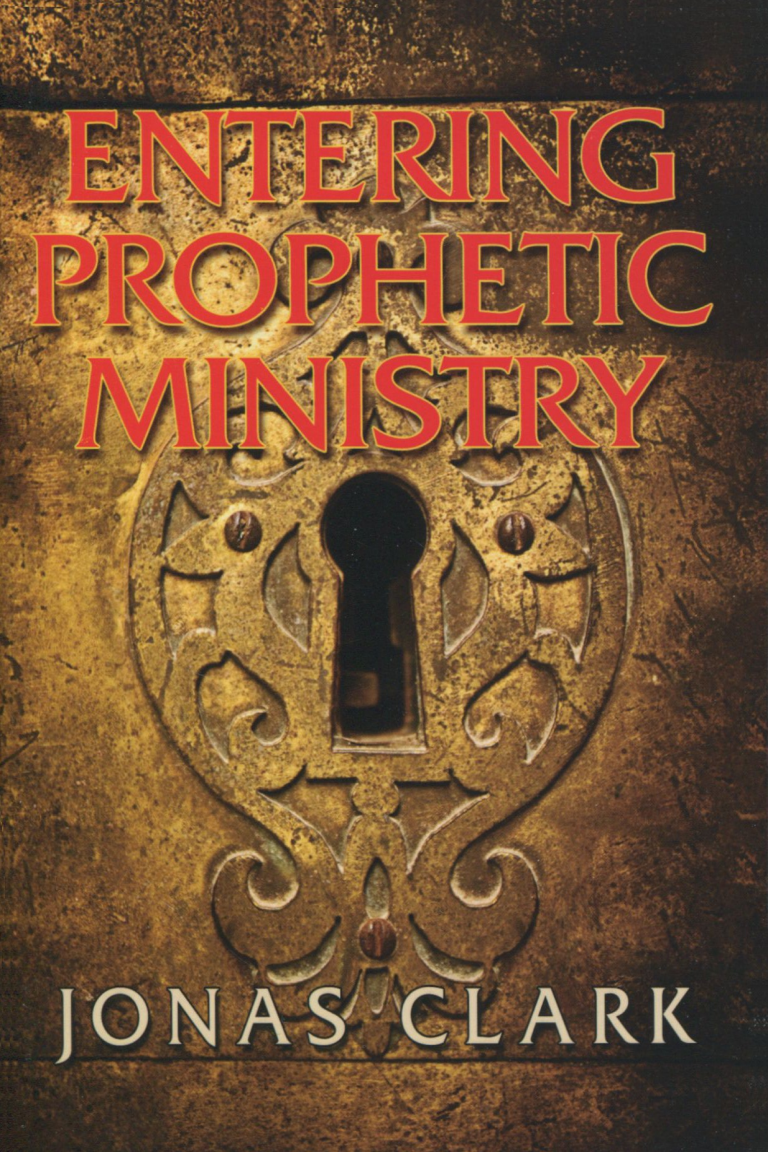

ENTERING
PROPHETIC
MINISTRY
JONAS CLARK

Entering Prophetic Ministry

by Jonas Clark

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version.

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Entering Prophetic Ministry

Prophets carry a great sense of spiritual authority. They enjoy rooting out, pulling down, and destroying all spiritual opposition that gets in the way of the plans and purpose of God. Moses said,

> *Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them.*

Christ set in the Church five distinct ascension gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. All of them are quite different, distinct and carry different graces needed to equip the born-again believer

for effectiveness in life and ministry.

> *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. (Ephesians 4:11)*

All five ministry gifts are equally important. We need the apostle. He is a spiritual father, architect and builder. We need the soul winning evangelist that reminds us of reaching the lost. We need the pastor who counsels, nurtures and comforts, and the teacher to instruct, tutor and explain God's Word and ways. And we need the prophet, God's voice of edification, exhortation and comfort. All five ascension gifts have decided graces on their lives that add something distinct to the born again believer.

Prophetic Statesmen

The prophetic ministry is quintessentially

different from the other five-fold ascension gifts and the subject of this volume. They are especially different from the pastoral.

