

# TRUE AND FALSE PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES

*By Rodney W. Francis*



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**This booklet is dedicated to all those who genuinely and sincerely want to develop Prophetic Ministry, and the vision and purpose of God for their lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through a greater revelation and receptivity to the power of the Holy Spirit. You can do it!**

## Acknowledgements:

Unless stated otherwise, Scripture quotations are taken from the "King James Version" (KJV) and the "New King James Version" (NKJV) of the Bible.

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Word meanings marked (Young's) are taken from "Analytical Concordance to the Holy Bible" by Robert Young, LL.D. (8th edition). Published by Lutterworth Press, London, England.

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## FOREWORDS

**R**odney and I have been ministering in close association, since 1999, and have been together in a number of meetings where we have experienced the manifestation of false prophecy and have had many discussions around this important topic.

I believe the content of this handbook will prove to be an invaluable tool for churches, leaders and individuals in seeking to test and discern the operation of prophecy in a meeting and in an individual's life.

This book highlights how we learn to discern and then confront, in love, when there are prophets whose behaviour and intentions fall short of the Biblical standard for the New Testament prophets.

Rodney's book, "**True And False Prophets And Prophecies,**" comes at an important time to shed more light on the ministry of prophets. We are seeing a definite increase of *prophets*, who are in fact false preachers, masquerading in the church and ministering a counterfeit message.

**"False prophets come with destructive doctrines and heresies. Covetously they seek to exploit with deceptive words"** (2 Peter 2:1-3).

**"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive (damnable) heresies, even denying the Lord Who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction** ("loss; of things, waste, ruin; of persons, death, especially by violence, perdition" – Bullinger's). **And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit** ("to make gain or merchandise of, overreach, cheat" – Bullinger's) **you with deceptive words . . ."** (2 Peter 2:1-3, NKJV ~ read whole chapter).

In this book Rodney highlights the importance of Bible knowledge and for us to be aware of what Scripture is saying about the end times to help us distinguish between true and false prophets. **"Despise not prophecies. Test all things; hold fast that which is good"** (1 Thessalonians 5:20 - 21). With evil and deception more evident in society today, and an increased influence from New Age Mysticism being revealed in many spiritual and Christian settings it is important for Christians to **test all things**.

Rodney's book, with Scriptural back-up, is an important warning for our time and urges us to **test** prophecy according to the standard of God's Word and then exercise the gift of discernment and **only then hold fast to what is good**. ~ **Len Buttner** ("Eagle Ascend Ministry," East Auckland, New Zealand). Website: [www.eagleascend.com](http://www.eagleascend.com)

**A** clear message of the Old Testament stories of the kings of Israel is the power of their lives to influence the nation. When a good king comes to the throne, the whole nation worships the Lord. When a bad king rules, Israel descends into apostasy, idolatry and licentiousness. And in Jeremiah 23 we read that even false prophets can lead a whole nation astray. The world of today is equally influenced by the false prophets of the age ~ anyone who promotes a philosophy or way of life that sets itself above the Lord Jesus Christ.

Science, sport, entertainment, politics, the media ~ as well as the more obvious false religions, and 'isms' such as humanism, secularism, and atheism ~ all compete for man's attention with strident voices, and all can become idols and false prophets.

Once our eyes are opened to the reality of the Lordship of Jesus Christ, these become fairly obvious. Much more subtle, and therefore more dangerous to the Christian believer, are those who **"secretly slip in among the saints"** (Jude 4), masquerading as sheep. Jesus said we would know them by their fruit (Matthew 7:16) ~ not their appearance, gifts, apparent wisdom or clever words! What impact are they having? Are they encouraging the saints? Bringing life? Releasing love? Winning souls? Healing the sick?

In these closing days of the present age, *all over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing* (Colossians 1:6). And the Church is waking up to the reality and importance of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and especially the prophetic ministry. This will bring an even more rapid increase in the worldwide church (which again emphasizes the need to test and approve the words of the genuine prophets too).

But of course as the Church grows, it threatens the devil's kingdom. He has been a deceiver from the beginning, and will try to deceive the Church once again with false prophets and false prophecies, because they discredit the real thing, and bring suffering, division and death. Afraid of the false, pastors and leaders are tempted to shut the door on true prophecy, and the body of Christ suffers.

This booklet is therefore a very timely resource that will enable the believer to rapidly discover what the Bible has to say, and apply that wisdom to the 'words' we receive. All prophecy must be tested against the Word of God, and His character.

