

How did the people in the Bible "see" into the future and the past? I want to learn this, but I want to do it the right way obviously.

The prophet Amos wrote: Surely the Lord God does nothing unless he reveals his secret to his servants the prophets (Am 3:7). Prophets (those who share the word of God)¹ in the last days will have dreams and visions about judgment to come (Joe 2:28).

Spiritual watchmen are: set by God (Is. 62:6), as leaders (Heb. 13:17), given prophetic burdens (Is. 21:11, 12) and are responsible before God (Ezek. 33:1–9). Some are faithful (Ezek. 3:17–21) while others are not (Is. 56:10). Their work is done in vain if without the Lord (Ps. 127:1).

To be a watchman one must be grounded in the scriptures (2 Ti 2:15). All that one needs to know about life (Jn 10:10) and the future is found in the bible (Ps. 19:9–11).²

The apostle Paul wrote: Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy (1 Co 14:1). There are different kinds of spiritual gifts; but they all come from the same Spirit (1 Co 12:4).

When one delights in the Lord, he will give him the desires of his heart (Ps 37:4, Eph 2:10). God gives gifts for the edification of the church (Rom. 1:11, 1 Cor. 14:3–12). They are assigned sovereignly (1 Cor. 12:11, 28) and cannot be bought (Ac 8:18–20).

Christians should be faithful where they are. Jesus said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Lk 16:10. Greater obedience leads to greater responsibility in the future (Mt 25:21).

Spiritual gifts should be used now because they will be of no use in heaven (Jn 9:4).

¹ Formerly called seers [e.g. Amos (Amos 7:12), Asaph (2 Chr. 29:30), Gad (2 Sam. 24:11), Heman (1 Chr. 25:5), Samuel (1 Sam. 9:19), Zadok (2 Sam. 15:27), Iddo (2 Chr. 9:29), Hanani (2 Chr. 16:7), Jeduthun (2 Chr. 35:15)]. Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 554). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Warnings come from: God's Word (Ps. 19:9–11), a prophet (Ezek. 3:17–27), a messenger (Acts 20:31), an angel (Ac 10:22), God (Heb 11:7) or a dream (Matt. 2:12, 22). Ibid (p. 641).