

YOUR LIFE MAY BE A PROPHETIC ACT

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

¹⁹ Then the people asked me, “Won’t you tell us what these things have to do with us? Why are you acting like this?”

Ezekiel 24:19

- I. Are we willing to live a life forward, which may only be understood in hindsight?
- II. Can we be faithful to do the next right thing, when that’s all the light we’ve been given?
- III. Can we trust that the master potter is molding us into the perfect vessel for his use?
- IV. Joseph’s life was a prophetic act, of which he had no idea.
 - A. He and the Messiah were both beloved of their father.
 - B. He and the Messiah were both utterly rejected by their brethren.
 - C. Both were thrown as dead into a pit from which they came forth alive.
 - D. Both were first born shepherds.
 - E. Both were prophesied to be rulers.
 - F. Both had brothers jealous of them.
 - G. Both were sold by one of the 12 named Judah.

- H. Both were falsely accused.
- I. All knees would bow to both.
- K. Both were given gentile brides.
- L. Both began their ministry at 30, and saved the world and their people by their sacrifice.
- M. Both were recognized by their brethren only at their second appearing.

V. Discerning the will of God

- * We must continue to walk in the circle of God's moral will, and leave the circle of God's sovereign will to Him.

VI. Six categories of prophetic acts

- * A prophetic act is an action, gesture, movement, or posture that had symbolic, metaphoric, or prophetic application.

A. Intercession (I Kings 18:42-44)

⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." ⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'

B. Warfare (Exodus 17:10-13)

¹⁰ So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. ¹¹ As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were

winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. ¹² *When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset.* ¹³ *So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.*

C. Warning (Ezekiel 4-5)

D. Healing (II Kings 5:9-14)

⁹ *So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.* ¹⁰ *Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."* ¹¹ *But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.* ¹² *Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?"* ¹³ *So he turned and went off in a rage.* ¹⁴ *Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"* ¹⁴ *So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.*

E. Foretelling (Acts 21:10-12)

¹⁰ *After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'12 When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.*

F. Calling to ministry (I Kings 19:19)

¹⁹ *So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.*

VII. Examples of prophetic acts

A. Isaiah walks naked for three years. (Isaiah 20)

B. Hosea marries a prostitute. (Hosea 1:2)

C. Moses casts a tree in bitter waters. (Exodus 15,22-25)

D. Moses and Joshua remove their shoes on holy ground. (Exodus 3:5; Joshua 5:15)

E. Elijah struck the waters with a mantle. (II Kings 2:8)

F. Elijah cast salt. (II Kings 2:19-21)

G. Ezekiel shaved his beard. (Ezekiel 5:13)

H. Ezekiel drew a picture of Jerusalem on a tile. (Ezekiel 4:1-3)

I. Ezekiel lay on his left and right side. (Ezekiel 4:4-8)

J. Ezekiel baked bread mixed with dung. (Ezekiel 4:9-17)

- K. Ezekiel trembled wholeheartedly, ate, and drank.
(Ezekiel 12:17-20)
- L. Ahijah tore a new garment in 12 pieces.
(I Kings 11:29-31)
- M. Isaiah wrote his son's name on a scroll, then slept with his wife. (Isaiah 8:1-4)
- N. Jeremiah put stones in a brick kiln. (Jeremiah 43:8-13)
- O. Jeremiah watched a potter make two vessels.
(Jeremiah 18:1-12)
- P. Elisha and Joash shot an arrow. (II Kings 13:14-19)
- Q. Jeremiah threw a book and rock into Euphrates.
(Jeremiah 51:63)
- R. Jesus turned water into wine. (John 2)
- S. Jesus put clay on a blind man. (John 9)