

**OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS, NEW TESTAMENT APOSTLES,
AND THE NEW TESTAMENT GIFT OF PROPHECY**

Chart by Dr. Jim Taylor Jr. January 1999

Based on Wayne Grudem, *The Gift of Prophecy* (Crossway, 1988)

| <i>Old Testament Prophets</i> | <i>New Testament Apostles</i> | <i>New Testament Prophets</i> |
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| Main function: to be <i>messengers from God</i> , sent to speak to people with words from God. (Hag 1:13; 2 Sam 12:25; Jer 28:9; 29:9; etc.) | Commissioned by Christ, sent on a specific mission. (John 20:21). Are connected with OT prophets; <u>NT prophets never are</u> . (Heb 1:1-2 with 3:1; 2 Peter 3:2; Lk 11:49; early lit). | |
| <i>The prophet's words are the words of God.</i> (Ex 4:12; Deut 18:18; Jer 1:9; Num 22:38) They spoke for God in the first person (repeating the words of Him who sent them). | <i>The apostle's words are the words of God.</i> (Gal 1:11-12; 2 Pet 3:2; 1 Thess 2:13) 2 Pet 3:15-16 Peter puts Paul's word on par with OT! <u>This is why they are written down and included in Scripture.</u> | 1 Cor 14:36 God's word did not go forth from the Corinthians |
| To disbelieve/disobey the prophet's words is to disbelieve/disobey God! (Deut 18:19; 1 Sam 8:7; 1 Kings 20:36) | To disbelieve/disobey the apostle's words is to disbelieve/disobey God! (Gal 1:8-9; 1 Thess 4:8; 2 Thess 3:14) | 1 Cor 14:30 Prophecies could be interrupted Acts 21:4 Paul disregards Agabus' prophecy and goes to Jerusalem Acts 21:10-11 Agabus' prophecy has 2 mistakes! |
| If even one prophecy didn't come true, he was a <u>false</u> prophet (Deut 18:22) and the penalty was death (18:20). | In 1 Cor 14:37-38 <i>Paul says prophets must obey him</i> ; nothing like this is ever claimed for NT prophets. Paul refused to admit the possibility that the prophet might be right and he might be wrong. | Prophecies were to be carefully weighed or evaluated by the hearers (1 Cor 14:29). <i>God's word would not have been subject to evaluation like this.</i> |
| Every <i>prophet</i> was to be judged/evaluated, but not necessarily parts of every prophecy. People ask: " <i>Is he a true prophet or not?</i> " (Samuel in 1 Sam 3:19-20; 1 Kings 22:28) | Now Paul also prophesied (1 Cor 14:6, 13:9), but when he establishes his authority, <i>he does so as an apostle!</i> Nowhere is there any record of a NT prophet who was not an apostle but who spoke divinely authoritative words. | 1. Romans bound Paul (Acts 21:33; 22:29) 2. Jews tried to kill Paul; rescued by soldiers (Acts 21:32-33, 35) Not false/misleading; just has details wrong |
| There is NO MIDDLE GROUND: <u>Are these God's words?</u> Yes: Must obey. No: Put him to death. | | <u>There is no indication that a mistake would make someone a false prophet.</u> |
| <i>SPEAKING GOD'S VERY WORDS</i> | <i>SPEAKING GOD'S VERY WORDS</i> | <i>SPEAKING MERELY HUMAN WORDS to report something God brings to mind</i> |