

A PROPHET OF GOD

What is a prophet of God? Who does God chose to be a prophet? How do we know a prophet?

When God is looking for a prophet, who does he choose? Most likely it is someone who spends a lot of time with him. From man's perspective a prophet might look like a lonely individual or a recluse. From the divine perspective it is not isolation – it is a continual love feast to the Lord.

The first prophet recorded in the Bible was Enoch. The Bible says "**Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.**" (Gen.3:24) The picture here is a man in constant **communion with God**. Tradition tells us Enoch spent a lot of time cloistered away from the world. Yet, he wasn't lonely. We read in his prophecies he was given entrance to other worlds.

Another word we see in the Bible to describe God's relationship with his prophet is 'friend'. Speaking for the LORD Isaiah declared: "**Abraham: my friend**" (Isaiah 41:8). A Western person would not appreciate this concept. In the Western culture a friend is just a buddy, a guy, someone who tags along for the trip. In the Eastern culture a friend is a privileged position of intimacy and trust. An example of friendship in the Bible is David and Jonathon. When David killed Goliath it says "**the soul of Jonathon was knit to the soul of David and Jonathon loved him as his own soul**" (2 Sam 18:1) When Jonathon died bravely in battle, David declared "**I grieve for you Jonathon... you were very dear to me.**" (1 Sam 1:26). This is the depth of friendship we are talking about.

During his ministry on earth, God made it clear how special Jesus was to him. When Jesus rose up through the waters of baptism in the arms of John, a voice from heaven said "**This is my son, whom I love: with him I am well pleased.**" (Matt. 3:17)

The apostle John was the closest disciple to Jesus. At the last supper it is recorded John laid his head on Jesus as they reclined. They were so close John could whisper to Jesus in a crowded room and say "**Master, who is it?**" **The quality of such a friendship is there are no secrets.** Jesus replied "**It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish**" (John 13:25-26). No surprise then it was John that Jesus chose to reveal future events in the Book of Revelations.

We have this picture when the three visitors came to Abraham. "**The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day**" (Gen. 18:1). When he saw three men standing nearby he bowed low to the ground and said "**If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat that you may be refreshed and then go on your way**" (Gen.18:2-4) "**Then the Lord said 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?...The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great**

and their sin is so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as the outcry that has reached me.” (Gen. 18:9-10) **God does nothing without first revealing it to the prophets.**

To be God’s friend or prophet is **a special relationship** indeed. After the destruction of Sodom, Abraham moved to the desert of the Negev. Having seen the destruction of the Lord rain down on the five cities of the plain, Abraham likely wanted to put distance between himself and the place God hated. When he got to Gerar, the local ruler Abimelech sent for and took Sarah. God spoke to Abimelech in a dream: “**You are as good as a dead man** because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman”. Abimelech protested his innocence – he did not know she was married. God said “**Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die**” (Gen. 20:3-7). A prophet has **the power of forgiveness of sins for those who have sinned against him** – if he is willing to ask for it, God honors his prayers.

Jesus spent three and a half years with his disciples. They followed him and they served him in his ministry. They had been through the period of popularity of Jesus and they did not depart when the hard teachings of Jesus began to offend and many followers fell away (John 6:53-61). For that entire length of time, right up to the last supper, the disciples followed Jesus and even cast out demons in his name but in fact did not know him. At the final hour and only after the betrayer Judas had left the feast was Jesus ready to declare “**I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead I call you friends.**” The angels in heaven must have drawn their breath in awe. This was a huge promotion! Henceforth the twelve would no longer be disciples they would be apostles and prophets. Their names were now not merely written in heaven: their names were inscribed on the twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem! (Rev. 21:14)

It takes a while for some prophets to learn their master’s business. Moses was in a tight spot – Pharaoh was coming with his army and chariots to destroy the defenseless Israelites who were pinned up against the Red Sea with no boats to take them across. The Lord said “**Why do you cry out to Me? ... lift up your rod and stretch your hand over the sea and divide it**” (Exo. 14:15). **The Lord shares everything with the prophets – even his almighty power.**

Joshua was a prophet. Joshua walked in fellowship with the Lord and he walked in the power of his God. He did not wait for God for help. Joshua was attending to the business of his master – which at that moment was destroying the idolatrous Canaanites. In the midst of a great battle **Joshua commanded the sun to stand still**: “**Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon. So the Sun stood still, and the Moon stopped, till the people had revenge on their enemies...So the Sun stood still in the midst of heaven and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.**” (Joshua 10:12-14) How could Joshua be so bold? He was in the center of God’s will, fighting the battle God called him to fight. He was fully aware the LORD was in the

battle with him. At a critical point in the conflict Joshua realised to obtain a full victory he needed a miracle. Joshua called for a great miracle it in full faith that his ally in the heavenly battle had the power to supply it. As his friend, God did not hesitate to supply it.

