



An In-Depth look at the Prophet and those who display prophet-tendencies in their giftings!

The following information gives you some insight into how each “type” relates to the other.

Introduction:

The Jewish prophets were individuals considered to have been chosen to deliver God’s divine message to the people and leadership of Israel. In the words of Abraham Joshua Heschel, “the prophet is not a mouthpiece, but a person; not an instrument, but a partner, an associate of God.” The early prophets were known in the following groups:

| Prophet Type | Names | Description |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Pre Classical | Moses, Samuel, Nathan, Elijah, Elisha | ... were prominently involved in politics and communal affairs and were consulted by Israel’s leaders for advice. |
| Classical | Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Hosea | ... were men who, through inspired and articulate admonitions, preached to the people of Israel and Judah, warning of harsh divine punishment should the people not reform their behavior and obey God’s commandments. |
| Exilic | Daniel and Ezekiel | ... during the destruction and desolation of Israel at the hands of Kingdoms like Babylon, these Prophets dramatized God’s judgment, made future predictions about the Temple, and foresaw the future coming of the world-wide reign of the Messiah. |
| Post-Exilic | Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. | ... they spoke into the rebuilding of the Temple and into a crushed people of Israel, bringing them hopes of an end-time restoration. |

In the earlier times, often prophets were “ordained” by “the spirit of the Lord” as they spoke on God’s behalf (e.g., 1 Samuel 10:10; 1 Kings 22:24). In later times, the language used to describe the anointing of the prophets became phrased as “the word of the Lord came to” the person (e.g., Jeremiah 1:2, 4; Ezekiel 1:3). The Prophet was one who proclaimed the truth of God to the people. Simply put, the prophets acted as God’s guiding and rebuking voice to His peoples. When the people obeyed and were diligent in their acknowledgment of God, they were blessed and would be brought into the land. When they were rebellious in sin and complacent, they were taken out of the land.

The Prophet served amongst the people and in a way, became the voice and hands of God to the nations and to the people of Israel. This role of *mission* highly reflects the nature of the Holy Spirit or *paraklete* (called alongside) in Scripture. Though Jesus is also called a Prophet in Scripture, his role on earth as a man was brief. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father, prays for us, and directs the church. The Holy Spirit is now the presence of the Father and Son on earth, and He lives in people’s hearts, and He heeds Jesus’ voice and direction. The Holy Spirit now carries out the Prophetic function of God on earth as He is God’s mouthpiece—a person—glorifying God in Jesus. As Jesus said in John, “it is to our benefit that He go away so that the Spirit could come.”

The Holy Spirit comforts us, convicts us and counsels us (Jhn. 16:8). The Holy Spirit is a person, and can be lied to (Acts 5:3), grieved (Eph. 4:30), quenched (1 Thess. 5:19), resisted (Acts 7:51), and blasphemed (Matt. 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10). He is everywhere at all times (Psalms 139:7-10), He is all-powerful (Luke 1:35), the Holy Spirit has all knowledge (1 Cor. 2:10-11), and the Holy Spirit has no beginning and no end (Hebrews 9:14). The Holy Spirit therefore is with us and in us as a PERSON, and equips us with the power of heaven to continue to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom.

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Therefore, the Prophet’s role in family, in the workplace and community; and in church and ministry is one of great importance. The New Testament Prophet calls people to righteousness and calls out sin. He upholds the standards of God and proclaims the good news of the GOSPEL. In this short document, we detail the CROSS. This is an acronym that briefly describes all the ways in which God and humans act out life. A prophet relates in C.ommunity, a prophet R.easons in how he/she does things, a prophet O.rganizes life, a prophet learns in S.cripture, and a prophet leads in S.ignature Mission. All of his/her dealings SHOULD BE modeled after Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. In the GODHEAD we have a PROPHET, and we should best understand how the Godhead works so that we can proclaim truth, comfort, counsel, rebuke, teaching and admonition. In the following we will look at the prophet as a “Function” and see how “prophet” type people relate to priestly or kingly type people.

NOTE: we as humans are fallen and sinful, therefore we do not image the Holy Spirit perfectly. Our sin should not imply that He has sin. Merely, we should know that our lives will help God’s family in a prophetic way to understand and point to the PERFECTION that is our Prophet—the Holy Spirit.

