



Research article

**PROPHETIC MINISTRY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE PLURALISTIC CONTEXT OF NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

The Prophetic Ministry in the Old Testament and Pluralistic Context of Nigeria, of no doubt had a great impact with the people of the same dispensations. Prophetic ministry in both dispensations could further be seen as speaking the mind of God to events that affect the States or Countries concern. Could such have ended in the Old Testament era or does it still linger to the Ministries of the Ministers in various cadres in Nigeria? Is the same ministry of prophets obtainable in Nigeria as it was experienced in ancient near east? Communication matters a lot in the ministries of the Prophets of the Old Testament and our contemporary age. This article seeks the answers to the aforementioned questions and viewed some scholastic works that have been written about the Old Testament Prophets and current communicating prophetic Oracles that are effective in a pluralistic context of Nigeria. Moreover, this article seeks to explore the connection between prophecy and power in ancient Israel and the Nigerian context; putting into consideration the Oracles in Nigeria and the medium of the Oracles. The Article concludes that there are communicating prophetic oracles in Nigeria as it was in the Old Testament. It was discovered that true and fake prophetic Oracles affected the ancient Israel as the same has permeated Nigeria as a country. The significance of this article is to prove that Prophetic Ministry is still potent as it was in the Old Testament, so it is in the contemporary Nigeria.



## Introduction

There are Prophets in the ancient Israel as recorded by the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. It is also realized that Prophets and Ministers of different titles are found to exist in Nigeria as Oracles both to the Old Testament Bible God and some other Africa gods. This article will present the Communicating Prophetic Oracles is effectively delivered in a pluralistic context of Nigeria with reflection to events that are obtainable in the Old Testament. The pluralistic context is the complicated period of our contemporary. Current effects of the Oracles in Nigeria will be explored for the appropriate measure of the topic. Nigeria is in West Africa with the population of about 180 Million people living on its landscape.

## What is Prophecy?

Prophecy is a mode of speaking mystery on issues pertaining to an individual, community, state or Country. It is speaking the secrete things as might have been revealed to the Minister or Prophet by the Spirit of most high God. Prophecy is a course that deals with the study of the prophets in the Old Testament. The canonicity of the Old Testament has the classification of the entire books of the Old Testament into Pentateuch (Torah), Naviim and Kethubim. The second state of the Classification which is Naviim means the Prophets and it presents the significance of the Prophets <sup>1</sup>נְבִיאִים in the Old Testament. This could be transliterated as nabi'(nabia). The meaning of נְבִיאִים is mouth piece, prophet, the sent or oracle. In the Modern Hebrew

Language, the 'b' in preferably pronounced as letter 'v'. The plural form is נְבִיאִים= members of prophets guilds 1 Kings 20:35<sup>2</sup>, pronounced as 'nabi'him'. The Prophets who are the carriers of the messages or mystery or Oracles are called man of God. Douglas (1978) says that the title of Man of God was first used for Moses<sup>3</sup> (Deut. 33:1). The theocratic Government of the leaders of Israel made the prophets to forcefully be recognized. There are two ways to Prophecy in the Old Testament, they are, foretelling and forthtelling.

Foretelling is predicting what may eventually happen and having the same as the outcome. It is embedded in the works of the Oracles about what will eventually be. Prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah (2 Chron.18:13-30), Abijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jehu (2 Chron. 19:2) etc, were Oracles who displayed the prophetic work of foretelling; telling ahead of time what will eventually be and people finding it to be. If a prophet in the Old Testament present himself to be a foretelling type and predicted a failed Oracle, such will be seen as a fake Prophet.

