

What is the prophetic act for this moment?

Joshua encounters an Angel

Joshua 5:13-15

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, 'Are you for us or for our enemies?'

14 'Neither,' he replied, 'but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.' Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, 'What message does my Lord[e] have for his servant?'

15 The commander of the Lord's army replied, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.' And Joshua did so.

Was removal of sandals Joshua's a prophetic act of obedience?
Appears to have been little or no hesitation in doing this

Joshua's instructions and 'battle' of Jericho

Joshua 6:3-5 and 20

3 March round the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. **4** Make seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march round the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets.

5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, make the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.'

20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Joshua's act of walking around Jericho was the result of his obedience

Obedience liberates divine power

- God told Joshua to do a really wacky thing
- Prophetic act of obedience
- Joshua and the Israelites undertook this unorthodox military manoeuvre
- Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came tumbling down
- Angel told Joshua what would happen
- Did he scratch his head in doubt?
- No - he did it
 - Short term outcome: defeat of Jericho
 - Long term outcome: first victory in Israelites' settlement in Promised Land
 - Challenge: *what do you have at hand that God wants you to use prophetically?*
 - *What is God calling us to do prophetically to bring transformation?*
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*
- How well-informed are our prophetic acts?
- *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*
 - Personally
 - Family
 - Church
 - Community
 - Regionally

Examples in OT of prophetic acts that led to transformations

Moses throws a piece of wood to sweeten bitter waters

Exodus 15:22-25

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they travelled in the desert without finding water. **23** When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) **24** So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What are we to drink?'

25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

- Prophetic act of obedience: stick in water
- Short term outcome: transformation of water from bitter to sweet
- Long term outcome: Hebrews could settle in Promised Land
- Challenge: *what do you have at hand that God wants you to use prophetically?*
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

Elisha throws a stick into some water and an axe-head floats

2 Kings 6:4-6

4 They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. 5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axe-head fell into the water. 'Oh no, my lord!' he cried out. 'It was borrowed!'

6 The man of God asked, 'Where did it fall?' When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. 7 'Lift it out,' he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.

- Prophetic act of obedience: stick in water
- Short term outcome: transformation of physical properties
- Long term outcome: blessing on man and family and demonstration of power of God
- Challenge: what do you have at hand that God wants you to use prophetically?
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

Other examples

Can you think of any other examples from OT?

- Gideon - a shouted slogan, swords and covered torches to defeat the Midianites
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

Examples in NT of prophetic acts that led to transformations

Jesus heals a blind man using mud and saliva

John 9:1-11

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'

3 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus, 'but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

6 After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 'Go,' he told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam' (this word means 'Sent'). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

8 His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, 'Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?' 9 Some claimed that he was.

Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.'

But he himself insisted, 'I am the man.'

10 'How then were your eyes opened?' they asked.

11 He replied, 'The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.'

- Prophetic act of obedience: mud mixed with saliva
 - Why saliva?
 - Man spat on as considered cursed - Jesus used spit not *against* him but *for* him
 - Spit used not as a curse but as a curse breaker
 - Coming in opposite spirit - love, compassion
- Short term outcome: transformation of man's eyes from blindness to sight
- Long term outcome: man healed for rest of his life; kingdom glory demonstrated
- Challenge: what do you have at hand that God wants you to use prophetically?
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

Jesus heals a deaf and dumb man

Mark 7:31-37

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis 32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spat and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, '*Ephphatha!*' (which means 'Be opened!').

35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosed and he began to speak plainly.

36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. 'He has done everything well,' they said. 'He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.'

- Prophetic act of obedience: fingers in ears, spit on tongue
- Short term outcome: transformation of man's hearing and speech
- Long term outcome: man healed for rest of his life; kingdom glory demonstrated
- Challenge: what do you have at hand that God wants you to use prophetically?
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

Other examples

Can you think of any other examples from NT?

- Paul at statue of Unknown God in Athens - community transformation
- Peter's vision of scroll - gospel goes to the Gentiles
- Challenge: what is God calling us to do prophetically to bring transformation?
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Contemporary examples of prophetic acts that led to transformations

Alastair Petrie

- Prophetic act of obedience: went up in a helicopter and sprinkled holy water over a city while other activities took place on ground
- Short term outcome: atmosphere shifted
- Long term outcome: gospel free to be preached and demonstrated - city-wide transformation
- Challenge: what is God calling us to do prophetically to bring transformation?
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

George Otis, Jr.