Rodney Francis, a prophet himself, has been teaching prophecy for many years, and I know no one more qualified to guide us through the jungle of this critically important subject.

**"Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful"** (2 Chronicles 20:20b). ~ **John Fergusson** (JF Ministries, Drury, South Auckland, New Zealand) Website: [www.jfm.org.nz](http://www.jfm.org.nz)

**I**f you are someone who has taken the time to pick this book up and consider purchasing it, then I would say you are a person of integrity. This is how I would summarise Rodney's book "TRUE AND FALSE PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES" that is, it teaches the importance of having integrity when prophesying. It offers sound biblical truths about integrity with prophecy, how to discern the person that operates out of a false religious spirit, and the person who is led by the Holy Spirit, and what to look for. May you be challenged, and encouraged as you read this book of Rodney's. ~ **John Wilkie** (Pastor, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Hawera, New Zealand). Website: [www.haweraprezchurch.org.nz](http://www.haweraprezchurch.org.nz)

**A** careful study of Scripture indicates that prophecy should have a far greater importance in today's Churches. Rodney is one who has over many years consistently emphasised the importance of prophecy. As founder of The GFM (Gospel Faith Messenger) he teaches and encourages all Christians to be obedient to the Holy Spirit; to hear what the Spirit is saying and to speak that out in prophecy. In this booklet Rodney has clearly explained the negative consequences of false prophecy, but also the tremendous blessings that result from true prophecies. We need to consider how the Holy Spirit wants to build and encourage every one of us by prophecy. The Holy Spirit wants us all to love true prophecy. The wind of the Spirit is blowing through God's people awakening them to what the Spirit is saying. Rodney is being used, through the many books that he has written, to encourage us, God's people, to do things differently. Instead of doing what we think ... stop! First let us hear from God and do things **His way**. Rodney is absolutely committed to loving God's people, truly hearing from God and being obedient to the scriptures and what the Holy Spirit wants. ~ **Digby Gudsell** (Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand; retired Pastor and Engineer, also involved in planting "Kairos Courses" in several Asian countries).

Rodney and I have been friends for many years now. He has a passion for, and a commitment to, the prophetic that has led him on a journey that few others have been prepared to venture upon. This publication, based on both Scripture and the experience of many years of faithful service in the prophetic to both the Lord and the wider church, is a handbook which should be regularly referred to by those with a prophetic heart, whether new or experienced in the operation of this vital spiritual gift. Thank you, Rodney, for sharing your insights, wisdom and experience with us. ~ **David Tait** ("Walking With Jesus Ministries", Napier, New Zealand). Website: [www.wwj.org.nz](http://www.wwj.org.nz) (David and his wife, Kathy, lead The GFM Equipping Station in Napier).

## INTRODUCTION:

**W**e are living in a world where people are listening to so many varying voices. It is no different in Christian circles either. The only true basis we have for discerning correctly the source of a voice is for us to know what the Scriptures have to say. This is especially so in the realm of the prophetic ministry. The true voice of God (in whatever way it comes to us) will always be confirmed by the principles of Scripture. There are many false prophets and prophecies these days, **and it is vital that we do know how to correctly interpret them, whether they are of the Holy Spirit of God, or merely man's imaginations and presumptions.** If we believe and accept a prophetic word that is not of God it can waste years of our lives because we are believing something to be from God when it is not from God at all. When I am in doubt as to anything I hear spoken, prophesied or preached, I always refer to the teachings of Jesus, then the Apostle Paul and the other New Testament writers, for they carry the revelation of what New Testament/New Covenant Christianity is all about.

The devil is very active in this realm of voices and prophetic utterances. His main tactic against you and me is to make us doubt the voice of God when it comes to us, as he does not want us spiritually armed with the knowledge and power of God that defeats his purposes. So be on guard! Know the source of the voice so we will not be "sucked in" by the charm and personality of someone who "looks and sounds right" but rather test the spirit and hold fast to that which is good and right ~ and reject that which does not line-up with what the Bible teaches.

May this book prove to be very helpful to you in knowing what the Scriptures have to say on true and false prophets and prophecies ~ **Rodney W. Francis.**

# TRUE AND FALSE PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES

*By Rodney W. Francis*

**T**HE BIBLE has much to say about prophets and prophecies. Prophets and prophecies have had a huge influence in the lives of God's people over the centuries. Therefore it is very important that we learn to discern the difference between true and false prophets and prophecies, because the "fruit" of prophetic utterances ~ when believed ~ have a very big impact upon our lives. This book is a self-explanatory one taken directly from the Scriptures (the basis of which is taken from the King James Bible) and came about as a result of an evening studying Nehemiah 6 at one of our "Equipping Station" nights at "The GFM" Ministry. May you be helped to see the difference between true and false prophets and prophecies, and be wide-awake to discerning and knowing those differences.

