

## Divine Authority of Prophecy

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God's prophetic word in the mouth of His messengers, the prophets, has the authority of God Himself. Failing to hear and obey is a crime against God and His government. Disobedience to the commands of Jehovah given by the mouth of His ordained prophets in ancient times was often punished in a severe manner, as we shall show by some examples.

The Word of God by the mouth of His prophets has always been held to be of the highest authority by Jehovah Himself. From it there could be no appeal, except that Jehovah Himself sometimes heard prayer and changed His decrees, as in the case of Hezekiah. He says, "For Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name." To refuse, disobey or neglect the word of God by His prophets is offering to Jehovah what He considers high insult.

Saul lost his kingdom because he disobeyed the word of God at the mouth of Samuel the prophet, who said to him, "Thou has rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel." I Sam. 15: 26. To a disobedient prophet it was said, "Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of Jehovah, behold as soon as thou are departed from me, a lion shall slay thee." I Ki. 20:36.

Samuel was given a prophecy of the destruction of the house of Eli. He both anointed Saul to be king by the word of the Lord, and gave forth the word of God that Saul was rejected. Later he also anointed David to be king.

Elijah said, "I have done all these things at Thy word." He brought fire from Heaven upon his sacrifice, slew 450 prophets of Baal, condemned Jezebel to be eaten by dogs, called fire from Heaven upon two companies of fifty and anointed prophets and kings. To

Jeremiah Jehovah said, "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." These men were in this manner endowed with the authority of Jehovah, and the works they wrought were by the word of Jehovah in their mouths.

Jehovah jealously guarded the word of God in the mouth of His prophets. Persecutions and indignities offered to them, He held as done to Himself.

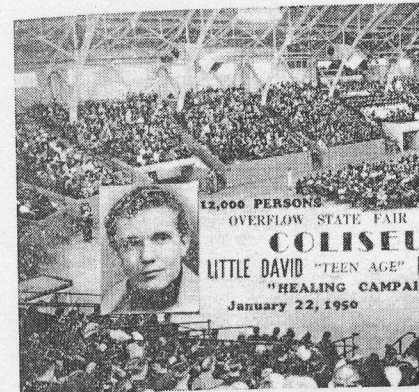
Jehovah also held great indignation toward those who falsely professed to prophesy in His name. For example, Hananiah was rebuked through Jeremiah for prophesying falsely, and was told the Lord said He would cast him off the face of the earth that same year, which came to pass. And Shemaiiah was warned that he would not have a man left to his seed. Read these accounts and the terrible arraignments against false prophets in Jeremiah 23: 1-40; 28:15-17; 29:31,32.

On the other hand great blessings were promised and bestowed upon Israel, when they obeyed the word of Jehovah by His prophets. "Believe in Jehovah your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets so shall ye prosper."

So today the Word of the Lord is coming forth through His prophets, spirit-anointed. Should we not take warning from these examples in the Old Testament of the authority Jehovah has given to this ministry. For truly, the Lord is preparing in His school of preparation, men who will stand forth declaring His message as did the prophets in days of old.

(This is a chapter excerpt from the book "Prophetic State" which at present is out of print.)

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