Can a prophet fall out of favor with God? No. **Love is not retractable** (see Song of Songs 8:6-7). However, prophets are human, they can sin. Moses struck the rock twice in rage (Num. 20:11): God rebuked him and judged him for disobedience (Num. 20:12). God called David “**a man after his own heart**” (1 Sam 13:14). God used David to pen the Book of Psalms, Holy Scripture, but when David sinned he paid a hefty price (2 Sam 12).

Are there prophets today? What a silly question! Of course there are. To say there are no prophets today would be the same as saying God has no friends on earth who love him with all their soul. In New Testament days prophets were fairly common. Local churches were instructed that “**two or three prophets should speak and the others should weigh carefully what is said**” (1 Cor. 14:29). “**For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged**” (1 Cor. 14:31). What is the qualification required for a Christian to speak forth a prophecy in the church? “**If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.**”

What do prophets speak? John the Apostle, who was one who would know, summed it up like this: “**The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**” (Rev. 19:10). Anyone who claims to be a prophet of God that does not understand and proclaim the foremost importance of the person and work of Jesus Christ is a false prophet. Jesus was a prophet himself, but more than a prophet. Jesus Christ offered himself on the cross as a ransom for sins. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and is alive. God has exalted Jesus to his right hand and from there he is ruling in heaven. A prophet who does not understand his own sinfulness and unworthiness compared to the spotless Lamb of God and who does not bow down in adoration of Jesus is no prophet at all – he is deceived.

How do we know a false prophet? There are signs to look for. Like the serpent of the deep who churns up the sea like a boiling cauldron “**behind him he leaves a glistening wake**” (Job 41:32). The marks of false prophets: (1) They deny the Sovereign Lord (2 Peter 2:1); (2) They teach heresies which divide the church (2 Peter 2:2); (3) Their lives are shameful and bring the church into disrepute (2 Peter 2:2); (4) They are insatiably greedy for money (2 Peter 2:3); (5) They love parties and excessive lifestyles (2 Peter 2:13); (6) They grant a licence to live in the flesh - they do not teach godly restraint (2 Peter 2:18); (7) Their life is tangled up in worldly affairs and personal corruption from which they have no power to escape (2 Peter 2:20). Jude provides additional signs to look for: (8) they will only exercise their gift if someone pays them (“**Balaam’s error**” v.11); (9) they grumble and find fault with others – they have no grace (v.16); (10) they set themselves up as a great sight - but they have no fruit of the spirit in their lives and offer no shade (“**autumn trees**” v.12); (11) their focus is upon themselves – they feed no one (v.12); (12) they have no respect for elders or any leadership other than their own – they despise authority (v.8); (13) like thieves lusting

for the property of others their ultimate purpose is to attract followers for their own exaltation (“Korah’s rebellion” v.11).

Where can you find a prophet? Jehoshaphat once famously said “Is there not a prophet of the Lord here that we can inquire of?” (1 Kings 22:7). Where did God find them? Not in a conspicuous place. He found Moses in the backside of a desert. He found young David in the hills following sheep. Noah was a farmer. Amos was a shepherd but also took care of fig trees. Many of the prophets are so anonymous almost nothing is known of their origin or their demise, for example: Obadiah and Habakkuk. Elijah himself once despaired that there were no prophets in the land – and God retorted “I have reserved 7,000 for myself that have not bowed the knee to Baal.” The point is there are more than you think but they don’t seek the limelight.

How much fun is it to be a prophet? Prophets often find their message falls on deaf ears. Worse, overwhelming opposition may come to them for their loyalty to the truth. In the midst of rejection the prophet carries a great burden but also is empowered to carry it. “I am ridiculed all day long...the word of the Lord has brought me insult and reproach all day long...but...his word is in my heart like a burning fire, shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in – indeed I cannot.” (Jer. 20:7-9) For those who love the Lord it is quite a rude shock when the reaction to their revelations is vehement rejection from within the family of faith, from those who should consider carefully before reacting. Poor Joseph had no idea when he shared his dreams his brothers would throw him in a pit and debate in his hearing the best way to kill him. Isaiah was sawn in two for his faithful testimony. James was thrown off a high wall.

