

## DR. DAVID OWUOR

### TRUE PROPHET—OR FALSE?



**David Owuor claims to be “the Mightiest Prophet of Jehovah”, sent by God to prepare the way for Christ’s return. If this is true, then everyone needs to listen and follow him in order to obey God. But if Owuor is actually a false prophet then his claims are spiritually harmful—he should be ignored and avoided. This article examines a selection of claims Owuor has made concerning who he is. We hope to clearly guide you to a biblical conclusion about David Owuor and assist you to serve those who follow him.**

#### 1. Is Owuor the prophet Elijah *and* John the Baptist?

Owuor teaches that he is the prophet Elijah, and that the Bible prophesies his coming in Malachi 3:1 and 4:5. He says he is actually greater than Elijah and other prophets in the Bible, and is therefore the *Mightiest* prophet.

Thankfully, Jesus Christ revealed to us the identity of the prophet that Malachi promised when He said, “Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet...”. Jesus says in Matthew 11:14, “All the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John [the Baptist],

and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come”. The scribes of Jesus’ day had rejected John the Baptist’s ministry.

Jesus later repeats this to His disciples after His transfiguration. He tells them that the scribes are wrong to expect another Elijah. He declares that “**Elijah has already come**” (Matt. 17:11–13). The Bible never says that yet another Elijah or John the Baptist will return to prepare the way for Jesus. Instead, it says: “Then the disciples understood that He was speaking to them of John the Baptist”. Owuor’s claims to be another John the Baptist or another Elijah are not consistent with what Jesus teaches as the fulfillment of Malachi. It is false (Rev. 22:18).

#### 2. Did Moses speak about Owuor in Deuteronomy 18:18?

The Bible tells us clearly who fulfills Deuteronomy 18:18: Jesus Christ. This is clear in Acts 3:22 onwards. Peter points the Jews/Israelites to Jesus Christ as the fellow Jew whom God has raised “from amongst their brothers”, quoting Deuteronomy 18:19. The prophet promised is not Owuor, who is neither a Jew nor the Messiah. Here again, Owuor’s claims are not consistent with the Bible.

#### 3. Has God uniquely sent Owuor?

Owuor says that while he was still a scientist, God the Father appeared personally to him and sent him as a messenger to the whole world to prepare everyone for Christ’s return by calling them to repentance (see links in the end references).

However, the Bible doesn’t promise that God would send such a person. It teaches the exact opposite. Hebrews 1:1 says that “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but *in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son*”. God has spoken to His people in these last days by one special Person—His Son, Jesus Christ. Is Owuor telling the truth, or has God changed His Word about His person of choice in these last days? Once again, Owuor’s claims are in conflict with the Bible.

Owuor also claims to be the two witnesses in Revelation 11. Nowhere in the Book of



Revelation does it say that the two witnesses are actually one individual split into two, as he says he is. Followers of Owuor claim that this “double” Owuor is only visible through photographs, and not to the naked eye. If you look closely at one of the photo images shared from the Repentance and Holiness website to prove that Owuor is now “two”, you can see that the photos are edited to give a double effect—note that the seat has also been duplicated in photo 2. The “two witnesses” are the same exact person.\*

#### **4. What about Owuor’s alleged signs and wonders?**

Owuor points to signs and wonders that he has done, and his followers point to these signs as the evidence that he truly is from God.

However, the Bible instructs us to not consider signs and wonders to judge whether a prophet is true or not. False prophets can “perform great signs and wonders” (Matt. 24:24), “call fire from heaven in front of people” (Rev. 13:13), “cast out demons and do mighty works in [Jesus’] name” (Matt. 7:21–23). The prophets of Pharaoh even turned a portion of water in the massive River Nile into blood! (Ex. 7:22).

We can know whether preachers or prophets are speaking by the Spirit of God if they exalt Christ in their message. A true ministry of the Holy Spirit always exalts Christ alone. Jesus says of the Holy Spirit: “He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you” (John 16:14). Does Owuor’s ministry make a big deal of Christ, or of Owuor himself? Sadly, the latter is true.