DISCLAIMER: It should be stressed before we move any further that the Prophet, Priest, King wording does not give you a “Title,”—like you’re a (P)rophet on par with the OT Prophets. Scripture is very clear that elders, deacons, pastors, saints, and ministers are correct “Titles” for the people of God in the NT. However, the PPK assessment describes your “Tendencies.” Whether you have the title of pastor, teacher, parent, son, daughter, engineer, CEO, accountant, mechanic, manager, employee etc. you have a “Tendency” in how you carry out your “Title”; whether it be in a more priestly, prophetic, or kingly way. Knowing your tendencies can make you more effective in building up the body of Christ.

Secondly, we must remember that in the New Testament, every believer is called a prophet¹, a priest² and a king³. These names are gifted to us in Christ as “identities” that affirm our value, worth, and placement within His kingdom. Therefore, we cannot avoid becoming more priestly, more kingly, or more prophetic simply because we see ourselves as weak in one particular area. God has gifted us with His identity in these areas, and expects us to become rounded in our approach to kingdom life. However, the fact still remains that we may lean toward a specific “tendency” in how we approach our role in His kingdom, and thus we need to combine our gifts with the gifts of others in the body to help us grow in our approach. We are all to become like Jesus—and Jesus displayed the full likeness of the Triune God—we are to bear His image. Though we may play a role *individually*, we can still learn from and exhibit the other traits of those in God’s *community*.

¹ All can prophesy (Acts 2:16-21), all can discern truth as led by the Holy Spirit (1 Jhn. 2:20,27), all can admonish and encourage one another (Col. 3:16; Heb. 3:13), all can instruct (Rom. 15:14), and all can live a life that brings others to salvation (1 Cor. 9:19-23; 10:31-11:1)

² All of us are a royal priesthood (1 Pt. 2:9) having access to God through Christ (Heb. 4:14-16). We are daily offerings and sacrifices unto Him (Rom. 12:1-2), worshipping him (1 Cor. 14:26), and doing good as we share with others (Heb. 13:16).

³ All believers rule and reign with Christ (Eph. 2:6) in a kingdom of selected leadership (Acts 6:1-6) which are elected by the people in order to lead the whole unto maturity (Eph. 4:11-13). The kingship of every believer gives them power to fight and defeat the world, the flesh and the devil (Eph. 6:11-18; James 4:7; 1 Jhn. 2:27; 4:4; 5:4), and enables us all to participate in the royalty of Christ (1 Pt. 2:9).

How a Prophet relates? C.ommunity

Prophet

Relating to a King: ***(From here on out, every mention of prophet, priest or king, is spoken of in the spirit of tendencies not titles.)***

A Prophet is good at identifying the problem, and the King is great at coming up with a solution. However, the Prophet is more concerned with the content and beliefs of a person or church, and a King is more concerned with how those beliefs are carried out in mission. This can provide tension as the Prophet and King work together, if they have different Theological ideas, but it can be a source of great teamwork and friendship. The Prophet can teach the King theology, and the King can teach the Prophet how to apply it. Great patience is needed in these relationships. The Prophet can recognize their strength in bringing counsel and a sense of conviction by the Holy Spirit to people. They will often times be very discerning in what direction is “right” to move in as a result. However, the Prophet can lean upon the King to creatively craft ways to invent habits to inspire and move people toward the right goals.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: A Prophet relates with a King to determine the “means” and the King plans the “ends.”
- Cons: Prophets are very determined to find truth and sometimes can frustrate the need of the King to move forward.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: Kings and Prophets make great teachers in the home for they structure everything very well to include content that really impacts and teaches everyone who enters.
- Cons: They can become so focused on educating themselves “side by side” that they forget to be friends and meet “face to face.”

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: A Prophet works well with a King for the Prophet determines the “means” and the King can plan the “ends.”
- Cons: A Prophet can spend too much time on stage, in the library, or behind a desk. He needs to stay in touch with the people and connect what’s being said to their needs.

Relating to a Priest:

A Priest will sometimes struggle with how open or “blunt” a Prophet may seem in conflict or in dealing with someone’s sin. In this way, great tension can come between these two types. But, if a Priest will be a loving aid to craft the Prophet into a more compassionate truth teller, the Prophet can help the Priest to be more bold and confrontational. The Prophet will learn patience, forbearance, grace, and perseverance with people and their sin, for the Priest will teach the Prophet how to see the sin in their own life before pointing it out in others. This in turn will make the Prophet more gracious and forgiving, for they will learn how to receive mercy for their own struggles.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: A Prophet will grow the Priest’s ability to be bold in prayer, counseling, relationship and truth.
- Cons: A Prophet may frustrate or hurt the Priest by their tone of delivery.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: Prophets can help spouses, kids, and parents who are Priests to value how theology (what we believe)

plays out in our biography (how we live).

