

"Prophets & Worldviews"

The Ministry of the Prophets

October 5, 2025

INTRO ...The Prophets Weighty Phrase - **"Thus saith the Lord..."**

...It answers the abiding question that is "Lingering in the Air" at the scene of our lives ... **"What would God Say about 'this'?"**

"Spectacles' can mean one of two things. 'Spectacles' are eyeglasses that sharpen human vision, bringing clarity as we look through them. In this sense, worldviews are metaphorical spectacles by which we see the world. But that is not how I will use the word. For this project, 'spectacles' is confined to its second meaning: a moment of time, of varying length, in which collective gaze is fixed on some specific image, event, or moment. A spectacle is something that captures human attention, an instant when our eyes and brains focus and fixate on something projected at us. ...In an outrage society like ours, spectacles are often controversies—the latest scandal in sports, entertainment, or politics. A spark bellows, grows into a viral flame on social media, and ignites the visual feeds of millions. That's a spectacle. As the speed of media grows faster and faster, the most minuscule public slip of the tongue or passive aggressive celebrity comment or hypocritical political image can become a spectacle. ...Whether it's true, false, or fiction, a spectacle is the visible thing that holds together a collective gaze." **Tony Reinke**, "Competing Spectacles", p.14

...What any of us say or 'feel' about life moments, news items, culture trends—is revealing our "Worldview"

Jer 9:23-24 ...Jeremiah's take on the importance of "God's Word Being Our Source of Life"

NOTE: In its simplest analysis—this is a verse seeking to adjust one's BOASTING!

hālāl: A verb meaning to praise, to commend, to boast, to shine. The root meaning may be to shine but could also be to shout. The word most often means praise and is associated with the ministry of the Levites who praised God morning and evening (1 Chr. 23:30). All creation, however, is urged to join in (Ps. 148), and various instruments were used to increase the praise to God (150). The word hallelujah is a command to praise Yah (the Lord), derived from the word hālāl (CWSB Dictionary)

hālāl; to shine; hence, to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; causatively, to celebrate;

Ps 49:6 those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

...[**Context = a Heightened Moment of Human NEED**] **Jer 8:18-9:6, 12-14** v.18 ...There's is a day of "depression & grief" v.19 ...God's presence is not felt v.21-22 ...there are "wounds without healing" (no balm, no physician) v.3... "falsehood, evil proceeds to more evil" v.4... "suspicion & slander" v.6 ... "abuse & oppression" v. 12 ...amidst a ruined land, where is God's Word??

...There's is a "Moment in Search of an Explanation...and a FIX!"—WHAT WILL THEY LOOK TO? (ie, How Does Their "WORLDVIEW" Answer This Need?)

Jer 9:23-24 ...An Exhortation to Everyone

?? ...When You Encounter the "GRIEF" of the Human Condition—What Will You "BOAST" in? ...to what will you say "Hallelujah"!!! ...What will you HOPE in ...take COURAGE from ...find CONFIDENCE in ...RAVE about ...Raise Your Voice, Protest, & Clamor Over!!!

3 GO-TO's ... **"WISDOM"** - "smarts" = science, technology, enlightenment, academia, etc. ...**"MIGHT"** "force/power/control" = politics, government, policies, influence, following, etc. ...**"RICHES"** = wealth, status, security, resources, ability

Jer 23:1-5, 16-18, 21-22, 25-30 ...An Exhortation to Those Who Lead God's People (Priests & Prophets)

...These (priests & prophets) are people whose words are "associated" with God's words!

...v. 16 ... "vain hopes", "from their own minds not from the mouth of the Lord", "prosperity", "promoting the following of one's own heart"

...v. 27 ... "by their dreams, they contribute to people "forgetting my name for Baal"

...v. 28 ...You got some 'message' or 'dream' or 'product' or 'cause' ...Ok. There's certainly a proper place for that.
...BUT these things must NOT sit in the "Boasting Category" (ie, the "hope" category, the "confidence" category, the "defining cause" category!

- **4 Modern Movements that May have Blurred/Crossed This Line** (The civil rights movement; the Christian conservative movement; the Positivity Movement (Faith & prosperity); the Therapeutic Movement)

- All of these engage a "moment"/"experience" of human need (real need, real vulnerability, real tragedy, real suffering, real neglect, real fallen-world experience) ...the "storyline" and the experiences of human society (and us as individuals) are Real Need!