Transformations films

- Prophetic acts of obedience: United prayer meetings and Unity in the Spirit
- Short term outcomes: atmospheres shifted
- Long term outcomes:
 - Imagine a community where 92 percent of the population is born-again
 - where city jails have been closed for lack of crime
 - where agricultural productivity has reached biblical proportions
 - Imagine a city where 60,000 Christians jam the municipal soccer stadium for all-night prayer vigils every 90 days
 - where a multi-billion dollar drug cartel has been brought to its knees.
 - Imagine a town where local bars have been transformed into churches
 - where ancestral shrines have been destroyed
 - where entire family clans have come to faith in Christ.
- Challenge: what is God calling us to do prophetically to bring transformation?
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

Darren Wilson

Wanderlust films (see link below)

- Prophetic act of obedience: Ravi and Indian evangelist hears from God that they are to meet someone wearing a turban, saffron clothes and sporting a white beard
 - They find Elite Hindu Priest
 - Priest should've got people to stone them, but didn't
 - Priest tells Ravi that God had shown him him in a dream, so he knew to listen to what he had to say
 - Listened to gospel
 - Gets saved
 - Goes and tells all his disciples, who get saved
 - Man of peace principle?
 - Because priest is in high standing in community, is protected by community
- Short term outcome: priest and disciples saved
- Long term outcome: regional witness to kingdom culture
- Challenge: what is God calling us to do prophetically to bring transformation?
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*

Heidi Baker

- Prophetic act of obedience: 'loves on' the poor; hugs the ill and infirm
- Short term outcome: salvations and healings
- Long term outcome: regional witness to kingdom culture
- Challenge: what is God calling us to do prophetically to bring transformation?
 - *What is the prophetic act for this moment?*
 - Heidi has prophesied that a revival of love is coming (has come?) to the UK

Turn of the Tide 2005

- Book - The Tide Has Turned
- Vision - St Margaret's tower 24-7 Nov. 2004
- Prophetic act of obedience: 25 prayer rooms Estuary to Source
- Short term outcome: dunno!
- Long term outcome: dunno!
- Challenge: what is God calling us to do prophetically to bring transformation?
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Firestarters

- Grays Market
- Corringham Town Centre
- hugs, picture cards, appear at psychic affairs
 - *Is that the prophetic act for this moment?*

Why?

Alastair Petrie

Healing the land

- **Jeremiah 22:29**
 - **O land o land hear the word of the Lord**
- **2 Chronicles 7:14**
 - **...and I will heal their land**

2 main spirits since 9/11

- Lawlessness
- Entitlement (human rights) (consumerism)

By asking what is the prophetic act for this moment?

- We are seeking God to put his word back into the land
- We are seeking God to put his righteousness and declaring his righteousness back into the land

3 things:

- Understand where the Presence is leading us right now
- Understand the sound of the Lord because God is speaking - shaking (Haggai 2:1-9, Hebrews 12:25-29)
- Perform well-informed prophetic acts - this non-negotiable - not to be made-up willy nilly

In all things, hear from God first

- Bill Johnson - *Never lower your theology to meet your experience*
- Don't do something and ask God to bless it
- See what God is already blessing and join in
- Jesus did what he saw his father doing, not the other way round
- *Obedience liberates divine power*
- A prophetic act of obedience maybe required before the act of prayer

What is the prophetic act for this moment?

Back to Jericho

The Prophetic Sign of Rahab

Joshua 6:17 and 25

17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted[a] to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

25 ... Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho – and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

- God told Joshua that Rahab the prostitute and her family are to be saved
- She had helped the Hebrew spies earlier in the story
- Was her action a prophetic act?
- Because Rahab is in Jesus' family tree
- The whole Jericho story *could* be interpreted as God setting *that* up!
- Our prophetic actions, if well-informed, ie if from God, can have far-reaching / eternal consequences
- God's playing the long game!
- Rahab was the long term outcome of Joshua's prophetic act of obedience!

What is the prophetic act for this moment?

Questions:

- How well-informed are our prophetic acts?
- What is the prophetic act for... Personal / Family / Church / Community / Regional

Resources:

- Salvation of Elite Hindu Priest (Wanderlust film excerpt) - <https://youtu.be/qTE7J510Hfg>
- Josh and the Big Wall (Veggie Tales) - <https://youtu.be/glZZR7a5XJ4>
- The Power of Prophetic Actions by Dr Patricia Show - <https://youtu.be/xwQoa0-xEwQ>