- Cons: Prophets may be abrupt and black and white with issues and must realize that Priests appreciate the grey areas in growth and relationship.

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: A Prophet will grow the Priests ability to be bold in prayer, counseling, relationship and truth.
- Cons: A Prophet may frustrate or hurt the Priest by their method of delivery.

How a Prophet does things? Reasoning

| Prophet |
|---|
| <p>Getting things done with a King:</p> <p>A Prophet tends to move in a direction when they can see it is the best and most “right” option. Often times they may find that a King moves too quickly or hastily for their taste. A Prophet must learn to share loving guidance with a King, and also must be willing to let a King experience failure as they try out new things that may or may not work. Following, a Prophet can tend to move with passion on ideas that they feel are most right and correct. However, many things that are “right,” still need to be contextualized to the surrounding culture. A Prophet would be wise to enlist the help of the Kings to make their thoughts understandable to the ears of those they are teaching and speaking to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>In the Community and Workplace</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: A Prophet works well with a King, for the Prophet determines the “means” and the King can plan the “ends.”• Cons: Prophets are very determined to find truth and sometimes can frustrate the need of the King to move forward.2. <u>In the Family and in the Home</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: Prophets tend to move slower and be more calculated, whereas a King tends to make bigger attempts at risk.• Cons: Each person can frustrate their spouse, children, or parent by the decisions they make.3. <u>In the Church and in Ministry</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: A Prophet works well with a King for the Prophet determines the “means” and the King can plan the “ends.”• Cons: Prophets are very determined to find truth and sometimes can frustrate the need of the King to move forward. |
| <p>Getting things done with a Priest:</p> <p>Prophets love people in that they do not want them to suffer from the <i>long-term</i> cancerous effects of sin. Priests love people in that they do not want people to suffer from the <i>short term</i> cancerous effects of sin. Generally, Prophets tend to see what people’s sin will do to them if they keep doing it. Priests tend to focus on the people’s pain, sickness, worry or doubt as it affects them in the NOW. Prophets will focus on more long-term direction and Priests will focus on immediate needs. The Prophet can help the Priest to be more confrontational with sin in an effort to spare a person long-term hurt.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>In the Community and Workplace</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: A Prophet will lean toward independence in accomplishing tasks and getting things done.• Cons: A Priest will become frustrated for they naturally desire teamwork in accomplishing things.2. <u>In the Family and in the Home</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pros: A Prophet will lean toward independence in how they live and do chores around a spouse, child or parent.• Cons: A Priest will become frustrated for they naturally desire teamwork and relationship in the home as they do things.3. <u>In the Church and in Ministry</u> |

- Pros: A Prophet will lean toward independence and thinking first in doing things.
- Cons: A Priest will become frustrated for they naturally desire teamwork and feeling first in doing things.

How Prophet organizes things? Organization

Prophet

Organizing with a King:

The Prophet and the King will organize well together. However, the Prophet will tend to focus their attention more on the reasoning for the organization, whereas the King will more focus on how to communicate those truths in a logical and easy way to those in the organization.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: The King and Prophet both value doing the best thing for the community or workplace they're in. Prophets tend to structure around "themselves" doing the talking.
- Cons: The Prophet may over think decisions, or over speak in situations.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: Prophets tend to structure things around learning, and King's more around doing.
- Cons: The Prophet can gain great insight but may lose sight of helping others with that knowledge.

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: The Prophet tends to draw toward pulpit ministries, classroom settings, and small groups, and this can be a great act of teamwork if the King is working hard to set up good structure to act upon the truth that the Prophet is sharing.
- Cons: The Prophet can end up talking too much and can avoid acting on what they say.

Organizing with a Priest:

A Prophet desires people to be under the authority of God's word in all their senses (what they say, hear, see, touch, and taste). A Priest however will organize for more spontaneity within this idea. Therefore, the Prophet may tend to squelch the humorous and laid back moments of life, as they may perceive these things to be wasting time in a person's growth and maturity. A Priest however will see these moments as part of and essential to all growth.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: Prophets desire strong structures, chain of command, and authority; which are good in keeping Priests focused.
- Cons: Priests desire to be led through empathy, not command, and may reject a Prophet's advance.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: Prophets hold a high view of Headship, leadership in the home, and division of men's and women's roles, which is good for preserving the right function of the home.
- Cons: Priests tend to be more laid back and may be in tension with the Prophet when they disagree on why they are doing things a certain way.

