

# The Amazing Rewards of the Apostle and Prophet

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*Reward: a thing given in recognition of one's service, effort, or achievement; something given in exchange for good behavior or good work, etc. A reward is something given in exchange for a righteous action. A reward is something paid to a person for the return of something.*



John 10:10 is perfectly clear—Jesus came to give us *abundant life*. In fact, the Amplified Bible specifically says:

**I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].**

The Passion Translation concurs:

**I have come to *give you everything in abundance, more than you expect*—life in its fullness until you overflow!**

Jesus has given us this abundant life through His finished work—His sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection. His finished work flows through His Word and His Word flows through His Kingdom. Jesus is the Anointed One—the Messiah-Christ. He is the Word that became flesh—He is the Word in print! He is the King of God's Kingdom of which every Believer is to belong, live and thrive.

Believe it or not, many in the Church today relegate the Kingdom of God to the Millennial Reign after Jesus' Second Coming. This is a time when Jesus will physically reign upon the earth. They believe that until then, we are to suffer through; but that line of belief does not concur with John 10:10. However, the Church—His Body— is supposed to be living in and according to His finished work NOW—according to the Word of God NOW—according to the Kingdom NOW! This doesn't mean everything will be perfect for us because we have an adversary who believes we belong to him and his kingdom and he's going to fight for both. Nevertheless, the truth stands: there is abundant life for those IN HIM.

Jesus Himself came preaching and teaching the Kingdom. Within His Kingdom are His gifts of the 5-fold Ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors (see Ephesians 4:7-16). Again, these 5-fold ministries are GIFTS from Jesus Christ Himself given to us just before He ascended to Heaven. He gave these important gifts as an expression of Himself to represent the fullness/completeness of Himself within His Body which would then express them openly to the world. Without these 5-fold ministries in place, the Church cannot experience the fullness or completeness of Christ nor will they be equipped properly for the powerful work of the ministry. And unfortunately, the Church has proved this out over and over. The Church cannot be blessed as Christ meant for it to be blessed with abundant life without the entire 5-fold ministry in place and operating, especially the *apostle and prophet*.

Don't think for a minute that the devil doesn't know this. He made sure that the apostle and prophet would be the most attacked, persecuted, ignored and rejected ministries of all the 5-Fold. Why?

Because of the power and authority of the apostle and prophet to help the Body connect to the finished work of Christ, the Word of God and the King and His Kingdom. The roles of apostle and prophet are so important to an abundant life that there is issued a great blessing and reward—both personally and corporately—for those *receiving* the two gifts. In other words, with the apostle and prophet in place we are not only properly and powerfully equipped, but we enjoy the fullness of Christ operating, and we get a reward to boot! Satan does not want the Body of Christ to know all this, but we are to be wise to his tactics and strategies against us.

## The Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets

As part of Christ's Kingdom, *His Church exists*—aka His Body—of whom He is the Head and King. Jesus established His Church on the *foundation of the apostles and prophets*. This is a governmental Kingdom principle.

Ephesians 2:20 TPT—

***You are rising like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple; and your lives are being built up together upon the ideal foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, and best of all, you are connected to the Head Cornerstone of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ himself!***

This is the ideal Kingdom foundation! Through their anointings operating, the foundational apostles and prophets are those that have in the past and those who will continue to enable or help connect and fit the stones (or the Body) perfectly to the *Chief Cornerstone*, the King and Anointed One Jesus Christ Himself! This is the reason for . . .

1 Corinthians 12:28—

**And God has appointed in the church, FIRST apostles, SECOND prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.**

Apostles and prophets are first because they are the foundation—not because they are the greatest, but because they are the concrete (strength and level surface) that holds up the entire building. The purpose of a building foundation is to hold up and hold together the structure above it. The entire structure rests on the foundation. This is exactly what the apostle and prophet are for. And notice that the foundation is on the bottom! It's not the shining feature of a building. For instance, if you built a new house, you wouldn't bring family and friends over to see your new foundation! For the apostle and prophet this is a very humbling place and one that doesn't often get noticed. It's not often a shining feature of ministry, but it's the strongest.

