

# Prophecy



## Why is Prophecy So Important?

- John 5:19-20 - Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father will show* Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.
- 1 Corinthians 14:1- Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.
- Hebrews 11:6- But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

# Prophecy

- What is Prophecy?
  - 1 Cor. 14:3 - *But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort*
  - *Less inspired Daniel's Definition- Supernatural knowledge, wisdom, or understanding about Gods heart, intentions, protection, direction, and will for us.*

# Prophetic Process

- 3 step process for Prophecy
  - Revelation- What did God Say?
  - Interpretation- What does He mean?
  - Application- How do we obey Him?

## Step 1: Revelation

- Revelation often comes in the form of “dark sayings” or like looking into “a mirror dimly”
  - Num. 12:6-8 : “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. <sup>7</sup> “Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; <sup>8</sup> With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings,
  - 1 Cor. 8-12 : Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away..... 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known

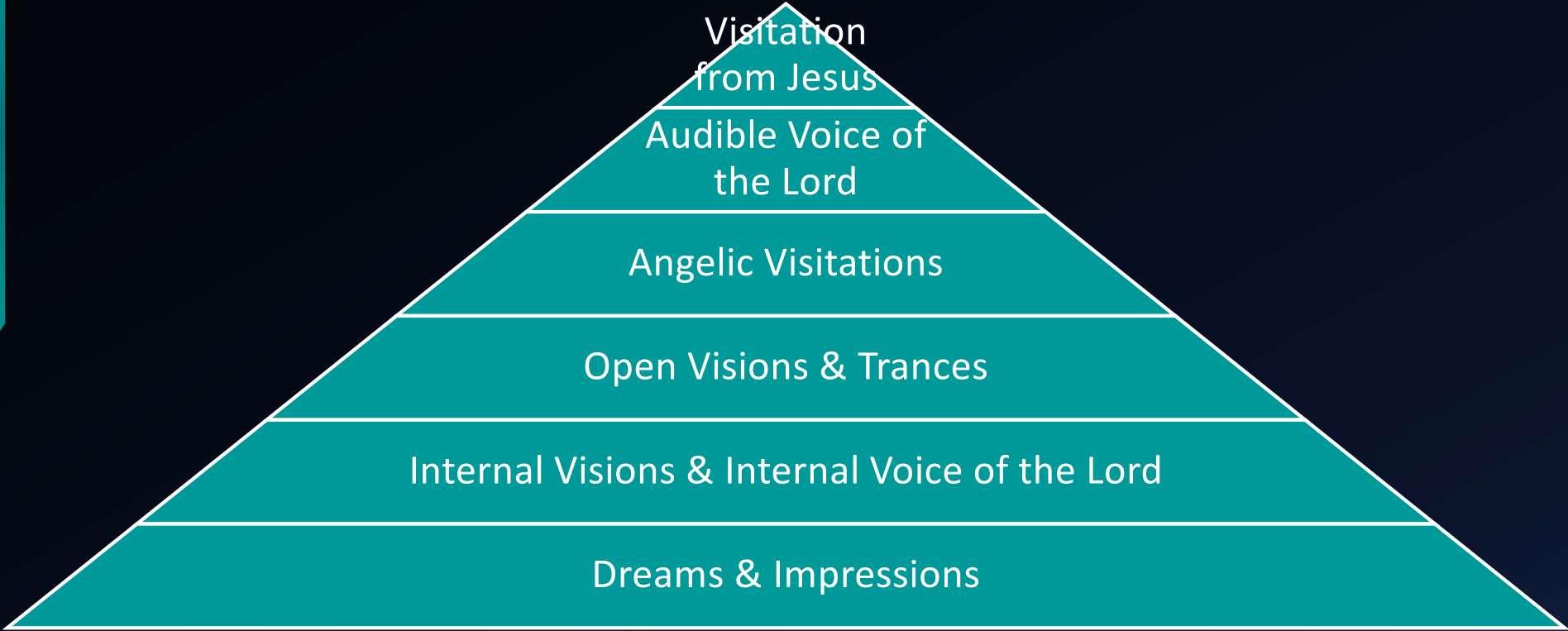
# Step 1: Revelation

- Forms of Revelation

- Impressions- Luke 8:45-46
- Dreams- Matt. 2-12
- Visions
  - Internal- John 1:48
  - Open- 2 Kings 6:17
- Trances- Acts 10 :9-16

- Audible Voice of the Lord
  - Internal- 1 Sam 3:4
  - External- Matt. 3:17
- Visitations
  - Angelic- Dan. 9:21
  - Jesus- Acts 9:1-16
  - Demonic- Matt: 4:1-11

# Inverse Relationship: Authority and Subjectivity



## Step 2: Interpretation

- Daniel 2:26-30 - The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?” Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these: As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the *revealer of mysteries* showed you what is going to happen. As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, *not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation* and that you may understand what went through your mind.



## Step 2: Interpretation

- 1 Thess 5:20-21- Do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test all things. Hold fast to what is good.
  - The more subjective a word is, the more confirmation is needed, especially when it applies directional words or life changing decisions.
- 2 Peter 1:19-21-19 [d]So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
- The Scriptures are our more sure word of prophecy
- Deuteronomy 19:15 and 2 Cor. 13:1- Every matter must be confirmed in the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses.

## Step 2: Interpretation

What happens when God gives me something negative?

- *"And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar." (Acts 11:27-28)*
- *"Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul." (Acts 11:29-30)*

## Step 3: Application

- Missing it big time, still works sometimes
  - Acts 21:10-12 - After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'" When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.