

Prophets in Mormonism – Part 10

by Marvin W. Cowan

Gospel Principles is a personal study guide and teacher's manual containing basic LDS beliefs. It has been reprinted many times by the Mormon Church.

In chapter nine, entitled "Prophets of God," they first quote the Bible: "Surely the Lord God will do *nothing*, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets (Amos 3:7)." It then asks, "What Is a Prophet?" LDS answers are on pages 47-49:

A prophet is a man called by God to be his representative on earth. When a prophet speaks for God, it is as if God were speaking...He receives revelations and directions from the Lord for our benefit. He may see into the future and foretell coming events so that the world may be warned...He may be young or old, highly educated or unschooled...What then identifies a true prophet? A true prophet is *always* chosen by God and *called through proper priesthood authority*. Latter-day Saints sustain [confirm by voting to support] the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as prophets. However, when we speak of "the prophet of the Church," we mean the President of the Church, who is President of the high priesthood... We should do those things the prophets tell us to do. President Wilford Woodruff [4th LDS Prophet] said that a prophet will never be allowed to lead the (LDS) Church astray: "*I say to Israel, the Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as President of this Church to lead you astray. It is not in the program. It is not in the mind of God. If I were to attempt that the Lord would remove me out of my place, and so he will any other man who attempts to lead the children of men astray from the oracles of God and from their duty.*"

This statement by Woodruff is also found under Official Declaration-1 in the *Doctrine & Covenants* which gives it LDS scriptural authority.

Mormons use Amos 3:7 to teach that prophets are necessary today because God reveals *all* He is going to do through them. But is that what Amos said? All of Amos chapter 3 is about God's judgment upon Israel for their sin. The word "*nothing*" in verse 7 specifically refers to that "judgment." Amos simply said God would *not* send judgment upon Israel without warning them first, and He didn't.

But God never revealed all of His secrets to true prophets in the past *nor* has he revealed them to LDS "Prophets." If Joseph Smith knew in advance that the Mormons would be driven out of Missouri why did he prophesy in *Doctrine & Covenants* 97:19 that Zion (in MO) would *not* be moved? And why did Prophet Spencer Kimball accept Mark Hoffman's *forgeries* as genuine when Jerald Tanner, an LDS apostate, was the first to see and declare they were forgeries? The LDS use of Amos 3:7 is as wrong as their unbiblical doctrines.

Gospel Principles said a prophet “may see into the future and foretell coming events so that the world may be warned,” which sounds good, but what LDS prophets did that? Joseph Smith was the only LDS prophet who *predicted* much about the future, but non-Mormons predicted some of what he “prophesied” before he did! And most of his other predictions were false. The first five LDS prophets after Smith predicted a few things but nearly all of them were false. The last nine LDS prophets haven’t prophesied future events, so they are *not* really “prophets.” Wilford Woodruff, the 4th LDS Prophet, said that neither he nor any other LDS Prophet would lead the Church astray and if they attempted to do so the Lord would remove them. Is that why Joseph Smith was “removed” (killed) at age 38? Woodruff’s statement has been added to LDS scripture in the *Doctrine & Covenants* so Mormons are expected to believe it is true. But consider what Brigham Young, the 2nd LDS Prophet said:

How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in regard to one particular doctrine which I revealed to them, and *which God revealed to me – namely that Adam is our father and God* – I do not know, I do not inquire, I care nothing about it. Our Father *Adam helped to make this earth*, it was created expressly for him, and after it was made he and his companions came here. He brought *one of his wives* with him, and she was called Eve, because she was the first woman upon the earth. (*Deseret News*, June 18, 1873)

By 1873 Brigham had been teaching this doctrine for over 20 years. The first time he taught it was on April 9, 1852 in which he said,

When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, *one of his wives* with him. He helped to make and organize this world. *He is Michael, the Archangel, the Ancient of Days!* about whom holy men have written and spoken—*He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do.* (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. I, p. 50)

But, Spencer Kimball the 12th LDS Prophet, in speaking about the *Adam-God doctrine* said, “We denounce that theory” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1976, p.77) and Mormons today reject it. So, did God reveal the Adam-God doctrine to Prophet Brigham Young or is it a false theory to be denounced as Prophet Kimball said? Both *cannot* be true, so one of them *is* leading Mormons astray! This is one of many examples of contradictions between Mormon Prophets. So, is it true that Mormon Prophets can’t lead Mormons astray?

The claim that an LDS prophet may be young or old is also misleading. The only *young* prophet the LDS Church has had was the founder, Joseph Smith. Since then the senior member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has always become the next prophet, which means he has to outlive the other 11 Apostles which makes him quite old when he becomes a “prophet.” While “a true prophet is always chosen by God,” there is no biblical basis for the LDS claim that they are “called through the proper priesthood authority.” Some biblical prophets had connections to the Levitical Priesthood, but most of them did not. No biblical prophet ever served as President of a church or priesthood, nor was any “sustained” as prophet by a church vote like Mormon Prophets are.

To read more about LDS Prophets see *Gospel Principles*, published by the LDS Church. We will continue our discussion of Prophets in Mormonism next time.

1APCowan0607 Mormon Prophets Part 10