Forthtelling Prophets were found to speak the words of God forth to people. The classical prophets in the Old Testament operated in the realm of Foretelling and Forthtelling Prophecy in their ministries. This set of prophets existed around 8 B.C. They have two unique attributes which the early prophecy in Israel did not have. The first thing is the documentation of their Oracles which made them to be called the classical prophets. What prompted the

<sup>1</sup> <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/5030.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://biblehub.com/interlinear/1kings/20-35.htm>

<sup>3</sup> J.D. Douglas, Ed. (1978), The New Bible Dictionary, (Britain: Fletcher and Sons Ltd), 1037



documentation of the Oracles was the pre-exilic era. The warnings foretold about the words of YHWH as the repercussion of Israel evil perpetration were forth told and written down for remembrance. This Prophets in Israel regard themselves as both 'forth tellers' and 'fore tellers' because they spoke forth the words of God and predicted the future. There is clear difference between a forth teller and a fore teller. Lasebikan(2013) says, a forth teller speaks out the mind of God to people, while a fore teller speaks or predicts what may eventually come to be. In the message of YHWH's expectations from mankind,<sup>4</sup> the constant works are embedded in the phrase, 'thus says the LORD'. Both in ancient Israel and among the contemporary Prophets of Nigeria, people find it difficult to question the words spoken from the LORD. In ancient Israel, much awe and reverence were accorded iota of every word that proceeds from the LORD.

It is interesting to understand the existence Classical Prophets in the Old Testament. The classical prophets existed in the 8 B.C. Under the classical prophecy are major and minor prophets. The Major Prophets were prophets with voluminous books, they are: Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The Minor Prophets consist of twelve prophets in the latter context of the Old Testament. They are: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. These twelve classical prophets are referred to as Minor Prophets because of the small volumes of their books. One of the books of

the major prophet is equal to one volume of the twelve Minor prophets.

The system of prophecy in Nigeria takes after the Old Testament as there are also foretelling and forthtelling prophecy. There are both vocal and classical prophets in Nigeria. Both ministry of the Prophecy are in good number of existence.

The prophets in the Old Testament got into their ministries through the call of YHWH, unlike Priesthood which is hereditary. It means that Priesthood ministry was contagious through family relationship of the Levites which is impossible in the Prophecy. Prophecy is by God's call and He chooses anybody he wants. Therefore, by means of choice, Prophets were made by God. They become the Oracles or mouth piece of God to people who seek the attention of God. In this vain, ministers who are God's oracles are been chosen in the Old Testament and in the contemporary Nigeria.

People identify the prophets via the message that they carry. The mode of dispensation of the message carried by a prophet affect the polity of its time and denotes whether he is a foretelling or forthtelling Prophet.

## **Oracles in Old Testament**

The word of the Prophets who speak on behalf of the unseen deity to people who require seeing or receiving from the deity is refer to as Oracles. The words are not ordinary words, they are Oracles sent from the unseen and supernatural being through the medium, prophet, who presents the Oracles. Oracles are therefore Words of YHWH in the Old Testament sent through a

<sup>4</sup> G.L. Lasebikan, (2013), The Development of Hebrew Prophecy, A hand out... 1



minister or prophet. Hornby (2005)<sup>5</sup> says oracles in ancient Greece is a place where people could go to ask the gods for advice or information about the future; the priest or priestess through whom the gods were thought to give their message, are the Oracles.

The Prophets individually have the specific ways of presenting their Oracles. For instance, much of the Oracles of Habakkuk is on Judgment to the adversaries, exhortation to the Israelites and Salvation through hope in the promises of God. For instance, Prophet Habakkuk says Whatever happens, however long it takes, yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior (Habakkuk 1:8),<sup>6</sup> while Nahum believes that the LORD will not leave the sinner unpunished.<sup>7</sup>

The advice or information that the gods gave, which often has a hidden prophetic response, often enigmatic or allegorical is given. A theoretical entity that is endowed with every capability of answering collection of questions is the career of the Oracles. There are three types of the Oracle in the Old Testament context.

