




# **Biblical Truth About Dreams, Prophets, and Prophecies Part 1**

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- God Dreams, Predictive and Literal Joseph's dream about his decreed destiny – unconditional dreams (unchangeable through prayer or action) Gen. 37 :5-8
  - “Meaningless (pizza) Dreams” – soul-cleansing dreams -  
-“Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore worship God.” Ecc. 5:6

- **“False Dreams Masked as God Dreams”** demonic dreams  
“Indeed I am against those who prophecy false dreams...they lead my people astray with their reckless lies. I did not send or appoint them.” Jer. 23:32
- **“Warning Dreams”** “For God does speak, now one way, now another...in a dream, in a vision in the night, He may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn them from wrongdoing, to save them from the pit...” Job 33:14-18
  - Dream scenarios detailing the enemy’s plans or present actions can be changed through the prayers of the Church – this has happened.

- **Biblical Reality:** There are true and there are false prophecies that can be uttered by true prophets of God—some predictive and decreed by God (unconditional); most descriptions of God’s will but conditional in nature—dependent for fulfillment on “conditions” being met
  - “If My people...will repent and pray, then I will heal their land...” 2 Chron. 7:14
  - “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.” Ps. 91:1

## True Prophecies from True Prophets:

- **Amos 3:7**—“Surely the Lord will do nothing before He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets.”
- **2 Chron. 2:20**—“Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”

# False Prophecies

- **Jeremiah 23:16**—“This is what the Lord Almighty said, ‘Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord.’” —**note:** some false prophecies are false because the prophet “makes them up”
- **Deut. 18:22:** “If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously...” error in comprehension/transmission – the prophet “presumes” the Lord has said something but has misunderstood
- **Paul in the NT** implies mixed: 1 Thess. 5: 21-22—“Hold tightly to that which is good (relating to prophecies); and stay away from everything that is evil (relating to prophecies)”

- **The Barn: the gift of prophecy** 1 Co. 14:1—“Pursue love, yet zealously crave spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophecy.” 1 Co. 14:31--“All of you may prophecy...that all may learn and be encouraged”
- **Prophet is a key gifting in the Church.** Eph. 4:11—“prophet” Eph. 2:20—the church is “built on the **foundation** of the apostles and the prophets.”
- **The Gift of Prophecy is new in the restored Church** Acts 3:21—heaven must hold the resurrected Jesus “until the time of the restoration of all things” – said to be the fullness of the Church prior to the return of Jesus



## Definition of NT gift of prophecy: Prophecy is a Spirit-prompted, Spirit-sustained utterance in human words that

- is rooted in a true revelation from God (1 Co. 14:30—“But if a **revelation** is made to another who is seated, let the first prophet remain silent.”)
- but is imperfectly expressed because the prophet’s perception and handling of the revelation will be fallible.
- It is usually made to the gathered believers or to individuals spontaneously, or received beforehand by the spontaneous movement of the Holy Spirit, for the purposes of edification, exhortation, comfort, conviction or guidance.

**Important Note:** The NT gift of prophecy is *never* wholly free from human error because it *always* passes through a fallen, imperfect human vessel; and so prophecy needs testing and assessment on the basis of biblical truth and mature spiritual wisdom to separate what is from the Lord and what is not.



## **Definition of the Gift of Prophet** – one who holds the office/equipping gift of the Eph. 4:11 prophet:

- anointed and matured by God to operate in a highly accurate and powerful dimension of prophetic ministry,
- including bringing about transformation/miracles by the power of his/her words;
- enabled by the Spirit to train up and impart anointing to others, especially those destined to excel in prophetic ministry and/or the office of the prophet;
- has spheres of assignment from the Lord, from a local church assignment, a regional assignment, to a prophet to nations.

## Important Truths about the Gift of Prophecy & a Prophet's Words

**Note:** NT prophecy has a measure of divine authority greater than human wisdom but less than the authority of inspired, infallible scripture

- 1 Co. 13:9,12 : “For we know (as in “word of knowledge”) and we prophecy in part;””For now we see (perceive prophetically?) in a mirror dimly...”
- Acts 21:11--Agabus’ prophecy for Paul contained error – says “Jews” would bind Paul but in fact the Romans bound him.
- **Therefore:** Therefore: prophecy must never be taken as a perfect (infallible, inerrant) word from God with the authority of scripture

**Note:** Also, the OT true prophets' words were 1) inspired—God-breathed in their origin and full expression; 2) inerrant—without error in their original manuscripts; and 3) infallible--superintended (overseen) by God to be perfectly accurate in expression because God bypassed the fallenness of the prophets and made their words perfect. He did this also in the NT for the apostles who wrote scripture, but **not the NT prophets.**

**Therefore:** True NT prophets can speak false prophecies, false entirely or false in some parts of what is prophesied.

## How Prophetic Speakers Can Misspeak God's Prophetic Revelation

- **We can misperceive the revelation's “raw material” itself** – we see a dream/vision but miss certain parts of it---it's too fleeting and we miss parts of what we quickly see; or we “make up” a revelation from our own imagination, wishful thinking, or current topical immersion *Example—my prophetic conclusion that The Barn was to grow to 1,000 members*

## How Prophetic Speakers Can Misspeak God's Prophetic Revelation

- **We can misinterpret what we see/hear**— draw wrong conclusions about the meaning of God's revelation – *example* – *see a baby boy, interpret it as God giving a woman a physical son, but not* –
- **We can make an application mistake** as to what/when/or how the revelation is to be applied to the hearers –we confuse timing-- think something is for now when it's for later, or think it's to be acted on when it's to be prayed over at this point – *example—Lynn's prophetic words from lady at Toronto*





