

The Major and Minor Prophets

(p. 106-111) (Isaiah-Malachi)

Read: Deut. 18:18, Luke 24:44

- What is a prophet? A man or woman chosen by God to speak for him and to foretell events in the divine plan (TBD).
- Writing and non-writing prophets; two of the writing prophets wrote some of the historical books: Moses & Samuel
- Prophets: Abel (Adams's son [Luke 11:50-51]), Enoch (Jude 14), Noah (2 Pet 2:5), Abraham (Gen 20:7), Joseph, Moses (Deut 18:18), Miriam (prophetess [Exodus 15:20]), Deborah (judge and prophetess [Jud 4:4]), Samuel, Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Huldah (prophetess [627BC]), Ezekiel, Daniel, 12 minor prophets, John the Baptist
- False prophets: False prophets were supposed to be put to death and you could tell a false prophet was a false prophet when what he (she) predicted did not come to pass (Deut 13: 2, 5-7, 10)
- Prophets were not the regular teachers of the Word of God; Priests were the regular teachers (**Read Deut 33:10**)
- Prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God both for the future and in the present (p. 108)
- Organization of the OT: Historical books (17), Poetic/Wisdom books (5), and Major (5) & Minor (12) Prophetic Books
- The prophetic books undergird the historical books providing more details and information about God and His people
- The Major Prophets are the longer books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Lamentations (Jeremiah) and Daniel
- Minor prophets are shorter; in the Hebrew Bible they are grouped together
- The Prophetic books can be divided into 3 time periods: Pre-Exile, Exile, and Post-Exile according to when they spoke for God
- Prophets preached to different nations: (p. 109-10)
 - ✓ Pre-Exile: to Israel, (Hosea, Amos); to Judah, (Hab., Isaiah, Jeremiah [Lamentations], Joel, Mic., Zeph.); to Assyria (Jonah [Nineveh], Nahum); to Edom (Obadiah)
 - ✓ Exile: to the captive from Babylon (Ezekiel, Daniel)
 - ✓ Post-Exile: to Jerusalem (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
- Read: Jeremiah 1:9—*Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.*

Foretelling: Predicting the Future

- There may be as many 2500 prophecies in the Bible of which 2000 have been fulfilled Here are but 3 examples:
 - Sometime before 500 B.C. the prophet Daniel proclaimed that Israel's long-awaited Messiah would begin his public ministry 483 years after the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25-26). He further predicted that the Messiah would be "cut off," killed, and that this event would take place prior to a second destruction of Jerusalem. Abundant documentation shows that these prophecies were perfectly fulfilled in the life (and crucifixion) of Jesus Christ. The decree regarding the restoration of Jerusalem was issued by Persia's King Artaxerxes to the Hebrew priest Ezra in 458 B.C., 483 years later the ministry of Jesus Christ began in Galilee. (Remember that due to calendar changes, the date for the start of Christ's ministry is set by most historians at about 26 A.D. Also note that from 1 B.C. to 1 A.D. is just one year.)
 - Predicted 700 BC: Micah 5:2—*But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*
 - In the fifth century B.C. a prophet named Zechariah declared that the Messiah would be betrayed for the price of a slave—thirty pieces of silver, according to Jewish law—and also that this money would be used to buy a burial ground for Jerusalem's poor foreigners (Zechariah 11:12-13). Bible writers and secular historians both record thirty pieces of silver as the sum paid to Judas Iscariot for betraying Jesus, and they indicate that the money went to purchase a "potter's field," used—just as predicted—for the burial of poor aliens (Matthew 27:3-10).

Forthtelling: Proclaiming the teachings of God

- Exposing sin and calling people to a higher moral lifestyle
- Warning of judgment if the people don't reform
- Proclaiming the coming Messiah