They are: Oracles of judgment, Oracles of exhortation and Oracles of salvation. An exegete of the prophets should identify or 'think oracles'.<sup>8</sup> For instance, the messages delivered by Prophet Amos, one of the well

pronounced prophets in the 8 B.C.,<sup>9</sup> in the first two chapters of his book are oracles of judgment, exhortation and salvation. The fact remains that the work of Amos is much on Oracles of Judgment than the other two types of Oracles. There are nine oracles in all been presented across these two chapters. Six of these oracles against the nations around Judah and Israel; such countries include, Damascus, Syria, Gaza (Philistine), Edom and Moab. The remaining Oracles were pronounced against Judah and Israel. Also, in Amos there are Oracles of the exhortation like in Amos 5: 4, which is 'seek me and live'. There is much on Oracles of woes than exhortation in the book of Amos. Little wonder that Amos was tagged the *Prophet of doom*.

Prophet Hosea's oracles are much of exhortation and salvation. Hosea both forthtold and foretold the ruins of Israel and Judah. He was the first minor Prophet to write his Oracle. Matthew Henry<sup>10</sup> says Hosea was of Bethshemesh and of the tribe of Issachar. Hosea foretold of the destruction of the kingdom of the ten tribes and lived to witness and lamented the same from the divine instruction given to Hosea was to take an adulterous woman called Gomer daughter of Diblaim as wife and give birth to Jezreel because YHWH intend to punish Jehu's children for the massacre at Jezreel and that God wants to put an end to the kingdom of Israel. The second child was a girl and was called Lo-Ruhamah, meaning, God will no longer show love to the house of Israel talk

<sup>5</sup> A.S. Hornby (2005), *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, Seventh edition, (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 1027

<sup>6</sup> David Horton (2006), *The Portable Seminary, A Master's Level Overview in one Volume*, (Bloomington: Minnesota: Bethany House), 255

<sup>7</sup> David Horton (2006), *The Portable Seminary, A Master's Level Overview in one Volume*, 254

<sup>8</sup> G. Fee and D. Stuart, (1982), *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 158

<sup>9</sup> Bernard Thorogood, (2000), *A Guide to Amos, SPCK*, (Britain: Cambridge University Press), 5

<sup>10</sup> *Matthew Henry's Commentary- on the whole Bible in one volume* (1960), Marshal: Morgan and Scott, 1105



less of forgiving them, but YHWH's love will be shown to Judah and they will be forgiven. Gomer gave birth to the third child who happened to be a boy and Hosea called the name Lo- Ammi meaning for you are not my people and I am not your God. All the classical Prophets in the contents of their works displayed the three types of Oracles in their works. Though Israel will be destroyed, but Judah will be rescued is an Oracle of Judgment to Israel and the hope set for Judah is Oracles to Judah.

The persuasions of Hosea on Gomer to return to him are symbolic. Hosea 3:1 says *Go and show your love to your wife again... Love her as the LORD loves Israelites*. It is interpreted as YHWH's love to Israel irrespective of their promiscuities after other gods. Yet, there is plea with Israel to return to God. The plea to return instead of instant judgment, beckoning on Israel to see a need of focusing on YHWH is Oracle of exhortation. The messages to Gomer via her children that eventually united her back to her family is Oracles of salvation. Oracles of Salvation work on changing ones intension from a bad mood to YHWH intent. Book of Hosea is a good example of the Prophet who has the three types of Oracles; that is Oracles of Judgment, Oracles of Exhortation and Oracles of Salvation. Likewise, Hosea both foretold and forthtold about Israel and Judah.

### **Impact of prophecy and power in Israelites polity in relation to Nigeria Polity**

The theocratic Government of Israel was possible because of the presence of the Prophets in all the monarchical leadership of Israel. The Prophets speak the mind of Yahweh to the leadership of Israel, which

then confirms the God's leading Government on the chosen people of God. There were rooms of punishment for Israel immediately they contravene the theocratic rule. The costly penalty of Israel disobedience is often besiege by her enemies and been taken to exile.

