**Prophets**

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Excerpt from Arlen’s [The Study of Scripture](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#The Study of Scripture), [5) Ages and Dispensations](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#5)  Ages and Dispensations)

The reference to God’s “prophets” in two of the preceding verses ([Luke 1:70](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.70&t=NKJV); [Acts 3:21](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+3.21&t=NKJV)) should be understood in a somewhat broader sense than the word “prophet” is usually thought of today.  The word appears quite often (about 150 times in the New Testament) and is used as a title given to the person whom the Lord had chosen to communicate — “announce,” “declare” — His message to the people; and the message did not necessarily have to be prophetic per se for the title “prophet” to be used of the messenger.

This title is used referring to those chosen at different times to declare the will and purpose of God by/through either a written revelation or an oral expression.

It is used of individuals preceding the existence of the nation of Israel ([Jude 1:14](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.14&t=NKJV)), of individuals in Israel ([Matthew 23:37](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+23.37&t=NKJV); [Luke 24:27](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.27&t=NKJV)), of individuals in the first century Church prior to the completion of the canon of Scripture ([1 Corinthians 12:28](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+12.28&t=NKJV); [13:9-10](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+13.9-10&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 4:11](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.11&t=NKJV)), and of individuals in Israel once again yet future ([Joel 2:27-28](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.27-28&t=NKJV); [Revelation 11:3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.3&t=NKJV), [10](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.10&t=NKJV)).

In this respect, all of those chosen to write portions of the Word of God, beginning with Moses and ending with John, could be called “prophets.”  And others, such as Enoch or Noah who communicated the message of God in an oral manner to the people of their day — though they were not chosen to write particular sections of Scripture — could also be looked upon after this same fashion (cf. [2 Peter 2:5](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+2.5&t=NKJV); [Jude 1:14](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.14&t=NKJV)).  In fact, this word, in its strict Scriptural usage, could be used to refer to certain individuals all the way back to and including Adam himself.

(The first recorded statement by Adam, which concerned an existing relationship between himself and Eve, has far-reaching ramifications.  It has to do with “a great mystery” that God desires His people to know and understand, for it concerns an existing relationship between Christ and the Church.

The former forms the type and the latter the antitype, and this mystery can be seen in its correct proper perspective only by viewing both the type and antitype together [cf. [Genesis 2:23-24](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.23-24&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 5:21-32](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.21-32&t=NKJV)].)