It’s also worth noting that Owuor claims to be doing the ministry of John the Baptist or preparing the way. But John never performed any miracles (John 10:41—“John did no sign”). John’s ministry was marked by humility. He felt unworthy to even untie the Messiah’s sandal, and he was joyful to decrease so that He may increase (John 3:30). Elijah was equally a humble man (1 Ki. 19:4). Dr. Owuor, on the other hand, has claimed publicly that God the Father “always calls him ‘My Lord, My Lord’”!<sup>1</sup> Only the Messiah is called “Lord” by God (Ps. 110:1, Matt. 22:44) because He is also God, the Second Person of the Trinity. Owuor’s claims do not honour the nature of God or the Word of God.

#### **5. What about Owuor’s message of repentance and holiness?**

Owuor’s ministry denounces churches for corruption, sexual sin, the love of money and other vices. It is true that many churches exhibit these vices. (Even secular media has exposed and condemned the evils of “panda mbegu” and fake miracles. One doesn’t have to be a special messenger from God to condemn false teachers.) Repentance and holiness are good biblical commands. But what type of repentance and holiness does this movement call people to? Is this the same repentance and holiness taught in the Bible? Sadly, the answer is “No”.

Repentance in Owuor’s ministry requires accepting Owuor as the mightiest prophet from God and devoting yourself to his teaching and prophecies. Often it means joining a King’s Outreach church. Other external acts of repentance include a change of dressing (e.g., the women wear full-body suits, a design that Owuor claims God specifically revealed to him<sup>2</sup>); praying in sackcloth (common among some Owuor-affiliated university fellowships); a specific style of music; a specific form of greeting; not hugging; etc. Sometimes Owuor calls for publicised national repentances (e.g., by political leaders at rallies).

Biblical repentance is different. It is primarily a matter of the heart and soul. To repent is to honestly agree with God about our sinfulness in deed and attitude. We come to hate our sin and desire to be free from it. We turn to God, accepting His gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. We stop relying on our wisdom and righteousness and seek God’s mercy offered to us in Christ alone. Our lives become a pursuit of loving God and loving our neighbours. Repentance is an individual act of faith towards Jesus Christ, not a national act. Holiness is, as well, a matter of the heart—of personal commitment to love and do God’s commands.

An external repentance and holiness of dress and speech and devotion to a ministry is easy to achieve without God’s help. We can do these things even if we remain angry, lustful, covetous for money, don’t love our neighbours or we aren’t broken by our own sin before God’s grace. Jesus warns against this external obedience in Matthew 5 (see, for example, vv. 27–29). We are also warned (Col. 2:20–23) against rules that “have indeed an appearance of wisdom... but are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”

But now we come to the most disturbing claims about David Owuor’s ministry.

## 6. Comparisons to Jesus Christ

Some of Owuor's claims are especially serious because he uses them to place himself on the same level as the Lord Jesus Christ, and in some cases greater than Jesus. Consider the following assertions and the questions they raise:

- **Transfiguration:** Owuor claimed in mid-2017 that he was "transfigured". Visibly edited images of his "transfiguration" feature on his ministry website.



Unlike Jesus, who was transfigured once (Mark 9:2-4), Owuor has since been "transfigured" at least five times! Twice in 2012 (Finland<sup>3,4</sup>), thrice in 2017 (Kisumu), and even while baptising (audio<sup>5</sup> of Owuor firmly predicting this and placing Jesus in his [Owuor's] place).

- **Appearance of Moses and Elijah:** Owuor also claims that "In 2003, while staying in Chicago, I was in bed sleeping one night when The LORD presented himself in a vision, accompanied by Daniel, Elijah and Moses as witnesses. He touched me with his left hand and lifted me up".<sup>6</sup> These are blasphemous claims if you consider that the appearance of Moses and Elijah was ever only with Jesus (Mark 9:2-4) at the transfiguration. Owuor does one better than Jesus—God doesn't confirm his ministry by bringing just two prophets, but three!
- **The Spirit descends on Him like a dove:** Owuor claims that "the Holy Spirit descended bodily like a dove and lighted on him".<sup>7</sup> The Scripture records such a phenomenon as only happening to Christ at His baptism (Luke 3:22).

