

CORE
DEFINERS
OF THE
PROPHETIC



SCOTT WEBSTER

CORE DEFINERS OF THE PROPHETIC

As we walk with God towards the End of the Age the nations will continue their downward spiral into conflict and crisis. In the midst of the turmoil God is strengthening his Church, building people who are strong of spirit, clear in purpose and able to withstand the assaults of darkness. The role of the prophetic is key to the process. When correct prophetic functionality is present in the Church, it produces people who are full of faith, resolute and courageous. Today, God is releasing His voice with new clarity through His prophets, and He is equipping the entire Body of Christ to be more prophetic. The Core Definers of the Prophetic will provide you with the insight and principles to help you walk powerfully and accurately in God's purpose, in your home, in your Church and in the world!

BOOK 4 IN NEW PROPHETIC DIMENSION SERIES

1. Architecture of the New Prophetic Dimension
2. A Developed Prophetic Perspective
3. Arc of Empires
4. **Core Definers of the Prophetic**
5. Increasing Your Prophetic Capacity

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Dedication

To the Senior Elders of Congress WBN;

And to our prophets;

Together we are building people, a mighty host in the nations, who hear and obey the voice of God.

“So the elders built, and they prospered through the prophesying of the prophets.” (Ezra 6:14)

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Preface

In late 2004 I sat at a conference table with Dr. Noel Woodroffe and some other leaders of our apostolic entity known as Congress WBN. I know that the term ‘entity’ is unusual when describing churches and wider kingdom structures, but I use it because Congress WBN has grown much broader than an apostolic network of churches. A sample of what it encompasses includes businesses, schools, prophetic initiatives, training seminars, technology initiatives, relief and development projects, etc. It is a multifaceted expression of Kingdom life.

The purpose of our meeting was to discuss the prophetic sector of our network. New emphasis and understanding of the prophetic was coming to us from the Lord and we wanted to understand what God was doing. Since 1993, when we had been birthed as an apostolic network of churches, (known then as World Breakthrough Network) we had been busy reforming the Church across the nations. The thrust of Apostolic Reformation hit the earth in the early 1990s and we were part of that move of God that brought renovation and a greater Kingdom emphasis to the Church. Hundreds of church communities had been birthed and joined to us in Divine purpose, and we were used by God to lead many into an authentic reformation experience.¹

¹ I encourage readers to read Dr. Noel Woodroffe’s book *The Present Reformation*. Written in 1995, it has been a template and a valuable resource for many as they navigate this present move

Therefore our discussion in 2004 had a simple premise: If we were dealing with a truly changed Church, we must also have a new or enhanced prophetic dimension. We had always embraced the prophetic because many of our leaders came from a strong prophetic background, including myself, Steve Schultz and Dr. Woodroffe. By 2004, however, we had developed a clear sense that it was time to emphasize the prophetic in a new way.

Many things emerged from that discussion, one of which was a strategic plan to release an impartation of the new prophetic dimension across our global network. We wanted to provide all of the pastors of our network a fresh word from God, and also release in our churches current teaching on the prophetic which would continue to synchronize knowledge and spiritual experiences within the thousands of people and related church communities. The task was formidable because we have operations in 90+ nations. An itinerary was laid out: London, Geneva, Antigua, Port of Spain, Accra, Nairobi, Atlanta, Dallas, Sydney, Lusaka, Wellington, Kingston, Los Angeles, Belize City, etc. All of those visits occurred in 2005, and other territories were targeted in succeeding years.

The first stop was London, where our pastors and leaders from across the UK gathered. In that first meeting it was clear that God was up to something different, but the differences were not external. Our activities were similar to what we had done in the past: worship, teaching on the prophetic, laying on of hands and prophetic ministry, etc. But beyond the comparable outward actions, it was evident that this was unlike anything I experienced before. As the seminar progressed it was as if I was standing outside myself observing the “me” that was ministering and noting how different I was. It was a far more rich experience than I’d had in my previous 25 years of functioning in the prophetic.

