

Prophet

Some may argue that the word **prophet** is not representative of Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. However, those who make this argument are most likely looking through an Abrahamic lens which considers prophets to be those who speak for, or are inspired by God. At Prophet Explorer, we do not peer through a religious lens; rather, we take an encyclopedic approach to examining these figures. Based on this approach, we assert that the word **prophet** does characterize Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. The rationale for this assertion is demonstrated below by way of dialectical questions.

Does Merriam-Webster make dictionaries? [...]

Do words in these dictionaries have multiple definitions? [...]

Do the definitions for **prophet** in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary include the following? [...]

2: one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight; especially: an inspired poet

3: one who foretells future events : predictor

4: an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group

Do Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad match any or all of these definitions? [...]

Prophet

Merriam-Webster Definition

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prophet>

1: one who utters divinely inspired revelations: as

a: often capitalized: the writer of one of the prophetic books of the Bible

b: capitalized: one regarded by a group of followers as the final authoritative revealer of God's will <Muhammad, the Prophet of Allah>

2: one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight; especially: an inspired poet

3: one who foretells future events : predictor

4: an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group

5: Christian Science

a: a spiritual seer

b: disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth

Jesus the Prophet

According to the Gospels, Jesus is referred to as a prophet multiple times.

Luke - Chapter 24

¹⁹ So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a **Prophet** mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

Matthew – Chapter 21

¹⁰ And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the **prophet** from Nazareth of Galilee."

Mark – Chapter 6

⁴ But Jesus said to them, "A **prophet** is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."

Luke – Chapter 4

²⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, no **prophet** is accepted in his own country.

Luke – Chapter 13

³³ Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a **prophet** should perish outside of Jerusalem.

The Prophet Muhammad

According to the Hadith, Muhammad referred to himself as a prophet multiple times.

Hadith Collection - Volume 4 - Book 56 Virtues and Merits of the Prophets

The Israelis used to be ruled and guided by **prophets**: Whenever a **prophet** died, another would take over his place. There will be no **prophet** after me, but there will be Caliphs who will increase in number.

Hadith Collection - Volume 1 - Book 08 Prayers

I have been given five things which were not given to any amongst the **Prophets** before me. These are: 1. Allah made me victorious by awe (by His frightening my enemies) for a distance of one month's journey. 2. The earth has been made for me (and for my followers) a place for praying and a thing to perform Tayammum. Therefore my followers can pray wherever the time of a prayer is due. 3. The booty has been made Halal (lawful) for me (and was not made so for anyone else). 4. Every **Prophet** used to be sent to his nation exclusively but I have been sent to all mankind. 5. I have been given the right of intercession (on the Day of Resurrection.)

Hadith Collection - Volume 1 - Book 03 Knowledge

Three persons will have a double reward: 1. A Person from the people of the scriptures who believed in his prophet (Jesus or Moses) and then believed in the **Prophet** Muhammad (i.e. has embraced Islam). 2. A slave who discharges his duties to Allah and his master. 3. A master of a woman-slave who teaches her good manners and educates her in the best possible way (the religion) and manumits her and then marries her.

Hadith Collection - Volume 4 - Book 55 Prophets

I am the nearest of all the people to the son of Mary, and all the **prophets** are paternal brothers, and there has been no prophet between me and him (i.e. Jesus).

Gautama Buddha the Prophet

There are no sayings attributed to Gautama Buddha in which he claimed to be a **prophet**. However, Buddha does fit the definitions above as someone gifted with moral insight, a leading spokesman for a group, and a predictor. Interestingly enough, Buddha is considered to be a **prophet** by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This group maintains that the **Prophet** Muhammad is the seal of the **prophets** that came before him which include Buddha, Confucius, Isaiah, Jesus, Zoroaster, etc.

<http://www.alislam.org/library/links/00000121.html>