

All the prophets from Samuel to Malachi testify to this scripture in Hebrews and yet even in this day, God continues to speak to us through the mouth of prophets. The question that comes to mind is what happens after Jesus comes to the earth and departs? Does the coming of John the Baptist signify the end of this pattern of God sending prophets to his people in every age? The truth is that God continues to send us prophets to fulfil his promises as he has already declared in his word. Paul was not just an apostle but was a word prophet who expounded the mystery of God to the early church and effectively laid out the foundation to the Christian Gentile Church ages that were ahead.

Every Christian knows that the hour is desperately late; that soon our beloved Lord Jesus will meet His Bride in the air (I Thess. 4:16-17). Even as John the Baptist foreran the first coming of our Lord, there must come a prophet having the spirit of Elijah who will forerun Christ's second coming. Of course, there are many false prophets in the world today, leading many astray (Matthew 24:11-24).

But the same God who said there would be the false, said there would come a TRUE Prophet. In Malachi 4, where it talks of the end of the world, God said, ***"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."*** (Malachi 4:5-6) This verse, having a compound meaning, is referring to two separate comings of a prophet with the spirit of Elijah. An angel said concerning John the Baptist: (Luke 1:17) ***"And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias (note: Elias is the Greek word for Elijah), to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, (John was to fulfil this much of Malachi 4:6, but that was all, for the angel goes on) and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*** The angel said nothing about John turning ***"the heart"*** cause that part of Malachi 4:6 didn't pertain to him. ***of the children to their fathers"***, because that part of Malachi 4:6 didn't pertain to him.

Now, Jesus said John the Baptist was Elijah, that's true, (Matthew 11:7-14), ***"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come."*** But now turn to (John 1:19-21): ***"And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, what then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No."*** That's odd. Jesus said John was Elijah, and John said he wasn't.

Does the Bible contradict itself? Not at all. Remember the Jews were expecting the Messiah to destroy the Romans and set up Israel up as the rulers of the world. They were expecting an Elijah to forerun a Messiah who would come in power. John said, ***"No, I'm not that Elijah,"*** for he was not sent ***"before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."*** ***"Then said they unto him, who art thou that we may give an answer to them that sent us, what sayest thou of thyself? He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord."*** (John 1:22-23) John, knowing well who he was likened himself to Isaiah 40:3

Christ himself split up Malachi 4:5-6 as two comings of Elijah. Although Jesus had told His disciples plainly that John the Baptist was Elijah (Matthew 11:14), sometime later (Matthew 17) they were still confused. ***"And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."*** (Matthew 17:10-13) Examine closely verse 11, where Jesus says, ***"Elias truly SHALL FIRST COME,*** (future tense. This Elijah had not yet come) and RESTORE ALL THINGS." Did John the Baptist restore all things? John prepared a people for our precious Lord's appearance, but he didn't restore all things. But Jesus said there would come an Elijah in the future who would restore all things. Now read Acts 3:19-21, where Peter talks about Jesus Christ. ***"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."***

So the Lord who we love must remain in heaven until all things are restored; and Jesus himself said Elijah would restore all things. Does 1 + 1 = 2? Then this Elijah's ministry is essential, just like all other word prophetic ministries like Noah, Moses etc. In Matthew 24:37-39 Jesus said, ***"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."*** Alright, how was it in the days of Noah? There was gross blindness in the people concerning the Word of God, which caused them to act wickedly.

God sent one man, a prophet, with a Message, "Come into the ark and be saved!" God said that if he didn't send Elijah in these days, the Truth would be so watered down and messed up He would have to ***"smite the earth with a curse."*** This Elijah's message will be, "Come into Christ and be saved!" Remember, Christ is the Word, (John 1:1, 14, 1 John 5:7).

The Word of God has been twisted and perverted and lost down through the ages until today there are more than 1000 denominations in the world, all claiming to have the correct interpretation of the Word. But God promised the Truth would be restored. This, in fact, is what the strange language of Malachi 4:6 says. The angel said to John would ***"turn the hearts of the fathers to the children."*** By studying what John later did we can see he turned the hearts of the orthodox Jewish fathers' faith to the new faith in Jesus Christ, for Christ's followers at John's time were but spiritual children. Those children grew spiritually and became the apostolic fathers, whom God used to build His church, and to write the New Testament. But the churches today have strayed from that original foundation, (Ephesians 2:19-20) to their organizational ideas and man-made theologies until the Truth lies hidden before our eyes, smothered by hundreds of philosophies and millions of opinions. This end-time Elijah will ***"turn the heart of the children to their fathers"***, that is: he will turn the hearts of us, the children of the end-time, back to the faith of our apostolic fathers, until our faith, lives, and doctrine match theirs perfectly.