## **FALSE, NEGATIVE PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES**

**Nehemiah 6:12-14:** When Nehemiah was rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, pressure was applied to try and make him stop. His opponents even reverted to using prophecy against him. Fortunately Nehemiah was a wise man and was able to resist the sinister strategies of the enemy.

### **Wrong prophecy has negative effects:**

1. To bring fear so as to manipulate.
2. To cause sin.
3. To bring about an evil report.
4. To bring personal reproach.
5. To take us out of the will of God.

**1 Samuel 18:10:** Saul prophesied under the influence of an evil spirit sent from God!

**1 Kings 18:28-29:** The false prophets of Baal prophesied, even cutting themselves to make the blood flow (blood-letting to try and appease the spirits).

**2 Chronicles 18:6-34:** Ahab, in his bias against the true prophet Micaiah, twisted the prophecy around to try and make it look like it was Micaiah who had the problem (1 Kings 22).

**Isaiah 30:** The prophet prophesied harsh things against **"the spirit of rebellion against the Word of the Lord,"** thus fulfilling the Biblical principle that we reap what we sow (v.9).

Those rebellious people actually tried to manipulate and control the seers ("seeing prophets") by telling them what they did ~ and did not ~ want to hear! (v.10).

God said they would meet with destruction and be broken in pieces (v.12-14).

**Jeremiah 2:8:** The prophets prophesied by Baal ~ it turned them away from God unto things that did not profit them (Jeremiah 23:13).

**Jeremiah 5:30-31:** Here is a sad statement that there are those who call themselves God's people who actually love to have their churches run by leaders who are influenced by false prophets! The question is: "Where will they finish up?"

**Jeremiah 11:21-23:** There were men in Jeremiah's day who threatened to kill him if he did not stop prophesying in the name of the Lord! Jeremiah, of course, was a true prophet of God.

**Jeremiah 14:13-16:** There are false prophets who prophesy false things in the name of the Lord. They prophesied:

- You shall not see the sword (v.13).
- You shall not have famine (v.13).
- The Lord would give them (the people) assured ("certain") peace in that place (v.13) (Jeremiah 23:17).

### **It was God Who spoke to Jeremiah and said:**

1. ***The prophets prophesy lies in My name*** (v.14).
2. ***I sent them not*** (v.14).
3. ***I never commanded them to say those things*** (v.14).
4. ***I did not even speak to them*** (v.14).
5. ***They prophesy a false vision*** ("a mental sight, dream, revelation or oracle" – *Strong's*) (v.14).
6. ***They prophesy divination*** (that is divination or witchcraft where they charge a fee for their "ministry") (v.14).
7. ***They prophesy nothing*** ("good for nothing" – *Strong's*) (v.14).
8. ***They prophesy the deceit of their own heart*** ("to cast the people down, to make them fall" – *Wilson's*) (v.14).

To those false prophets God declared they would die by the sword and by famine ~ the very things they said would not happen! (v.15).

### **But notice what God said would happen to the people who listened to the false prophets:**

1. They would be forced out on to the streets of Jerusalem because of their hunger and the bloodshed (v.16).
2. They would lie dead on the streets with no one to bury them (v.16).
3. Their families will have forsaken them (v.16).

Those things all happened because their wickedness ("evil, bad wicked acts, morally bad and evil, depravity" – *Wilson's*) was so great. This was one reason why they loved to listen to false prophets and prophecies ~ those prophecies spoke of their being accepted by God as they were. Yet in God's eyes they were depraved! (v.16) (Jeremiah 9:14-15).

**Jeremiah 20:6:** Pashur prophesied lies.

**Jeremiah 23:13-14:** This is a chapter that sends out a challenge to pastors and prophets (we're only looking at the prophets in this paper). The prophets of Jerusalem and Samaria prophesied yet committed adultery, walked in lies, supported evil doers, turned none away from wickedness ~ God saw them as like Sodom and Gomorrah!

**Jeremiah 23:9-17:** God's heart was broken because of the prophets (v.9).

Because of the corruption of the prophets, the land was full of adultery, swearing and evil (v.10).

The prophets and the priests were profaned ("polluted, defiled, corrupted").

