

LOVE CONFRONTS

God's Pattern of Calling His People Back Through the Prophets

Introduction:

Throughout Scripture, God has confronted His people when they have strayed from His ways. He has not abandoned them in their rebellion, but has sent His prophets to call them back to righteousness and obedience. From the days of the kings to the time of Christ, God's messengers have stood before earthly rulers, declaring the word of the Lord regardless of the cost. These confrontations were not born of human courage or political ambition, but of divine commission and holy love. Though many of these names are not in our common knowledge, they represent God's continual love for His chosen people and His persistent call for them to return to Him. A parent confronts a wayward child. A physician confronts a patient in denial about a serious illness. And God confronts His people when they are walking in darkness, calling them back to the light.

Confronting Kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom):

1. **Ahijah** - confronted Jeroboam I (1 Kings 14)
2. **Elijah** - confronted Ahab (1 Kings 17-21)
3. **Elisha** - confronted Jehoram/Joram (2 Kings 3, 6-7)
4. **Micaiah** - confronted Ahab (1 Kings 22)
5. **Jonah** - prophesied to Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25)
6. **Amos** - prophesied during Jeroboam II's reign (Amos 7:10-13)
7. **Hosea** - prophesied during several northern kings' reigns

Confronting Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom):

1. **Nathan** - confronted David (2 Samuel 12)
2. **Gad** - confronted David (2 Samuel 24)
3. **Shemaiah** - confronted Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:22-24)
4. **Azariah** - confronted Asa (2 Chronicles 15)
5. **Hanani** - confronted Asa (2 Chronicles 16)

6. **Jehu son of Hanani** - confronted Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 19)
7. **Eliezer** - confronted Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:37)
8. **Zechariah son of Jehoiada** - confronted Joash (2 Chronicles 24:20-22)
9. **Isaiah** - confronted Ahaz and Hezekiah (2 Kings 19-20; Isaiah 7, 36-39)
10. **Micah** - prophesied during Hezekiah's reign (Jeremiah 26:18)
11. **Huldah** - confronted Josiah (2 Kings 22:14-20)
12. **Jeremiah** - confronted Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah (Book of Jeremiah)
13. **Uriah** - confronted Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 26:20-23)

Confronting Herodian Rulers (Roman client kings):

14. **John the Baptist** - confronted Herod Antipas (Matthew 14:3-4; Mark 6:17-18; Luke 3:19-20)

Most Famous Confrontations:

- **Nathan confronting David** over Bathsheba and Uriah
- **Elijah confronting Ahab** over Naboth's vineyard and Baal worship
- **Isaiah confronting Ahaz** to trust God, not foreign alliances
- **Jeremiah confronting Zedekiah** before Jerusalem's fall
- **John the Baptist confronting Herod Antipas** over his unlawful marriage to Herodias

John the Baptist's confrontation is particularly significant as it cost him his life and serves as a bridge between the Old Testament prophetic tradition and Jesus' ministry.

Conclusion:

These prophets confronted kings at great personal risk. Some were imprisoned. Some were killed. But they spoke because God commanded them to speak, and they loved His people enough to tell them the truth. Their confrontations were acts of mercy, warnings of judgment, and invitations to repentance. When Jesus entered Jerusalem and confronted the religious leaders of His day, He was continuing this prophetic tradition. He was doing what God's messengers had always done: speaking truth to power, exposing sin, and calling people to return to the Father. The confrontations we witness in Week 2 are not anomalies. They are the continuation of God's faithful love for a people who desperately need to hear the truth, even when that truth is hard to receive.

