

Prophets of God

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Manabii wa Mungu

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To listen to and obey the voice of the prophet is crucial to holding on to every good thing until the Second Coming.

Dear youth, what a beautiful conference session we are having! We have already heard three living Apostles of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful blessing! And we will still hear one more, Elder Henry B. Eyring. The spiritual feast continues!

When I spoke last year, we learned how to face this world through David's experience with Goliath. Remember the five stones? Today I am sharing an Old Testament story I read at your age which left me wanting to be like its protagonist. The Bible does not tell us her name, so we will call her the woman of Shunem because this is the name of her town.

One day the prophet Elisha was passing through Shunem, and we read that there "was a great woman; and she [invited]him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in ... to eat bread." I imagine the prophet Elisha was so happy with the invitation to eat at her house! He had already gone several times, when one day the woman said to her husband, "Now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God."

The woman says, "Now, I perceive." It seems she invited Elisha to her house without knowing he was the prophet; she received her testimony through the Holy Ghost by listening carefully to what Elisha said and taught. (Remember, there were no pictures at that time! So it was hard to recognize the prophet just by his face.)

Kuisikiliza na kuitii sauti ya nabii ni muhimu kwenye kushikilia kila kitu kizuri hadi Ujio wa Pili.

Wapendwa vijana, ni kikao cha kupendeza cha mkutano wakati huu! Tayari tumewasikia Mitume hai watatu wa Yesu Kristo. Ni baraka kuu iliyoje! Na tutamsikia mmoja mwingine, Mzee Henry B. Eyring. Karamu ya kiroho inaendelea!

Nilipozungumza mwaka uliopita, tulijifunza jinsi ya kuukabili ulimwengu huu kupitia uzoefu wa Daudi kwa Goliati. Mnakumbuka yale mawe matano? Leo ninashiriki hadithi ya Agano la Kale niliyoisoma nikiwa na umri kama wenu, ambayo iliniacha nikitamani kuwa kama mhusika wake. Biblia haituambii jina lake, hivyo tutamwita mwanamke wa Shunemu kwa sababu hili ni jina la mji anakotoka.

Siku moja, nabii Elisha alikuwa akipita Shunemu, na tunasoma kwamba palikuwepo "mwanamke mmoja mwenye cheo; naye [akamwalika] nabii aje ale chakula. Ikawa kila alipopita njia ile, huingia ... kula chakula." Nadhani nabii Elisha alikuwa na furaha sana kwa mwaliko wa kula katika nyumba ya yake! Alikuwa tayari amekwenda mara kadhaa wakati siku moja mwanamke alipomwambia mumewe, "Tazama, mimi naona ya kuwa mtu huyuni mtu mtakatifu wa Mungu..

Mwanamke anasema, "Sasa, ninaona." Inaonekana alimwalika Elisha nyumbani kwake bila kujua alikuwa nabii; alipokea ushuhuda wake kupitia Roho Mtakatifu kwa kusikiliza kwa makini kile Elisha alichofanya na kufundisha. (Kumbukeni, hakukuwa na picha kipindi hicho! Hivyo ilikuwa vigumu kumtambua nabii kwa sura yake.)

But the story does not end there. One day the woman said to her husband, “Let us make a little chamber, ... and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in.”

This faithful woman was willing to build a room in her house so that the prophet, passing through the city, would have a place to stay!

Today we can learn a powerful lesson from this experience.

The Lord testified to the woman of Shunem that Elisha was a prophet of God, and she acted by opening her house to receive him.

We too can receive a personal testimony of God’s prophets today and open our hearts and minds—our house—to the message that our Heavenly Father has for us in these latter days.

Dear youth, I invite you to ask yourself this question: “Do I have a personal testimony of God’s living prophets?”

Let’s start at the beginning.

What is a prophet? A prophet is a man whom God has called to speak for Him. There are prophets on the earth today, just as there were in ancient times.

