**The Journey of The Prophetic In A Nation**

***Rachel Hickson***

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called,

called me.” “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. (1 Samuel 3:1-7)

# https://www.malaysia-today.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/img199.imageshack.us_img199_4460_dcmainsanctuary1.jpgIntroduction

Rachel Hickson sees the name **DUMC** and felt God saying this about the church:

Go **D**isciple the nations

**U**nify the churches

Carry **M**iracles

Create a **C**elebration of Jesus

In the very beginning when God created the nations and everything in it, He already had a dream for each and every nation. He created everything that we see and we make. He created the land masses, the mountains, the weather. God crafted Malaysia for a purpose. God’s Word spoke Malaysia to life.

There are seasons when God sends His voice to the people and the church, to wake up the land, to bring it into its original destiny. These are exciting times for the nation, as we venture into the year 2020. It is time for Malaysia to stand up and take her place.

# An intercessor births a prophet for the nation

The principles of God work for an individual as well as a nation. The principles shared in this sermon can be applied in businesses, schools, families etc. So how do we see the prophetic voice take shape in the nation? Intercessors birth prophets for nations.

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” (1 Samuel 3:1-4)

Samuel’s mother was called Hannah. This is the story of a parenting generation that began to intercede. Something had been provoked in Hannah for her to say that the barrenness was enough. In 1 Samuel 1:5, we can see that Hannah was loved and blessed, she was given a double portion. However, she had an ache in her spirit for something more.

Sometimes we can get so satisfied with the intimacy of knowing God blessing our lives, but God sends something or someone to stir us up, like how he sends Peninnah, the second wife of Elkanah, to provoke and irritate Hannah. “You might know the blessing of intimacy with God, you may be blessed, but you are barren. You have no fruit to show for your intimacy with God. You have a nice personal relationship with God, but what is flowing through your life? What are you changing? What is your legacy? What are you leaving in the land? I have got money, I have got businesses, I have got legacy. What have you got?”

Intimacy with God alone is not enough. Intimacy should produce fruitfulness. God wants to flow out of us. It is not enough to have great services or a great church. Something needs to flow out of the intimacy we have with God and change the things around, to change the nation, to touch that which is barren around us and produce fruitfulness.

The provocation went on year after year, and Hannah would weep and not eat. However, there came a time when there was a shift in Hannah, and the cry of intercession came upon her. She cried unto the Lord, and the spirit of intercession came on her. The spirit of intercession was so great that even the prophet of the day, Eli, could not recognize the spirit of intercession, the call of God, the labouring in the spirit that says something needs to be birthed forth in this season. It’s the cry that says, “It’s great that we have a great church, it’s great that my marriage is great, it’s great that my life is blessed, but God, I want more!”

Hannah began to intercede, to break the barrenness, and birthed a prophet who will reverse the curse in the nation. We must not be satisfied wherever we are. One of the gifts of the prophet is to irritate you. There is a dissatisfaction in you that says, “Even if God so loves me, I’m still not quite satisfied. I need to go change something. I need to go chase the lions, I need to go on some adventures, I need a greater breakthrough.” God wants to disturb us and make us dissatisfied, not in a negative way, but in a hungry way. He says to us, “I want to bring a new level of fruitfulness out of your intimacy.” There could be a season of barrenness that you are going through right now, personally and as a nation, and God wants you to wake up. God is working on your heart, to bring you to new places of prayer.

# Samuel was born in a barren spiritual season

The prophet is usually born at a time when it is spiritually barren. God is not worried about the wilderness, He can birth something out of the wilderness, like John the Baptist in the wilderness. God has people carrying the message of Jesus that is birthed in the barren place.

In 1 Samuel 3, we read that the Word of the Lord was rare, that the prophetic ministry and the active revealed Word of God in the nation was scarce. There were not many visions and dreams. The prophetic ministry had become blind. Eli was the prophetic voice of the nation, but his eyes were so weak that he could barely see. A prophet is meant to have good eyes, to be able to see. However, the hope in this verse was that the lamp of God had not gone out. Even when everything else seems to be sleeping, God is not sleeping. God has not turned the lights out on the nation.

Samuel was born into a barren spiritual atmosphere. He was not born into a time or place where there were people to train and help him, he was born into a time when he had to find his own path. Samuel thought it was Eli calling him when God called his name. Even if we make mistakes as we step out to be the prophetic voice of the nation, God is gracious with us and will help us and train us. God is going to put His Word in you, to speak into the education sector, the health sector, politics, your neighbourhood, and other areas, wherever He has placed you. Corporately, we are going to represent the voice of God in our communities.

The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. And Samuel’s word came to all Israel. (1 Samuel 3:19-4:1)

Initially, Samuel was not the greatest carrier of the Word of God, he lacked training, and Eli, who was supposed to be his mentor, was not seeing very clearly. We find that in one chapter, everything has changed. The suddenly of God has come. We go from verse 1, where there was no revelation, to verse 19, where the Word of God covered the whole of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba. The nation recognized Samuel as a speaking prophet of the Lord. God’s Word was active in the land again, and the people understood that God was present.

Every time Samuel spoke, none of his words fell to the ground. He learned to hear the Word of the Lord, and he learned to speak the Word of the Lord. Ryan Hart Bonke says, “You need to understand. God’s Word in your mouth has the same power as God’s Word in God’s mouth, because the power is not in the mouth, the power is in the Word. Speak His Word.” Samuel learned to align his life and his hearing to the Word of God, and everything that he spoke happened. God wants to train us to be hearers of the Word. He wants us to speak not a good idea, but a God idea. People want to know if what you say is true, even if it is inconvenient. If you say what God is saying, you can see what God can do.

