

PROPHETS IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES / 1 Corinthians 14:1

The word “prophets” refers to those who speak for God. The New Testament gives us many of the characteristics and activities of those called prophets.

The early believers saw the Spirit come at Pentecost, fulfilling the prophet Joel’s prediction that all God’s people would prophesy.

Acts 2:17

Prophets ranked second in importance only to the apostles.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31
Ephesians 4:11

Some people are given a special gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 12:29; 13:2

Prophets are called “pneumatics” (spiritual ones).

1 Corinthians 14:37

Prophets played a foundational role in the early church.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31
Ephesians 2:20; 4:11

Prophets function primarily in the worship of the church

Acts 13:1-2

Prophets may sometimes predict the future.

Acts 11:28; 20:23; 27:22-26

Prophets may announce judgments.

Acts 13:11; 28:25-28

Prophets may act symbolically.

Acts 21:10-11

Prophets may receive visions.

Acts 9:10-11
2 Corinthians 12:1

Prophets may identify specific persons for specific Christian tasks, even at times equipping them with the spiritual gifts necessary to carry out the tasks.

Acts 11:27-28; 13:1-2
1 Timothy 4:14

Prophets may preach long messages or give exposition of the Bible.

Luke 1:67-79
Acts 15:32
Romans 11:25-36
Ephesians 3:5

Prophets are saturated in the Old Testament Scriptures and their words are influenced by the language of the Bible.

Romans 11:27 with Isaiah 27:9
1 Corinthians 15:51, 54-55 with Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14

While teaching and prophecy are different, they can be related.

Acts 13:1-2; Revelation 2:20

Prophets use phrases such as “the Lord says” or “the Holy Spirit says” as introductory formulas for prophetic insight.

Acts 21:11; Hebrews 3:7

Prophecy in the New Testament included prophetic words given for the benefit of the body of believers.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4

Prophecy in the New Testament also included the work of the Spirit on the prophet whereby the Spirit revealed to the prophet a word from Christ.

John 16:12-14
Revelation 1:10; 4:1-2