...But HERE is the Danger in the Moment of Seeing "REAL NEED" in our World—Whether we make OUR Story PRIMARY ...or GOD's Story PRIMARY!!!

- The "Bible's Story" (ie, Biblical Theology) has these 4 Headings: **Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration**
- **When I go to Engage, Understand, Consider or "Fix" the "needs" I come across in our world ...Which "Story" gets FEATURED?**

** Here's the 'rub' in speaking about these 4 modern movements ...they are all describing REAL needs, real pain, real hurt, real suffering! ...It feels right to focus on them—and it feels a little 'not-right' for anyone to NOT elevate these societal needs!

Our "Life-Building-Project"

Matt 7:24-27 ²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” ²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

...**There's NEED in this story!** ...There's human pain, tragedy, and suffering in this story!—v. 25, 27 ..."rain, floods, winds will beat on our lives" ...That's REAL!!

-- **BUT... this is a parable about HOW To Build Your LIFE—in the midst of these "Fallen World Forces"!!** ...Jesus (The Creator) is About to Give Us BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS!

>> Here's What's at the HEART of This Building Project—v. 24, 26 ...**"These words of mine"**

...**Don't Miss the Biblical Insight in this passage—**

- There's More than One way to Build Your Life (house)!

- There are "ideas" that have "AUTHORITY"—because they come from God! ...**THESE, you have to "Dig For"!!**
- There's lots of "Surface-Sand-Ideas" that **sit at the surface** for you to interact with!

Remember, Christianity is NOT for "Random, Non-thinking, Lazy-minded, Google-Searching, Ai-Answering, Spiritual-Kindergarteners!!!

Matt 11:25-30 ²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

..."Hidden" (ie, NOT easily seen on the surface, like sand!) ...things that must be "Divinely REVEALED" (this is more than mere "intellectual discovery")

1 Cor 2:6-10 ⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

...**1 Cor 1:23-24** "but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

1 Cor 1:30-31 "And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." ...There's that "Boasting Again"!!

Life is a Building Project ...I'm going to Build My Life on My "WORLDVIEW" (the Big Ideas that I "Boast" in) ...Is my worldview made of shifting sand or is it built on hidden rock?

LCC's 2025 Agenda – The Ministry of the Word

- **2025 Pulpit - Learning to see, to think, and to interpret life through the Biblical Lens of God's Big Purpose**

[Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration]

"When you learn a new language, you don't start at the beginning of the dictionary. You start with common objects and frequently used phrases. You start with the basics and then build on them. ...So Let me give you the backbone—the plot line—of the Christian Story. ...Our story starts with God. He created everything from nothing, including the most valuable thing in all creation: man. But something went terribly wrong and human beings got themselves into a lot of trouble. So God initiated a rescue plan. He entered the world that he created by becoming a human being, just like us--the man named Jesus. To rescue us from our problem, Jesus did something utterly unique that culminated on a cross. How people respond to what he did will determine what will happen to them at the final event of history, the

resurrection. ...Notice, you have all the parts of a good story: beginning, conflict, conflict resolution, ending. You also have all the pieces of a complete worldview: creation, fall, redemption, restoration." **Greg Koukl**, "The Story of Reality", p. 38

- Worldview Course [S.O.W – Oct 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30]- ***Learning to Discern ...meetings focused on protecting the church from the "sand-doctrines" of this age and on equipping the church to converse and engage the culture we are called to.***

Eph 4:11-12, 14-15 ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, ... ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Matt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

...Learn MY Perspective, Wisdom, and Insight ...Learn "thus saith the Lord" about things like... Human Nature ...Inner Goodness & Potential ...Self-Identity & Self-Definition ...Happiness & Fulfillment ...Woke ...LGBTQ+ ...D.E.I. ...Toxic Masculinity ...Feminism ...Transgenderism ...Same-sex Marriage ...Conservative/Liberal ...Democracy/Socialism/Capitalism ...the Environment

Each Session: We'll take time to "Dig Through SAND" ...then to "Find Rock"

- We'll Discern & Protect the Truth
- We'll Equip the Church to Converse on These issues
- We'll Collect & Do Q&A

#1 Self-Understanding (Defining ourselves)

#2 Societal Understanding (Relating to Others)

#3 Authority (Who says so?)