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Elizabeth Clare Prophet

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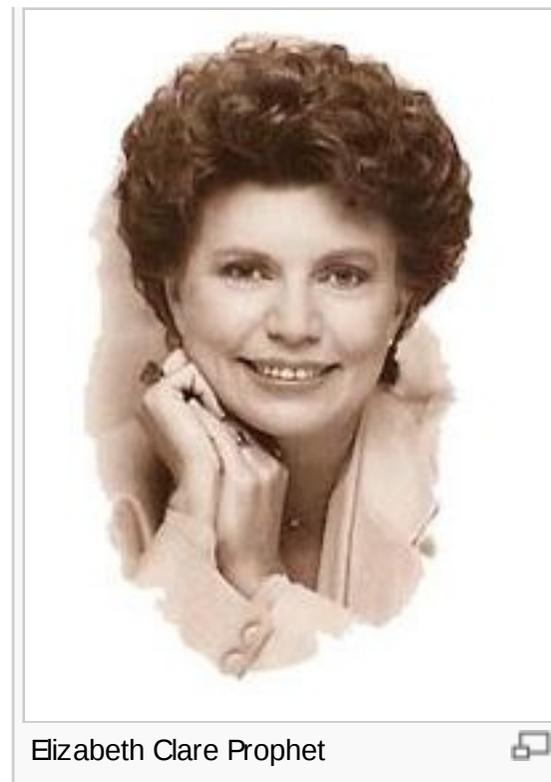
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Elizabeth Clare Prophet (*née*: **Wulf**) (April 8, 1939 – October 15, 2009) was an American New Age minister and religious figure, prophet, author, orator, and writer. In 1963 she married [Mark L. Prophet](#), who five years earlier, in 1958, had founded [The Summit Lighthouse](#). Mark and Elizabeth had four children. In their nine years of marriage, they embarked on spiritual pilgrimages to Europe, Ghana and India, where they met Mother Theresa and the Dalai Lama. Elizabeth, just 33 years of age at the time of husband Mark's passing on February 26, 1973, assumed control of The Summit Lighthouse at that time. ^{[1][2]}

In 1975, Prophet founded [Church Universal and Triumphant](#), which became the umbrella organization for the movement, and which she would grow into a worldwide ministry. Prophet controversially called on her members in the late 1980s to prepare for the possibility of nuclear war at the turn of the decade, encouraging them to construct fallout shelters. In 1996, Prophet handed day-to-day operational control of her organization to a president and board of directors, maintaining her role as spiritual leader until her retirement due to health reasons in 1999.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Prophet appeared on *Larry King Live*, *Donahue* and *Nightline*, among other television programs.^[3] Earlier media appearances included a feature in 1977 in "The Man Who Would Not Die," an episode of NBC's *In Search Of...* series.^[4] She was also featured in 1994 on NBC's *Ancient Prophecies*.^[5]



Elizabeth Clare Prophet



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Biography [\[edit\]](#)

Early years [\[edit\]](#)

Elizabeth Clare Prophet was born Elizabeth Clare Wulf at [Monmouth Memorial Hospital](#) in [Long Branch, New Jersey](#) on April 8th, 1939, to Hans and Fridy Wulf. She grew up with her family in [Red Bank](#), New Jersey during the [Second World War](#).^[6] Her earliest memories of her childhood she describes as idyllic, however problems arose such as the [detention of her father as a suspected German spy](#) in 1942. Upon his release he conveyed the need of her to help others who may also suffer because of their nationality, their race or religion.^[7] After seeing the horrors of the [Holocaust](#) in media and print, she became convinced of the reality of absolute [evil](#) in the world which contributed to her decision to major in [political science](#).^[8]

One of the major difficulties in her early life was her father's [addiction to alcohol](#). He engaged in [verbal abuse](#) of her mother and had a violent temper which he directed towards them and the destruction of his beloved fish tanks.^[9] After witnessing this for many years Elizabeth became convinced that when the [blood alcohol content](#) creates a chemical imbalance in the body [possessing demons](#) take over the mind and the emotions.^[10]

Another difficulty in Prophet's early life was when she would periodically [black out](#). This happened in the third grade when she was about to say her lines in a Christmas play, and continued after that throughout her life. Her condition was first diagnosed as petit mal epilepsy, know more commonly today as [absence seizures](#). She did not find the medication at that time helpful so discontinued using it.^[11] Her mother later confessed that in 1937 she took some pills to stop her pregnancy when she was carrying Elizabeth. Although they didn't work, Prophet thought that what her mother was implying was that the medication may have contributed to her childhood blackouts. Prophet herself did some research and found out that the use of [quinine](#) sulfate could have damaged the developing nervous system and the brain.^[12]

