



What To Think About Prophetic Words That Do Not Come To Pass

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What should we, as Christians, think about prophetic words that do not come to pass? Most people might take the old covenant scripture that says that such a prophet is a false prophet and should be put to death, because he falsely spoke in the name of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 18:20)

Thank God that we live under the new covenant! But what does the Scripture tell us about this subject? First of all, most prophetic words are conditional. That means that they can be received by faith or rejected, which would determine the outcome.

Let me give you an example from the Old Testament. When Jonas was called by God to prophesy about the destruction of Nineveh, he reluctantly did so after having been swallowed by a large fish. However, the people of Nineveh received the words from the Lord and repented from their sin with prayer and fasting.

What did God do? He repented from the prophetic words of destruction that he had spoken through Jonas, and spared the city.

So was Jonas a false prophet? No, but the circumstances changed so God changed, because of his mercy and love for the people in Nineveh. Jonas, however, was upset because the words that he had spoken did not come to pass, which made him look bad.

This is an example of when God really speaks, and man heeds Gods warning by repenting. But there are also cases when God spoke good words through angels that did not come to pass, because of human rebellion or disobedience, such as in the case of Samson, who just partially fulfilled the prophetic word of the angel of the Lord.

Then we have times when people who have a prophetic ministry mix their own thinking and feelings into the prophetic word. That is one of the reasons that all prophetic words must be tried, because although the word of the Lord is perfect, it is spoken through imperfect men and women.

So, there is a difference between a wrong prophet and a false prophet, something that the Church must understand and remember if it is to have and cultivate this blessed ministry that the Lord created for the edification of the Church.

The scripture tells us to not despise prophesying (the ministry of the prophet), but prove all things and hold fast to what is good. (1Thessalonians 5:20-21)

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