All of the definers that made the meeting so radically different were internal – value systems, ethics and spiritual realities. They were also contextual differences – the quality of relationships and our common sense of mission. God revealed Himself in an enhanced way to us in the area of the prophetic. In that first meeting in London we discovered Scriptural truths about the prophetic, which I then delivered at our next seminar in Geneva, which was even more impartational – and so it went throughout 2005. Our understanding grew and has continued to develop in the years since, and we have been building these things for more than a decade.

However, I realize that is not everyone’s experience. In fact we have written this book largely for our brothers and sisters who long for a greater reality of prophetic strength. One of the challenges you may have as you read is the issue of “cognitive dissonance” – a term which means holding inconsistent thoughts and beliefs. Even though we may present a compelling Scriptural argument that you totally agree with, if you haven’t seen the teaching operationalized and functional in actual human lives, you are faced with a difficult decision. On the one hand you can’t deny it because it’s truth from the Word of God; but on the other hand it may not be “true” in your reality. Dissonance can occur when the truth that you read and agree with conflicts with the authority of your own experience.

For example, one of the Core Definers we cover is the issue of collaboration and shared life between leaders. Relationship, especially between pastors and prophets, is a major key to an enhanced prophetic reality. That isn’t a theory or something we read in the pages of the Bible, it’s our experience. We have hundreds of pastors and prophets who work together seamlessly to accomplish Divine purpose. The issues of competition, or the two being somehow ad-

versarial toward one another, never surfaces among us. Our prophets invest deeply into our churches and they “own” the people’s development right alongside the pastors.

That collaborative reality shaped this book. I asked a team to review these chapters and provide ideas and edits; the team of six consisted of three Senior Elders (our term for pastor) and three prophets – that mix was on purpose in order to gain a broad perspective. My thanks here go to Dennis Allender, Chris Waddell, Chris Baird, Oronde Smith, Jeff Shreve and Ryan Roberts. In addition to that team of six, my close friend and colleague, Steve Schultz, also helped immensely with this volume as he has so generously done with all my writings. The end result of the collaborative effort is much better than if I had labored alone. Mentioning them here gives me a chance to thank them, and it also provides a window into the fact that there are pastors and prophets who work in close proximity and harmony. God has helped us functionalize this truth and we have massively benefited from the depth of relationship He has given us.

However, I realize it may not be true in your own experience, nor what you see when you scan the wider Body of Christ. You may long for these realities to exist within your own sphere, but for whatever reason they don’t and that is where cognitive dissonance may occur. Leaders may find themselves asking: a) Where are the kind of prophets you describe? b) What if I’ve tried to build relationships before but it hasn’t worked? c) How can you trust someone to deliver what they say they will? Believers may wonder: a) Where are these churches that are committed to building on the voice of God? b) Is there authentic apostolic leadership that is committed to building me and the Body of Christ? c) Where do I find credible prophets who are not harsh or manipulative who seek to build my life in Christ?

All I can say is that it is true for us, and if God did it for us His intention is to release an enhanced prophetic reality

to the entire Body of Christ. God's heart has always been for His whole body to come to maturity – not just a part of it. My hope in writing this book is that you discover fresh insights into what God always intended the prophetic to be, including a greater understanding of how the prophetic builds people and communities that look more like Christ.

On Behalf of the Team,

Scott Webster

Marietta, GA

December 2015

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1

My Journey in the Prophetic

I was brought into the prophetic as soon as I got saved in 1980. I experienced the power of personal prophecy in my own life, discovering my destiny through the voice of God and being shaped by the Lord for future usefulness. I became part of that move of God known as the Prophetic Movement, which awakened the global Church to the reality of the voice of God. My experience included: a) being trained and mentored in the prophetic b) working with a team to host prophetic conferences c) traveling to churches and nations to minister the voice of God, etc.

Throughout the 1980s and into the mid 1990s, I traveled extensively teaching and equipping leaders and saints regarding the reality of the gift of Prophet and the corresponding emphasis on personal prophecy. Ministry opportunities were abundant and there was no lack of demand upon the prophetic gift, in fact often I was invited back to churches multiple times. It was in that process that I discovered a point of frustration: when I returned to the church nothing had changed. People had been blessed and they wanted more of the same, but their lives weren't being built nor were the churches really entering into the power to build the purposes of God. My frustration intensified over time. I longed to work within a system that fostered development and not just ministry.