Elizabeth Wulf would also have mystical experiences while growing up. When she was about 4, she had a vision of herself playing on the sands of the [Nile](#) river in Egypt (her mother told her it was a [past life](#)).^[13] As a child, she claimed to feel God's light around her naturally, and to hear a sound in her inner ear like that of an ocean wave or the roar of [Niagara Falls](#).^[14] Another experience she had while water-skiing was that of being suspended in a place where other spiritual beings existed who were joyous in the light, radiating love. This motivated her to find out more who these "saints robed in white" (Rev. 7:9-17) were for she had always believed in the "universality of all true religion".^[15]

Influences [\[edit\]](#)

Betty Clare grew up in a home that was mainly non-religious except for major holidays. Her father was [Lutheran](#), her mother [Catholic](#). Yet it was her mother's interests in [Theosophy](#), the [I AM Activity](#), and [Christian Science](#) that would have the most influence on Elizabeth.^[16] In Theosophy and the I AM Activity she would learn about the [Ascended Masters](#), [Karma](#), and [Reincarnation](#), in [Christian Science](#) she learned that matter was not the only reality and that the spirit part of us made in the image of God was our true nature. Prophet would stay with Christian Science to 22 years of age and until she met [Mark Prophet](#).^[17]





Education [\[edit\]](#)

Elizabeth Clare Wulf spent her junior year studying French in [Switzerland](#) in 1956 and a year later graduated from [Red Bank Regional High School](#) second in her class. She attended [Antioch College](#) in Ohio from September 1957 to March 1959 majoring in political science and economics. She transferred to [Boston University](#) in September 1959, from where graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in political science in August 1961.^[18]

Career [\[edit\]](#)

In summer of 1958 Prophet took a co-op job as a camp counselor in a French immersion school in [Vermont](#). She was in charge of a number of high school girls between 15 and 16 years old and her role was to discipline them. She described the experience as frustrating and ended up praying to God that she never be put in an position of authority over others.^[19]

In fall 1958 she served an internship at the [United Nations](#) as secretary for [Leo Rosenthal](#), a UN photographer. Her experience at the UN showed her that many of the ambassadors were not there to solve the world's problems but rather were engaged in power politics and manipulation of the world's economies. Leaving after three months made her depressed and realizing that to solve the world's problems people would need to change their concept of themselves and of God.^[19]

After moving to Boston in 1959 she worked as a secretary for the Christian Science church and the [Christian Science Monitor](#). According to Prophet, this is where she learned much about the publishing operations, organization, and administration of a church on a worldwide scale which was to help her later on in running her own church.^[20]

Prophet's realization of her role as Messenger came upon her while meditating with [Mark L. Prophet](#) at a public meeting in Boston on April 22nd, 1961. He had come to teach about the Ascended Masters whom she also had been wanting to learn more about. She received a vision while meditating with him that her role in life was to pass on a higher teaching to further humanity's spiritual evolution.^[21] She confided to Mark the next day that like him, she was also to be a messenger and this he confirmed by accepting her as a student in his organization, The Summit Lighthouse. She received another vision in June of that year in the way of a visitation by the Ascended Master El Morya who told her to go to

[Washington, DC](#) to be trained as messenger.^[21]

After attending her first conference in Washington in July, Mark Prophet returned to Boston in August to help her move to Washington to begin her training under him.^[22] They married in 1963, and upon his passing on February 26, 1973, Elizabeth Clare Prophet assumed the role of leading the organization.^[23]

Ministry and Expansion [\[edit\]](#)

In 1965, the Prophet family relocated to [Fairfax, Virginia](#), and in 1966 to [Colorado Springs, Colorado](#).

In 1970, the Prophet family founded Montessori International, a school based on the principles of the acclaimed educator Dr. [Maria Montessori](#). Classes were offered for students ranging from preschool age to high school. Montessori information courses were also offered to parents and students. Staff were trained at Montessori organizations such as the [Association Montessori Internationale](#) and the [Pan-American Montessori Society](#),^[citation needed]

In 1970, the Prophets went to [India](#) with their family, and several dozen church members. (Elizabeth traveled again in the early 1980s and established the ASHRAM OF THE WORLD MOTHER in New Delhi, India.) They toured the country, meeting with [Indira Gandhi](#) as well as with the [Dalai Lama](#).^[citation needed] They also met with Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

In 1974, the headquarters of the Church were moved to [Santa Barbara, California](#), where Elizabeth Prophet founded [Summit University](#), a 12 week program of instruction in her teachings. In 1975, she founded Summit University Press.

The church eventually became the umbrella organization for Prophet's work, with The Summit Lighthouse becoming the publishing arm of the church.