They were spreading (through their preaching) wickedness right inside the house of the Lord (v.11).

**Therefore God pronounced His judgment upon them:**

Their ways would be "*like slippery ways in the darkness*" (v.12).

They would be driven until they fell (v.12).

God would bring evil upon them (v.12).

They would experience the year of visitation ~ not of revival, but of retribution from God (v.12).

**God saw the evil and madness in the prophets of Samaria (v.13).**

He said "*they prophesied in Baal*"; that is they were prophesying under the influence of evil spirits, the same spirits of the occult realm (v.13).

They cause God's people to go astray (v.13).

**God also saw what the prophets of Jerusalem were doing:**

They were committing adultery (v.14).

They were walking in lies (v.14).

They strengthened the hands of the evil doers (v.14).

They carried no conviction to turn the people from their wickedness (v.14).

God saw them as Sodom and Gomorrah! (v.14).

### Therefore God declared:

He would feed them with wormwood ("bitter plants, growing in waste, usually desert places. They were an emblem of calamity and injustice" – *Unger's Bible Dictionary*) (v.15).

He would cause them to drink the "**water of gall**" (intensely bitter) (v.15).

Those prophets of Jerusalem had caused profanity (the defiling of things holy) to spread through the land (v.15).

### God's true prophetic word went forth:

Do not listen to the words of false prophets who prophesy unto us. If we do, they will cause us to become vain ("insignificant and worthless people" – *Wilson's*).

They will cause us to believe in a false vision ~ their own vision and not God's (v.16).

(They said the same as what the false prophets of Jeremiah 14:13 said!)

**Jeremiah 23:25-40:** False prophets entwine their lies in their dreams ~ "**I have dreamed a dream**" (v.25).

God says they are prophets of the deceit ("to cast down, to make fall, to fraud" – *Wilson's*) of their own lying hearts! (v.26).

They try to make people forget the name of the Lord by their dreams (v.27).

They subtly talk to people, sowing their evil spirit of Baal (witchcraft, manipulation and control) among them (v.27).

Then God gives a comparison between the false and the true prophets. The false is "**chaff,**" the true is "**wheat**" (v.28).

The true is a "**hammer,**" the false is the "**rock broken in pieces**" by that hammer (v.29).

God is against the false prophets, because they steal the true word of God out of the hearts of the people (v.30).

God is against those who prophesy lies in the name of the Lord! (v.31).

God is against those who prophesy false dreams, who share them and cause His people to go astray by their lies and instability (v.32).

God did not send them (v.32).

God did not command them to speak (v.32).

Therefore they would be useless to the people! (v.32).

God would no longer carry a burden ("oracle – *NIV*; "sad news" – *TLB*) toward the people, because He would have forsaken them (v.33).

God will punish those who listen to and believe the voice of the false prophets (v.34).

Those false prophets had "***perverted the words of the living God, of the Lord of hosts*** ("warfare, service") ***our God***" (v.36). "Perverted" means "deviating greatly from what is regarded as normal and right; distorted" (*Collins Dictionary*). They actually prophesied in the name of the Lord to keep people in their sin and rebellion, which in turn releases, not the peace, but the anger of God upon them!

God said He would forget ("forsake, neglect" – *Wilson's*) them (v.39).

God said He would forsake them and their city. "Forsake" here means "to be loose; to relax the ties of an obligation, to leave in a neglected, abandoned, exposed condition, loose and open to any injuries or sufferings; to cast off, reject, put away from one: it is used of God rejecting His people; and of men forsaking God" (*Wilson's*) (v.39).

God said He would cast them out of His presence (v.39).

God said He would bring an everlasting reproach upon them (v.40).

God said He would bring a perpetual ("an unknown or great length of time" – *Wilson's*) shame ("disgrace" – *Strong's*) upon them (v.40).

That reproach and shame would not be forgotten (v.40).

**Jeremiah 26:7-11:** The prophets and the people rejected Jeremiah's true prophecy, even threatening his death.

**Jeremiah 28:** Hananiah, in trying to upstage Jeremiah by his prophesying, fell "victim" to Jeremiah's more true word ~ Hananiah died that same year according to the Word of the Lord through Jeremiah.

**Jeremiah 29:** The Word of the Lord challenged Israel, "***Let not your prophets and your diviners*** ("those who practice the art or gift of discerning or discovering future events or unknown things as though by supernatural powers, i.e. prophecy" - *Collins*) ***that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely unto you in My name: I have not sent them, says the Lord***" (v.8-9). It seems the people were encouraging the false prophets by their own desires to have their dreams interpreted. They spent 70 years in captivity in Babylon as a result! (v.10).

