

# Dogmatic proclamations about prophecy

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 7-8, 2010.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—My approach to prophecy is a quite a bit different from the approach of many religious people who write or speak about prophecy. Let me give you some examples.

- Many people claim to speak for God when they are merely giving imaginations of their own heart (Jeremiah 23:16-17).

Although I am happy to quote scriptures about prophecy, I don't claim that God has told me exactly how to interpret them to the audience.

- We as writers and speakers about prophecy are giving our private interpretations. Some of those men and women are so deluded with their self-importance that they don't realize they are giving private interpretation. Others are manipulative because, although they realize that they give private interpretation, they claim it is from God anyway.

Although I am happy to quote scriptures about prophecy, I prefer to announce that my opinions about prophecy are private interpretation.

- When some people quote scriptures, they dogmatically claim that God was directly speaking to a specific nation in our present.

When I quote scriptures, I prefer to mention the context and the intended audience in the history. And then, while I won't dogmatically claim that God was directly speaking to a specific nation in the present, I will give my opinion that it seems to apply at this particular time. I like to take the approach "If the shoe fits, wear it."

Let me give you some examples.

Although God was probably not talking directly about the United States government in Isaiah 1:5-6, I believe the description applies to our nation. Are the leaders incompetent? Or are they deliberately overwhelming the system to push for structural change in our system? If the shoe fits, they will wear Isaiah 1:5-6.

Although God was probably not talking directly about the United States government in Micah 3:11, I believe the description applies to our nation. Look how the desire for power and money is influencing most people who claim to be leaders. If the shoe fits, they will wear Micah 3:11.

As you can see by the last two paragraphs, I am willing to state my opinions. But I don't want to be presumptuous in attributing my opinions as the direct interpretation of Scripture. Also, I don't want to be presumptuous in attributing my opinions to the mind of the Eternal God in heaven.

Friends, be careful when listening to people who claim to teach prophecy. Some of these people know less about prophecy than you do. But they may be more arrogant than you are. Or they may just be louder than you are.

Please do not be fooled by dogmatic proclamations about prophecy.