The Prophets Of Israel

by

Dr. Thomas Clark
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THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

HOW TO STUDY THESE LESSONS:

1. **PRAY** to God and ask Him to open your mind and teach you by His Holy Spirit.

2. **READ** the scripture portion several times before you begin to answer the questions.

3. **ANSWER EVERY QUESTION** by searching for the answer in the lesson or from the scripture portion you have read.

4. In each lesson you will find several parts:
   
   **FIRST**, you will find some answers in the commentary in your book.
   
   **SECOND**, you will find other answers from the scripture portion which you read at the beginning of the lesson.
   
   **THIRD**, you will answer some questions from your own experience or understanding of the lesson.
   
   **FOURTH**, you will be asked to do something to put what you have learned into practice.

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THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

INTRODUCTION

The books of the prophets in the Old Testament are one fourth of the scriptures. Perhaps only Psalms is quoted more in the New Testament than the prophets. Many people know promises that are made in the books of the prophets, or prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Others like to study the prophecies of the end times that we see in Ezekiel, and Daniel. But very few people have really studied the prophets and what they said to the nation of Israel. Here are several reasons why people do not study the prophets more.

1. They are often difficult to understand.

2. To understand them you need to know the geographical and historical situations of that time.

3. Many parts use figures of speech that are unfamiliar to us.

4. It is often hard to apply what they said to our lives.

We hope that through this study, these problems will be removed so that you can enjoy the riches of message in these books that comes from God.
LESSON 1

ALL ABOUT PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

OBJECTIVES: When you have completed this lesson you will be able to:

1. State what a prophet is and does.
2. Using a scripture portion, show the signs of a true prophet.
3. Define prophecy, what prophecy is in the Bible and show how it relates to history.

I. WHAT IS A PROPHET?

Most of us think of a prophet as someone who foretells the future. But prophets spent most of their ministry preaching against evil and warning or God's judgment.

HERE IS A GOOD DEFINITION OF A PROPHET: A prophet is the moral and ethical preacher of spiritual religion. Basically a prophet is a preacher of righteousness.

EXAMPLE: Look up Amos 5:21-24

1. Who was the first prophet? __________________
2. How did people become prophets in the Old Testament? ___________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

God is the author of the prophetic books. Moses was the first prophet before the office of a prophet was established by God. In the last course on the Kingdom of Israel, we saw that God had planned for the prophet and priest to rule Israel. These men were chosen and anointed by God for the task he gave them.

THE PRIEST REPRESENTED THE PEOPLE TO GOD.
THE PROPHET REPRESENTED GOD TO THE PEOPLE.

3. How did the priest represent the people to God? ________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Moses speaking by Holy Spirit inspiration gave us this revelation on the subject in Deuteronomy 18:8-22. Look up this portion and answer the questions below.

4. What was the prophet suppose to speak? _________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5. What was he forbidden to do? ________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
6. Would false prophets arise? ______________

7. Who would be the perfect prophet in 18:15 _____________________

8. How could they know a false prophet? 2 ways

18:20 _____________________________________________________________________

18.22 _____________________________________________________________________

9. What was Israel to do when the prophet spoke? _____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

This portion defines and describes the prophet and his ministry.

- God raised him up.
- He would be from among God's people.
- His words would be from God.
- He speaks at God's command.
- His words have God's authority.
- The people were to listen or face God's judgment.
- His words will come to pass.

10. Why did God speak to them through prophets? Deut. 18:16-18 ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

11. What was to be done if a prophet's words did not come to pass? Deut. 18:20 ______

___________________________________________________________________________

12. What kind of people do we have today that are like false prophets? _______________

___________________________________________________________________________

13. Does Satan or evil spirits imitate the work of God? ______________

14. What does the Christian do with their messages? _____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

15. How should we test these peoples ministry? _________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
Here are some questions we should ask ourselves. Is this person living according to the Word of God? Is their message in agreement with the Bible? Did their message come from magic, divination or invoking of dead spirits? Do they have a ceremony or ritual the do to receive their message? If so, they are not of God. Is the messenger holy? Moses said in Deut.18:15 that the prophet "will be like me."