What I needed was a reformation – this book is about a different or “reformed” prophetic

Since then I have found that God is dealing with many across the earth who long to see the Church rise into the full expression God intended. Both leaders and believers alike perceive a gap between what the Word of God declares who we ought to be as His Church, vs. the reality that exists on the ground. Ironically many who are longing for a greater dimension of God are not finding Him in the established Church structures.

Some are forming splinter groups and praying determinedly for more. Others have become cynical and have left church altogether, although they still hold out some hope and have not given up on God. Still others have stayed right where they are and they serve faithfully in their churches, but their hearts long for more. Hunger for the Kingdom of God has increased and people are searching. I am writing this book because I have been filled with that same longing. What I needed was a reformation – this book is about a different or “reformed” prophetic reality.

Defining Reformation

A true reformation is not a new way of doing church; it is a fresh apprehension of God in human hearts that translates itself into new powerful initiatives. Personal transformation and vast reformation of the Church are connected, for as each of us authentically changes, that becomes an initiator for a global reformation of the Church. The term “*reformation*” is found in Hebrews 9:6-10 where it describes the structural overhaul from the Old to the New Covenant.

Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance;

the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience –

*concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed **until the time of reformation.***

Hebrews 9:6-10 (NKJV)

A reformation is a movement away from external emphases (gifts, sacrifices, food, drinks, washings, fleshly ordinances) into greater inward correctness (perfect in regards to conscience.) The word for reformation is the Greek word *diorthosis* which means to make a structural adjustment; to make straight again that which is broken, protrudes, or has become misaligned or misshapen. It

A true reformation is not cosmetic; it is an internal adjustment which gives shape to the outer form

means to put back into correct order or correct form. The Greek word which forms the core of the word is “ortho” which means bones in English. The word describes an adjustment to the skeletal or internal structure. A true reformation is not cosmetic or outward, it is an internal adjustment or correction which gives shape or change to the outer form. A true reformation is a deep, inner structural overhaul of understanding, mentalities, postures, attitudes and perceptions that shape the visible outer initiatives and productivity of the Church.

The nature of reform being an internal change rather than changed external activity is reinforced by the description of the New Covenant where God seeks to move more deeply into the human heart: “*I will put my laws in their mind and write them on their hearts.*” (Hebrews 8:10) A true reformation always starts with issues of the heart (internal) and then flow towards systemic impact – the change of an entire

system of worship (external). In his book *The Present Reformation of the Church*, published in 1995, Dr. Noel Woodroffe states that “*the direction of a reformation is always inward to a stronger position of God within the heart of man.*” While many are seeking greater external signs of the Kingdom, manifestations without inner restructuring are worthless.

This is an “Apostolic Reformation”

At the nucleus of today’s present Reformation movement is renewed understanding of the apostolic. During the 1980’s and into the early 1990’s there was a strong emphasis upon five-fold ministry and in particular upon the prophetic and the apostolic. Apostles were being recognized and raised up by God, but more important than the individual apostles was the powerful release of apostolic impartation, apostolic mentality, apostolic spirit and apostolic world-view. This current move of God is being empowered by apostolic grace that imparts to the people of God the desire and willingness to transform, the ability to see the future purposes of God, the courage to assess and bring change to the current Church systems and the empowerment to build upon a more accurate Kingdom platform.

The apostolic nature of Christ possesses a building, governing capacity that provides clarity of divine design or architecture to the Church. This apostolic architecture allows the power of God to move in the earth without becoming cluttered by religious and political hindrances. God Himself has set the apostolic in the Church (1 Corinthians 12:28) and given it “first-ness” – Greek *proton* – *first in time, place, influence, rank and order*. The word first does not mean that apostles are better or superior to the other four ministries, which also are expressions of the nature and character of Christ. Apostles are not empire builders who rule over the other four or who hold ecclesiastical authority like a pope or bishop.

