

THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

11 - Restoring the Soul



Glen Gerhauser | Church on the Park | Sunday, 23 April 2023

My Plan

Inspiration Translation by Glen Gerhauser

Jeremiah 29:11-14a



"Yes, I know the intricate plans I've woven for you," whispers Yahweh. "Intricate plans for shalom - peace, wholeness and security - not for pain, heartache and sorrow. It's my plan to give you a bright future and vivid hope."

"You will call on me, walk in my way and fervently pray to me. Then I will hear you. You will seek and find me when you pursue me with your whole heart. Yes, I will let myself be found by you," whispers Yahweh. "Moreover, I will restore to you the life I planned..."






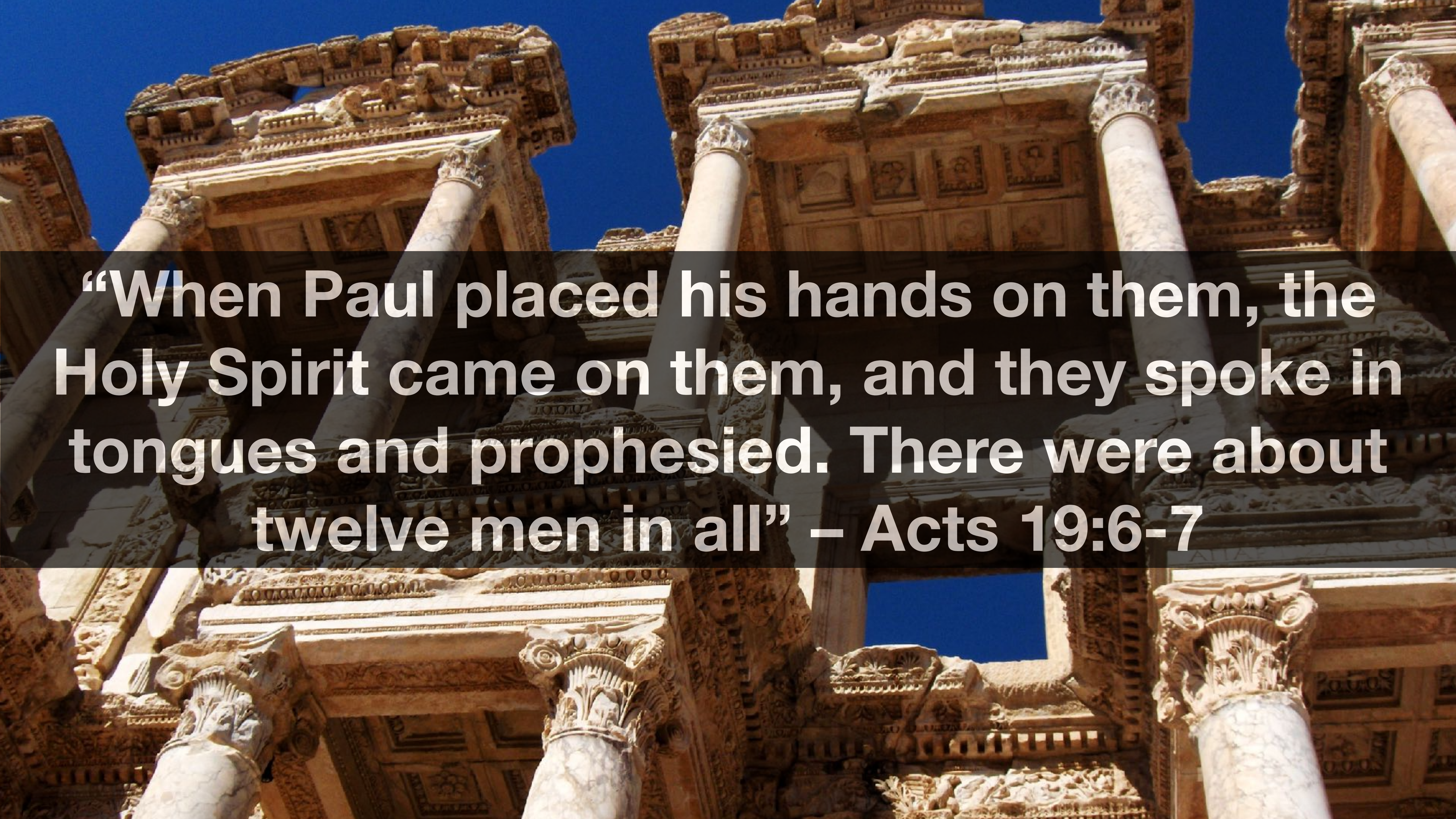
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A glowing lantern sits on a sandy surface at night. The lantern is lit, casting a warm, golden light. The background is a dark, blurred landscape under a night sky. The text is overlaid on a white horizontal band across the middle of the image.

Today we'll talk about the power and purpose of prophecy. Specifically, we'll explore why prophesying brings restoration.



“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all” – Acts 19:6-7

The background of the image shows several tall, weathered stone columns standing on a rocky, grassy hillside. In the distance, a range of mountains with snow-capped peaks is visible under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with low-lying green plants and yellow wildflowers.

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy...the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.” – 1 Corinthians 14:1, 3

WHY PROPHECY?

The Bible is filled with prophecy and encourages us to prophesy. Here are a few reasons prophecy is powerful and needed today.



PROPHECY IS SPEAKING GOD'S WORD IN REALTIME

What is prophecy? It's not about predictions. Instead, prophecy is speaking God's Word with authority to the present situation. The classic form of prophecy is God speaking in the first person (I) through someone, but it also can come in many different forms, like parables, songs and poetry (Isa. 11-3; 1 Cor. 14:1-3).



PROPHECY RELEASES LIFE

In Ezekiel 37, the Lord led Ezekiel to a valley of dry bones - death surrounded him. What was God's solution? 'Prophecy over these bones' (v. 4). When Ezekiel prophesied, the bones came together, and life entered them. Ultimately, the bones became a mighty army (Eze. 37:1-14).



PROPHECY REVEALS GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

We see things through our eyes, our perspective. What seems successful and influential may not look good in God's eyes. Prophecy reveals God's heart. It gives his thoughts and views on the matter. Prophecy is a pathway to intimacy with God (Jer. 29:4-14; 1 Cor. 14:23-25).



PROPHECY BUILDS UP

Paul teaches us that prophecy strengthens, encourages and comforts. When spoken from a heart of love, prophecy builds us up. Through prophecy, God's house, which is his people, strengthens and fortifies (1 Cor. 14:3-4).



PROPHECY MAKES JESUS KNOWN

The book of Revelation says, 'For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy' (Rev. 19:10, NASB). The whole purpose of prophecy is to reveal Jesus. You'll find that all the prophets of the Old Testament pointed to Jesus. And New Testament prophecy, like the book of Revelation, is all about Jesus' glory (Rev. 1:12-20).



PROPHECY IS GOOD BUT MUST BE TESTED

Not all prophecy is genuine, so it needs to be judged according to Scripture (1 Cor. 14:29-33). We need to discern if it's gold or fool's gold. There are false prophets, yet not everybody who gets a prophetic word wrong is an imposter. Sometimes they're just growing. So let's extend grace to good people growing in their gift (1 Thes. 5:19-24).

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Created by Glen Gerhauser
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The Chief Shepherd restores our souls with his Word spoken through his people. As you listen to Jesus and let the Spirit speak through you, you become part of God's work of restoring his people into a mighty army.