We might say that for the last 2,000 years the Church has only had the lop-sided 3-Fold Ministry operating and with no correct foundation as well! No wonder it's been falling apart!

I believe one of the reasons the Church has not walked in the blessing and abundance Christ came to give us is because we have *not* been fully in or functioning under the Kingdom and its government. It is impossible to be IN the Kingdom (government and rule) of God and NOT have the apostle and prophet functioning. And without the apostle and prophet functioning, it's impossible to live the abundant life Christ came to give us.

Now, just for clarity, I realize that many may or do have the apostle or prophet functioning in their church or midst, but they simply avoid the titles. *But why?* Why can we use the titles of evangelist or pastor, but it's a no-no or somehow prideful to use the title of apostle or prophet?

A title is simply a means of identification. When I was in the medical field we wore name badges on our lab coats with both our name and occupation. The doctors did so as well. Our patients did not have to wonder who the doctors were, who the nurses were or who the technicians were. These badges were not there to be a feather in our caps; they simply alerted people to our roles. When I go into a store and need help finding a product, I look for a person who works there—who has some kind of identification.

We are to receive the apostle and prophet in order to receive the reward of the apostle and prophet. But, how can we receive these gifts if they are *obscure*?

Perhaps this is one reason so many are unfamiliar, unaware or unknowledgeable of the apostle's and prophet's rewards.

*The apostle and prophet rewards are ours for today—they are not rewards given to us when we get to Heaven—they're for NOW! And, they personally and profoundly affect us each one! Did you know that?*

If you have ever read the Book of Matthew you are most likely aware of the Scripture where Jesus spoke of the *prophet's reward*, but I believe most have looked directly past the *apostle's reward* that He also spoke of in the very same chapter.

Matthew 10 seems to be very much a Kingdom-governmental passage which contains great blessing for the Believer who believes in and adheres to the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit is pouring out in this Hour more and more revelation on the Kingdom and He is pouring out this revelation to and through His prophets and apostles—and He's giving out rewards to those who will receive these gifts. Wow! Who does that? Who gives you a gift and then, in addition, a reward if you actually take or receive the gift?

Many adults would be skeptical, but I know my grandchildren would take both without even questioning it! And they would jump up and down with glee while they were receiving! Perhaps this is another reason why the LORD requires us to come to Him as children!

The Body is to have and receive the *gifts* of the apostle and prophet that we will be properly equipped, walk in the fullness and in the power of Christ, personally and corporately. We are to receive the apostle's and prophet's *rewards* that we will be BLESSED with abundant life!

## The Apostle's Reward

While the Apostle's Reward is not specifically mentioned in Scripture as is the Prophet's Reward. it is specifically evident and well-defined in Scripture.

**Matthew 10:1-4—Jesus summoned His twelve DISCIPLES and gave them *authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.***

**<sup>2</sup> Now the names of the twelve APOSTLES are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.**

Notice that Matthew 10 verse 1 tells us Jesus summoned His twelve *disciples*. In verse 2 He now refers to the disciples as *APOSTLES*. So, we are now looking at the twelve as apostles.

Jesus sends out these twelve apostles, which is exactly what the term *apostle* first means—*one who is sent off as in a mission; a messenger; one commissioned by another to represent him in some way, especially a man or woman sent out by Jesus Christ Himself to preach the Gospel. To commission, send forth—focusing back on the authority (commissioning) of the sender.*<sup>1</sup>

What Jesus commissions and gives them authority (His authority) to do comes next:

Matthew 10:5-8 emphasis added—**These twelve [apostles] Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.**

There are two terms important to establish apostleship here: 1) Sent out; and 2) Instructing them.

The term, *sent out* or also, *sent forth*, comes from the Greek word, *apostelló*, and as we can see, it is intimately connected to the same Greek word for apostle. *Apostelló* means *commission; sent on a defined mission by a superior*. In other words, it refers to the commissioning of an apostle.<sup>2</sup> Commission means *commanded or officially charged*. So these were Jesus’ genuine apostles, commissioned, commanded, officially charged by Him—regardless of who they were, where they were from, their age, and their glaring weaknesses.

