

# New Covenant Prophecy

A covenant is an agreement God has made with people through which we relate to God. Through Jesus, Christians are all under one called “the New Covenant” (Heb 9:15). The Bible also records other covenants, including the Old Covenant that God made through Moses (10-commandments). The New Covenant is different to the Old Covenant:

Jer 31:31-32 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **not like** the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt”.

The gift of prophecy is likewise different in the New Covenant, to the Old Covenant:

1. **It’s available to all Christians**, not a special few - Acts 2:17-18 - “in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on **all flesh**, and your sons and your daughters shall **prophesy**”.
2. **It’s partial, not perfect** - 1 Cor 13:9 - “we prophesy **in part**”.
3. **It must be tested by recipients** - 1 Thess 5:20-21 - “Do not despise prophecies, but **test everything**; hold fast what is good.” (implying some will not be good).

## How do we test a New Covenant Prophecy?

It’s up to the recipient to test a prophecy. When weighing/testing one we should check:

- **Authenticity:**
  - Col 3:15 - Your inner witness - it should bring you peace in your heart.
  - Mat 18:16 - Independent confirmation - before accepting as guidance, it should be confirmed by another sign you can’t control.
- **Alignment:**
  - 2 Tim 3:14 - Compliance with the Bible - it must agree with the Bible.
  - 1 John 4:1 - Jesus centred focus - it should reveal Jesus and his character.
- **Alarm:**
  - Matt 6:33 - Whose Kingdom is it building? It should bring glory to God, not us.
  - Gal 5:2 - Flavour of freedom - it should feel like a widening field, not a narrowing tunnel.

It must pass all of these tests before we should receive what has been said and act upon it. It should also agree with these good pastoral rules of thumb - don’t prophesy about/receive prophecies about: hatching (births), matching (relationships), or dispatching (deaths).

## How can we respond to a New Covenant Prophecy?

Places you can put a prophetic word:

- The bin - reject/ignore based on failing testing.
- The shelf - keep it in mind and wait and see.
- The heart - really believe that’s what God is saying and take action to prepare.

You can put different bits of a prophecy in different places.