- **Calling himself "the Lord" and claiming to bring people to heaven:** Owuor's juniors call him "the Lord" in crusades and bow to him. When he visits a town, his followers clean the roads with soap and water (they call it "preparing the way for the Lord") and await his arrival with palm fronds, imitating the welcome given Jesus at His messianic triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Mark. 11:8). Not only does Owuor claim the Father calls him "My Lord", in a recent crusade broadcast nationally<sup>8</sup>, he told his hearers: "You will enter the kingdom of God strictly based on the word of my tongue". He translated the blasphemous statement himself, to make it clear: "...kuzingatia **tu** maneno yangu..."

This wasn't the first time Owuor has claimed this. Owuor has insisted before that no one can enter heaven without him<sup>9</sup>, boasting that "God is never irrelevant. He cannot send me then you say 'no, me I would enter without him."

One who utters some blasphemies against Christ cannot be of God. God's Word is clear that Christ Jesus is the only way to God. He is the one sent to reconcile us to the Father if anyone places their trust in him for the forgiveness of our sins. He is both God and Man for this very reason. The Holy Spirit always and only exalts Jesus Christ (John 16:14, John 4:23, Rom. 8:9, 1 Pet. 1:11, Gal. 4:6). "...every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God." Owuor is not from God. He doesn't make the right confession about Jesus.

Many more of Owuor's claims can be analysed to show that he is a false prophet who should be rejected and ignored, and clear warnings given about him.

In summary, Owuor is a false prophet because:

1. A true prophet of God cannot consistently abuse God's Word as Owuor does.
2. A true prophet of God would exalt Jesus Christ and not himself.

## 7. How can we serve and minister to those in this movement?

- *Pray consistently:* Remember that those in this movement are our neighbours. They are not simply their beliefs; they are humans made in God's image. We must love them. For some of us they are our immediate

family. Only God can give them spiritual freedom from anxiety of missing the rapture through unknown unholiness and threats of being struck with diseases. Prayer will help soften your heart and theirs.

- *Consistently talk about Christ:* The followers of Owuor don't hear much of Christ, His love, His gracious suffering for repentant sinners. They might not know that Christians are to joyfully pursue sexual purity to glorify God with their bodies, and not out of dread of the prophet or the rapture. Read with them, if possible, a book like Colossians or one of the gospels. Hopefully His true holiness, tenderness and closeness to the Father will be compared with Owuor's, and Christ will be seen and preferred as the better Prophet between God and men.
- *Consistently model biblical repentance:* True repentance is an ongoing thing. We are always seeking to follow Christ instead of the world and sin and the devil's suggestions. We are always seeking to deny our lusts and godless ambitions. We are always seeking to master our fears of obeying God and do the right thing. We are always grieved by failure in each of these things, and thankful for our ever-standing redemption in Jesus. Model this lifestyle of obedient joy in the Spirit (Galatians 5) before them. Trust fully in the finished work of Christ and let them see the peace that can come from this alone, and not from works done—good or bad—by us. Let them see that the opposite of following Owuor is not worldliness. It is wise, as you seek to reach them, to not needlessly offend them in a way that compromises your witness. The difference will stand, if they are not truly saved. False religion does not produce true repentance. Your simple life of faith before them will soon bear fruit.

In all three of these things, it is crucial that we be clear on what the real gospel is (1 Cor. 15:1–5). *Share this gospel.* The biblical gospel is *not* that after Jesus shed His blood and cleansed all men, everyone must *also* obey a summons from Owuor to repent; such is Owuor's flawed gospel<sup>10</sup>, and it diminishes the work of Christ.

Instead, Christ now calls all people to consider God's holiness, admit their personal offence against Him and rely on Him alone to receive His offer of forgiveness and a renewed life.

## REFERENCES

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