

Q24. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?
A24. **Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.**

Scripture References: John 1:1, 4, 18, 14:26, 15:15, 16:13, 20:31; Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15

DQ1: Why does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

DQ2: What is the will of God that Christ desires to reveal to us?

DQ3: By what does Christ reveal the will of God?

DQ4: How are Jesus and the Word of God related?

DQ5: How are the Word of God and the Bible related?

DQ6: How are the Word of God and the Holy Spirit related?

DQ7: What is the most important duty of a prophet?

Notes:

Christ (Messiah) is the last prophet to come among all the prophets and came to not only to complete what other previous prophets could not accomplish but to fulfill various prophecies of the previous prophets. (Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Ephesians 2:20: "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone," Colossians 2:3: "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.") Christ did not as one of the prophets but as the one that would perfect what was not perfected. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." (Matthew 5:17)

God spoke through countless number of the Old Testament prophets. When they spoke properly, they were uttering the words of God. They did not speak from their own authority but from the authority of God. Christ was different in this regard. Christ is God and the Word. He came as the Word. He spoke certainly from the authority of the Father but also from His own authority. This clearly sets Christ apart from the rest of the OT prophets.

Christ, like so many other OT prophets, executed His office of a prophet in declaring the will of God to redeem sinners. No prophet was free to speak from his own mind. Each prophet was under the duty to speak and declare the will of the One who sent him.

The will of God is revealed by (1) the Word that proceeds from the mouth of God and (2) His Spirit that impresses upon the heart of each man God's Word. The essence of God's will speak to the restoration of the relationship between God and man, i.e., the redemption of sinful man. Redemption of sinful man is important to God because it reveals the foundational love of God. God created man to love him and made it a priority to restore the original love relationship. It is

for this reason that Christ came to this earth. It is for the purpose of delivering the greatest love message of God that Christ was sent to us.

It is the Spirit of God that applies the Word of God in such a way that we can respond to God. We call the Spirit of God an enabling Spirit. Without the Spirit of God that enables us, we cannot understand and respond to God.

Christ and the Word certainly cannot be separated. Christ came as “Logos” and sufficiently revealed Himself every powerfully through His power, particularly the power of His Word. He was authoritative in everything that He did and said. Many acknowledge the authority of Christ. (“Because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” Matthew 7:29; Mark 1:22)

The Word ministry of Christ is very well documented in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). A powerful example of His Word is recorded in Mathew chapters 5-8, otherwise known as the “Beatitudes.” When Christ opened His mouth and spoke, people experienced His power in His declaration of the Word of God and healing of countless number of the sick, lame and blind. Christ raised the dead. Christ instructed and governed the nature with His powerful Word.

The power of Christ’s word is quite reminiscent of the time when God powerfully uttered His word to create and establish the universe. Nonetheless, Christ was singularly focused on reveal God and His Kingdom and to redeem God’s chosen people.

The Bible is the Word of God. Simply, the Bible is the written form of the Word of God. We call the Word a revelation of God because the Word reveals God and His desires. Whenever the prophets uttered honestly and accurately, their utterance was the very revelation of God. God revealed Himself in various ways. The Bible is known as “special revelation” and, along with the Incarnate Christ, another special revelation, the Bible constitutes the most significant special revelation of God.

There are no more prophets after Christ since Christ was the last Prophet who came to perfect all others. There is no other special revelation beyond the completion of the Bible. There is nothing more to be added to the Word of God. God has sufficiently reveal Himself and spoken to man. One must very clearly understand the distinction between “general revelation” and “special revelation.” We have already studied this in the beginning of our studies. God’s general revelation continues to unfold from the time of Creation to the return of Christ. God’s special revelation is complete with the Word of God.

This truth is critical for us to accept and understand. When one does not accept the completion of the special revelation, i.e., the completion of the Bible with canonization of the Bible, false teaching, misleading religions and cults will abound. Roman Catholics still claim that the Pope is a successor in the line of Apostle Peter and claims what is known as the “apostolic” authority. They claim that, based upon the apostolic authority, the Pope has the power to speak on behalf of God. Therefore, what the Pope utters is considered the Word of God, continuing to augment the Bible which is complete. This gives the Pope a license to “interpret” the Bible even if original message and character of the Bible is altered. It tells us that the Pope is above the Bible. It also suggests to us that Christ could possibly not have completely executed His office of a prophet.

You see how misleading it can become when we depart from the teaching of the completion of the Bible.

One of the most significant common elements of cults like the Mormons, the Seventh Day Adventists, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unification Church, etc. is that they do not accept the completion of the Bible as the special revelation. Therefore, they are free to add to the canon whatever they please. All are willing to say that the Bible is a Word of God but it is an incomplete Word of God. They call claim Christ as a great prophet but not as the last and perfect Prophet. The misguided teachings point out the short-comings of Christ. Therefore, the true church of Christ must not acknowledge or accept their claim. These false claims all have their origin in the minds of evil man.

The Word and the Holy Spirit also cannot be separated. The work of the Word is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works where the Word is and the Word is applied by the Holy Spirit. "As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him." (1 John 2:27). Where the Word is, the Holy Spirit comes and teaches. Where there is no Word, the Holy Spirit will not come.

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20-21) The Bible is inspired of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way to know and understand the Bible. Therefore, the Word and the Holy Spirit cannot be separated.

The church must remain under the authority of the Bible. Apart from the Bible and its authority, there is no other way for the church to maintain the Truth. Christ came as the perfect and perfecting Prophet under whom the ministry of church must always remain. Christ is the head of the church. No one is above Christ. No one must be allowed to challenge the authority of Christ.