

The Incarnation, Part 1

The Prophet

Pastor Jake Spencer November 29, 2015

Today

Over the next 3 weeks we will be looking at Jesus as 1) **The Prophet**, 2) The Priest, 3) The King.

Jesus: The Prophet

- Luke 2:6-14

(6) So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. (7) And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (8) Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. (10) Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. (11) For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (12) And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: (14) "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The Prophecy: The Promise and Our Pain

Prophecy defined: God inspired speech or action that is either **Fore-telling** (future) or **Forth-telling** (now)

- Genesis 3:15-16

- (15) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (16) To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

The first Prophecy after the fall points to both a **Promise** and **Pain**.

Promise: This is fore-telling - Redemption through the seed of the woman!

Pain: This is forth-telling

- In Labor and Delivery . . . (pain during birth)
- In man's inability to bring this about . . . (desire for husband)

- In Hope deferred . . . (the child will crush the serpents head, but great sorrow is connected with children)
 - *Example: Eve watching Cain and Abel*

The Prophets: God speaks through men to us about His Promise and Our Pain

Prophet defined:

In Greek (it's a compound of 2 words):

pro – before, prior to, in front of, by implication superior to

phemi – to show, make known, speak, say, declare, to shine, to bring to light by speech

In Hebrew:

nabi – to bubble forth, as from a fountain, hence “to utter” – one who announces or pours forth.

Some descriptions . . .

- Inspired Speaker
- Poet – hence the prophetic psalms
- Interpreter of Oracles or hidden things
- One moved by the Spirit of God as His organ or spokesman
- A friend of God to whom He makes known His will – think Abraham, Moses, Daniel, John the apostle

Summary: The Role of Prophet is someone who speaks to people on behalf of God

A prophet's life speaks. Even their births point back to the Garden and ahead to Jesus!

For example, Births of Prophets:

- Abraham – Son of promise Isaac that came through a barren womb
- Moses – Saved through the water
- Samuel – Born to Hannah - Again the barren giving birth

The Prophets Speak

- **Isaiah 7:14**

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

This is an example of 2 things – A spoken message from God and Fore-Telling

- **Hosea 1:2**

When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the LORD."

This is an example of 2 things as well – An action showing a message from God and Forth-Telling

Jesus: The Prophet

- **John 4:13-19**

(13) Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, (14) but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (15) The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." (16) Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." (17) The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' (18) for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." (19) The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

Jesus Forth-Telling: Speaking with knowledge of this woman's life and speaking universal truth in a personal way.

- **Matthew 16:21**

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Jesus Fore-Telling - and it has come to pass!

- **Luke 21:25-28**

(25) "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; (26) men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (27) Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (28) Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Jesus Fore-Telling - and it has yet to come!

- **John 14:6-7**

(6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (7) "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

Jesus' life and action speaks to us about God.

Certain aspects of the prophets' lives spoke of God to the people - Jesus' whole life speaks!

- Remember the role of a prophet? - Someone speaking to people on behalf of God – Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of this!

The Nativity: The place where God's Promise, our plan, and the Prophet are manifest

- **Luke 2:6-7**

(6) So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. (7) And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Don't just imagine the typical cute nativity scene - remember Eve and all births since - Pain, Tears, Joy, Hope, Fear

Lyrics from "O' Little Town of Bethlehem": *Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

God Speaks forth, through His Prophet and it's the cry of the child, who is God becoming one of us!

- **Luke 2:10–14**

(10) Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. (11) For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (12) And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: (14) "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

God Speaks again through the voice of the Angels:

To Hope deferred . . . He speaks Joy at the arrival of Good News – "The Baby has been born unto You!"

To Fear and Pain . . . He speaks Peace and Goodwill towards men!

Conclusion: Look for how we can respond to the message of The Prophet

- **Luke 2:15-20**

(15) So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." (16) And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. (17) Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. (18) And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (19) But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. (20) Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and

praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

I pray that each of us, In the Sacrament of this season, hear the Voice of The Prophet as God is speaking Eternal Truth in a specific and personal way to you. May it lead to the Celebration of the Life of Jesus coming personally into Your Life! Our Prophet is speaking and He is saying “God with Us!”

The full sermon is available to view under the Media tab on gracechapel.net.

Discussion Questions

- 1.** Who are some of the prophets that God uses in the Bible?
- 2.** What things has God told through these prophets?
- 3.** How do you think the shepherds felt in Luke 2:15 when they began their journey to see Jesus?
- 4.** What do you think of Mary’s actions in Luke 2:19?
- 5.** How does God use both “fore-telling” and “forth-telling” prophecies in Genesis?