Prophets are seers and revelators. That means they can see what others cannot see, and they can prophesy of future events. They can also prepare us for calamities. Prophets receive commandments and revelations from the Lord. Then in this article of faith, we speak of the continuing revelation in these last days. It says, “We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.”

Elder Gary E. Stevenson said, “The Lord continues to reveal His commandments and will to His prophets today because He desires to lead us to happiness in this life and to celestial glory in the next life.”

Prophets also proclaim the gospel and are inspired teachers and messengers of God to everyone on earth.

Each member of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles is a prophet,

Lakini hadithi haikomei hapo. Siku moja, mwanamke akamwambia mumewe, “Tumfan-yie chumba kidogo ... na ndani yake tumwekee kitanda, na meza, na kiti, na kinara cha taa; na itakuwa, atujiapo, ataingia humo.”

Mwanamke huyu mwaminifu alikuwa radhi kutengeneza chumba ndani ya nyumba yake ili kwamba nabii, akipita katika mji, angepata mahala pa kuishi!

Leo tunaweza kujifunza somo lenye nguvu kutokana na uzoefu huu.

Bwana alishuhudia kwa mwanamke wa Shunemu kwamba Elisha alikuwa nabii wa Mungu, na alitenda kwa kuifungua nyumba yake ili kumpokea.

Sisi pia tunaweza kupokea ushuhuda binafsi wa manabii wa Mungu leona kuifungua mioyo yetu na akili zetu—nyumba yetu—kwa ujumbe ambao Baba yetu wa Mbinguni anao kwa ajili yetu katika siku hizi za mwisho.

Wapendwa vijana, ninawaalika mjiulize swali hili: Je, nina ushuhuda binafsi wa manabii wa Mungu walio hai?

Hebu tuanzie mwanzoni.

Nabii ni nani? Nabii ni mtu ambaye Mungu amemwita azungumze kwa niaba Yake. Wapo manabii duniani leo, kama vile ilivyokuwa katika nyakati za kale.

Manabii ni waonaji na wafunuzi. Hiyo humaanisha wanaweza kuona kile wengine wasichoweza kukiona, na wanaweza kutoa unabii wa matukio yajayo. Wanaweza pia kutuandaa dhidi ya majanga. Manabii hupokea amri na mafunuo kutoka kwa Bwana. Makala ya imani ya tisa inazungumza juu ya ufunuo unaoendelea katika siku hizi za mwisho. Inasema, “Tunaamini yale yote Mungu aliyoyafunua, na ambayo sasa anayafunua, na tunaamini kwamba bado Yeye atayafunua mambo mengi makuu na muhimu yahusuyo Ufalme wa Mungu.”

Mzee Gary E. Stevenson alisema, “Bwana anaendelea kufunua amri Zake na mapenzi yake kwa manabii Wake leo kwa sababu Yeye anatamani kutuongoza kwenye furaha katika maisha haya na kwenye utukufu wa selestia katika maisha yajayo.”

Manabii pia huitangaza injili na ni walimu wenye uvuvio na wajumbe wa Mungu kwa kila mmoja duniani.

Kila mshiriki wa Urais wa Kwanza na Akidi ya Mitume Kumi na Wawili ni nabii, mwanaji,

seer, and revelator. Serving as a council under the Lord's direction, they have the authority to declare and interpret doctrine and establish policy for His Church. They carefully pray and deliberate, for the decisions of these quorums must be unanimous. In this way, the Lord assures us that His will will be done.

Prophets testify of Christ—His existence, His ministry, and His divinity.

Let us read some testimonies from prophets in the Book of Mormon.

Abinadi proclaimed:

“God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people.

“And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God.”

Samuel the Lamanite also testified that Jesus Christ is “the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning.”

And the prophet Moroni said, “I have seen Jesus, and ... he hath talked with me face to face.”

When Christ visited the Nephites, one of the first things He did was call twelve Apostles. And He said to the people, “Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen.”