- **Today we must guard against moving into presumption with those who strongly desire you to “give them a word.”**

The people believed those false prophets. They believed God had sent them! (v.15). The consequences of that deception were enormous:

God sent the sword (v.17)

God sent famine (v.17).

God sent the pestilence (“any epidemic outbreak of a deadly and highly infectious disease, such as the plague . . . an evil influence or idea” - *Collins*) (v.17).

God would make them like **“vile figs that cannot be eaten, they are so evil”** (v.17).

God said He would persecute them with the sword (v.18).

He would persecute them with famine (v.18).

He would persecute them with the pestilence (v.18).

He would remove them to all the kingdoms of the earth to be:

- A curse (v.18).
- An astonishment (“to be astonished, amazed, affrighted; often joined with hissing, derision” - *Wilson’s*) (v.18).
- A hissing (“a derision” - *Strong’s*)
- A reproach (“disgrace, shame” - *Strong’s*) among all the nations (v.18).

“Why?” you might ask?

### **We need to let God answer that one:**

**“Because they have not hearkened** (“to hear intelligently with implication of attention and obedience, to consider diligently, discern” - *Strong’s*) **to My words, says the Lord, which I sent unto them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but you would not hear, says the Lord. Hear you therefore the word of the Lord . . .”** (v.19-20).

God then named two specific false prophets, Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah. They prophesied lies in the name of the Lord. Their prophecies caused dreadful damage amongst the people of God. Therefore He pronounced judgment upon them ~ they would be slain by Nebuchadnezzar right in front of the people (v.21). Their names would become a curse amongst the people (v.22). Those false prophets:

- Committed villainy (“an evil, abhorrent evil act or deed” - *Collins*) in Israel (v.23).
- Committed adultery with their neighbour’s wives (all spiritual deception finishes up in immorality) (v.23).

- Spoke lies in the name of the Lord (v.23).

Similar things were spoken against Shemaiah the Nehelamite for his negative letters (v.24-32).

**Ezekiel 11:1-21:** The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel to prophesy against those who **"devise mischief"** ("mischief" is "a coming to nothingness; also trouble, vanity, wickedness" – *Strong's*) (v.2) and who **"give wicked counsel"** ("bad or evil advice" – *Strong's*) (v.2). The "fruit" of those things filled their minds with wrong advice (v.5), which, in turn, caused the death of many people (v.6); the sword would devour many (v.8-10) as a result of the judgment of God falling upon them. Through it all they would know that He is the Lord (v.10, 12).

### Why would those things happen to them?

They had not walked in God's **"statutes"** ("something decreed, prescribed; a statute, ordinance, law; usually applied to the positive statutes appointed by Moses . . ." – *Wilson's*) (v.12).

- They had not executed ("actioned") God's judgments (v.12).
- They had not separated themselves from the ways and actions of the heathen (v.12).
- Then a demonstration of the power of the prophetic took place ~ Pelatiah died when he heard the **"thus says the Lord!"** (v.13).

After the time of judgment the Lord would draw the people together with a changed heart and a new spirit (v.16-20).

The lesson from this chapter is that **God requires and expects obedience from His people.** He set the standards for Israel, so they could live in a God-glorifying way. However, they chose to listen to those whose lives were no different to those not under the covenant of God. They believed their lies ~ it cost them dearly. Today it still comes down to **"What are we doing with the Word of the Lord?" We stand or fall by that.** Are we listening to a false voice through false prophets, **or are we listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, the voice of Truth, and living to please God through Jesus Christ our Lord?**

**Ezekiel 13:** Ezekiel was told by God to prophesy to those prophets who prophesied **"out of their own hearts"** (v.1-2).

- They were foolish (v.3).
- They followed their own spirit (v.3).
- They had not seen anything (from God) (v.3).
- They were like **"foxes in the desert"** ("**jackals among ruins**" – *NIV*) (v.4).
- They had not repaired the breaks in the walls (to give the people safety and protection from the enemy) (v.5).
- They had seen **"vanity"** ("desolation, destructive evil" – *Strong's*) (v.6).

- They had seen "**lying divination**" ("to divine, to practise divination, used in the verb only of false prophets of the Hebrews, of necromancers, of prophets of the Philistines, of Balaam" – *Wilson's*) and were lying "**in the name of the Lord!**" (v.6).
- They gave the people false hope! (v.6). And God had not spoken at all!

