

Prophecy and Prediction

A prophet is one who speaks for God. ^{1, 2} This does not merely mean one who declares what he thinks is God's will nor does the term mean merely one who has a greater insight into the needs of the world than do other people. A prophet is one who is actually commissioned³ as a spokesman for God, and who receives his message directly from God. Thus there are no real prophets to-day. God speaks to us through His Word which was given through real prophets in the past. To-day this Word takes the place of any living prophet.

Thus the essential thing involved in being a prophet is receiving a message direct from God and being commissioned to declare this message to human beings. Prophecy therefore involves a knowledge of something that is hidden from other human being. One cannot tell what is in the mind of a human being except as that person chooses to reveal it to another. It is even more true that one cannot tell what is the mind of God except as God reveals it to him. Thus a prophet can reveal facts which would otherwise be absolutely unknown.

An important part of prophecy, though by no means its entirety, is prediction. Since God is the originator of all things and knows the end from the beginning, He alone can predict the future with absolute certainty.