

Prophets are typically people who can foretell the future, not as fortune-tellers, but as people who have learned to read the signs of their times. It is by focusing their attention on, and becoming fully aware of, the political, social, economic, military, and religious tendencies of their time that prophets are able to see where it is all heading.

As Tom noted when he read this meditation, “We are only 3000 years behind the times!”

Perhaps we are using different language and live in a more complex age, yet we are really trying to read the signs of the times as the prophets did in the Old Testament. On the one hand, they experienced the infidelity, the injustices and the inequality of society. They admonished oppressors and authorities who flourished at the expense of others. At other times, they saw the pain of people and spoke words of encouragement and hope for a better future.

Religion at its best listens to prophets today as it did in ancient times. People need hope built on justice today just like the Hebrews did in the time of Pharaoh and the Jews did in the time of Jesus. As we approach Holy Week and Easter during this most unsettling time of the Coronavirus pandemic, perhaps we can see the merging of prophetic faith and what we are doing as citizens who are currently reading the signs of the times. We'll do it in our own way and perhaps use more sophisticated methods, but are we not all called to be the prophets of our day?