*Apostolic architecture
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hindrances*

But the word “first” does indicate a peculiar quality to build through clarity of sight and corresponding correct leadership. “Apostolic first-ness” provides the arrowhead in bringing the church into the fullness of maturity by leading in this current Reformation. It also represents a new quantity of supernatural enablement for the Church through the release of “apostolic grace.” That grace is designed to flow through the lives of authentic apostles and into those connected to them relationally. In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians he states, *“If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of **the grace of God which was given to me for you.**”* (Ephesians 3:2)

This is new grace from God – new because the Church hasn’t experienced it since the early Church age. It finds its origin within the call of mature and functional apostles who understand God’s intent of maturing a Church for the purpose of eternal partnership with God. Apostolic grace cannot be seen or measured scientifically, but to the tens of thousands who have been impacted by it – including me – it is almost tangible. It is powerful heavenly resource that flows to those who are connected to and rightly relate to the apostolic.

This move of God – apostolic reformation – has been sweeping the earth for the last several decades. The fruit of it lies in the thousands of churches and tens of thousands of individual lives that have been transformed, including mine. Realignment of relationship was a big part of my journey into the New Prophetic Dimension, and the redefinition it produced in me forms the substructure of this book. The power of apostolic grace is not theory; it transformed my life, changed my thinking system and produced in me a greater relational and spiritual dynamic that massively transformed the prophetic within.

Frustration is Good

I learned in the journey that frustration with the status quo is good, if responded to properly. God uses the internal sense that there must be more to move us towards the new. Those who were under the Law brought their offer-

When you yearn for more of God, that internal sense of passion cannot be satisfied by anything else, moving forward becomes easy

ings to have their sins removed, but the Old Covenant was not able to make those who offered sacrifices “perfect in regard to the conscience.” (Hebrews 9:9) God instituted in the Old Covenant, but no matter how well they obeyed Moses’ law,

they went home internally frustrated and longing for more. Our ancient brothers experienced internal frustration and dissatisfaction; they obeyed to the best of their ability, but internally they were not satisfied.

Dr. Noel Woodroffe teaches this as a principle in his book on Reformation: *when a move of God is no longer meeting the demand for God in the heart of a worshipper, we are in an active reformation.* Like the Old Covenant, the Prophetic Movement was of the Lord and it brought massive good to the earth, but it wasn’t enough and no matter how sincere or hard working we were it couldn’t meet the spiritual demand of my life and the wider Church. I longed for more of God but couldn’t find him in the established spiritual order. Ironically it was an order I was heavily invested in building, so difficult decisions had to be made. But when you yearn for more of God, and that internal sense of passion cannot be satisfied by anything else, moving forward in God becomes easy.

Who is this Book For?

If you have been desiring greater dimensions of the Lord, this book is for you. It is more than teaching about the

prophetic – it is a window into Apostolic Reformation which your heart has been longing for, even though you didn't know what to call it. It is designed to equip you and to bring you into new spiritual positions and enhanced realities. Specifically, who is this book written for?

- ✓ Believers who long to hear the voice of God and interact with the Spirit at intensified levels. Beyond hearing the voice of God, believers need to apprehend the nature of God and be transformed into the image of Christ while the world around us gets darker. This book releases a prophetic dimension that is transformational and which is anchored in the nature of God, strengthening believers in order to thrive and overcome in the face of ever increasing spiritual opposition.
- ✓ Pastors and leaders who are looking for a greater capacity to bring God's people to maturity. Saints across the earth are crying out to be part of the Church which is mature, functional and able to partner with God in His End Time purposes. But people will not spontaneously evolve into maturity; they have to be led there, underscoring the vital role of pastoral leaders. Pastors must become more powerful builders of God's purpose as they lead God's people into the last great battles of the earth that must occur before the Lord comes.
- ✓ Prophets who want to grow in their personal life, their ministry development and their call to build God's people. They want to become more effective in discharging the prophetic mantle Christ gave to them when He ascended, and they want to mature the Church and walk in the fullness of knowledge of what God is doing in the earth today. This is for prophets who desire to become a builder of God's purposes in the earth.

My prayer is that as you read:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:17-19