# A prophet can only point the way

A prophet can point the way, but they cannot dictate or control the outcome. They can only tell people, “This is the way of the Lord, walk in it.” People will still have to choose if they want to follow and obey.

And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.” (1 Samuel 8:7-9)

The people wanted a king, even when Samuel told them that having a king was not the best thing for them. The people rejected what Samuel said. Often, prophetic people can get very wounded. One of the things we need to learn is to not take things too personally. When people begin to talk against you, you can say that it was not really your idea, but it was God’s idea. Do not get pressured or over defensive. God told Samuel that it was not him the people had rejected, but it was God Himself. God told Samuel to warn the people, that if they choose to go their way of having a king, it is going to cost them.

God is gracious such that even when we choose to go our way, He sends prophets to help us get out of our mess. Samuel advised the people against having a king, but he ended up appointing kings, anointing kings and choosing kings for them, and God directed him on how to do it, even when God was the people’s second best. Even when there were many decisions that have been made by the government for the nation that do not line up with God’s standards, God in His graciousness still allows the prophets to help them get out of their mess.

As prophetic voices, we cannot be too picky, and decide not to help the people if they choose to go their own way. We are called to help them make the best choice out of a poor situation. Even in our personal lives, we could have made really poor choices, but God in His graciousness still sends a prophetic voice to help you. Samuel chose and appointed kings, he anointed them and pointed the way, but he could not control their character. God wants to use prophetic voices to mark people, but we cannot control them once they have made their choice or are in their appointed position.

# People choose how they partner with the prophetic call

It is the kings, the governors, the presidents and prime ministers, CEOs and CFOs of companies, headmistresses of schools, that the prophets and intercessors can pray for and intercede for, but they need to see how they can partner with them in their position of leadership and influence, to help them keep in place and keep their character.

There are many people who have been supernaturally appointed by God in places of leadership and influence, but because they were not surrounded well enough and their personal integrity making poor choices, they did not walk the best road God has for them. In these days, God wants to raise up incredible leaders, with incredible partners, so they can hit the bull’s eye again and again.

Saul was anointed and appointed by God. Right at the beginning, he did what was right. He was despised but kept silent. He was disrespected by the people in his hometown, and he could have reacted, but he was gracious and handled himself well. However, Saul forgot where he should be watching. He became a leader that watched people instead of watching God. He would watch people’s reactions and let the fear of men grip him, and it got him into trouble.

Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.” (1 Samuel 15:24)

One other thing was, Saul never developed the ability to hear from God himself. He was always relying on Samuel to hear from God and to tell him what to do. He had no personal relationship with God himself. The character of Saul was unable to carry on the appointment of God because he did not keep connected to God, and he keeps watching people. He watched David and got jealous of him.

Do not get mesmerized with people but keep your eyes on the Lord. If we are going to be a prophetic voice for the nation, we cannot keep watching our popularity rating all the time. It is not about what people is saying, it is about what Jesus is saying. It is not about the credit and feedback we are getting from people, it is about whether God says you have done a good job, whether you have said the right thing. If we do not learn to watch the right thing, we can become isolated and fearful, driven by the fear of men rather than the fear of the Lord, and we lose the incredible gift God has given us.

Prophets cannot replace your responsibility to hear God for yourself. Prophets can point the way, but they cannot be the voice of God for you permanently. We see how David knew his God. He had a personal relationship with God. David made mistakes, but he had the habit of inquiring of the Lord. A prophet gave him his mission, but for the rest of his life, God directed him. There may have been prophetic words that have directed you at some point in your life, but you cannot keep going back and asking, “Have you got a word for me?” A prophetic word can direct you, but you need to lean into God and inquire of Him and learn His voice, and God will direct you. That was something David was able to do.

When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. Saul then said to his attendants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.” (1 Samuel 28:5-7)

Saul could not inquire of the Lord, so he resorted to witchcraft. David was different. He would inquire of the Lord and learned to hear from God. He would not act without first seeking the Lord’s counsel.

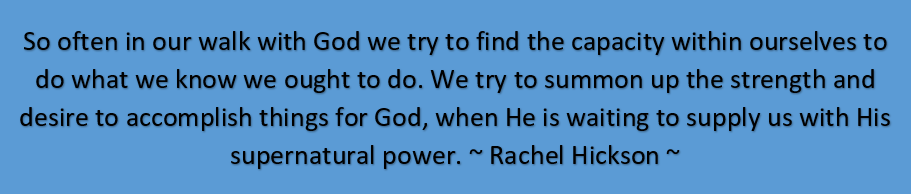
When David was told, “Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors,” he inquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” The Lord answered him, “Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah.” (1 Samuel 23:1-2)

Conclusion:

In this day and in this time, God wants us to hear His voice. We cannot go prophet hunting alone, we need to hear from God for ourselves. David made mistakes, but he was able to fulfil the prophetic purpose given to him. We may have made mistakes, but God is gracious. Even if we have failed and fallen, God can enable us to fulfil our prophetic purpose, if we confess and repent. David served the purpose of God in his own generation, and God called David a man after His own heart.

After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ (Acts 13:22)

A prophetic voice can direct you, but you need to make the consistent choice of hearing from God for yourself, and even if you get it wrong, God is gracious with you. He can pick you up and turn things around and reposition you. Look at the epitaph God wrote about David: “I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”



Sermon summary by: Anthea Tan