The term, *instructing them*, is not speaking of a teaching experience. It comes from the Greek word, *paraggelló*, meaning *to transmit a message, to order; to charge, give a command that is fully authorized because it has gone through all the proper (necessary) channels.*<sup>3</sup>

Again, by Jesus using both of these terms, He is not only recognizing these twelve in their new position of ministry, but He is reinforcing His authority to do so.

Continuing, Jesus instructs (charges, commands, officially orders) these apostles that as they go, to, “PREACH, saying, ‘THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.’” In other words, the Kingdom is near or *here—now!* So, did the Kingdom disappear after Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection?

NO! In fact, it was to increase and spread as we can see from the 5-Fold ministry gifts being given so that the fullness/completeness of Christ would emerge and remain as well as from the Commission from Mark 16.

Now, we see as part of these first apostles' commission from Christ to preach the Kingdom, Jesus instructed (charged, commanded, officially ordered) and gave them authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Then He stated a Kingdom governmental decree: "FREELY YOU RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE!"

Jesus was telling the apostles and us today that these apostles (and those apostles following) were given the power as part of their apostleship, but also as part of their place/position in the Kingdom to *heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out demons* because they had freely *received* (from Jesus, the First and High Apostle [Hebrews 3:1])—so now, they should freely give what He has given them!

Notice this mandate again very closely. Jesus wasn't sending His apostles out to get people saved! People couldn't get saved at the time of the first sending out as Jesus had not yet went to the cross or been resurrected! This mandate was related entirely to the Kingdom being released through preaching or telling.

Next, Jesus gives further Kingdom—apostolic instructions in Matthew 10:11-15:

**. . . And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave *that city*.<sup>12</sup> As you enter the house, give it your greeting.<sup>13</sup> If the house is worthy, give it your *BLESSING OF PEACE*. But if it is not worthy, take back your *blessing of peace*.<sup>14</sup> *Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.*<sup>15</sup> Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for *the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.***

The apostle's reward is found in this very passage. Jesus tells the apostles that if the house is worthy, meaning, it *weighs in—is in agreement, corresponds to*, i.e. they receive you as they would receive Me—give it your blessing of peace, but if not, take back your blessing of peace. And then He reiterates that if they do not RECEIVE you or heed your words then go from that house and shake the dust off your feet.

The apostle's reward is clearly *PEACE*. And, we shouldn't think lightly of this! Jesus was very intentional to commission the apostles with peace to impart. So, as well as the wondrous signs and miracles they were to give, the blessing and reward of peace they were to give also to those who received them.

This peace is not speaking of simply goodwill or a state of calmness, tranquility or serenity as most would first think of. Peace here comes from the Greek word, *Eirene*,<sup>4</sup> which is the Hebrew word, *Shalom*, translated. *Shalom* and *Eirene* mean God's *gift of wholeness—where all essential parts are joined together*. Or, as many teachers have stated: *nothing missing, nothing broken!* In addition, the *One New Man Bible—Revealing Jewish Roots*, defines *Shalom to be complete. When there is Shalom, there is tranquility, justice, sufficient food, clothing, housing. There is Divine health, with no sickness. Shalom means an absence of: disorder, injustice, bribery, corruption, conflict, lack, hatred, abuse, violence, pain, suffering, immorality, and all other negative forces. A rabbi wrote that Shalom means, "No good thing is withheld."*

Wow! Can you see that peace is powerful and involved in the very fullness of Christ in this definition?

This peace involves our spirit, soul, body and material wholeness or fullness. In other words, all we need. Unfortunately, too many today do not understand shalom peace, including those in Christ Jesus and Jews who have not accepted Him.

Ephesians 2:17 tells us of Jesus' mission revolving around peace:

**And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near. . .**

This is because Jesus is the Prince of Peace aka the King of Peace (Isaiah 9:16; Hebrews 7:2).