The Prophets chosen in Israel to deliver Oracle of Prophecy to the Country made their minds receptive to divine revelation. Bishop Dapo Asaju says that in the condition of been receptive to the divine message, he (Prophet) prepares himself to communicate with the invincible world and then impact the experiences to others to whom they were specifically directed.<sup>11</sup> The Prophets in the Old Testament are implements in the hands of Yahweh, hence they are obligated to carry out the instructions of YHWH no matter the nature and difficulty of the task.

For instance, the anointing of David by Samuel was a big risk for Samuel's life, when Saul was still reigning. At the order of YHWH to anoint David, Samuel believed that Saul will not be happy with him if he should hear of anointing another king when he is still reigning as King over Israel (1 Samuel 16: 1-5). Samuel used divine Wisdom in the anointing service complemented with sacrifice that marked the commencement of a new King in the courtyard of Jesse. The task was difficult, but a must for Prophet Samuel to accomplish. Yahweh's Prophets in Old Testament owned Him obligation to fulfill any task given to them. The task was difficult, but the LORD helped Samuel for the accomplishment. Samuel in any case had been nurtured by

<sup>11</sup> Dapo Asaju, (2015), *Christian Foundation*, (Abeokuta: Crowther Theological Publishers), 52



God Himself in a pious home and dedicated to the service of Jehovah. This background helped Samuel when he assumed the political stage in Israel as the last Judge of Israel. Public administration may become corrupt, religious ordinances may be widely disregarded, and the whole tone of society may deteriorate, yet in some homes the ancient faith will be kept, the moral law will be observed and pure lives will be built up.<sup>12</sup> Samuel's background helped him to lead Israel after the Will of Yahweh.

Although, the Ministers of the Gospel in Nigeria do not have the capability to enthrone a King but can influence the same. There are often visits to the Churches and Christian organizations during campaign for governmental offices in Nigeria and some Ministers influence the votes of their Church members to whom they want. There have been series of predictions of who will emerge the Presidents or Governors by some ministers in Nigeria, which has often been detected as man's wish rather than God's will.

Currently, there have been responses against the ambition of the President Muhammad Buhari in going for the second term as the President. A Cleric and Catholic Church Priest, Rev. Fr. Ejike Mbaka, has told the President that he would be voted out in 2019 presidential election except he changes his style of leadership. Rev. Fr. Mbaka reiterated his Oracles in two points:

God said you are toying with the privilege given to you. Nigerians are dying in your hands, people are not happy with your system. Change or

you will be changed.

If Buhari does not want to move Nigeria forward, God has the plan of moving Nigeria forward... Very soon Nigerians will know that the country is in a terrible mess. The cabals have messed up the President and confused him.<sup>13</sup>

Mbaka proceeded that the hardship that Nigerians experienced in this two years of Buhari's reign is man-made problems, not from God. Malam Garba Shehu who is the senior special Assistance to the President on Media and Publicity responded that he has not received any personal text message from Mbaka and that he will not trust Mbaka's words except he sees directly from him. This story was captured in *Punch and Vanguard National Papers* (2018) on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, yet Malam Garba Shehu, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity claimed ignorance of the message.

Another Oracle was from the Most Revd. Peter Jasper Akinola, the former Primate of Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion between 2000 to 2010, and former National President of C.A.N.,<sup>14</sup> who was fearless at delivering Oracles of God to the Political Leaders (Ogidiolu 2017). It is expedient to note that Primate Akinola is fearless and openly confronted the Islamic riot at burning Churches during his tenure as the National Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, (C.A.N.). Primate Peter Akinola, also made news in 2006 when, he issued a

<sup>12</sup> John Mauchline, B.D. -Rev. Professor (1978), *God's People Israel*, (Ibadan: Daystar Press), 56

<sup>13</sup> [tps: www.google.com.ng/vanguardngr.com](https://www.google.com.ng/vanguardngr.com)

