

Scripture Summer School

Jessie 1

Prophetic Call



Wisdom from the Hebrew Prophets

1. “The word of the Lord came to me ...” - the prophetic call
2. “Crisis!” - exile and beyond
3. “What time is it?” – the prophetic view of present, past and future
4. “Are we there yet?” - Prophetic ideas of progress
5. “In days to come ...” – Visions of God’s glorious future
6. “Creation groans” - Earth’s story in the prophets



Jessie Rogers



Vision
2020
Faith into the Future



What is a prophet:

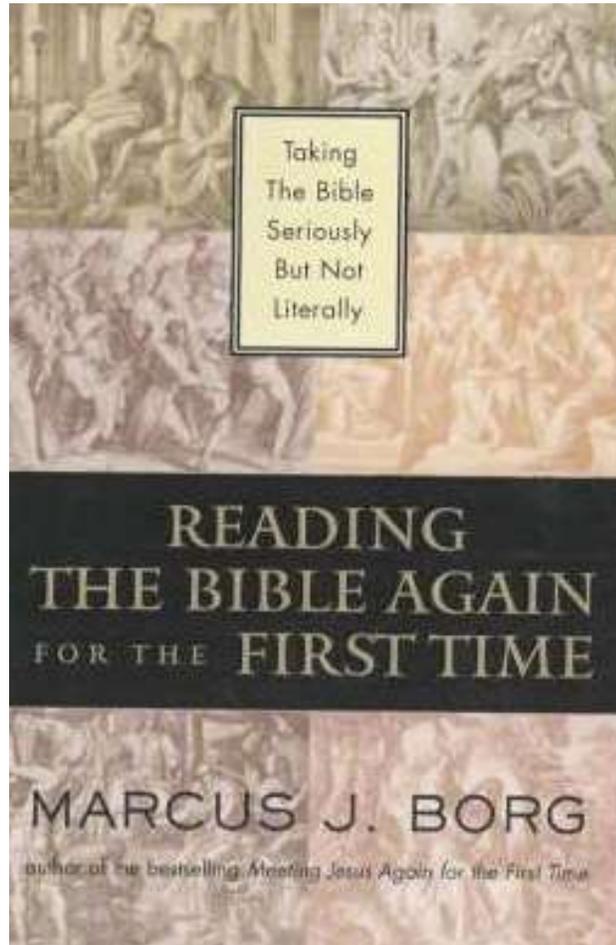
Cambridge dictionary:

- A person who is believed to have a special power that allows them to say what a god wishes to tell people, especially about things that will happen in the future.
- A person who supports a new system of beliefs and principles.

Godly Play:

- A prophet is someone who comes so close to God and God comes so close to them that they know what God wants ... Prophets know what is most important. They show us the way.





Marcus Borg on prophets

“... God-intoxicated voices of radical social criticism and God-intoxicated advocates of an alternative social vision. Their dream is God’s dream.”

- Prophets have met with God – they have profound experiences of the sacred.
- That shapes how they see the world, and what they feel – they have empathy with the divine pathos.



WALTER
BRUEGGEMANN
THE
PROPHETIC
IMAGINATION

40th Anniversary Edition

Walter Brueggemann on the prophetic task

- “..a prophet is someone that tries to articulate the world as though God were really active in the world. And, that means on the one hand, to identify those parts of our world order that are contradictory to God, but on the other hand, it means to talk about the will and purpose that God has for the world that will indeed come to fruition even in circumstances that we can’t imagine.”

<https://sojo.net/media/what-does-it-mean-be-prophetic-today>

- The task of the prophet is twofold:
- Criticising – challenging the dominant culture and ways of thinking
- Energizing – creating hope in new possibilities.



Prophetic call narratives

A distinct genre, which typically has the following elements:

Divine call - God speaks

Commission - the prophet is given a task

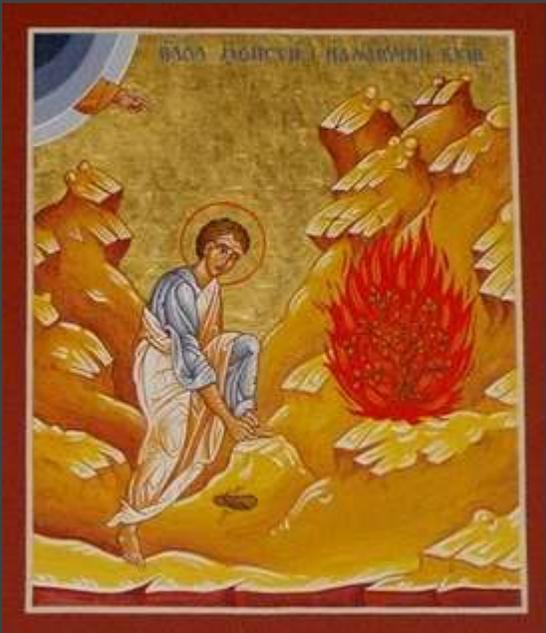
Objection - the prophet objects

Reassurance - God reassures the prophet

Equipping - the prophet is given what they need by God (this may include a sign, which often encapsulates the heart of their ministry)



The call of Moses - Exodus 3-4



- **Divine Call:** God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” (3:4)
- **Divine mission:** Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey (3:7-8)
- **Objections:** But Moses said to God, ...
 - ... “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? (3:11)
 - ... “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” (13)
- God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’ (3:14-15)
- He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” (3:12)
- You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. 16He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. (4:15)



Isaiah 49:1-6

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.”

⁵And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”



St Paul - A New Testament Prophet

“But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles ...”

(Gal 1:15-16)

“For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

(Acts 13:47)



To think about

How would you
define a
prophet?

Do you know
any modern-
day prophets?