Jesus said, ***"He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward."*** (Matthew 10:41a) and again, ***"He that receiveth whomsoever I send, receiveth ME"*** (John 13:20). How can you say you love Jesus, then reject a prophet whom Jesus sends? You're standing on shaky ground. Be careful, lest you have the same spirit as the religious Pharisees, who believed what God did IN THE PAST, but could not accept what God was doing RIGHT BEFORE THEIR EYES! They reviled the blind man whom Jesus had healed saying, ***"Thou art his disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is,"*** (John 9:28-29)

Jesus said of these hypocrites, ***"For had ye believed Moses, (really believed him) ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me,"*** (John 5:46). Likewise, if we really believed Jesus Christ, we will believe His end-time Elijah, for Jesus spoke of him. Christ also said to the Pharisees, ***"And ye have not His (the Father's) Word abiding in you: for whom He hast sent, him ye believe not,"*** (John 5:38)

To reject God's prophet is to reject God. (1 Samuel 8:4-7; Exodus 16:2-8). Most prophets were never received by the majority of people in their day, (Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 7:51-52). Out of millions, only 7 listened to Noah. The children of Israel continually murmured against Moses; the people rejected Samuel; Elijah was so hated he thought he was the only one left who loved God; The people constantly laughed at Jeremiah; Jesus said, ***"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee..."*** (Matthew 23:34-37). All the scriptures concerning this end time Elijah will be fulfilled, yet so simply and humbly most will miss it. (read the spectacular prophecy about John the Baptist's ministry, (Isaiah 40:4), then in Matthew 3:1-12 how humbly it was fulfilled). But how can we find this true prophet-messenger, amidst the multitude of false prophets that's swarm the earth today? Jesus said, ***"By their fruits ye shall know them"*** (Matthew 7:15-20).

Not only by their gifts and miracles, now, for many will do signs and wonders in the Name of Jesus Christ, and yet be workers of iniquity, (Matthew 7:22-23; Mark 13:22; Deuteronomy 13:1-3) false prophets will look like sheep, (Matthew 7:15). False prophets will be WIDELY ACCEPTED MEN, LIKED, ADMIRER, AND WELL SPOKEN OF BY ALL! (Luke 6:26) False prophets will mislead many because while they speak from the Bible, they are really after the people's money, (2 Peter 2:1-3). False prophets will make people trust in a lie, (Jeremiah 28:15) Saying things as, be at peace, you'll be in the rapture, whether your life lines up with the Word or not," (Jeremiah 23:16-17; Ezekiel 13:10). False prophets will Pervert the right ways of the Lord and though they have power, it will be nothing compared to God's true prophet, (Acts 13:6-12; Exodus 7:8-12). Yet their ways are extremely deceptive, (Jeremiah 23:9-32; Ezekiel 13). False prophets will look and act so close to the real prophet, that only the elect will not be deceived, (Matthew 24:24; 2 Chronicles 18; Jeremiah 28). But there is one final test. God said, ***"And if thou say in thine heart, how shall we know the Word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously, thou shalt not be afraid of him,"*** (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

This end-time Elijah will have ***"THUS SAITH THE LORD."*** When he says, ***"THUS SAITH THE LORD"*** on doctrine, it will be perfectly in line with the scriptures, when he says, ***"THUS SAITH THE LORD, such and such will happen,"*** the thing will happen exactly as said

If it ever fails to be perfect, just once, he is not a true prophet, for every true prophet has ***"THUS SAITH GOD"*** and God's Word can't fail. A prophet's words under the Anointing are not his own; they are God's words. Now, Jesus said concerning John the Baptist, ***"But I say unto you that Elias is come already, and they KNEW HIM NOT, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed,"*** (Matthew 17:12-13).

John the Baptist prepared a people for the Lord, even as the angel said he would. But did he prepare everyone? Though many heard him, there were but a few who really perceived his MESSAGE and were prepared for the Lord. Likewise this end-time Elijah will ***"restore all things,"*** but not for everybody. There will be relatively few who heed his MESSAGE, come into the fullness of Christ and are really ready for the rapture. Few? ***"Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it,"*** (Matthew 7:13-14; also Luke 13:23-24). ***"For many are called, but FEW are chosen."*** (Matthew 20:16; 22:14) Eight were saved in Noah's day; three saved in the days of Lot. Jesus said that both of these were types of His second coming, (Luke 17:26-30). And after the ***"Rapture"***, of course, ***"There shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation,"*** (Daniel 12:1), ***"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the PROUD, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."*** (Malachi 4:1) ***"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man,"*** (Luke 21:36). May you be like the people of Berea, who ***"were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."*** (Acts 17:10-11; also 1 Thessalonians 5:17-21). As the working through prophets is a clear pattern of God, dear Christian friend, you need to consider the promise of Elijah who was to come to the world before the day of the Lord in Malachi 4:5-6. Who is this Elijah the prophet to this day? We believe that this promise of Elijah coming again was fulfilled in the life of William Marrion Branham.

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Does GOD Still Use Prophets?



God has always used man to speak his word to his children in every age. In the beginning God gave his word to Adam who was responsible for giving the same to his family. Gen 2: 15-17 ***"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"***. God told Noah about the coming destruction by rain and Noah preached his message to the world in his day but only his family believed and were saved. Gen 6:13 ***"And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth"***.

It was to Abraham that the coming destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was revealed. Gen 18: 17 -23 ***"And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. but Abraham stood yet before the Lord. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"*** We can see God talking the things he intended to do with his prophet, just the same way he had told Noah the plans that he had to destroy the evil that had become the norm in his day.

God sent the prophet Moses to deliver the children of Israel from the hand of Pharaoh. It was to Moses the instructions and commandments from God were given and the people of his day had to believe that word. Exodus 20:19 ***"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. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die"***. Paul says in the book of Hebrews 1:1 ***"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets..."***