<sup>14</sup> Ayodeji O. Ogidiolu (2017), *GAFCON and Lambeth Conferences, the GAFCON struggle to protect Anglican genuine Identity*, (Oyo: Smart Print Publisher), 40



statement in response to Muslim riots ignited by the printing in Danish newspapers of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. *“May we at this stage remind our Muslim brothers that they do not have the monopoly of violence in this nation,”*<sup>15</sup> Primate Akinola said. Archbishop Williams argued that Akinola meant to issue a warning, not a threat. In 2004, Primate Akinola refused to condemn the retaliatory killings of 700 Muslims following the deaths of 75 Christians in sectarian violence. The situation of Islamic violence subsided in his term as the C.A.N. President, because he understood the language to calm it.

The Sultan of Sokoto, over assaults caused by the Islamic Terrorists against the Christianity in Nigeria called that some Christian Leaders should be arrested for instigating their members to fight back. Apostle John Suleman of the Omega Fire Ministry, with the clip of his Video made a call to his members to fight against and threat of terror noticed around him or in his Church premises. During the two days conference organized by the international Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), an inter-governmental organization that promotes dialogue to build peace in conflict area (2017),<sup>16</sup> the Sultan of Sokoto called for the arrest of the Christian Leaders who instigates their members to fight back. Apostle Suleman would have been arrested in Ekiti State, but the intervention of the state

Governor, Ayodele Fayose resisted the issue of Suleman’s arrest.<sup>17</sup>

Due to this new development, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, the General Overseer of the Redeem Christian Church of God, has ordered his church members to join polity and make sure that they hold recognized offices in the wards of the party that they belong. Pastor Adeboye believed that with this, his members can use their voting Power to rout the current government that is purely encouraging the killings of the Fulanis extremists and Sunni Muslims whose agendas are primarily on the Islamizing Nigeria. The Sultan of Sokoto on his call for the arrest of the Christian Leaders is a betray of trust reposed on him by the Nigerians.

The Sultans ethnic, Fulani herdsmen and the religious adherent were not resisted nor arrested at their murder against their fellow citizens in Bornu, Southern Kaduna, Aguta, Enugu, Plateau, Ekiti and other Christian territories. Femi Fani- Kayode reacted to the call for arrest by the Sultan as uncalled for. He said that anybody that has problem with the message of self defense been preached by the Christian Leaders after the reoccurring genocides without the intervention of the Federal Government will have his head to be examined.<sup>18</sup>

Unfortunately, Malam El Rufai compensated the Fulanis who committed massacre of Southern Kaduuna. It was this same El Rufai who in his tweet of July 15, 2012, at 7:51 pm said “We will write this for all to read. Anyone, soldier or not that kills a Fulani

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Peter-Akinola>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.naija.ng/1085045-hate-speech-between-apostle-suleman-sultan-sokoto-by-jude-ndukwe.html#1085045>

<sup>17</sup> : <https://www.naija.ng/1085045-hate-speech-between-apostle-suleman-sultan-sokoto-by-jude-ndukwe.html#1085045>

<sup>18</sup> [tps: www.google.com.ng/vanguardngr.com](https://www.google.com.ng/vanguardngr.com)



takes a loan repayable one day no matter how long it takes".<sup>19</sup> This shows the downgraded level of the leadership of Nigeria and the response of the Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the deteriorated situation. The current leadership glory in Islamizing Nigeria by killing, raping, maiming, etc, of Christians. The Oracles of the said ministers have been able to subdue the situation to a level, if not their Words, the Christian persecutions in Nigeria with the silent support of the Government would have reached the summit. At the visit of the defaulted C.P.C. (Congress for Progressive Change) by some delegates from Niger state to Muhammad Buhari on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, Buhari, said dog and baboon will soak in blood, Sultan Sa'ad Abubakar III never issued an arrest. The collective Oracles of Apostle Suleman and other Pastors is that:

What is responsible for the continued attacks on communities by terrorist Fulani herdsmen is that they get compensated rather than being arrested and prosecuted. That is not justice!<sup>20</sup>

This is an Oracle of exhortation clamoring for justice enveloped by judgment from the Leadership of Nigeria. The Islamic agenda of the tenure of the President Buhari as in a way influenced the Pastors to have open eyes in the polity of Nigeria.