## God deals with false prophets!

1. His hand is against them (v.9).
2. They will be rejected from the assembly of His people (v.9).
3. There would be no remembrance of them in Israel's history (v.9).
4. They would not enter into the land of Israel (possess their inheritance) (v.9).
5. The people would know that God is the Lord (v.9).
6. Those false prophets had "**seduced**" ("to lead astray from the right path") God's people (v.10).
7. They brought a false peace (v.10).
8. The people built wrongly, and therefore their work was overthrown (v.10-15).
9. The people themselves would be consumed ("to be brought to a destructive end" – *Wilson's*) (v.14).
10. The people were told they would know the Lord ~ would see a demonstration of His judgment and power against the lies of false prophets (v.14).
11. God would pour His wrath upon those false prophets, the people and their works (v.15-16).

There then followed a word against the women prophetesses who "**prophesied out of their own heart**" and caused a spiritual pollution among the people (v.17-23). God said He would deal with them in such a way that the people "**would know that He is the Lord!**" (v.21, 23).

**Zechariah 13:** In this chapter God is promising to cleanse the false prophets and the unclean spirits (they bring) out of the land. They bring lies and shame (v.3-4).

## THE PROPHETIC SEES THROUGH FALSE RELIGIOUS VENEERS

**Matthew 7:21-23:** Jesus declared there would be those who prophesied in His name, yet He never knew them!

**Mark 7:1-13:** The prophet sees through the false religious veneers in people. The Prophet Isaiah (29:13) saw in the Spirit how hypocrisy manifests itself. Jesus picked up on Isaiah's prophecy and taught from it that:

1. Hypocrites honour God with their lips, but not their hearts (v.6).
2. Their worship is vain ("foolish and fruitless" – *Bullinger's*) (v.7).
3. They teach the commandments of men more than God (v.7-8).
4. They hold to the traditions of men (v.8-9).
5. They reject the commandment of God in favour of their own traditions ("the handing down from generation to generation of the same customs, beliefs, etc., especially by word of mouth" – *Collins*) (v.8-12).
6. They do not honour their parents (v.10-12).
7. They make the Word of God useless through their traditions (v.13).

**2 Chronicles 20:37:** Eliezer prophesied to Jehoshaphat why he was not successful in his shipbuilding business venture. He went into partnership with the wrong man who caused Jehoshaphat to compromise his spiritual convictions.

## **THE PURPOSE OF TRUE PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES**

**1 Timothy 1:18-19:** The Apostle Paul exhorted his spiritual son, Timothy, to be mindful of the prophecies that had been spoken over his life. Through those prophecies he would be able to:

1. **War a good warfare** (v.18). That is being able to fight the enemy with the knowledge of God's plan and purpose for his life as had been revealed through those prophetic words.
2. **Hold on to faith** (v.19). My personal belief is that it is referring to "the faith" (Jude 3), the major canon of Biblical teaching that enables us to know the purposes of God.
3. **Have a good conscience** (v.19). The state of our conscience determines how much we will step out and obey God. No one will publicly demonstrate the power and purposes of God who is struggling with an impure conscience.

**1 Timothy 4:14-16 (NKJV):** "***Do not neglect*** ("don't be careless with" – Young's) ***the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate*** ("to care for, take care for anything, so as to be able to perform it" – *Bullinger's*) ***on these things; give yourself entirely*** ("wholly, completely") ***to them, that your progress*** ("profiting, advancement") ***may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine*** ("teaching"). ***Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.***"

Here we are given some very specific benefits of true prophecies given over our lives. We receive impartation by the Holy Spirit of gifts that we are able to step into and function in with a greater anointing and ability than before. It is very important that we are able to discern the accuracy of the prophecies and whether or not they are from the Lord before we can **"give ourselves entirely to them."** The benefits are gained when the due testing processes have been through, and that we are convinced the prophetic utterance is Holy Spirit inspired. The fulfilling of prophetic words brings evidence to others that we are walking in the blessings and fulfilment of the purposes of God. This enables us to minister to others in a far greater way.

**2 Peter 1:19-21 (NKJV):** **"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed** ("to hold toward" – Young's; "attention to a thing, be intent upon it" – Bullinger's) **as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private** ("one's own" – Young's) **interpretation, for prophecy** ("a speaking forth, prophetic declarations, exhortations, warnings, uttered by the prophets while under divine influence, and referring, either to the past, present, or future" – Bullinger's) **never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved** ("carried") **by the Holy Spirit."**

**2 Chronicles 15:1-8:** When two prophets, Azariah and Oded, prophesied to Asa, he took courage and put away the idols of the land. From there they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord (v.12).

