

## High Places and Prophetic Utterance<sup>1</sup>

If there are high places in Israel YHWH will withhold prophetic utterance and vision. The light will grow dim, eventually to be removed completely. In the days of the high priesthood of Eli the lamp of God had not yet gone out. It was almost out as the word from the Sovereign was rare and visions were infrequent (1 Sam 3:1,3)

Pr 29:18 — Without vision the people go unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law. If the people have no prophetic light they will have no vision and therefore go unrestrained. But if they are obedient there will be vision. Like when Moshe was up on the mountain the people became impatient and Aaron let them get out of control. He, having been put in charge by Moshe, should have kept them in restraint. If there would have been a prophet who was connected to the Spirit he would have given vision to the people, calling them to endure, to wait, to keep the faith, warning them of their unfaithfulness. A high place was erected and after the people worshipped they sat down to eat and drink and stood up to play. They actually had a feast. Ex 32 tells the story; so does 1 Cor 10. These things are written down as a warning for us, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

For us it could be many things that could constitute a high place. Like sports for example. (Yoneq has been pretty clear on that.) It is not that we are against sports (if you can take this right) but against high places. If something becomes a high place it is no good. Sports, by its nature, is almost bound to become a high place. Competitiveness, rivalry, seeking one's own glory. Even as we said from the beginning, we can scream our head off at a football game, gnash our teeth over a lost golf ball, but be strangely unemotional about a lost soul or about seeking the things of the kingdom of heaven.

For people like that Mt 6:9-13 is not in their repertory. Instead, the game is the high place of the week. The excitement, everything builds up to it, to the soccer game on Sunday.

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<sup>1</sup> Obadiah's embellishment to *Undisturbed Dwelling Places*, from the morning minchah, 20 December 1994.

Reuben was really getting into it. You can have the different nationalities play each other, the different clans, the different tribes, the twelve tribes of Israel against the world.

The game actually has healing power. Someone might be in bed with back problems but when the soccer game came up, suddenly he is healed.

Yet prophetic vision was rare at the gatherings. If there is no oil, the light is growing dim. What would a prophet have to say anyway? If anything, that is if he is connected, he would destroy the high place.

Of course people kept on speaking in the Ephesian church, but it wasn't the *word of YHWH* as 1 Sam 3:1 says. It was merely the word of man. Their first love was for something else besides Yahshua.

Now our Master told us in Jn 14:21 that if we love Him we would keep His word. Those who do this are the people that He loves and that He discloses Himself to. “He who has My words.” That is His dwelling place.

Only in the places that are established apostolically by a true sent one can one have His word. Only a true sent one is entrusted with His word — “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.” The problem is just to maintain this when the sent one isn't around, like when Moshe was on the mountain, like when Paul was absent, like when Yoneq is in another tribe. That is why Phil 2:12 is so important, or Phil 3:16 or 2 Tim 2:2, or Pr 20:6 and 25:19.

So we have His commandments. If we keep them then we truly love Him and the Father and Yahshua will love us and Yahshua will disclose Himself to us. That means if we live an obedient life our gatherings will be rich. That is why Paul said to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially that we would prophesy. The prophetic word gives direction, it exposes the problem and brings healing. It destroys the high places and gives vision, courage and strength to go on. It increases our love for our Master, our desire to be obedient to Him, our willingness to suffer for His sake, to be submissive, to build up the Body, to forget about ourselves.

“Earnestly desire spiritual gifts” — of course desire here goes along with an obedient life, a life that is worthy to have prophetic utterance added to it (1 Cor 14:1-3).

Prophecy is for edification, encouragement and consolation. It exposes the problem and brings healing. There is comfort. A clear direction and faith, courage and strength is given. It creates peace. As long as we live an obedient life, prophetic vision will be given, the dwelling place will be undisturbed. There will be peace, even though one day cities will be laid low and the forest will come down and “a hard rain is gonna fall,” our dwelling place will be undisturbed if we listen obediently to His voice (Pr 1:33; Isa 32:18).

There was no peace in the Corinthian church, only dullness. Sometimes dullness masquerades as peace (Dt 29:17-19). They kept on going to the peace meals without truly examining themselves and so things started happening in their bodies and people got sick and weak and some even died. Eventually the lampstand was removed. The same happened to the churches in Rev 2 and 3, to all the churches.

Of course people kept on speaking, but not according to 1 Pet 4:11. Of course people still had visions but not from Him. The word didn't inspire anybody anymore to learn Messiah, to learn obedience. It became merely an intellectual and emotional stimulus. It might have been better if everything would have stopped at that time then we might not have to deal with the false growth of Christianity which was the outcome of all of that.

If we live an obedient life our Master will disclose Himself to us. Our gatherings will be rich — full of prophecy. We will live in peaceful habitations. Isa 43:19-21 is a fact. He will give drink to His chosen people. The people whom He forms for Himself *will* declare His praise.

Just as Eve was formed out of Adam's substance — she was compatible to him, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh — so we are being formed out of our Master's substance, to become bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. It is through the prophetic word that this is being done, the word of truth (Jn 17:17). Our God creates through His word. He speaks into existence. Ps 102:18; 22:31 — a people who will be born.

Jms 1:18 — It is through the word of truth that we are being brought forth, being formed, being created. If our heart is to live an obedient life to keep His word, His word will dwell richly among us, our light will shine brightly.

Ps 29:3-9 describes what the living word does. And after hearing it, verse 9 is the response. In His temple everything says “Glory.” When you really hear it in your heart you cannot help but worship. That's why Isa 43:21 is a fact — “The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise.” And then the promise of Ps 29:11 — “The Sovereign will bless this people with peace” — undisturbed dwelling places.

So prophetic utterance, worship and peace depend on our obedience. If we are lacking in these things we might have to examine if there are high places that hinder our obedience and therefore hinder prophetic utterance, worship and peace. We might have to examine if everybody in our midst is really at peace or if we are only dull and unrestrained in certain areas.

*[See also: “The Sports Spirit (9412L02); “The Dangers of Sports” (9501T01); “Undisturbed Dwelling Places” (941220A); “High Places” (941226A).]*