Prophets like the other governmental ascension gifts of apostles and teachers are drafted into ministry by the sovereign will of Christ alone. No one can call you into the office of a prophet. Even with that said, we don't want to focus solely on the prophetic office but rather prophetic operations. As a prophet you are familiar with this verse,

> *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou came forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5)*

Prophets are chosen voices that God sets apart to speak on His behalf. Their ministries are different and distinct. Prophets know their purpose and ministry role. Like apostles they

are sent ones, sent to speak the revealed will of Christ.

Like all prophets you can be misunderstood. Prophets are not always the most charismatic of the five-fold ascension gifts. They can be at times abrupt, direct, or even a bit brash. They will not tolerate religious games and view church politics as offensive and unproductive. Unfortunately they're not always the best statesmen either. They sometimes speak the Word when it's not religiously, culturally or socially correct to do so. It seems that prophets ignore public opinion even when it would be more palatable for their message. Oftentimes they are more concerned with "what saith the Spirit of God" regarding events than anything else. At other times they appear driven by the Holy Spirit and carry an intense sense of urgency in spirit.

They will not tolerate religious games and view church politics as offensive and unproductive. Unfortunately they're not always the best statesmen either. They sometimes speak the Word when it's not religiously, culturally or socially correct to do so,

Since you are interested in prophetic operations, be also interested in growing as a prophetic statesman. You are an ambassador for Christ and will need to learn diplomacy as well as prophetic accuracy.

A pastors calling is to nurture, console and protect. You can bite him and he will take it, but if you bite a prophet, watch-out, he might just bite you back.

There may be qualities about the prophet that may make some feel uncomfortable, yet there are other traits about the prophetic ministry gift that a prophet simply cannot avoid. As we learn about the prophets grace, his ministry will make more sense and become more accepted and embraced. Just the very nature of the prophet's gift, for example, can come off as confrontational and bold when it may not be at all. It's not that a prophet is intentionally bold and challenging, it's because of the spiritual realm they walk in. Once you understand the prophet's ministry, gift, role, equipment and operation, you will be able to benefit from their calling. Only then, after you understand how it works can you truly draw from their gifting.

In contrast, the pastor seems easier to love. It's not true—it just seems to be true because we are the most familiar with the pastoral

gifting. Everyone loves pastors and pastors love sheep. A pastor's calling is to nurture, console and protect. You can bite him and he may take it. But if you bite a prophet, watch-out, he might just bite you back.

Prophets and Spiritual Conflict

The prophet's gift comes alive during times of spiritual conflict, when the spiritual climate is hard, or things are out of order in the Spirit. Again, prophets are tuned into the spirit realm and focused on listening to the Holy Spirit.

Because prophets are *"stewards of the mysteries of God"* (Ephesians 3:4-5) they approach the altar of God a bit different but always through prayer. Their heart's cry is to receive revelation of the mind of Christ for the people. Where a pastor may take the needs of the people to God in prayer, the prophet

will take the Word of the Lord to the people. Can you see the difference!?

Often the young prophet does not make a good pastor because of the difference in gift roles. Prophets must work toward mercy and compassion where a pastor is already gifted with those qualities. This is not to say that prophets cannot pastor, they can. They just have to work on their people skills.

Historically, prophets have been traveling ministries because the Church did not relate to their gifting. Right now there are small groups of prophets throughout North America and they seem mostly to gather among themselves. Unfortunately many are not plugged in to any local church. This needs to change and with understanding of their gifting we can learn to benefit from their operations. Prophets are not called by God to be outside the local church, but have been

given as foundation gifts to the Church (Ephesians 2:20). Because many churches closed their doors to the prophetic ministry God:

1. Gathered them in prophetic companies where they were accepted.
2. Sent them to pioneer and start new churches until the body of Christ was ready to receive their gift.
3. Used them to start prophetic schools where emerging prophets were trained, confirmed, activated and released.

If you are a prophet that is not plugged into a local church it's time to come out of your cave of isolation and find a good church. Your gifting is needed and the church is incomplete without you. Consider hooking up with a church that has an apostle as set-man because apostles are more likely able to relate

to your calling.

Prophets and Spiritual Order

Prophets are spiritual detectives. Prophets, similar to apostles, deal with spiritual order, patterns and structure. They are foundational and minister to belief systems (Ephesians 2:20). When a prophet enters a room or when someone stands in front of him, for example, he or she detects if anything is out of order. That's the revelation gifting going off within them. Prophets are the most spiritually sensitive of all the five-fold ministry gifts. So if there is anything out of order in the church or out of order in your life, he will pick it up in the Spirit.

