

**Subject: *Know Your Bible – Part 7***

**Scripture: *Luke 16:19-31***

### **Four Major Divisions of the Old Testament**

- |                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) <u>Law</u> (5 books)      | 3) <u>Wisdom and Poetry</u> (5 books) |
| 2) <u>History</u> (12 books) | 4) <u>Prophecy</u> (17 books)         |

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus the rich man died and went to hell and was tormented in the fire. At first he pleaded for Lazarus to come and give him a drop of water. It was impossible for Lazarus to come to him in hell and it was impossible for him to come to Lazarus. Then he pleaded that Lazarus go and warn his five brothers about the torments of hell so they would repent. That was not possible either. They had enough truth to convince them and bring them to repentance. They had “Moses and the prophets.” In other words, they had the Old Testament scriptures referred to as Moses (the Law) and the prophets. This is a powerful testimony to the sufficiency of Scripture (*Sola Scriptura*).

### **Introduction to the Prophets**

Some of the prophets wrote Scripture (writing prophets) and others such as Nathan, Elijah, and Elisha did not (non-writing prophets). The Old Testament contains a total of 17 prophetic books (Isaiah—Malachi). These books are usually classified in two ways (the distinction is not based on importance, but on size of the books):

- Major prophets (5 books, Isaiah—Daniel)
- Minor prophets (12 books, Hosea—Malachi)

Three kinds of leaders were prominent in God’s unfolding plan of redemption (Christ fulfilled all three roles in one person):

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|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1) <u>Prophets</u> | 2) <u>Priests</u> | 3) <u>Kings</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

All of the prophets were God’s spokesmen. One of their common expressions was “Thus saith the LORD.” Some prophets were *fore-tellers* because they predicted future events, but all of them were *forth-tellers* because they boldly spoke the truth. The prophets spoke with God’s authority to kings, priests, and all people. Jesus was like the prophets in His manner and message (Mt. 16:13-14).

The messages of God’s prophets brought both conviction and comfort.

The prophets reinforced and applied God’s Law.

The test of a true prophet was the fulfillment of his predictions (Deut. 18:21-22). False prophets existed in both Old and New Testaments, so God’s people were warned about them.

The prophets wrote at different times in Israel’s history (before, during, and after captivity).

The prophets spoke of Christ’s sufferings and glory. The prophets did not fully understand the relationship and timing of Christ as suffering servant and reigning ruler (1 Pet. 1:10-11).

## Book of Isaiah

Isaiah is called the prince of prophets. His book is first among the prophetic books for a reason. The book of Isaiah has been called the Mount Everest of Old Testament prophecy.

Isaiah prophesied mainly in Jerusalem during the divided kingdom period. His long ministry lasted from about 740 to 680 BC.

Isaiah's theme is found in the meaning of his name: salvation is of the LORD. The word "salvation" appears 26 times in Isaiah, but only 7 times in all other prophets combined.

Isaiah is quoted more in the New Testament than any other prophet.

The Book of Isaiah resembles the whole Bible in miniature:

*Isaiah 1-39* Man's need of salvation (God's holiness and judgment)

*Isaiah 40-66* God's provision of salvation (God's mercy and promise of a Savior)

Key passages in Isaiah:

*Isaiah 6:1-8* Isaiah's vision and call to preach

*Isaiah 9:6-7* Christ's birth and kingdom

*Isaiah 40:10-31* God's greatness and grace

*Isaiah 53:1-12* Christ's sacrificial death for sinners

## Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet (Jer. 9:1-3; 13:15-17), but he was a determined, courageous, and faithful servant of the Lord. He could be called "the persevering prophet."

Jeremiah prophesied during troubled times. He faithfully preached a message of judgment through the coming Babylonian invasion from 627 to 580 BC.

Some of Jeremiah's prophecy is autobiography. Like other prophets, he had a difficult life because his messages of repentance were not well received (Jer. 6:16-19).

Key passages in Jeremiah:

*Jeremiah 1:4-9* He was ordained and empowered by God. Verse 9 clearly describes the prophet's ministry as speaking God's words.

*Jeremiah 9:1-3* He was burdened because the people did not know the Lord.

*Jeremiah 20:7-9* He wanted to stop preaching, but He could not quit.

*Jeremiah 36* Jeremiah's prophecy could not be destroyed.

# Know Your Bible – Part 7

## Introduction to the Prophets; Isaiah and Jeremiah

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2) \_\_\_\_\_ (12 books)    4) \_\_\_\_\_ (17 books)

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Three kinds of leaders were prominent in God's unfolding plan of redemption (Christ fulfilled all three roles in one person):

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All of the prophets were \_\_\_\_\_

Some prophets were *fore-tellers* because they predicted future events, but all of them were *forth-tellers* because they boldly spoke the truth.

The messages of God's prophets brought both \_\_\_\_\_

The prophets \_\_\_\_\_ God's Law

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The prophets wrote \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel's history (before, during, and after captivity).

The prophets spoke of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_. The prophets did not fully understand the relationship and timing of Christ as suffering servant and reigning ruler (1 Pet. 1:10-11).

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Isaiah's theme is found in the meaning of his name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Isaiah is \_\_\_\_\_ in the New Testament than any other prophet

The Book of Isaiah resembles the whole Bible in miniature:

**Isaiah 1-39** \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation  
(God's holiness and judgment)

**Isaiah 40-66** \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation  
(God's mercy and promise of a Savior)

Key passages in Isaiah:

**Isaiah 6:1-8** Isaiah's \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 9:6-7** Christ's \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 40:10-31** God's \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 53:1-12** Christ's \_\_\_\_\_

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Key passages in Jeremiah:

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**Jeremiah 20:7-9** He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_, but He could not quit

**Jeremiah 36** Jeremiah's prophecy could not be \_\_\_\_\_