

Christ the prophet.

A prophet of God is someone who

1. reveals God,
2. speaks for God,
3. and communicates to people the truths that God wants them to know.

Moses in the Old Testament

Moses was the most powerful figure in the history of the Hebrew people. Many factors constitute this claim. A few samples identify with the life of Jesus.

Moses dominates the New Testament. His name appears 83 times.

Notice

(1) the infancy stories which compare with Jesus, Moses was put in a basket to avoid being killed, while Jesus was taken to Egypt as a child to flee death from Herod.

(2) the drama of his life, compare that with the drama of Jesus' life.

(3) the miracles, Remember the ten plagues, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. On more than one occasion Jesus healed all who came to him with different diseases.

(4) the Exodus, taking over a million people out of slavery on one night while Jesus is still taking people out of slavery from their habits.

(5) The law indeed was given through Moses - grace and truth came through Jesus Christ Jn 1:17.

(6) the wilderness journey,

(7) the typology or a picture of Jesus' life. The Children of Israel were in the Wilderness for forty years while Jesus was in the Wilderness for forty days.

No other man before Jesus spoke to God in such an intimate manner. He had a very special relationship. It is said that Moses spoke to God as a friend to friend does.

This same Moses predicted that a special prophet was predestined to arise in the future. The first of two prophecies states:

The Lord your God will raise up unto you a Prophet from the midst of you, of your brethren, like unto me; unto him shall you hear (Deut 18:15).

The second text is similar, though expansive. It identifies "the Lord" as the original source for the prophecy. This additional text adds authority and emphasis. In biblical terms it fulfils the role of a double witness. The text says:

...the Lord said..."I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto you, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him" (Deut 18:18).

Notice the characteristics of this prophet. Moses tells in v.15 that he is:

- (1) a Prophet,
- (2) from the midst,
- (3) of brethren,
- (4) like me [Moses], and
- (5) hear him [you must].

The additional elements specifically stated by God in v.18 are:

- (6) God will put his words in the prophet's mouth, and
- (7) he will speak everything God tells him. Observe the similarity with Moses' own situation (Ex 4:10-12). Just two texts provide the complete database about "the prophet." Exactly seven characteristics are given. Nothing else is said about "the prophet" in the OT.

Moses' Role

Moses fulfilled a special role in ancient Israel. Although he was from the priestly tribe of Levi, he was not a priest (his older brother Aaron was high priest). Moses was not a king. A more careful inspection of the OT shows that Moses fulfilled a much larger role. We read that Moses

became "as God" (i.e. in God's stead) to Aaron. This was an incredible thing. Moses was designated as "God himself" (the top job). This is no exaggeration. Notice the incredible statements that follow:

"And he [Aaron] shall be your spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to you instead of a mouth, and you [Moses] shall be to him instead of [as] God" (Ex 4:16).

The force of these words is felt more fully when reading the closure statement about Moses at his death!

"And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face" (Deut 34:10).

The Jewish people revere Moses as the greatest of the Prophets of his day. A prophet in many ways is greater than the king. The reason is that the prophet anoints the king for office and advises him on what God is saying. To be successful in that time the king must follow the directions of the words of the prophet.

A remnant of that ceremony still applies to the British Monarchy. He/she is anointed under a canopy, hidden from the sight of the people by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Incidentally, virtually all the objects he/she handles during a coronation are symbols of the Christian faith like the orb held in the hand. It has a cross on top indicating the rule of Christ over the earth.

Undoubtedly, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Moses. Notice three things

1. The will of the Father

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, Luke 22:42

2. To reveal the Father

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Mt 11:27

3. And to speak the things of the Father

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. 29 And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him." 30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him. John 8:28-30

The major sign of a prophet is shown by John

For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me." John 12:49-50

One NT claim about Jesus is generally overlooked. We are told that Jesus...was a prophet..." (Lk 24:19). Most Christians, even if aware of this text, tend to perceive it in a limited sense--like with predictive statements Jesus made about his impending death, by crucifixion, his resurrection, and the promise to return. But in most minds, the concept of Jesus as a prophet would not extend much further. Yet it means far more.

Most people think of Jesus as a Saviour, King, Lord, Messiah, Lamb, Priest, Lion, or some other such descriptive term. But, how many think of him as a Prophet? Probably not many! For most, there would be little reason for this notion to arise. The rigors and cares of daily life predominate. But the gospel of Luke reveals Jesus was a prophet.

Luke said:

"...Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:.." (Lk 24:19).

I repeat the major foundation text in the Old Testament referring to Jesus is to be found in Deuteronomy 18:15-19

17 Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

Peter repeats this text in Acts 3:22-23

Ac 3:22-24

22 Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. 23 And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.' 24 And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days

Peter was convinced that this foundation text was talking about Jesus.

He had just brought healing to a lame man from birth and he was given authority to speak to the people in the Temple who were beside themselves with amazement and curiosity. Now he reveals who Jesus really was, the greatest prophet of all time.

Furthermore, Jesus refers to himself as a prophet.

, "Just at that time some Pharisees came up, saying to Him, "Go away and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." 32 And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third *day* I reach My goal.' 33 "Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next *day*; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem." Luke 13:33

"And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his home town, and in his own household." 58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.." Matt. 13:57,58

Although early Christians discerned the prediction was fulfilled in Jesus, the prophet's mysterious role⁵ was never fully defined. So when the facts are known, Jesus becomes the greatest prophet of all time. In one sense he could be called the Prince of Prophets:

But now we face the clear Bible claim that Jesus was a prophet. Is this important? That could depend upon many things. But most of all, it depends upon the times in which we live. It also depends upon the kind of prophet Jesus was.

We often hear in our services of Jesus being King over his kingdom. We are told we are kingdom people.

We are told in the Book of Hebrews particularly, the role of Jesus as priest, taking away our sins by his death and presenting his death to God as a means of our salvation. i.e., release from death and sin. But the role of the prophet was to bring God's word to the people.

As an example, when Jesus spoke to a ruler of the Jews at night in John 3:16 and said, you must be born again or from above, it was a prophetic statement. If you become 'born again' you will...

Jesus talked about the Last Days. He talked about Coming Back again to judge the earth. For now we can see a saviour, tender and gracious. Then we see him coming to judge the world.

The greatest prophecy about end times is contained in the last Book of the New Testament. The Book of Revelation or the Book of the End times. 22 chapters of pure prophecy.

Finally.

When Jesus was transfigured before the three apostles, Peter, James and John, Moses and Elijah appeared with him. Listen to what God said

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

If God had not intervened the chances were the three apostles would have listened to Moses who was still in their minds the greatest prophet of all time. God showed by his voice that Jesus was now the Prophet, and they were to listen to him.

If Jesus is still the prophet he can prophecy into your life?

A greater than Moses is here , listen to him