

A 'STARK WARNING' FOR BALLYMENA

Monday 25th February 2019

I was recently alerted to an upcoming meeting to be held in Ballymena – the details are



Don't miss this significant evening:

with **Emma Stark**
Monday **25th Feb 7:30pm**
at Celebration House
2-4 Railway St. Ballymena
BT42 2AB, N.Ireland.

Emma is a prophet who operates with authority and authenticity. She travels all over the world, giving clear and direct prophetic input to leaders, churches and ministries, equipping the body of Christ to better hear from God and apply it to transform lives, communities, cities and nations.

Visit propheticscots.com

David and Emma Stark

So, the question is, who is **Emma Stark**? I think the best way to answer that is to let **Emma Stark** tell you herself and you can do this by going to

<https://www.propheticscots.com/emerging-prophets/>

In the almost 6-minute long video she outlines her thoughts about her **own 'prophetic ministry'** and her desire to raise up and nurture **'emerging prophets'**. Further down the Homepage you can read that the minimum cost to take part in her **'Emerging Prophets'** programme is £478.00. One can only assume that **Emma** may hope to make some personal 'profit' by organising this **'Emerging Prophets'** programme.

Sincere as **Emma Stark** may be, she is, in the light of what God's word teaches, sincerely wrong, deluded and quite frankly, spiritually dangerous.

In the video on the Homepage of the link I gave earlier **Emma** refers to a scripture from the book of **Amos** that was foundational for her as regards her own personal 'calling' and 'ministry' – watch from 0.30 to 2.18.

The scripture she refers to is **Amos 3:7**

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret (counsel) unto his servants, the prophets”.

On the basis of that verse **Emma** believes that there should always be ‘**prophets**’ to whom God will ‘reveal his secret counsel’ so that they can ‘prophesy’ over the nations of the world. She sincerely believes that she is one of those ‘**prophets**’ and also that she can train-up other ‘**emerging prophets**’. But, is she right?

There is an old saying that goes something along these lines

‘When a text is quoted (and/or used) out of context it becomes a pretext’ (a false reason or false premise).

We have already seen the ‘**text**’ (Amos 3:7) that **Emma Stark** bases her own personal ‘calling’ and ‘ministry’ on, but what is the ‘**context**’ of that verse?

To answer that I want to turn to ‘**The Bible Knowledge Commentary**’ and quote extracts from what they have to say on **Amos**.

‘The Northern Kingdom, to whom Amos’ message was directed, was at the zenith of its power... Commerce thrived (8:5), an upper class emerged (4:1-3) and expensive homes were built (3:15; 5:11; 6:4, 11). The rich enjoyed an indolent, indulgent lifestyle (6:1-6), while the poor became targets for legal and economic exploitation (2:6-7; 5:7, 10-13; 6:12; 8:4-6). Slavery for debt was easily accepted (2:6; 8:6). **Standards of morality had sunk to low ebb** (2:7). Meanwhile **religion** flourished. The people thronged to the shrines for the yearly festivals (4:4; 5:5; 8:3, 10), enthusiastically offering their sacrifices (4:5; 5:21-23). **They steadfastly maintained that their God was with them, and considered themselves immune to disaster** (5:14, 18-20; 6:1-3; 9:10) ... Amos, a man from Judah, was called to prophesy in Israel... The message God gave him was primarily one of judgment though it ended with words of hope. The Lord God Almighty, the sovereign Ruler of the universe, would come as a warrior **to judge the nations** that had rebelled against His authority. Israel in particular would be punished for her covenant violations against Him. **thought the nation would be destroyed, God will preserve a repentant remnant from among the people’.**

Those extracts give a good understanding of the overall message of the book of **Amos** – that sinful, disobedient nations were going to be judged by God with only a faithful remnant being spared and preserved. The first 2 verses of chapter one are then referred to as a **Prologue**. The verses from verse 3 of chapter one to verse 16 of chapter two are then referred to as **The Roar of Judgment**. The ‘**Commentary**’ then itemises those verses as follows – **Judgment against the nations (1:3-2:5)** and further identifies the ‘**judgment**’ as follows – **1. Judgment against Damascus (1:3-5). 2. Judgment against Gaza (1:6-8). 3. Judgment against Tyre (1:9-10). 4. Judgment against Edom (1:11-12). 5. Judgment against Ammon (1:13-15). 6. Judgment against Moab (2:1-3). 7. Judgment against Judah (2:4-5)**. In each case the ‘**Commentary**’ also gives historical data and dates to show when these ‘**Judgments**’ were fulfilled as prophesied by **Amos**.