What is the prophet’s reward? Daniel was told “those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever.” (Dan. 12:3) Abraham was a prophet. God tried to explain to him how great his reward would be: “Do not be afraid Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward...He took him outside and said ‘Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.’ Then he said to him ‘So shall your offspring be’” (Genesis 15:1- 5). Paul tried to explain the reward of those who serve God. He too could only express the greatness and magnitude of the reward in terms of heavenly bodies: “The Sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and stars differ from stars in splendor. So it will be with the resurrection of the dead.” (1 Cor. 15:41-42)

Interestingly, the object in the sky which is the brightest point of light is the planet Venus.¹ The spiritual meaning of the planet Venus is “3rd Witness of God: The Prophets”.² Furthermore, in the Giza complex the second pyramid (Khafre) is proportional in volume to the first pyramid (Khufu) in an amount (85.7%) that is exactly the same as the proportion of the volume of Venus to the volume

¹ The Sun and the Moon are not points of light. Their width in the sky is measured in dozens of arc-seconds.

² Please see our paper on the planet Venus in section 7.0 STARS on the website www.biblenumbersforlife.com

of the Earth.³ We understand by this that the importance of the prophets (Khafre pyramid) in the esteem of God is extremely great, second only in magnitude to that for his son (Khufu pyramid).

How great will the reward of the prophets be? Just as Venus is the brightest 'star' in the heavens, the reward of the prophets at the resurrection will be the most brilliant reward of all. This is how our Master will reward his friends.

SELAH

Oh the depths and the riches of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out. (v.33)

Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counsellor? (v.34)

Who has ever given to God that God should repay him? (v.35)

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen. (v.36)

(Romans 11)

³ Please see our paper "The Giza Complex" in section 4.0 PROPHECY on our website.

GEMATRIA ANALYSIS

As an exercise we will examine verse 33 in the passage in Romans 11 above. The Greek words are composed of Greek letters. Each Greek letter has a numerical value and the numerical value of the Greek words is the sum of the value of the Greek letters. Using the spiritual meaning of Bible numbers we will see how the message in the numbers reinforces the message of the text.

We will first divide the verse into three parts:

“Oh!” Gematria (G) of 800

“the depths and the riches of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!” G = 11,880

“how unsearchable are his judgements and his ways past finding out” G = 6,663

The number 800 is equal to 100×8 which has the spiritual meaning “Holy Flock” (100) of “Believers” (8). So, “Oh!” has the meaning “Holy Flock of Believers!” The exclamation puts a point on this passage, as if to say ‘pay attention church of believers!’

The number 11,880 is equal to $2 \times 22 \times 27$ which has the spiritual meaning “Witness” (2) of the “Light” (22) of the “Holy Truth” (27). Is that not the role of a prophet? To bear witness of the light?

The number 6,663 is equal to 3×2221 [331st prime]. Since 331 is the 67th prime, we know the spiritual meaning of 67 is at the root of the meaning of 331, which in turn is at the root of the meaning of 2,221! So, the number 6,663 has the root meaning “Gentiles Praise God” (67) of “Truth” (3).

Placing these truths side by side now we can summarise the spiritual meaning of the verse as: “Church of Gentile Believers: pay attention to the prophets! Prophets: tell the truth to the church!”

Now we will divide the second part of the verse pertaining to prophets into its phrases:

First phrase:

“the depth” G = 282 which means “Truth” (3) of “Proud Humbled” (94)

“of the riches” G = 1,350 which means “Purification” (50) of “Holy Truth” (27)

“the depth of the riches” G = 1,632 which means “Praise” (51) of “Believers Fellowship” (32)

The spiritual message to believers is that the Purification of the Holy Truth, or correct teaching, is a chief means by which the Believer’s Fellowship offers Praise to God. A key truth to be preserved and upheld is the message the Proud will be Humbled. In other words, those who will not submit to and worship God will brought low.