It's not suspicion. Suspicion comes out of the soul through carnal reasoning. It's picked up in the realm of the Spirit. Suspicion is suspecting guilt, wrongs or harms with little

or no supporting evidence. The prophetic gift has nothing to do with suspicion or carnal workings but manifest itself out of revelation from the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, the prophet was often referred to as a seer. This seeing ability is like drawing back a curtain and being able to see what is hidden behind it. One prophet said that being able to see prophetically was like pulling himself up on top of a wall and then looking on the other side.

> *See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. (Jeremiah 1:10)*

All men have eyes but not all men can see. Prophets can see what others cannot. One can't root out, pull down and destroy what cannot be seen. This is the reason God uses

prophets to help us understand the spiritual warfare we battle. The word seer, *ra'ah* means a beholder of visions. In Israel the term seer was the title given a prophet (1 Samuel 9:9).

Prophets don't just see, they are also given spiritual guidance. Appointed as spiritual overseers of nations and territories, prophets receive divine guidance. Divine guidance to nations and territories, for example, is a high-level operation of the prophetic gift. The pastor seldom receives that function simply because he doesn't need it, but a prophet surely does. It's a wonderful operation because it declares God's will for the nations. All nations need to be able to hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to it. When God speaks hope and faith comes alive to those that have an ear to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches. Prophetic operations release:

- Hope

- Purpose
- Life
- Warnings
- Guidance.

Prophetic guidance points the way, directs on course, offers biblical instruction, and provides spiritual insight.

Prophets and Spiritual Revelation

Prophets are gifted with the living (*rhema*) Word to the Church. Your Bible is full of words known as *logos*.

Have you ever read your Bible and suddenly the words sprang to life and you received a revelation of what you just read? That is an example of the Word, *logos*, changing into *rhema*, or life-giving Word. That's what we call spiritual revelation.

Prophets flow in revelation or *rhema*.

> *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. (Revelation 2:29)*

We need to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church, not just what the Spirit hath said. We need the freshness of prophetic revelation, that life-giving *rhema* that comes through the prophet's gift. Without that refreshing, we die a boring religious death and are not spiritually relatable to our generation. We all need the prophetic voice to come into the earth that we might have a "living Word" imparted into our lives. Without the life provided by the prophetic voice, the Church would be like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision.

God wants to raise a prophetic people who are able to hear His voice clearly. Not just lone prophets, but a prophetic people. It is

important the world hears the Word of the Lord with power and refreshing that comes from the prophetic anointing. We need a prophetic people who have been delivered from the "fear of men" and who are not "men-pleasers."

God's Rotor Rooter Ministry

Prophets carry a great sense of spiritual authority. They enjoy rooting out, pulling down, and destroying all spiritual opposition that gets in the way of the plans and purpose of God.

> *See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. (Jeremiah 1:10)*

In this verse, nations are symbolic of the

natural realm, and kingdoms metaphor of the spiritual realm. To "root out" means to lay hold of the root of a thing and pull. The prophet is called to root out. He is called to pull down. He is called to destroy. He is called to overthrow. Notice that all these words deal with destroying opposition. Prophets are God's spiritual reformers and revolutionaries. To reform means to bring about change.

Prophets make some people nervous and they try to get rid of the prophet or close his mouth before he gets to do what he is best at, building and planting. God builds by His Spirit and there are many spiritual obstacles that must be dealt with before the building and planting begins. When we understand the prophet's gift we can all be more effective when warring against the spiritual forces that oppose the establishing and advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Breaking Plows

The Holy Spirit uses Christ' five fold ascension prophets as spiritual plows to break the hardest of sin-blackened soils and cut the deepest furrows within the heart of man. The prophet is gifted to prepare the way toward spiritual breakthrough through his rotor-rooter challenge of any spiritual opposition that might get in the way.

Currently we are in a time when the Church is being challenged to awaken from its sleep. Roots of binding religious traditions are being pulled out because some have been sitting in religious comfort zones for too long.