Happily we are not under the law of Moses so we do not stone the false prophets. But we do have a responsibility to expose false prophets and their false message and practices. If they are in our church we must put them out of our church and have no fellowship with them until they repent and change their ways.

16. Why was Moses the greatest prophet in the Old Testament according to Deuteronomy 34:10-12 (2 reasons) ________________________________________________

When Moses says, "like unto me" in Deut. 18:18, he is now prophesying the appearance of another prophet who would be greater then him. Compare Matt. 17:5; Matt. 21:11 and Luke 7:15-23.

17. How was Moses a type of Christ? Heb 3:1-6 ________________________________

II. WHAT IS PROPHECY?

A prophecy is a communication from the divine world (God) through a mediator (the prophet) for a third party (the people addressed by the message). The people may or may not believe in God. (Jews knew about God but Babylonians did not.) It is a message that does not require someone (a priest or medium) to interpret it.

18. Explain what prophecy is in your own words? __________________________________

You might says that prophecy is a message from God, through a man for someone else. It is not always about the future as we will see when we study the Hebrew prophets.

19. Is all prophecy speaking of future events? ___________

20. What is the source of all true prophecy? ______________

21. Are there prophecies that don't come from God? ___________

HERE ARE 8 ELEMENTS OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY
1. It is usually not asked for.
2. It is exhortation and admonition.
3. It may or may not be predict the future.
4. It may be changed by God depending on how the hearer responds.
5. It may be fulfilled in part, in several parts, or it may have a double fulfillment.
6. It may come in poetry, in a story or an illustration.
7. It may be acted out. (as Jeremiah)
8. It may be literal or symbolic.

It is often said that prophecy is history written in advance. If God says it, it must be done. But God is Eternal and knows the end from the beginning. There is no past, present or future for Him. So often times the past, present and future may be together in one prophecy.

III. HOW DO HISTORY AND PROPHECY WORK TOGETHER?

DEFINITION OF HISTORY: History is the record and interpretation of important human experiences. It is events that have already happened, then are evaluated and recorded according to men's interests and interpreted of those events.

EXAMPLE OF HISTORY: The record of the history of World War II may be different as recorded by the Americans, Russians or Germans. Each records history according to their perspective, interest and interpretation.

The historical books of the Old Testament are called "The Former Prophets". It is the prophetic testimony to what God has said and done. They contain messages from God by chosen men such as Moses, Samuel, Abraham, David, and others.

22. Does the Old Testament relate all the events that passed in the world in those days? ____________

Old Testament history has a purpose. It's purpose is to demonstrate overruling Divine providence in all events toward one central goal. The goal is REDEMPTION. So Old Testament history has its own perspective and interests that are different from other historical records.

23. What is the purpose of Old Testament history? ____________________________________________

Therefore though prophecy is based in history, it is supernatural in origin. For example: How could Ezekiel in Babylon predict how Zedekiah in Jerusalem would be captured and have his eyes put out? Ezek. 12:12 Or the day the siege of Jerusalem began? Ezek. 24:2 These are historical events that were predicted before they happened.

24. How is the Old Testament prophecy involved in history? _________________________________
The Old Testament is God's opinion, judgment and evaluation upon all events concerning his people. In so doing it reveals the need for redemption and God's plan of redemption making it prophetic in nature.

25. Why did God deal with Israel in this way? Isaiah 45:6

CONCLUSION

Prophecy does not come from human foresight or wisdom for every prophet claimed divine inspiration and origin for his messages. If it is not, he deserves to be stoned. We need to study not only the message of the prophets, but come to understand how God is interested in His people and will go to any limit to bring them into conformity to His will. God is still speaking through chosen and anointed men. It is for us to listen and obey.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is the study of the Hebrew prophets important to you?
2. How can you tell a prophet of God from a false prophet?
3. Who originated the prophetic ministry?
4. When did the prophetic ministry begin and when will it end?
5. What relationship does Moses have to Christ?
6. What is a prophet and what does he do?
7. What are the signs of a true prophet?
8. What is Biblical prophecy?
9. When do prophets appear and what is their prime purpose?
10. How is history and prophecy related in God's plan of things?
LESSON 2

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPHECY

OBJECTIVES:  When you have completed this lesson you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the difference between a true and a false prophet.
2. Trace the beginning and development of the prophetic ministry.
3. Describe the contents and delivery of the messages of God's prophets.

