

In this 15 week elective, we will explore the nature, history, and sources of prophecy. We will seek to answer the following questions: What is prophecy? Who prophesies? When have they prophesied? Where have they prophesied? Why have they prophesied? How have they prophesied?

This study will be an introduction to the scope of Biblical and modern prophecy, and will emphasize the establishment of a Biblical pattern of prophecy in the midst of a dark and troubled world.

### **Course Outline**

1. The Voice of God (What is prophecy?): A Theological Inquiry
  - a. The Past
  - b. The Present
  - c. The Future
2. The Voice of Humanity (Who prophesies?): A Sociological/Demographical Inquiry
  - a. Prophets in the Old Testament
  - b. Prophets in the New Testament
  - c. Prophets Today
3. Speaking in Time (Where have they prophesied?): A Historical Inquiry
  - a. Chronology
  - b. Life Situation
  - c. God's Patience and the Future of Prophecy
4. The Odyssey (Where do they prophesy?): A Geographical Inquiry
  - a. Prophets in the Old Testament
  - b. Prophets in the New Testament
  - c. Prophets Today
5. Fire to Speak (Why do they prophesy?): A Spiritual Inquiry
  - a. The Situation (cultural factors)
  - b. The Natural Feeling (estrangement from current trends)
  - c. The Divine Motive (spiritual enlightenment by a personal Lord)
6. The Sound of God (How do they prophesy?): A Relational/Communicational Inquiry
  - a. How God speaks
  - b. How Humans Listen
  - c. How Humans Speak

## Part 1

# The Voice of God

---

**Write 3 words on the left side of a marker board:**

Past

Present

Future

**Now write 6 words on the opposite side of the marker board:**

Promises

Choices

Sins

Care/Protection

Revelation

Punishment

### **Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

Prophecy involves all of the six ideas on the right. Discuss how prophecy not only speaks into the future, but also reminds of the past and challenges in the present, and give examples of each. Ask for examples from the group of past promises in Scripture that are mentioned in later prophecies. Ask for examples of past choices talked about in prophecies in the Bible. Continue to go through each of the items in turn. Discuss and give the historical and contextual background of each example given by the group.

What is the theological significance of prophecy's look into the past? How does this affect the present or look to the future?

For the present promises, choices, etc. examples from biblical prophecy, split up into groups of two to three people each and give each person one of the words to find.

Pass out index cards with the words "past promises" on one, "future choices" on the next, etc., and ask 6 volunteers from class to each take one of the cards home with them and bring their examples next week to present briefly in class.