Notice that it was the first apostles who were anointed, able and responsible to release this powerful blessing of peace, or on the other hand, could withhold or take back the blessing of peace if they were not received personally, or their words were not received as ambassadors of the Messiah (Christ)—Savior and King!

*Peace is a powerful reward!* Do you want this kind of PEACE—wholeness or fullness where nothing is missing or broken in your life? Where no good thing is withheld?

Then embrace the apostle, his or her words, and his or her ministry, for they are from the King of the Kingdom and sent forth that you may be blessed with the abundance of Christ!

## The Prophet's Reward

Now, let's look in the same chapter for information in regards to the *prophet's reward*. This reward is specifically mentioned as such:

Matthew 10:40-41—**He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. <sup>41</sup> He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a PROPHET'S REWARD.**

Granted, this passage only tells us that there is indeed a *prophet's reward*, but it does not tell us exactly what the reward consists of. It is mostly understood in the prophetic realm that the *prophet's reward* is simply *the fulfillment of the prophesied word*—for the prophesied word is what God wants to do (i.e. His Will) and is going to do! This, in and of itself, is great blessing. When we see the prophetic word fulfilled on our behalf personally, corporately, etc., we should sense blessing and reward in its fulfillment.

However, recently in a time of meditation and study, I believe Holy Spirit revealed some profound revelation about the prophet's reward from 2 Kings 4:8-3; 8:1-6—the account of Elisha and the Shunammite Woman. While we can see the prophet's reward all throughout the Old Testament, in the full accounts of 2 Kings 4 and 8, we can clearly see *four blessings* or *rewards* that were bestowed upon this woman.

2 Kings 4:8-17—**Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food. <sup>9</sup> She said to her husband, "Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually. <sup>10</sup> Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, that he can turn in there."**

<sup>11</sup>One day he came there and turned in to the upper chamber and rested. <sup>12</sup>Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." And when he had called her, she stood before him. <sup>13</sup>He said to him, "Say now to her, 'Behold, you have been careful for us with all this care; what can I do for you? Would you be spoken for to the king or to the captain of the army?'" And she answered, "I live among my own people." <sup>14</sup>So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Truly she has no son and her husband is old." <sup>15</sup>He said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. <sup>16</sup>Then he said, "At this season next year you will embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God, do not lie to your maidservant."

<sup>17</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son at that season the next year, as Elisha had said to her.

We first notice that this woman perceived that Elisha was a prophet even though he apparently never said or did anything in the natural that would reveal such. The Bible tells us that she simply perceived it. After she perceived this information about Elisha, she felt strongly enough to make a room for him that he would have a place to stay or rest when he was passing through. In other words, she *received* him as a prophet first and foremost even though she had not yet been privy to him prophesying the Word of the LORD. Next, she *made a place* for him. Both of these are important to us receiving the prophet's reward today.

Out of this woman's perception and reception of Elisha, as well as, making a place for him, he is determined to return the favor and he does so in the form of a prophetic word over her unfortunate barrenness. Elisha prophecies over her:

**"At this season next year you will embrace a son."**

The first part of the prophet's reward is ***prosperity through fruitfulness***.

In 2 Kings 4:18-37, we find that the Shunammite woman's son is somewhat grown, but he has died suddenly. She lays the corpse of her son in the prophet's room on the bed she had prepared for him and sets out to find the prophet Elisha. She calls for Elisha personally to come to her aide and raise her dead son, which he *eventually* does for her. As he enters the room made specifically for him, Elisha lays on the child, and puts his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hand; the flesh of the child became warm and he was resurrected to life. This is resurrection power at work! The woman witnessed firsthand this power and she knew it would happen the whole time! In today's New Covenant terminology, this is Kingdom resurrection power.

The second part of the prophet's reward is the ***operating resurrection power of Christ*** working in and through our life.

Later in 2 Kings 8:1-6 we find this same Shunammite woman in the sight lines of Elisha once again:

**Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go with your household, and sojourn wherever you can sojourn; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it will even come on the land for seven years." <sup>2</sup>So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God, and she went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. <sup>3</sup>At the end of seven years, the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went out to appeal to the king for her house and for her field. <sup>4</sup>Now the king**

was talking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Please relate to me all the great things that Elisha has done." <sup>5</sup> As he was relating to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life." <sup>6</sup> When the king asked the woman, she related it to him. So the king appointed for her a certain officer, saying, "Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now."

