

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 10:40 “He who receives you receives Me,

- They are being sent out by Him with a message on their 1st missionary tour.
 - They will be representing the Lord to the nation Israel.
- **He who receives** – **δέχομαι** – **DECHOMAI** –
- *To welcome; to accept*
 - *To receive with open arms*

Those who welcome the ones sent by the Lord, welcome the Lord.

The message belongs to the Lord – not the communicator!

Keep your eyes on the message then you will be enamored with the Lord not the man communicating it.

... and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

- Not only does someone welcome the Lord when they accept the disciples and the message, they are welcoming the One who sent the Lord - God the Father.

POD: If you welcome someone the Lord has sent and His message, you welcome the Lord Himself.

POD: Rejecting someone the Lord has sent with a message is tantamount to rejecting the Lord.

The believer does not need to worry about being rejected in sharing the Gospel!

It's not you they are rejecting; it's the Lord and His message.

⁴¹ “He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward;

- **Prophet** – **προφήτης** – **PROPHETES** – “*Prophet*”
- The Lord is using the word **προφήτης** in reference to the disciples because they are being sent on this missionary journey with God's message.
 - A prophet in this context is a man sent by God with a message from God; a more comprehensive use of the word in this context.

Matt. 10:7 “And as you go, preach [**κηρύσσετε**], saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” “

Matt. 10:27 “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.”

- The disciples were sent out by the Lord with a message for Israel not for the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the way of the Gentiles*, and do not enter *any city of the Samaritans*; ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

- Why was the message restricted to the nation Israel?

- God did not enter into a covenant with the Gentiles at Mt Zion.
- God did not promise the Gentiles a kingdom that the descendant of David would rule.
- God made His promise or covenant to Israel.

Exodus 24:7-11 Then he [Moses] took the book of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”

- Israel enters into a legally binding contract with God.
- If either party should break that contract the penalty is death because it was bound by blood.

⁸ So Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

- Israel and the Lord signed on the dotted line!
- Israel and the Lord are bound to the covenant, NOT the Church.

⁹ Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet. . .

- They saw Him – the God of Israel.
- **John 1:18** No one has seen God [*the Father*] at any time.
- **John 6:46** No one has seen the Father, except the One who is from God, He has seen the Father.
- Moses and the elders saw the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ; the eternal Son of God.
- They saw the 2nd person of the trinity; the revealed member of the Godhead.

. . . there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and they ate and drank.”

They had a banquet with the Lord!

Matthew 10:41-42 “He who receives a prophet [*someone sent by God with a message*] in *the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward*;

Prophet in this context is a communicator of God’s Word.

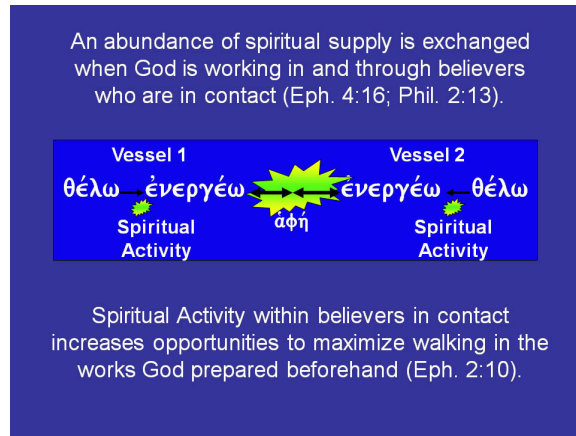
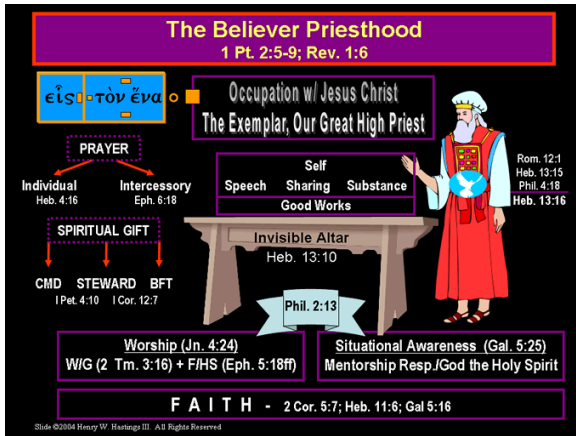
- Receiving a prophet in the name of a prophet means to accept the messenger and the message having their origin in the Lord.
- Welcoming the communicator of God’s infallible Word as a man of God *with open arms*.
- This includes accepting the Pastor-Teacher who the Lord sends them.
- It can also apply to the evangelist or any member of the body of Christ that God is working in to function as an ambassador for Christ.

Caveat - The Lord must have truly sent them and the message must be of the Lord!

... and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward."

- A righteous man is a squared away fellow believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who is positive to the Word of God.
- Please observe there are rewards available for seizing in accepting believers with open arms.

The prophet's reward and the righteous man's reward are rewards given in eternity for faithfully executing your responsibilities as a believer priest.



- Spiritual Gifts
 - The righteous man's spiritual gift is functioning.
 - As you come into contact with Him, there is a spiritual supply that is supplied.
 - If you reject that man, you inadvertently tell the Lord, "I don't want what you have to offer."

POD: Eternal rewards are seized for taking care of the Pastor-teacher God has provided for you.

POD: Eternal rewards are seized for taking care of fellow believers.

⁴² "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

POD: Eternal rewards can be seized by hosting soirees and exuding hospitality to fellow believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

POD: Spiritual initiative must flourish in the flock for a church to effectively function.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.