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: Prophets desire strong structures, a chain of command and authority, which is good for keeping Priests focused and under authority.
- Cons: Priests desire to be led through empathy and walking alongside people, and may reject a Prophet's advance.

How a Prophet learns? S.cripture

Prophet

Learning with a King:

A Prophet surrounds themselves by blogs, journals, theological manuals, an ever-growing list of books on Amazon's Wish List, and anything that can help them tackle an idea, concept or truth. The thinking of a King is very similar. A King looks for how to tackle an idea or a problem. Therefore a Prophet, after meditating on the problem in their church, in Scripture, in their family, or in their workplace, would do well to ask the King their long-term wisdom in how to go about putting in a solution or making a change.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: Kings like new ideas, inspiration and innovation, and so do Prophets.
- Cons: A Prophet will focus more on comprehension depth and sometimes miss the broad application of their understanding.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: Prophets tend to stick to what they know to be right, and will only change when they are convinced. This makes them very stable parents, spouses, and children.
- Cons: They are slow to change even when they need to—stubbornness can be an issue.

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: Kings like new ideas, inspiration and innovation, and so do Prophets.
- Cons: A Prophet will focus more on discipleship as head knowledge and sometimes miss discipleship as acted out "hand" application.

Learning with a Priest:

Both Priests and Prophets have a tendency to meditate on issues, truths, and circumstances for a long period of time. This is a huge shared commonality. Both people enjoy discovering new truths. However, the Priest likes to learn new things relating directly to people. Whereas, a Prophet likes to learn new things about how to reason and think, and they tend to move toward ideas (e.g. apologetics, homiletics, communications, and marketing). Both people desire to help and reach people in all that they do. However, Priests will frustrate Prophets sometimes because they will postpone a solution to spare a person. Prophets will frustrate Priests sometimes because they will postpone relationship to deal with a concept or area of study.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: Prophets learn through studying to define what is right, and a Priest can benefit from this approach.
- Cons: Priests learn through walking things out, and may desire a little more risk and adventure from the Prophet.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: Prophets tend to approach learning collegiately, academically, and instructionally
- Cons: Priests tend to approach learning through application, living, and kinesthetically (movement).

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: Prophets learn through studying to define what is right and a Priest can benefit from this approach.
- Cons: Priests learn through walking things out and may desire a little more risk from the Prophets.

How a Prophet Leads? S.ignature Mission

Prophet

Leading with a King:

The Prophet is good at learning God's will in leadership, but will sometimes have trouble determining the right avenue and right timing of when to move. A Prophet will need to depend on the King for the "how tos" of leadership. The Prophet will be very good at answering "why" questions, but must rely on the King to help them design the methods of implementation.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: A Prophet will lead a King well in they will quickly help King's to find hole's in their thinking.
- Cons: A Prophet will sometimes spoil and frustrate the King's plan when they show it to be short-sided.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: A Prophet will lead a spouse, children or parents into greater depth of thinking.
- Cons: A Prophet may become frustrated at "holes" in their families' thinking.

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: A Prophet will save a King's ministry from a lot of failure and will lead through discussion, direction, and command.
- Cons: A Prophet may become convinced of things that are biblical, but may ignore the practical.

Leading with a Priest:

The Prophet will learn "timing" from the Priest. They will know God's will from their gifting, and from the King, they will gain God's avenue, but a Prophet must be ready for the Priests patience in order to be longsuffering in sharing ideas, truths, or concepts. A Priest tends to move at the pace of the people they are working with, whereas a Prophet moves on an idea or when something is right. In a sense, the Prophet is the "Gas" and the Priest is the "Brakes." Both are needed in leading people.

1. In the Community and Workplace

- Pros: A Prophet leads through message, and like Ezekiel, sometimes blunt outward displays of drama, art, and exaggeration. A Priest can relate to displays of the drastic.
- Cons: A Priest may find themselves embarrassed or exposed by the antics of the Prophet.

2. In the Family and in the Home

- Pros: A Prophet leads through message and instruction in the home.
- Cons: This is good, but a Priest may require leading through discussion, dialogue and trial and error.

3. In the Church and in Ministry

- Pros: A Prophet leads through message, and like Ezekiel, sometimes blunt outward displays of drama, art, and exaggeration. A Priest can relate to displays of the drastic.
- Cons: A Priest may find themselves embarrassed or exposed by the antics of the Prophet.