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES: Deut. 18:9-14; Gen. 41:8; 44:5; Ex. 7:11 Ezek. 21:21-22; Lev. 19:26-31, and 20:6,27

1. Did the heathen have people who fore told the future? _____________________________

2. How did they foretell the future? Deut. 18:9-11 __________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

3. What was God's attitude towards those foretellers? Deut. 18:12 _____________________
___________________________________________________________________________

4. Can we use these ways of foretelling the future? _________________

We find in scripture dream interpreters and diviners in Egypt.(Genesis 41:8 & 44:5) A diviner reads signs such as palm reading or tea leaves. They are professional fore-tellers. We also see that as early as 3500 years ago, people were seeking to know the future or to control future events by magic, witchcraft, sacrifices to devils or idols, spirit mediums and now today through the New Age and crystals. Many professing Christians today see no harm in seeking the dead for advice. Some people believe in using magic words, sorcery, curses, mantras, transcendental meditation or such simple things as avoiding certain days, black cats or dogs.

5. What sources are there for knowing future? ____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

6. What is God's attitude to all these ways of looking into the future? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Why?

Perhaps the "why" is the most important thing to understand. God always insists that He alone knows and controls the future. Therefore, consulting other sources is putting other gods before Him. If He wants us to know the future, He will tell us.
7. How did God communicate with Adam and Eve? ________________________________

8. How did He communicate with Noah? ________________________________

9. How did He communicate with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? ________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Patriarchs and Prophets

In the beginning, God appeared and spoke to man. Even Noah got his message direct from God. God appears to Abraham as an angel and at other times just speaks to him. He spoke to Jacob and Joseph in dreams.

Moses is the first man to act as a prophet giving a message from God to other men. He stands in a special relationship as a mediator of God. Moses met God in a burning bush, in a voice from the heavens, in thunder and lightning on Mt. Sinai, and sees Him passing by from a cleft in the rock. (Exodus 33:22) On Mount Sinai, God gives him the law for the people.

Moses the Prophet

The people at Mount Sinai were afraid to hear directly from God. So they asked that Moses speak to them for God which is the ministry of the prophet. The prophet is God's way of speaking with people who are not in a relationship with God to be able to hear Him, nor are they holy enough to approach Him.

The Law was given by the hand of the prophet Moses that the people might know God and His will.

The Priest was given as an intermediary to go between a righteous God and an unholy people.

The Prophet was given to transmit God's words and will to men who no longer sought or heard Him.

Men have always sought guidance from the dead, evil spirits, idols or other gods. So God raised up prophets and priests to communicate with his people so that they would not have to seek guidance from anyone else.

10. Has God always sought to communicate with His creation? ________________

11. Write several ways we have already discussed that God communicated with men:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
12. What does Heb. 1:1,2 say about this subject? ______________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

God is not a God who hides that men must seek and find Him. God is a self-revealing one that seeks to find us and reveal Himself to us. This is the major difference between Judaeo-Christian religion and all other religions.

THE FORMER PROPHETS

There were prophets long before the "writing prophets" that we find in the Old Testament from Isaiah to Malachi. We already spoke about Moses but the New Testament writers refer to others also.

13. Who are the prophets in each of these references?

Exodus 15:20_______________________ Exodus 7:1______________________________

Judges 4:4_________________________ Jude 14_________________________________

Genesis 20:7_______________________

They were referred to as the FORMER PROPHETS.

It seems that when Israel needed a message, God chose a man. They appeared in history for a brief moment, fulfill their mission, and moved on. Sometimes their messages were recorded by others.

We already mentioned that Deborah was known as a prophet in Judges 4:4, but she went on to be a judge or more correctly a deliverer for Israel and later a governor. Another prophet speaks in this same time period of anarchy and rebellion. Judges 6:8-10

14. What kind of a message does this prophet give? __________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Israel had left serving God and so God had delivered them into the hand of the Midian's. When they cried to the Lord he sent his prophet to encourage their faith but also confront their sin.