The examples above demonstrate the fearless spirit of Old Testament Prophets still rests on some Ministers in Nigeria. These people are mindless of their lives before the states governments and adversaries against their

Faith. At the moment that Apostle Suleman could not be apprehended, a case of sexual immorality was leveled against him through Stephanie Otobo as her ex- man friend who has aborted for her severally. The case on scandal was never on ground before Johnson Suleman ordered his Church members to give themselves self defense. It emerged so as to silent the outspoken cleric.

Some Ministers of the Gospel in Nigeria have moved beyond giving Oracles to been involved fully in the Leadership affairs of Nigeria. After all, Moses gave Oracles and still led the Israelites through the wilderness. It is recorded that... and there arose not a prophet in Israel like Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10).<sup>21</sup> וְלֹא-קָם נָבִיא עוֹד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל.

David's leadership to Israelites and his constant yielding to God's instruction made him to live as a respected King in Israel and composed many Oracles in the book of Psalms. At the beginning of the year 2018, Pastor Tunde Bakare, the General Overseer of Later Rain Assembly profess his Oracles of been led by God to vie for 2019 Presidential election. Pastor Bakare said that in his study room at a particular morning, God told him never to bring his political career to a close, 'there is still more to do, run for the presidency'. There have also been records of Chris Okotie who joined the Presidency aspirants in 2007, under the Fresh Democratic Party.<sup>22</sup> Pastor Tunde Bakare consoled himself that Joseph, in the book of Genesis, did not contest for the Prime Minister of Egypt, yet Joseph became one. He solicited for prayers of good Nigerians.

<sup>19</sup><https://mobile.twitter.com> 7:51 PM- July 15, 2012

<sup>20</sup> : <https://www.naija.ng/1085045-hate-speech-between-apostle-suleman-sultan-sokoto-by-jude-ndukwe.html#1085045>

<sup>21</sup> <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/5030.htm>

<sup>22</sup> <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>



Pastor Bakare concluded his Oracles by saying that, ‘the political juggernauts’ at the country would fall at the feet of Women in 2019’.<sup>23</sup> Pastor Tunde Bakare contested as Vice President on the platform of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change in 2011 presidential election.<sup>24</sup>

## **Characteristics of Prophets in ancient Israel worthy of emulation by Nigeria Prophets:**

The commencement of Prophecy in Israel was with all zeal, which latter degenerated to its status quo. Dawson (1974) revealed in his work how Prophecy began in Israel with wandering bands of enthusiasts for Jahveh and how it degenerated into groups of false prophets and time servers at the court.<sup>25</sup> There were fake Prophets been recorded in the Old Testament, ditto, Nigeria. This has not abolished the authenticity of the true and upright Prophets both in the ancient Israel and the contemporary Nigeria. There are distinctive elements that characterized the Old Testament Prophets. These have been seen or identified with some Prophets within the shores of Nigeria. The characteristics are: Boldness, Fulfillment of the prophecy, People fear them, they are generally embraced as Prophets of the LORD and they operate from celestial realm.

- i. Boldness: The true Prophets in ancient Israel were extremely bold. They were fearless to deliver any divine message. They speak authoritatively in delivering

messages. Prophet Nathan did not fear to tell David that he is guilty of killing Uriah. Surprisingly, the King rent his garment and repented of the evil way (2 Samuel 12: 1-13). It is unfortunate that Nigeria Political Leaders dislike receiving undiluted and true messages from Prophets or Ministers. Immediately that such message comes from a Cleric, they see it a sent message from opposition to orchestrate issues for the downfall of their Political ambition. Many a times, they see such cleric been sent from another politician to fault their political career, because some Ministers of the Gospel have soiled their hands by looking for contracts and money from the Politicians. True Ministers with divinely arranged messages are bold to deliver authentic messages. They speak God’s intent to deliver masses from operations and instill God’s Will to people.