One reason some feel uncomfortable with prophetic operations is because of the results

of the prophet's prayers. What the prophet attacks through intercession in the Spirit will sometimes reveal itself in the natural. If he attacks rebellion, for example, then any common ground with rebellion in the people will manifest. But rather than stop the prophet's rooting out intercession, we should continue to press in and let that prophetic grace finish its work. Once the spiritual warfare is finished the prophetic gift will open the heavens to us. Remember when Daniel was battling principalities and powers? Because he didn't give up and quit, the angel was able to get through with the Word of the Lord for the nation.

Sometimes when the prophet speaks, people get stirred, troubled or offended. Offenses are the bait of Satan used to unplug you from important spiritual relationships. If you are being challenged, perhaps the Holy

Spirit is trying to prepare you for your future. I have seen the prophetic gift in action used to prune out the dead wood that keeps us from growing. Pruning is good for us all because pruning is necessary to produce more fruit. Currently we are in a time when the Church is being challenged to awaken from its sleep. Roots of binding religious traditions are being pulled out because some have been sitting in religious comfort zones for too long.

As the "restoration of all things" continues so will the restoration of true prophetic ministry. The Church is moving forward. From be healed, for example, to be taught. And from be blessed, to be changed. Everybody likes to be healed, taught, and blessed because it requires little of the hearer. But the restoration of the prophetic moves the Church into governmental authority that requires more of us. All believers are called to

govern. They are a priesthood of kings given spiritual authority that enables them to be more than conquerors. In the days ahead prophets will be more involved in activating the spiritual authority of every believer to make a difference with their lives.

On Personal Prophecy

Some people think that a prophet must give personal prophecies to qualify to walk in the office of a prophet. That's partially true. He will give personal prophecies, but his revelation gifting goes far beyond personal prophecy. Personal prophecy is the lowest prophetic operation of the true prophet. I say that because some have hyper-focused on personal prophecy and miss the big picture of the prophet's ministry. Prophets also:

1. Are forerunners who make a way for "greater things" to come (Matthew 3:3).

2. Deal with spiritual climates (Jeremiah 1:10).
3. Turn people from sin to holiness (Jeremiah 23:21-22).
4. Are frontline intercessors (Jeremiah 27:18).
5. Turn the hearts of fathers and sons (Malachi 4:5-6).
6. Challenge dead traditions of men and dangerous spirits of religion (Matthew 3:9-10).
7. Are stewards of the mysteries of God (Ephesians 3:5).
8. Carry lamentations, mourning and woe (intercession burdens) (Ezekiel 2:10).
9. Are foretellers of things to come (Amos 3:7).
10. Contend with false prophets of

divination including Jezebel and Baal (1 Kings 18:19).

11. Challenge demonic territorial guards (Acts 13:7).
12. Speak to the nations and kingdoms (Jeremiah 1:5).

Prophetic ministry is a wonderful gift from God. Moses said,

> *Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them. (Numbers 11:29)*

Meditation and Reflection

Christ set in the Church five distinct ascension gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

As we learn about the prophet's grace, his ministry will make more sense and become

more accepted and embraced.

Prophets are spiritual detectives.

Prophets, similar to apostles, deal with spiritual order, patterns and structure. They are foundational and minister to belief systems (Ephesians 2:20).

Prophets are the most spiritually sensitive of all the five-fold ministry gifts.

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Prophets can see what others cannot.

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Prophets are gifted with living (rhema) Word to the Church.

Prophets carry a great sense of spiritual authority.



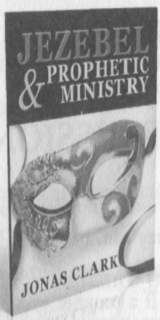
PROPHECY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Presumptous prophets prophesy because they can, but should they? Does a prophet need permission to prophesy? If a prophet who has not been granted permission to prophesy and yet does, is he guilty of sin.

Prophetic ministry is important and so is accuracy. Learn these truths:

- How prophets stay accurate.
- Why prophecy by faith alone is dangerous.
- How to avoid the spirit of divination.
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- Prophetic mantels and activation.
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About Jonas Clark



The anointing on Jonas Clark's life is both strong and bold. His great passion is to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Fortitude and God's grace have taken the ministry international, carrying a message of divine impact and reform for this generation into over 25 nations. As a reformer, his desire is to see the nations of the world impacted by the power of God. Jonas has written more than a dozen books with an apostolic and prophetic voice that are catching the attention of the Church.

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