

2. How God revealed Himself through the prophets

This is a very vital part of prophetic study since the core of the matter is not an unveiling of things but of God, Himself. That, incidentally, is what we must know: God, not just things or propositions about things. We study the prophetic literature to know more about God, His ways, His person, His dealings, His attributes, etc. Those who study the subject merely for a better understanding of things that happen in the world about us really miss the heart of the revelation. What we are supposed to know and love is the Lord and the prophetic words help us immeasurably in this understanding.

The self-revelatory passages are all of great interest to us and we will have to mention, first of all, but very briefly:

---revelation before the Law

---revelation in the law

---revelation following the law through the time of Judges.

With that accomplished we may look at some of the more interesting prophetic revelation:

- a. Samuel...1 Samuel 3, a God who controls
- b. Nathan...2 Samuel 12, a God who knows
- c. Elijah...1 Kings 17, a God who orchestrates the universe
- d. Jeremiah...Jeremiah 1, a God who appoints and uses His servants to achieve His ends.

I will elaborate on these and the biblical portions for a bit. Prophecy, however, is the written record of truth and we need to be concerned with the giver of truth as well as what is given. What I learn about God will establish and settle my life. What I learn about individual situations and assessments will be good for the immediate time and may have lessons beyond it but will not have the same degree of application and usefulness.

3. The Purposes in Prophecy

Our concern is to make sure that we understand why prophecy is (was) given in addition to the foregoing notes. Remember that prophecy has a declarative side (forthtelling) and a predictive side (foretelling). Some of the purposes are the same...some differ:

All prophecy purposes: to show the reality of God's control and care
to direct His people to holy lives
to inform of God's will

Declarative prophecy concentrates on:
informing of proper action at proper time
assessing rebuke and correction
stimulating obedience