Now, let me share a few words for parents or other family members raising children. The Lord Himself taught Adam and Eve the truths of the plan of salvation. And then He said to them, “I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children.”

What does it mean to teach freely? It is learning the truths of the gospel, having a personal testimony of them, and sharing that knowledge with our children. It is promoting both formal and informal teaching moments. It is living according to that knowledge and testimony.

The Book of Mormon describes the 2,060 stripling warriors as “men of truth and soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him.” These young men faithfully obeyed Helaman, who at that time was their military leader and also their prophet, and they recognized that their mothers had filled their hearts with truth and faith.

Parents, in this world where there are many voices and sometimes much darkness, God Himself has commanded us to raise our chil-

na mfunuzi. Wakihudumu kama baraza chini ya maelekezo ya Bwana, wana mamlaka ya kutangaza na kufafanua mafundisho na kuweka sera kwa ajili ya Kanisa Lake. Kwa makini wanasali na kufanya shauri, kwani maamuzi ya akidi hizi lazima yatolewe kwa kauli moja. Kwa njia hii, Bwana anatuhakikishia kwamba mapenzi Yake yatatendeka.

Manabii wanashuhudia kumhusu Kristo—uwepo Wake, huduma Yake, na utakatifu Wake.

Ngoja tusome baadhi ya shuhuda za manabii ndani ya Kitabu cha Mormoni.

Abinadi alitangaza:

“Mungu mwenyewe atashuka miongoni mwa watoto wa watu, na atawakomboa watu wake.

“Na kwa sababu anaishi katika mwili ataitwa Mwana wa Mungu.”

Samweli Mlamani pia alishuhudia kwamba Yesu Kristo ni “Mwana wa Mungu, Baba wa mbingu na dunia, Muumba wa vitu vyote tangu mwanzo.”

Na nabii Moroni alisema, “Nimemuona Yesu, na ... amenizungumzia uso kwa uso.”

Wakati Kristo alipowatembelea Wanefi, moja ya vitu vya mwanzo Yeye alivyofanya ilikuwa kuwaita Mitume kumi na wawili. Naye akawaambia watu, “Heri ikiwa mtasikilizamaneno ya hawa kumi na wawili ambao nimewachagua.”

Sasa, ngoja nishiriki maneno machache kwa wazazi au wanafamilia wengine wanaowalea watoto. Bwana mwenyewe aliwafundisha Adamu na Hawa kweli za mpango wa wokovu. Na kisha aliwaambia, “Ninakupeni amri, kuyafundisha mambo haya kwa uhurukwa watoto wenu.”

Inamaanisha nini kufundisha kwa uhuru? Ni kujifunza kweli za injili, kuwa na ushuhuda binafsi wa kweli hizo, na kushiriki maarifa hayo kwa watoto wetu. Ni kuhimiza vyote, nyakati rasmi na zisizo rasmi za kufundisha. Ni kuishi kulingana na maarifa na ushuhuda huo.

Kitabu cha Mormoni kinawaelezea vijana mashujaa 2,060 kama “watu wa ukweli na wenye busara, kwani walikuwa wamefundishwa kutii amri za Mungu na kutembea wima mbele yake.” Wavulana hawa kwa uaminifu walimtii Helamani, ambaye kwa wakati huo alikuwa kiongozi wao wa jeshi na pia nabii wao, na walitambua kwamba mama zao walikuwa wameijaza mioyo yao kwa ukweli na imani.

Wazazi, katika ulimwengu huu ambapo kuna sauti nyingi na nyakati zingine kiza kinene, Mungu mwenyewe ametuamuru kuwalea watoto wetu

dren inlight and truth.He entrusted us with the responsibility to teach our children the saving truths of the gospel. If we fail to do so, the world will not do it.

Dear young friends, I have an invitation for you: In the coming days, I invite you to kneel, open your hearts, and pray with faith to Heavenly Father, asking Him to confirm to you that His chosen prophet and apostles are His voice on the earth today.

