

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPHETIC

PROPHETIC (QUESTIONING AND EMBODYING)

The genius of Prophetic influence is the ability to discern the spiritual realities in a given situation or community. This style communicates the elements of the spiritual realities in a timely and appropriate way. This function is tasked with maintaining loyalty and faithfulness to God above all. Prophets are guardians of the covenant relationship that God has with his people. The prophetic has an innate sense of knowing the mind of God on issues concerning justice and righteousness. The prophetic is also passionately concerned with living a life morally consistent with the covenant - simple and authentic life of justice, holiness, and righteousness.

THEOLOGICAL ROOTS IN GOD

Holy, Faithful, Incarnate, Transcendent, Covenantal, Just and true, Omnipotent

The Prophetic aspects of God are seen in his personal nature, his anger at injustice and unrighteousness, and his covenantal love

JESUS THE PROPHET

Jesus was fiercely and uncompromisingly prophetic. Almost everything he said related to his covenantal faithfulness to God. He exposed the breakdown of the covenantal relationship with God's chosen people; he named injustice and railed against unrighteousness; he exposed the ungodly toxicity in misguided religion. He cast out demons, spoke truth to power, confronted evil and unrighteousness.

Jesus is:

- God's Perfect Prophet (Mark 1:15)
- The fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah (Isaiah 53)

Jesus functioned prophetically:

- Clearing the money-lenders from the temple (Luke: 21:12-13)
- Speaking God's words (Matt 5:2, John 6:63)
- Performing miraculous deeds (John 5:36, John 10:25)
- Jesus was also silent when necessary (Matt 27:13-14)
- Jesus was God's spokesman and matchless example (John 13:15)

THE PROPHETIC IN THE CHURCH

The authentic PROPHETIC church is a community that stands up for covenantal justice and calls everyone to the covenantal love of God, to true worship, to obedience to God and His word, to repentance, and to prayer. It stands as an alternative society with a strong commitment to spiritual warfare, holiness, justice and as a witness to Jesus and to Kingdom values.

The church's prophetic function is both vertical and horizontal. The vertical relates to the functions concerned with maintaining attentiveness to God. It is pre-eminently God-oriented. It is sensitive to situations where this relationship is broken or damaged. The horizontal are those aspects that highlight our relationships with others and the world as part of our obligations to God. The desired social impact of the prophetic in the church is for the creation of a restored community, one that is living in covenant relationship with God and with a deep respect for God's presence



UNDERSTANDING APEST

Prophetic Functioning in the Early Church

- Spiritual Warfare: Acts 4:23-31

It is also evident that there were others operating in the prophetic in the early church: Agabus (Acts 11:28 and 21:10), Phillip’s daughters (Acts 21:9).

PROPHETIC				
Theological Roots (Prophetic in the doctrine of God)	Archetypes and Heroes (Prophetic patterns laced in and throughout creation)	Reconstituted Prophetic (Redeemed and exemplified by Jesus)	Prophetic Functions (Given to and coded into the church)	Prophetic Callings (Individuals)
Holy Faithful Incarnate Transcendent Covenantal Just and true Omnipotent	Seer Warrior Poet Reformer Questioner Meaning-maker	Word made flesh God’s New Covenant Faithful Son Prophet (acts and speaks for/as God) Calls to repentance The way/truth/light Demonstrates perfect holiness & faithfulness Speaks truth to power (religious & secular) Radical ethics of the kingdom	Maintain God focus/orientation Require conformity to covenant obligations Demonstrates right faith/fulness Develop prefigurative community Bring words of knowledge Give prophetic insight	Intercessor Social activists Questioners of the status quo Worship leaders Holy rebels Ethical leadership

SOURCE: Activating 5Q A Users' Guide, Alan Hirsch & Jessie Cruickshank

THE PROPHETIC AND THE INDIVIDUAL

In an individual, he or she is concerned with the holiness of God and his relational covenant with his people. The Prophet seeks integration between spiritual realities "as it is in heaven" and immediate need "as it is on earth." He or she is a questioner, freely disturbing the status quo and challenging individuals and organizations to move in a different direction.

The prophetic person is passionately concerned with living a life morally consistent with the covenant - a simple, authentic life of justice, holiness, and righteousness. They have a strong intuition of what is right and wrong, emphasising integrity, obedience and mystery. In terms of leadership style, the prophetic individual will be demonstrative and motivational.



UNDERSTANDING APEST

PROPHETIC				
Archetype	Hero-Expression in General Culture	Categories of Intelligence	Domains of Society	Universal Examples
Seer Warrior Poet Reformer Questioner Meaning-maker	Artists Poets Shamans Ethicists Liberators Revolutionaries Advocates Existentialists Anarchists Hackers Spiritualists Mystics Environmentalists Whistle-blowers Aid workers Psychologists Politicians Feminists Quality controllers	ethical authentic challenging truth-speaking artistic loyalist spiritual future & present-oriented principled contrarian intuitive predictive aesthetic sympathetic passionate urgent critical	arts psychology politics aid & development NGOs environmentalism ethics	Simone Weil Eleanor Roosevelt Mahatma Gandhi Friedrich Nietzsche Mrs Pankhurst Nicola Tesla Salvador Dali Pablo Picasso Malcolm X Soren Kierkegaard Rosa Parks John Newton William Wilberforce Malala Yousafzai Al Gore

SOURCE: Activating 5Q A Users' Guide, Alan Hirsch & Jessie Cruickshank

What does this mean for the individual?

- You have great faith in what you believe, explain these beliefs to others
- Your knowledge about what God calls us to do will encourage and assure people who naturally question or are indecisive
- Your encouragement and assurance lead others to confidence, faithfulness, obedience and influence.

How the prophetic function might show up in the work place:

The prophetic individual at work will be the person who is maintaining self-critical insight in the organisation and employees. They will be the one questioning policy and decisions when they become inhuman, self-protective or oppressive. They safeguard the organisation from mission drift, from straying from the vision or wandering far from the values that maintain integrity. Prophetic individuals are willing to confront power when it's vital to do so, but equally they fuel passion for the company's purpose among their colleagues.

The **PROPHETIC** is complemented by the **SHEPHERDING** and **TEACHING** to help them to take feedback on how the message has been delivered and received; and learn how best to deliver messages. The **APOSTOLIC** can help ensure their actions are aligned with and built into the 'big-picture' vision

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- How can I serve in this calling in my small group, team, work place, the church?
- Are the people of God hearing his voice and responding appropriately through what I am bringing?
- What do I believe the word of God for today is?
- To whom I making myself accountable?

FURTHER READING

5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ (Paperback): Alan Hirsch

The Pulse of Christ: Nathan Brewer