**Daniel 9:24-25:** True prophecy brings to us knowledge and understanding of what it is God is wanting, or going to do.

**1 Timothy 4:14-16:** True prophecy is for our profiting ("a cutting down of impediments that are in one's way; hence, progress, a going forward, advancement" – Bullinger's) that all can see (v.15).

**2 Peter 1:19-21:** True prophecy is a **"more sure word"** that we need to take heed to. It comes through holy people moved by the Holy Spirit. **It brings God knowledge to us.**

**Revelation 19:10:** True prophecy brings the testimony/presence of Jesus into our midst.

**Numbers 11:25-26:** True prophecy is a sign the Spirit of God is resting on a person.

**1 Samuel 10:5-11:** Prophecy can be imparted and/or "caught" when in company with other prophets. (1 Samuel 19:20-24). It can change us into a better type of person.

**1 Chronicles 25:1-7:** There is an important area of prophetic music, where the anointing of the Holy Spirit is released as musicians and singers release the prophetic through their instruments and voices.

**Ezra 5:1-2:** Haggai and Zechariah's prophesying brought encouragement, help and strength to build the house of God.

**Ezra 6:14:** The elders "**prospered**" ("to accomplish successfully, to reach the goal" – Wilson's) **through the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah**", which enabled them to finish what they had started.

**Ezekiel 11:13:** Prophecy can carry the power of death.

**Ezekiel 36:21-38:** In this passage we see the heart of God to restore His fallen people. The prophetic word would cause a new heart and a new spirit to come forth into them ~ that out of the spiritual, sinful chaos, God would raise a people ~ "**a holy flock**" (v.38) ~ and all would know He is the Lord!

**Ezekiel 37:7-10:** This account of the valley of dry bones shows us something of the power of the prophetic realm. Prophecy can bring about miracles ~ life out of death. Prophecy brings restoration and the fulfilling of the promises of God, regardless of the negative circumstances that may prevail.

**Joel 2:** Here we read of the Prophet Joel prophesying a great visitation of God: "**I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters will prophesy . . .**" In the New Testament Church God wanted to continue to speak prophetically through His people the wonderful Word of God. Peter spoke of the fulfilling of this on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was outpoured upon those 120 gathered in the upper room (Acts 1 and 2).

- **God has always wanted His people to be prophetic ~ to be inspired to speak by the anointing of the Holy Spirit that is within us.**

**"And the Lord came down in the Cloud and talked with Moses, and the Lord took of the Spirit that was upon Moses and put it upon the seventy elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied for some time. But two of the seventy ~ Eldad and Medad ~ were still in the camp, and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied there. Some young men ran and told Moses what was happening, and Joshua (the son of Nun), one of Moses' personally chosen assistants, protested, 'Sir, make them stop!' But Moses replied, 'Are you jealous for my sake? I only wish that all of the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them all!'"** (Numbers 11:25-29, TLB).

**Luke 1:67-80:** In this section of Scripture we have an amazing account of the prophecy of an old man of God who had just been released from the bondage of strong unbelief. When Zacharias was obedient to the Word of the Lord (regarding the naming of his son John), the Holy Spirit came and filled him with a new release of life. He prophesied a wonderful prophecy (Acts 19:6): Let's break down his prophecy and see what the ingredients of a true prophecy can contain:

1. His prophecy blessed God (v.68).
2. It spoke of God's visitation to His people (v.68).
3. It spoke of redemption (v.68).
4. It spoke of the horn ("strength" - NIV) of salvation being raised up (v.69).
5. It confirmed what other holy prophets spoke (v.70).

6. It spoke of deliverance from our enemies (v.71).
7. It spoke of deliverance from those who hate us (v.71).
8. It spoke of the mercy promised to our fathers (v.72).
9. It spoke of remembering God's holy covenant (v.72).
10. It spoke of God's oath ("promise") to Abraham (v.73).
11. It spoke of serving God without fear from our enemies (v.74).
12. It spoke of living holy and righteous before God all our days (v.75).
13. It contained personal prophecy for his son John (v.76).
14. It prophesied John as a prophet of God (v.76). Prophecy can predict a person's calling and ministry gifting(s).
15. It spoke of John preparing people in the ways of God (v.76).
16. Zacharias prophesied John would give knowledge of salvation through the remission of their sins (v.77).
17. He prophesied this would happen through "***the tender mercies of our God***" (v.78).
18. He prophesied of God visiting us (v.78).
19. He prophesied that God would give light to "***those in darkness and the shadow of death***" (v.79).
20. He prophesied that God would "***guide our feet in the way of peace***" (v.79).