We first find that there is a famine in the land and Elisha urges her to leave the land seven years for her own welfare. The woman receives the prophet's words and leaves the land with her son as he had directed. She lives under supernatural protection in a strange land for seven years.

The third part of the prophet's reward is **supernatural protection** working in and through our life.

Finally, the woman returns to her own land where she had to go to appeal before the king in order to get her house and her field back. We see Gehazi, Elisha's servant, just happened (NOT!) to be there talking with the king when the woman comes forth with her appeal. As a result, we find that the king restored to this woman ALL that was hers, as well as, all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land until she returned!

The fourth part of the prophet's reward is **full restoration** in every area we need restoration. However, we must notice here that this is not simply restoration, but *restoration with full replevin!* *Replevin is a procedure whereby seized goods may be provisionally restored to their owner pending the outcome of an action to determine the rights of the parties concerned.* Justice had prevailed on behalf of this woman and it will for us as well through the prophet's reward!

***Do you want the prophet's reward of prosperity through fruitfulness, the power of the resurrection, supernatural protection and supernatural restoration with replevin operating in and through your life?***

## But, What About Jesus?

Some may be saying, but Jesus gave me all these rewards through His finished work, why do I have to get these through the apostles and prophets?

First, YES! Jesus Christ has given us all these things through His abundant life; but we also have to realize that it sometimes involves His order of things. For instance, while He has given us all things, it still takes faith to receive what He has given us. In other words, the abundant life does not just fall in our lap because we know Jesus. We must accept His life, work, commission and order. Just as faith comes through hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), the LORD has a Kingdom order and precedence to receiving abundant life, in part, through these rewards that are released through receiving the gifts of apostles and prophets whom Jesus Himself gave for the Body. In other words, Jesus intended for the gifts of apostles and prophets to operate and be received, so much so, that His incentive would be rewards given to all His Body.

When I look around the Body today, I see many, many suffering in many ways, so much so, that it looks as though the devil rules over us instead of Christ ruling over us. But, that's not what Jesus had in mind when He gave these

gifts. He gave these gifts that we would be overcomers, victorious, and walk in abundant life through the fullness of Christ!

## How Do We Apprehend the Apostles and Prophets Reward?

First, you need to be a part of a church that believes in the 5-Fold ministry, especially, one where the apostle and prophet are present and regarded. In other words, the Kingdom of Christ for NOW. If you are not in a church that believes in the Kingdom of God for now and the operation of the 5-Fold ministry, then receiving these two ministry functions *and their rewards* could be difficult, if not impossible. And, in this case, you will most likely remain just where you are—even if there is great positive preaching and teaching coming forth. I know that sounds negative, but you can see for yourself that Jesus was serious about the release of these rewards. *You must be in a place that makes a place for these to be received.*

Secondly, if you are in a place that believes in and receives all of the above, then you must personally believe in (have FAITH) and receive the ministry that goes forth from these. Don't second guess what God is doing. Don't say, "Well, I'll see if they're right!" Or, "I'll see if it works!" I have seen some that almost dare it to happen! That's *not* believing-faith or receiving, that's skepticism, which will get you nowhere. This is where people so often miss the fulfillment of the prophesied word. They sit back to "see" if it will happen. Or worse yet, some even try to make it happen in and of their own intelligence or strength. It's not a matter of making it happen; it's a matter of simply cooperating with God by faith!

Have FAITH (Mark 11:22)!

Receiving the apostle and prophet and the reward that comes as such, requires *effort and faith!* Effort is not related to your own strength; it's related to *obedience*. Obedience is effort. In other words, you need to be determined, against all odds, that you're going to trust and obey and then do what it takes. Agreement, submission, respect and action are all part of obedience.

**Continue to work out your salvation [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ].—Philippians 2:12**

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