In the summer of 1976, the church's headquarters were

In the summer of 1976, the church's headquarters were again relocated to the campus of Pasadena College, in [Pasadena](#). Summit University, Montessori International, and quarterly church conferences were held there. About 300 staff members were then in residence.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

In 1977, the church purchased a former [Claretian](#) seminary in [Calabasas](#), a 218-acre (0.88 km²) campus near Los Angeles, and moved its operations there in 1978.

In 1981, the Church Universal and Triumphant purchased the 12,000-acre (49 km²) Forbes Ranch, just outside of [Yellowstone Park](#), near [Gardiner, Montana](#).^{[[24](#)]}

Final years in the ministry [\[edit\]](#)

In 1986, Prophet relocated her headquarters to Montana near the Yellowstone National Park.

Elizabeth Clare Prophet was diagnosed with [Alzheimer's disease](#) in November 1998.

Retirement and death [\[edit\]](#)

She retired in 1999. Died, October 15, 2009.

Teachings [\[edit\]](#)

Both Mark and Elizabeth taught the Path of Personal Christhood, the way of the soul's one-on-one relationship with God through Christ consciousness. Elizabeth Clare Prophet believed that she shared the gift of the word, both written and spoken. She claimed to be in constant communion with God.



Elizabeth Clare Prophet in front of the chapel at the summit of [Croagh Patrick](#), Ireland, 1980 [\[copy\]](#)

The Science of the Spoken word, as Elizabeth and Mark taught it, was thought to be a gift of sound combined with meditation, prayer and visualization, offering one's heart to God in the Service of Life. ^[25]

They believed that a Divine Gift (The Ascension) of union with God was possible. ^[26]

"Mother as Messenger" ^[edit]

Some of Prophet's ideas are published in her book *Fallen Angels and the Origins of Evil* and in *Paths of Light and Darkness*, the sixth book in her *Climb the Highest Mountain* series.

Family ^[edit]

Prophet was survived by her five children

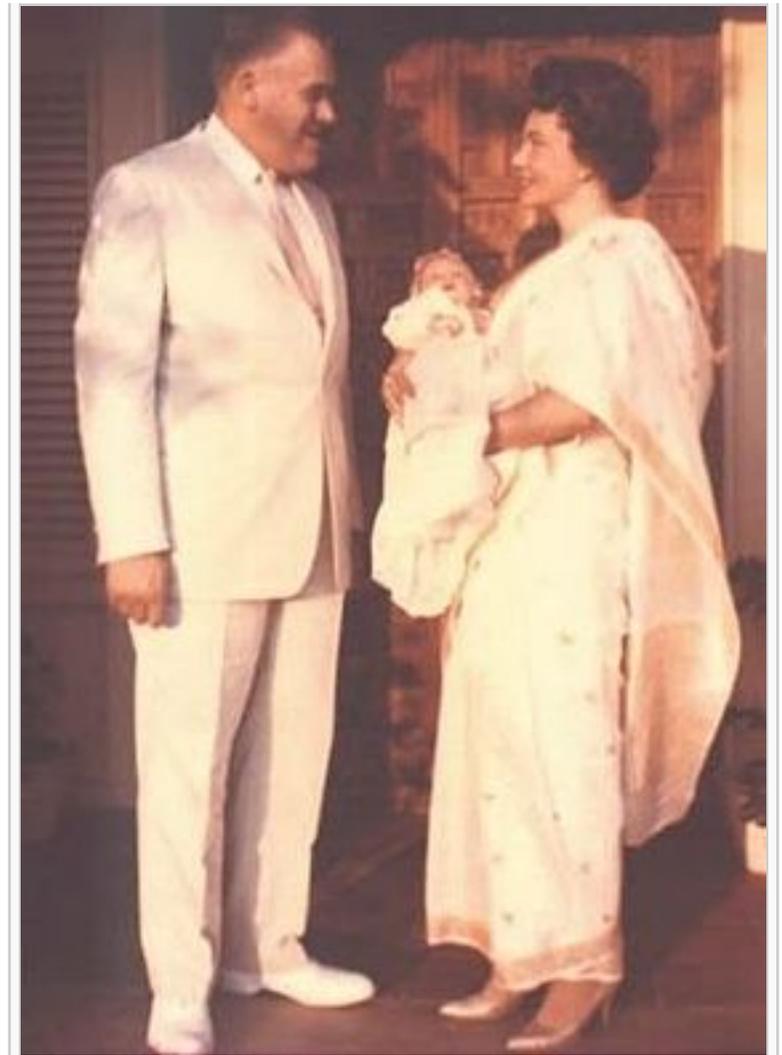
Prophet was survived by her five children.

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External links [[edit](#)]

- Official Church Universal and Triumphant biography and information about Elizabeth Clare Prophet [↗](#)
- Official Church Universal and Triumphant site of information about Mark and Elizabeth Prophet [↗](#)
- Official Summit University Press site [↗](#)
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