1051); Revelation 14:6, 7 (1815).
- e. Edifies, exhorts, comforts, in religious matters, I Corinthians 14:3 (1684).
- f. Recognizes the incarnation, or deity, of Jesus, I John 4:1-3 (1793).
- g. Works and lives in harmony with Bible, Matthew 7:15-20 (1406).
- h. Will not be an astrologer, magician, witch, medium, or clairvoyant, Deuteronomy 18:9-12 (320).

- 16. In I Corinthians 12:1, 11, 12-18 (1682) Paul likens the gifts of the church to parts of the body. What part of the body would best represent prophets? I Samuel 9:9 (453)**

Ans: THE EYES

NOTE: Since a prophet is often called a seer, because he can see into the future, prophecy would best be represented by the eyes.

- 17. In what condition then would a church be which did not have the gift of prophecy? Matthew 15:14 (1422)**