



## *Is There a Prophet of God Here?*

*by Gene Easley*

*"And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we may inquire of him?" (1 Kings 22:7).*

We are living in a time when the voice of the prophet has been almost totally silenced. It has been crowded out of the modern church. There are too many things the members of the church want to do that the true prophet must oppose. Therefore, his office has been all but eliminated from the modern church.

If we had prophets in our congregations, they would fearlessly speak out against many of our current day activities. A true prophet would forcefully denounce the so-called fine arts departments that have arisen in our churches and which are presented as ministry. Today's Christian youth are being led to believe that dramas and dance routines are acceptable substitutes for the Holy Spirit and the anointed ministry of the Word. A true prophet would have to remind our church leadership that God's way of spreading the Gospel is given us in the Book of Acts and throughout the New Testament. Jesus insisted that His followers be filled with the Holy Spirit and that they preach the Word.

Down through the ages, true prophets have never been the most popular of God's servants. They have often been the object of someone's wrath. Ahab, the king of Israel, wanted to kill Elijah. The king of Syria sent his army to kill Elisha. King Herod took the head of John the Baptist. So, it probably should not be surprising if we have trouble finding prophets in our churches. Most of us want to be liked, admired and well-spoken of. You won't find many willing to take the abuse shown to this very special of servants, the prophet.

The true prophet, by the very nature of his office, is not allowed to be popular with the masses. His presence brings an uncomfortable chill when he enters a room of revelers. He can even make a half-hearted pastor squirm when he graces that man's congregation with his presence. He makes congregations nervous because they don't wish to be reminded of their sins or lack of dedication.

But one thing for sure is that there is no lack of false prophets. They are plaguing the church with unbiblical teachings and unholy living. Many of these false prophets have become driven by greed and a desire for self-exaltation. Money prospects and power-hungry individuals feed on the modern church. The very word "prophet" to many today automatically means "false prophet." The false prophet's rise to fame probably has been hastened and assisted in part because the church has slaughtered the true prophet or pushed him out the door.

The absence of the true prophet has thus permitted many unbiblical things to enter the church that are not only not edifying but hinder the work of the Holy Spirit. When Jehoshaphat asked Ahab, the king of Israel, to look for a true prophet of the Lord, it was because he realized the false prophets were all proclaiming the blessings of God upon a people who were living in sin and worshipping Baal. The true prophet would have denounced sin anywhere he found it.

Today, most modern denominations have completely banished the voice of the prophet from their churches. The prophet's voice is not welcomed and his office and ministry are no longer recognized. The problem with the true prophet is that he sees too much, he knows too much, and he says too much. So he is unable to sync with the modern church program.

But that is not to say that the work of the prophet is no longer needed. We still need the prophet to bring us a word from God, to bring us a message that will help us separate ourselves from the spirit of this world. We need a prophet who will warn us of the wrath to come and let us know that life is not just one big party. Judgment is coming, and the church still needs to hear the warning. We need to take a stand and make sure that the doors of the church are again open to the prophet of God!