Part 1-What is a prophet?

Prophets. When one thinks about prophets, our minds tend to go to ancient times, when these men of renown would stand up against all odds, and perform superhuman feats. We tend to "mystify" these men, as though they were a different creatures than us. But questions still come up about these men. What are prophets? Why is there a need for prophets? Are prophets super humans, or were they men like you and I? Is there still prophets? Has God promised us a prophet in this day? Well if there is a bible question, then there must be a bible answer!

First off we need to look as to why would God use prophets? Are they important? Lets look at the scripture:

**Amo 3:6-8**

Amo 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Amo 3:7  **Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

Amo 3:8 **The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?**

What an amazing passage of scripture. This is revealing to us a pattern that God uses. Before our Lord can do anything, he must reveal it to a prophet. This shows that they are important to us. It also states here that when God speaks, it is in prophecy. The entire bible, which is the revelation of Jesus Christ, is prophecy. (Rev 19:10) We can see further this thought that God speaks through prophets

**Hos 12:10**

Hos 12:10  **I have also spoken by the prophets**, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.

**Luk 1:69-70**

Luk 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

Luk 1:70 **As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:**

**Act 3:17-18**

Act 3:17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

Act 3:18 But those things, **which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets**, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

**Heb 1:1-2**

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,**

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Now lets look as to when God chose He was going to speak through His prophets.

**Exo 20:18-19**

Exo 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

Exo 20:19 **And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.**

This scripture comes from the scene when the children of Israel have just come to Mount Sinai. When they come into God's presence, they realize they cannot enter without dying. So they say to Moses, you speak the Word of the Lord to us, but not God. Now lets see how God responds to this:

**Deu 18:15-19**

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Deu 18:16 **According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.**

Deu 18:17 **And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.**

Deu 18:18  **I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren**, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deu 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

So God has laid a pattern for us. The Word of the Lord only comes to prophets. This is how God decided to do it, and who can resist his will?(Rom 9:19) Lets look at some scripture that shows that the Word of the Lord only comes to prophets:

**2Sa 7:4**

2Sa 7:4 And it came to pass that night, that **the word of the LORD came unto Nathan**, saying,

**1Ki 13:20**

1Ki 13:20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that **the word of the LORD came unto the prophet** that brought him back:

**1Ki 16:1**

1Ki 16:1 **Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani** against Baasha, saying,

**1Ki 16:7**

1Ki 16:7 A**nd also by the hand of the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani came the word of the LORD** against Baasha, and against his house, even for all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, in provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam; and because he killed him.

**1Ki 18:1**

1Ki 18:1 And it came to pass after many days, that **the word of the LORD came to Elijah** in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

**Hos 1:1**

Hos 1:1  **The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea**, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

**Joe 1:1**

Joe 1:1  **The word of the LORD that came to Joel** the son of Pethuel.

**Jon 1:1**

Jon 1:1 **Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah** the son of Amittai, saying,

**Mic 1:1**

Mic 1:1 **The word of the LORD that came to Micah** the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

**Zep 1:1**

Zep 1:1  **The word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah** the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

**Hag 1:1**

Hag 1:1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, **came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet** unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

**Zec 1:1**

Zec 1:1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, **came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah**, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

One, the Word of the Lord came to these men. Two, they were all prophets. This is how God does it, and how he always does it. God does not change His program.(Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8)

So if God was to bring the Word of the Lord to us in this day, he would use a prophet. But are there prophets in the New Testament Church? Lets look at the bible:

**Acts 11:27-28**

Act 11:27 And in these days **came prophets** from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

Act 11:28 **And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.**

**Acts 13:1-2**

Act 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch **certain prophets** **and teachers**; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Act 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

**Acts 15:32**

Act 15:32 And Judas and Silas**, being prophets** also themselves, **exhorted** the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

**Acts 21:10-13**

Act 21:10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea **a certain prophet**, named Agabus.

Act 21:11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, **Thus saith the Holy Ghost**, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

Now one may say, "prophets were only used in the book of Acts." Well, we would all agree that Paul gave us the order of the church in his epistles. Lets see if he places prophets in the New Testament Church.

**1 Cor 12:28-29**

1Co 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, **secondarily prophets**, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? **are all prophets?** are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

**1 Cor 14:36-38**

1Co 14:36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

1Co 14:37 **If any man think himself to be a prophet,** or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

**Eph 3:1-5**

Eph 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

Eph 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Eph 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

Eph 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and **prophets by the Spirit**;

**Eph 4:11**

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; **and some, prophets**; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

I like this scripture here. There is not a four fold ministry, but a FIVE fold ministry. If you read the rest of that chapter, you would see that we need prophets in order for us to be perfected, and to come into the fullness of the stature of Jesus Christ. Praise His worthy Name!

**Titus 1:11-12**

Tit 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Tit 1:12 One of themselves, **even a prophet of their own**, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

Even when John was given the revelation of Jesus Christ, it was given to him by a prophet.

**Rev 1:1**

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and **he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:**

**Rev 19:9-10**

Rev 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Rev 19:10  **And I fell at his feet to worship him.** And he said unto me, See thou do it not: **I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus**: worship God: **for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

**Rev 22:8-9**

Rev 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen**, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel** which shewed me these things.

Rev 22:9  **Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**

A quick note here. John tried to worship this prophet twice, but the prophet refused it. Any true prophet of God will ALWAYS turn worship back to God. Prophets are not God, there are his mouthpiece. Jesus Christ receives worship, not his prophets.

So we see here that, contrary to popular belief, God has not taken away prophets. He still uses them in the New Testament Church to bring us the Word of the Lord.