Chapter 5
Culture and Prophecy

If you analyze prophetic ministries very closely, you will discover that they have their genesis in the prophet's cultural experiences. I find it interesting that God used culture in raising up prophets in the Old Testament. God wants to take some of our cultural distinctiveness and use that part which is good as His unique expression and a manifestation of His presence.

**Prophetic Principle #47**

God used culture in raising up the Old Testament prophets.
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There are no two prophets alike because each one has been reared in a different culture. I once heard an Englishman who, when he prophesied, was very articulate and proper. Somebody else, who may have been reared in urban America, could use proper “street” language to convey the same message. Another prophet might be from the Caribbean, and could deliver the same word with his culture's flavor.

**Prophetic Principle #48**

Your ethnic assignment is not an accident.

God uses our cultural perspective to bring the word of the Lord. Your ethnic assignment is not an accident, but it is part of your preparation for the call of God and the ministry that God has for you to fulfill.

Recently, I was reminiscing about how, when I was a little boy, I was sent to a suburban school. This was the first year busing started, and when I first became aware of racial issues. Before that, I never knew there was a problem. I remember my childhood impressions of being in the midst of riots and running for my life. I have asked God why He allowed me to be raised up in that type of environment. Now I am beginning to see a glimpse of it in my ministry. Now I understand why God would open up the door for
Prophetic Genesis

me to go to the United Nations and to bring a word of the Lord addressing South Africa and apartheid.

Perhaps in the mind of God He was saying that as a little boy, He allowed me to be in a setting like that to prepare me for a day I knew not.

God places you and allows you to be impacted by certain cultures. I don’t believe that you come from the place you come from by accident. I believe it is the birthing place, the beginning, the genesis of ministry to those God ultimately called you to touch and illuminate.

The School of Prophets included much of Israel’s culture. Those prophets primarily dealt with the nation of Israel.

I discovered that oftentimes the word of the Lord may be correct, but cultural differences may prevent an individual from receiving the word from you.

Prophetic Principle #49

There is a difference between the gift and the man.

There are times I have been ministering where the people have received the gift and not the man. There is a difference. To some, the culture and upbringing of the prophet can be a blessing, but to others it can be offensive. You can bring a direct and forward
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prophet to a people who are more abstract and that prophet can be offensive to the people.

This is where the Holy Spirit uses our uniqueness to get a job done. We need to understand limitations and barriers. We must discern where we need to allow that expression to come forth and where it needs to remain silent because the grace is not upon us to minister to a particular people. We must understand prophecy and the purpose of race and culture.