Moving now to the specific verse that **Emma Stark** has personally identified with, namely **Amos 3:7**. the ‘**Commentary**’ has this to say –

‘Just as one event does not take place unless another necessary event has already happened, so the Sovereign Lord does nothing **regarding the history of Israel** without first revealing His plan to His servants **the prophets**. But once this revelation has occurred – once the lion has roared and attacked (cf. 1:2; Hosea 5:14; 11:10; 13:7), once the Sovereign Lord has spoken, **Israel’s judgment** is sure to follow’.

John MacArthur, in his Study Bible, makes this simple statement

‘Judgment is coming but the Lord graciously warned the nation in advance through His prophets (e.g. Noah, Genesis 6: Abraham, Genesis 18)

The ‘**context**’ of the verse ‘appropriated’ by **Emma Stark** clearly relates to ‘**Old Testament Israel**’ and not to the present church-age.

The office of ‘**prophet**’ ended with the ascension to heaven of the great ‘**Promised Prophet**’ of **Deuteronomy 18: 15-19** and that person was clearly the Lord Jesus Christ as I explained in my article ‘**The “Promised Prophet” of Deuteronomy 18: Jesus Christ or Mohammed?**’ that can be viewed on this link

<http://www.takeheed.info/the-promised-prophet-of-deuteronomy-18-jesus-christ-or-mohammed/>

The New Testament also affirms this reality in **Hebrews 1:1-2**

“God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke in time past unto the fathers (Old Testament Israel) by **the prophets**, hath in these last days (the church-age) spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds”.

The comments by **Matthew Henry** on these verses are worth reading and ‘digesting’ and here are just some relevant extracts from those comments -

Here the apostle begins with a general declaration of the excellency of the gospel dispensation (Cecil – the church-age) above that of the law (Cecil – Old Testament Israel), **which he demonstrates from the different way and manner of God’s communicating himself and his mind and will to men in the one and in the other**: both these dispensations were of God, and both of them very good, but there is a great difference in the way of their coming from God. **Observe, I. The way wherein God communicated himself and his will to men under the Old Testament.** We have here an account, **1.** Of the persons by whom God delivered his mind under the Old Testament; they were **the prophets**, that is, persons chosen of God, and qualified by him, for that office of revealing the will of God to men. No man takes this honour to himself, unless called; and whoever are called of God are qualified by him. **2.** The persons to whom God spoke by the prophets: **To the fathers, to all the Old-Testament saints who were under that dispensation.** God favoured and honoured them with much clearer light than that of nature, under which the rest of the world were left.... **Now the excellency of the gospel revelation above the former consists in two things**: —**1.** It is the final, the finishing revelation, given forth in the last days of divine revelation, **to which nothing is to be added**, but the canon of scripture is to be settled and sealed: so that **now the minds of men are no longer kept in suspense by the expectation of new discoveries**, but they rejoice in a complete revelation of the will of God, both preceptive and providential, so far as is necessary for them to know in order to their direction and comfort. For the gospel includes a discovery of the great events that shall befall the church of God to the end of the world. (Cecil – Matthew Henry’s point **2** which I have not included in these extracts related exclusively to the person, power and position of the Lord Jesus Christ)

Before addressing the question of whether or not there are ‘**prophets**’ and indeed ‘**apostles**’ operating in the church today let me just refer to one of the Lord’s parables that for me indicates that He would be the last ‘**Promised Prophet**’.

I'm referring to 'The parable of the landowner' or 'The parable of the wicked wine-growers' or 'The parable of the wicked husbandmen' as it is variously known. It is recorded in **Matthew 21:33-45**. In the context of this article the pertinent verses are **verses 34-39** which read

"And when the time of the fruit drew near, he (the owner of the house) sent his **servants** to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his **servants**, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other **servants** more than the first; and they did unto them likewise. But, **last of all** he sent unto them **his son**, saying, they will reverence **my son**. But when the husbandmen saw **the son**, they said among themselves, this is the heir; come, let us kill him and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, **and slew him**"

Turning once more to **Matthew Henry** here are helpful explanatory extracts from his comments on these verses

'These **servants** were the prophets of the Old Testament, who were sent, and sometimes directly, to the people of the Jews, to reprove and instruct them... When he (the owner of the house) sent them his **servants**, they abused them, though they represented the master himself, and spoke in his name... so persecuted they **the prophets**, who were hated with a cruel hatred. They not only despised and reproached them, but treated them as the worst of malefactors—they beat them, and killed them, and stoned them... God persevered in his goodness to them. He sent other **servants**, more than the first; though the first sped not, but were abused. He had sent them John the Baptist, and him they had beheaded... At length, he sent them **his Son**... Never did grace appear more gracious than in sending **the Son**. **This was done last of all**. Note, All the **prophets** were harbingers and forerunners to Christ. **He was sent last**; for if nothing else would work upon them, surely this would... Surely, they will reverence **my Son**, and therefore I will send him'.