Second phrase:

“the wisdom” G = 981 which means “Judgment” (9) of “Defender of the Poor” (109)

Continuing and expanding on the first phrase, the second phrase adds another key doctrine of the faith to be upheld in the Believer’s Fellowship, that God is a Defender of the Poor. He will give Judgement in favor of the Poor. In phrase one we see the Proud Humbled. In phrase two we see the ‘Poor in Spirit’ will be lifted up (Matt. 5:3)

Third phrase:

“knowledge” G = 2,058 which means “Deliverance” (14) of “God’s Possession” (147)

“of God” G = 484 which means “Message” (4) of “Watchful Protector” (121)

“knowledge of God” G = 2,542 which means “Family” (32) of “Throne of God” (82)

This third phrase is profoundly encouraging. On the one hand God promises to ‘deliver God’s possession’, in other words to continue to reveal new and deeper truths. This is in complete accord with the text word which is ‘knowledge’. In another sense, a prophet is God’s Possession, so God promises to deliver him from evil. This thought is expanded when we see the Message of the Watchful Protector. The prophet is the person whose chief role it is to declare and unveil truth to believers. God is promising that the prophet will be a well of living water that keeps overflowing with truth. God at the same time promises his watchful protection both of the truth published and the prophet who speaks it.

Putting those words together we see the meaning Family of the Throne of God. Here is a picture of access and intimacy of the prophet has to the immediate attention and response of God Almighty. Elijah could say with firm conviction “As sure as the LORD Almighty lives, before whom I stand...” (2 Kings 3:14)

Fourth Phrase:

“how unsearchable are his judgments” G = 3,924 [545th prime = 5 x 109] which means “Grace” (5) of the “Defender of the Poor” (109)

Yes, God is invisible. Yet by his Grace (5) he has made known his will to those ‘Poor of Spirit’ whom He Defends. The revelation of the truth by a prophet is indisputable proof he is a servant of God, for other than by God revealing his judgments, they would be unsearchable. Pharaoh acknowledged the living God when Joseph told him his dream (Gen. 41:37) and Nebuchadnezzar did the same when Daniel told him his dream (Dan. 2:47). Note that in both cases the prophets took steps to humble themselves before God, to make themselves poor, by fasting and prayer. God honors the humble in heart!

Fifth Phrase:

"past finding out are his ways" G = 2,703 which means "Praise" (51) of the "Faithful Witness" (53)

All truth that comes from God glorifies God. It is to the Praise of the Faithful Witness, the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, the Faithful Witness, the prophet, gives Praise to God for blessing him with the revelation of the truth. Jesus explained this when he described his ministry: **"The words I say to you are not my own. Rather it is the Father living in me doing his work"** (John 14:10). Jesus took what the Father gave him to speak. In the same fashion now the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to the prophets: **"the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things"** (John 14:25).

SUMMARY

We can arrange the truths presented in the gematria of verse 33 of chapter 11 of Romans in the form of a literary chiasm:

First Phrase	"Praise of the Believers Fellowship"
Second Phrase	"Judgement of the Defender of the Poor"
Third Phrase	"Family of the Throne of God"
Third Phrase	"Grace of the Defender of the Poor"
Fourth Phrase	"Praise of the Faithful Witness"

God in his infinite wisdom encrypted this message within verse 33 of chapter 11 of Romans: God has prophets to whom he reveals hidden truths. These prophets have an intimate relationship of trust with the Most High God. They gather around the throne of God much as children gather at the knees of their father. God protects his prophets and he watches over his word to perform it.

Significance of Verse, Chapter, and Book Location

Verse 33 has the spiritual meaning "Mystery" (11) of the "Truth" (3) or "Mystery" (11) of "God" (3). It also can be interpreted "God's" (3) "Hidden Ones" (11), i.e. prophets.

Chapter 11 has the spiritual meaning "Mystery" (11) or "Hidden Ones" (11).

Romans is the 45th book of the Bible. The number 45 equals 9 x 5 and has the spiritual meaning "Preservation", or "Judgment" (9) of "Grace" (5).

ADDENDUM

For reference, we present the raw data for the gematria calculations:

English Translation	Greek Infinitive	Strong's #	Greek Text	Gematria Value
O	ω	G5599	+ω	800
the depth	βαθος	G0899	βαθος	282
of the riches	πλουτος	G4149	πλουτου	1350
both	και	G2532	και	31
of the wisdom	σοφια	G4678	σοφιας	981
and	και	G2532	και	31
knowledge	γνωσις	G1108	γνωσεως	2058
of God!	θεος	G2316	θεου	484
how	ως	G5613	ως	1000
unsearchable	ανεξερευνητος	G0419	ανεξερευ	985
the			τα	301
judgments	κριμα	G2917	κριματα	472
of him	αυτος	G0846	αυτου	1171
and	και	G2532	και	31
past finding out	ανεξιχνιαστος	G0421	ανεξιχνια	1367
are			αι	11
ways	οδος	G3598	οδοι	154
of him	αυτος	G0846	αυτου	1171