15. What is the message of most of the prophets? _________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
SAMUEL AS A PROPHET

Samuel was the last of the judges. He also acted as a priest and prophesied. He received his first message as a young boy. I Sam. 3:11-4:1 He later prophesied to Eli and Saul. He anointed Saul and David as kings. I Sam 8:10-21 and 9:12-15; 10:1-8

16. What was Samuel doing when he received his first prophecy? _____________________

___________________________________________________________________________

17. Was he seeking the ministry of a prophet? ___________

18. For whom was the prophecy? ___________________________

19. Did his prophecies come to pass?______________________

We have already discovered several major principles about prophets in these passages:

1. God selects the prophet. People do not choose to be prophets.
2. His message comes from God.
3. The messages are not sought by the prophet.
4. The messages are not for the prophet himself.
5. The word of the prophet, being a word of God, comes to pass.

THE SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS

Some might think from I Samuel 10:5-13, that Samuel started a school where he taught men how to prophesy. But we have seen that a person does not learn to prophecy, it is a gift from God. Samuel's school which we see later continued by Elijah and Elisha ( 2 Kings 2:3-10) was probably a religious school where young men spent their time learning the Law, worshiping the Lord, singing His praises and prophesying as the Spirit of the Lord came upon them and enabled them to do so.

This ministry of prophecy seemed to continue up through King David's time. (I Chronicles 25:1-3) Again we see that this prophecy came forth out of praise and worship.

20. What were the prophets doing when Saul met them? I Samuel 10:5 ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

21. Who seemed to be the founder of the school of the prophets? _______________________

22. What were these men's ministry?_____________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

23. How were they supported financially? I Sam. 9:8 and II Kings 8:8
It is also thought that men called prophets were the scribes that wrote Old Testament history such as I & II Kings. At one time there were as many as 400 prophets. I Kings 22:6

It appears at the time of King Ahab, that some prophets worked for the king, so they gave favorable prophecies to please the king. I Kings 22:6 These were not true prophets of God but used the position of a prophet to get money.

24. What danger is there in hiring prophets to speak to us? ___________________________  
___________________________________________________________________________

We find that the true prophet of those days, such as Elijah and Elisha, had to separate themselves to maintain their integrity and independence. They were careful not to use their gift for making money.

25. Who do you remember who had a personal prophet? _____________________________  
___________________________________________________________________________

There were several. II Sam. 7:2-17; I Kings 11:29,30; I Sam 22:5;  I Ki. 12:22,23 and I Ki. 16:7

26. How can we avoid compromising our ministry for money today? ___________________  
___________________________________________________________________________

Although the king either had a prophet in his court or a prophet had access to the king's court, the king often rejected the prophet's words and even persecuted them because they themselves were evil and rejected the Word of God.

Great kings, however, like Hezekiah, turned to Isaiah for a word from the Lord. II Kings 19:2,3

You will notice that these prophets often appeared from nowhere, delivered their message, and disappeared again. Their message did not depend on who they were or their reputation. Their message was often to the king whom God held responsible for the sin of the kingdom.

In I Kings we meet two of the greatest of these prophets, but we will study them in the next lesson.

27. What qualified these men to speak to the king? _________________________________  
___________________________________________________________________________

28. Where did they all claim they got their messages? _______________________________  
___________________________________________________________________________
29. How do we know that it was God that sent them? _______________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

30. Why do false prophets give their messages? _________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

31. When do prophets generally appear in Israel's history? ______________________
___________________________________________________________________________

32. Was the fulfillment of the messages often contingent on the obedience or disobedience
    of the hearers? ________________________________

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss what you have learned about the ministry of a prophet.
2. How can you apply what you have learned to your ministry?
OBJECTIVES: When you have completed this lesson you will be able to:

1. Describe the ministry of at least 3 non-writing prophets.
2. Give a general description of the characteristics of these prophets.
3. Write four elements of their prophecies.

We named several prophets that ministered during early Hebrew history, such as Moses and Samuel. The kingdom had been established with the crowning of Saul about 1112 BC. Now 160 years later, Saul, David, and Solomon have died and Solomon's son, Rehoboam causes the division of Israel into two kingdoms, Judah and Israel. Jeroboam, an enemy of Solomon, becomes king of Israel in the North while Rehoboam, Solomon's son, is king in Judah in the South.