The woman of Shunem taught us that we can have that testimony through the Holy Ghost. I promise you that once we know they are God's anointed ones, our lives will be easier in spite of our ongoing challenges, as we will obey their voices with trust, faith, and hope. To listen to and obey the voice of the prophet is crucial to holding on to every good thing until the Second Coming of our Savior.

The world's wickedness is growing, but the Church of Jesus Christ and His kingdom are stronger than ever. Zion is putting on its beautiful garments, and Christ's throne will not fall. The Lord expects us to be strong in our testimonies, to be full of faith, and to repent daily. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is counting on each of us to carry on His work.

Once, the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause?" However, since my message is mainly for you, the youth, I would like to use the word youth instead of brethren. Ready?

"[Youth], shall we not go on in so great a cause? Go forward and not backward. Courage, [youth]; and on, on to the victory! Let your hearts rejoice, and be exceedingly glad."

I am grateful for the guidance and consecrated efforts of the living prophets. I give you my solemn testimony that they are called by God to carry forth, establish, and lead His kingdom on earth today. And it will always be so. It will always be the Lord who chooses His servants. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

katikanuru na kweli. Ametuamini kwa jukumu la kuwafundisha watoto wetu kweli za kuokoa za injili. Ikiwa tutashindwa kufanya hivyo, ulimwengu hautabeba jukumu hilo.

Wapendwa marafiki vijana, nina mwaliko kwa ajili yenu: Katika siku zinazokuja, ninawaalika mpige magoti, mfungue mioyo yenu, na msali kwa imani kwa Baba wa Mbinguni mkimuoomba awathibitishie kwamba nabii na mitume Wake ni sauti Yake duniani leo.

Mwanamke Mshunani ametufunza kwamba tunaweza kuwa na ushuhuda huo kupitia Roho Mtakatifu. Ninawaahidi kwamba paletunapokuwa kwamba wao ni wapakwa mafuta wa Mungu, maisha yetu yatakuwa rahisi licha ya changamoto zinazoendelea, kwani tutatii sauti yao kwa ujasiri, imani, na tumaini. Kuisikiliza na kuitiisa sauti ya nabii ni muhimu kwenye kushikilia kila kitu kizuri hadi Ujio wa Pili wa Mwokozi wetu.

Uovu wa ulimwengu unaongezeka, lakini Kanisa la Yesu Kristo na ufalme wake ni imara kuliko ilivyowahi kuwa. Sayuni inajivika mavazi yake mazuri, na enzi ya Kristo haitaanguka. Bwana anatutarajia kuwa imara katika shuhuda zetu, kuwa waliojaa imani, na kutubu kila siku. Mwokozi wetu, Yesu Kristo, anamtegemea kila mmoja wetu kuisongesha mbele kazi Yake.

Nabii Joseph Smith aliwahi kusema, "Ndugu, je, si lazima sisi tuendele katika kazi hii iliyo kuu?" Hata hivyo, kwa kuwa ujumbe wangu ni mahususi kwa ajili yenu, vijana, ningependa kutumia nenovijana badala ya ndugu. Mpo tayari?

"[Vijana], je, si lazima sisi tuendele katika kazi hii iliyo kuu? Twende mbele na siyo nyuma. Tuweni majasiri, [vijana]; na mbele, mbele kwenye ushindi! Acheni mioyo yenu ifurahi, nakuwa yenye furaha zaidi."

Nina shukrani kwa mwongozo na juhudi zilizowekwa wakfu za manabii walio hai. Nina-toa ushuhuda wangu wa unyenyekevu kwamba, waliitwa na Mungu ili kuendeleza, kuanzisha, na kuongoza ufalme wake duniani leo. Na itakuwa hivyo daima. Daima itakuwa kwamba Bwana anawachagua watumishi Wake. Katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.