Once more, **John MacArthur** in his Study Bible makes these simple observations

verse 34: His **servants**. i.e. The OT prophets
verse 37: **my son**. This person represents the Lord Jesus Christ whom they killed

Personally, for me, and in the context of this article, the crucial words are the first four words of **verse 37** that relate to the sending of "**his son**" and the four words are "**but LAST of all**".

For me, these dovetail perfectly with **Hebrews 1:1-2** that I quoted earlier

"God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke in time past unto the fathers (Old Testament Israel) by **the prophets**, hath in these last days (the church-age) spoken unto us by **his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds".

Now, let me return to the issue of whether or not we should expect there to be 'prophets' or even 'apostles' operating in the church today. I have quite often had to address this matter in correspondence with various folks over the years and I want now to include what has often been my response to them –

The foundation of the Christian church rests partly upon God's revelation given through Old Testament prophets and New Testament Apostles but supremely on the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ – Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:20 of “the household of God [that's the Church] ...built upon the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone”. In a building you only have ONE FOUNDATION so today we no longer have apostles or prophets but pastors/evangelists/elders who preach and teach “the apostles' doctrine” [see Acts 2:42]. Once the foundation of a building is laid you then add upon it 'bricks' – believers today are the 'bricks' that are being built upon the foundation of the Apostles, Prophets and the Lord Himself – this is how Peter puts it in 1 Peter 2:5 “Ye [believers] as living stones ['bricks'] are built up a spiritual house”. In the Old Testament the Lord had a Temple for His people – in this age He has a people for His Temple – the foundation was laid by the Apostles, the Prophets and the Lord Himself and so there is no need today of another foundation hence no need for Apostles and Prophets.

The last book in the bible is often titled ‘**The Revelation**’ and no one would I think argue with me when I say that many and varied positions have been adopted as to how it should be understood. Whatever the differing views are I believe that on one thing they would be agreed – the book of ‘**The Revelation**’ reveals future world history until Christ ‘ends time’ and ‘ushers in eternity’. That being the case, the ‘prophetic future’ has already been made known to mankind and so the words of **Revelation 22:18** are significant in the context of this article –

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”

Once more I turn to the simple but significant comments of **John MacArthur** in his Study Bible on this verse –

‘Jesus offers extended testimony on the authority and finality of the prophecy. He commissioned John to write it, but He was its author’.

In the light of the testimony and teaching of God's Word I am fully persuaded that **Emma Stark's** claims to be a ‘prophet’ and to be able to school ‘emerging prophets’ are misguided and spurious.

In closing I just want to say a few words about the venue for the upcoming meeting, namely ‘**Celebration House**’. There is a web site but it contains VERY limited information as you can see on <http://www.celebrationhouseuk.co.uk/> More information about the group can actually be viewed on this newspaper link <http://www.thechurchpage.com/2016/11/21/celebration-house-launches-in-ballymena/>

As is often common with charismatic fellowships the pastors are named as a husband and wife ‘team’, **Roy and Lynne Stewart** – right off we see the Word of God being ignored as the role of Pastor is identified by God in His Word as being for men only. We learn also that ‘**Celebration House**’ succeeded a previous group known as ‘**Living Rivers Church**’ that also had a husband and wife ‘team’ as pastors, **Paul and Karen Brady**. The **Stewarts** according to this article were involved for something like 16 years with the **Bradys** and ‘**Living Rivers**’. That being the case the formation of ‘**Celebration House**’ under the **Stewarts** is not in any way surprising.

Back in September 2014 I wrote an article called

'BALLYMENA BEWARE - YET AGAIN'

and in it I alerted people to an upcoming 'ministry' visit by a lady called **Marilyn Hickey** accompanied by her daughter **Sarah Bowling**.

You can access that article on this link

<http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/September-2014/Marilyn-Hickey.pdf>

That visit was organised by the **Bradys** and '**Living Rivers**'.

You will note from the article that this was a return visit to Ballymena by **Marilyn Hickey** – her previous visit in 1998 having been organised by **Maurice Wylie** of his then-ministry '**Standard International Ministry**'. You will also see from the article that this visit followed after other visits organised by **Maurice Wylie** of false teachers **Ulf Ekman** and **Jesse Duplantis**.

Through time '**Apostle**' **Maurice Wylie** closed his ministry and you can read of his '**Apostleship**' and ensuing 'spiritual journey' by going to this link

http://mauricewylie.com/calling_ministry.html

Whether the **Bradys** and '**Living Rivers**' were set up to fill a gap left after **Maurice Wylie** and '**Standard International Ministry**' departed the scene I cannot say for sure but I would surmise that that perhaps was the case.

The upshot of the story of '**Celebration House**' and previous similar-type ministries that I have referred to shows that unfortunately there appears to be some appetite for this type of 'ministry' in Ballymena. May the Lord be pleased to rescue many from these delusions and deceptions through this '**Stark Warning**'.

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 8th February 2019