This prophecy can help us to see some of the ingredients of what a true prophecy can contain. In all prophecies, though, we must learn to discern the spirit that they are given in, so we can then know whether they are of God, the flesh, or the enemy (1 John 4:1-6).

**John 11:49-52:** Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus would die for His nation and the whole world. That prophecy provoked the Jews to put Jesus to death!

**1 Peter 1:8-13:** The Old Testament prophets prophesied of this New Testament day of grace.

**Acts 19:1-7:** When believers at Ephesus were filled with the Holy Spirit they also prophesied.

**1 Corinthians 14:3-4:**

### True prophesying:

- Speaks to men and women to build them up ("edifying"), exhortation ("stirring up") and to comfort ("solace, cheering up").
- Edifies the church.

**Ezekiel 12:21-28:** Prophecy is not always for a long time ahead ~ it can happen very quickly also.

I think there is sufficient Scriptural evidence mentioned in this book to make us see that prophecy has to be judged. It should also be recorded so that if there is need for it to be checked out, submitted to other spiritual people, then that can happen. We cannot rely on memory alone, as it is so easy to interpret things according to what we are wanting to hear.

My personal testimony is that I am today living in the fulfilment of a number of prophecies spoken over my life in times past. It has been so encouraging to see and know that, when one knows the source of the prophecy is the Holy Spirit, we can trust our lives to the truth that He reveals at that time. God wants only the very best for us and He still speaks today through the gift of prophecy to help us to fulfil a destiny that would have been not possible to fulfil any other way. Praise the Lord for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and His true prophets!

I trust this will prove helpful to all who read.

**"Do not quench** ("do not put out the Spirit's fire") **the Spirit. Do not despise** ("treat as contemptible" – Bullinger's) **prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (1 Thessalonians 5:19-23, NKJV).

Rodney is the Founder/Director of The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry (commenced April 1964) which ministers into more than 112 nations to thousands through literature, Bible Correspondence Courses, books, manuals, preaching/teaching, E-Mail and Internet Ministries, conducting Seminars, Schools Of The Holy Spirit, Prophetic Equipping Schools and the Equipping of Timothy's. He has authored 37 books and carries a heart to see this generation of believers equipped with leadership skills to do the job of fulfilling the purposes of God. He ministers out from Paraparaumu, New Zealand. Feel free to share this Message with others.

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Our Ministry Statement is:

**“Equipping for Leadership in the Nations through the Power of the Holy Spirit.”**

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### **Rodney W. Francis**

Rodney W. Francis was converted in 1959 at 17 years of age in an Independent Pentecostal Church at Palmerston North, New Zealand. He is the Founder/Director of “The Gospel Faith Messenger,” a literature/prophetic teaching Ministry that commenced in 1964 and has been developed to bring individuals to personal faith in Jesus Christ, instruct them in the foundations of the Christian faith and to equip them to repeat the process. Scores of people in over 112 nations have and are being ministered to through “The GFM” by means of E-Mail and Web Page Ministry, books, booklets and manuals, 3 Bible Correspondence Courses (several thousand students currently), International Preaching Ministry, Prophetic Equipping Schools, mentoring, fathering, releasing people in the Spiritual Gifts ~ all built around the importance of hearing the voice of God in our lives. Operating in the Spiritual Gifts has opened the world for him to

minister internationally. He has proven the benefits of the Spiritual Gifts and desires that all Christians experience the reality and joy of functioning in them too.

Rodney is married to Jean, who has faithfully stood by him and supported him over all the years of his more than 50 years of ministry. They have one son, Mark, who is married to Tania, with two lovely children, Annahlise and Brayden. (Mark and Tania are developing their own Christian ministry in the field of healing and deliverance.) [www.christianconnection.co](http://www.christianconnection.co)

Rodney has a number of Timothy's in full-time ministry, both in New Zealand and overseas. His heart is to see others equipped with the love of God, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and a passion to release the reality of Jesus into the lives of others. He has had the joy of seeing many people released into Spiritual Gifts over the years. Today he is also developing and facilitating prophetic teams, and is released to minister in the wider Body of Christ worldwide, working out from Paraparaumu, New Zealand.