- ii. Fulfillment of the prophecy. They take pleasure in speaking it and having the fulfilment of what its spoken instantly. This character reflects in the ministry of Elijah. Elijah confidently told Ahab; according to my words, there will be no rain for three years and six months and it was so (1 Kings 17:1). The power tussle between Elijah and King Ahab, according to Okey Ogba, resulted in the

<sup>23</sup> ps: //punchng/gool-bakare

<sup>24</sup> ps: //punchng/gool-bakare

<sup>25</sup> Levi Dawson (1974), *The History and Religion of Israel*, (London: Evans Brothers Limited), 101



spirited challenge to such trends presented by Elijah, as the loyal representative of Yahweh and the traditional faith of Israel.<sup>26</sup> When the three and a half years clocked, he prayerfully released the rain on Month Camel. There were rains at this period of three and a half years in the neighboring countries, but Israel was exempted according to the foretelling words of a Minister. *As God spoken and will it not come to pass?* It must definitely be fulfilled as long as it is said by a true prophet in Old Testament.

iii. People fear the Prophets because they believe that every word spoken by them will surely come to pass. A good instance from the Scripture was the order of bear to kill the children who mocked Prophet Elisha as a bald headed man.(2 Kings 3: 23-25).Also, people have physically seen miracles happening in the course of the ministration of the Ministers of the Gospels in Nigeria.

iv. They are generally embraced as Prophets of God. People around see them as Men of God, due to their revered behaviour and words of hope that proceeds from them. They are full with hope for people and themselves on things of this earth and in the World beyond. In both the Old Testament and the Political

dispensation of Nigeria, they present their words and deeds as been ordered from God; therefore they are called Men or Women of God.

v. They operate from celestial realm. The realm at which the prophets or ministers prophesy is unusual. Prof. Taiye Aluko (2017)<sup>27</sup> exegete the behaviour of the Prophets as been abnormal like the reaction of the mad man. He explained how some addicted *Loto gamers* and European Leagues supporting team consulted mad people on the street of Ilorin to know the right prediction of the winning *Loto* number or which League is winning the European Football match. The result shows that the prediction of the street mad man will always come through. The behaviour of the street mad man and the prophets unconsciously, come through as reality. To him, it means that both prophets and mad men in their unconscious reactions operate from unusual realms.

There is nothing original without an inferior. There exist both true and fake prophets in ancient Israel and in the contemporary Nigeria.

## Conclusion

The existence of both the true and fake Prophets are in existence both in the ancient

<sup>26</sup> Ogba, Okey, *Exploring Old Testament, Volume 1*, (Ibadan:Jilog Nigeria Company), 232

<sup>27</sup> An academic expression of spiritual operation by Prof. Taiye Aluko, the H.O.D. Department of Religious Studies, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo.



Israel and the contemporary Nigeria, none the less, there is authenticity of the divine Oracles which the Holy Prophets are the convener. The convener or the medium of the Prophecy could then relay the same to the receiver, who is the end result of the issued prophecy. It is therefore left for the end result of the Prophecy to accept or reject the prophecy. Acceptance will bring blessings while rejecting such message may be disastrous. This shows that Oracles daily emit from the Ministers of the Gospel to the Leaderships of Nigeria as it was in the Old Testament. The article adds to the knowledge that Prophets or Ministers who are genuine Oracles of Yahweh exist in every generation and in every country of the World as Nigeria is not an exception of this. Also, Prophecy have impact or roles to play in the prophetic events of the Country.

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