In Judah, apostasy begins but is relieved by occasional revivals and the reign of good kings. Israel, however, begins with the golden calves by the River Jordan, and from then on they go deeper and deeper into idolatry and apostasy. They are plunging to their own destruction.

They ARE God's chosen people however, so God sends chosen men, called prophets, to call them back from idolatry to serve Him.

1. Why did God call and send prophets to Israel? ___________________________________

2. In what period of history do the great non-writing prophets appear? __________________

Among these prophets are the well known Elijah and Elisha along with Ahijah and Micah. These men do not bring any messages for all times but rather are men with a message for a specific time. They are accompanied by miracles to prove their message is from God. Let us examine their ministries to see if they fit the pattern prescribed by Moses. Review Deuteronomy. 18:18,19

AHIJAH 1 Kings 11:28-40

3. What are we told about Ahijah? ______________________________________________

4. Does it appear that Ahijah's ancestry, calling, or experience are important? __________

He has no papers, recommendations, genealogy, training or experience to qualify him to be heard. He is only a mouthpiece of God. Who he is, is not important. His message is very important because it is a message from God.
5. Is it important to check a man's credentials to believe his message? 

A man's reputation, experience and fruit are important. It is important to check these things out before we allow him to minister in our church. But the message he preaches is even more important than his reputation. Is his message from God? Does it agree with the Word? There are great men who are preaching false teaching while there are men with no reputation who are speaking the truth with great power.

6. What is more important, the man or the message? 

How can we judge if the message is from God?

___________________________________________________________________________

Back to I Kings 11:28-40

7. Was Jeroboam expecting a message from God? 

8. What does Ahijah do to demonstrate his message? 

___________________________________________________________________________

9. So then, what might we say a prophet does beside speak? 

___________________________________________________________________________

We will find prophets who do miracles and others who dramatize their messages.

10. Who does Ahijah claim as the source of his message? 

11. This message was addressed to Jeroboam but whose future was God really speaking about? 

12. Was Jeroboam's future dependent on his own obedience or disobedience? 

   Jeroboam's exaltation from soldier to king was due to Solomon's disobedience and idolatry, but Jeroboam's continuing in the king's position depended on his own response to God.

13. What do you see about the prophetic ministry from this story? 

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

NOTE: Look for things that repeat themselves in Scripture. As you see things repeat
themselves you can begin to establish some principals and doctrines. Never establish a doctrine from just one example or one scripture.

The years have passed. Ahijah is an old man and has gone blind. But he still has his gift ministry. We don't know what he had been doing since his first appearance in history. Evidently, Jeroboam remembered what had happened before. Jeroboam had served the devil rather than God, but in his hour of desperation he seeks God's man. There is no repentance, but he wants to know the future. How many people are just like Jeroboam?

14. Was Ahijah on the king's payroll? _______ Was he afraid of the king? ________
15. What did he prophecy would happen to Jeroboam? __________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
16. How and when did Ahijah get this foreknowledge? _________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
17. What proof does he give that his prophecy will be fulfilled? __________________
   _____________________________________________________________
18. What had he prophesied in I Kings 11:38? _________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
19. Were all of these prophecies fulfilled? __________
20. What have you learned about prophecy from this story? _____________________
   _____________________________________________________________

A DECEIVING AND A DECEIVED PROPHET  I Kings 13

21. What do we know about this prophet? _________________________________
22. Why did God send this prophet? _________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
23. What sign was immediately fulfilled to prove his prophecy? _______________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
24. What else happens to show that his message was from God? ________________
25. What reward did the prophet get from his message? __________________________

This prophet was obedient. His message was clear and precise. It was proved by a sign from God. His reward from the king was hatred, but the man of God showed grace in praying for the cursed man.

26. What mistake did the prophet make after leaving the king? ______________________

Even godly prophets make mistakes. He was used mightily of God, but later he followed his own reasoning instead of obeying God.

27. Did the second prophet lie to the first prophet? ______

28. Did the lying prophet also give a true message? I Kings 13:21-26 ______

29. Were both men prophets of God? ______

Even though the first unknown prophet disobeyed, God fulfilled his prophecy to Jeroboam. (II Kings 23:15-18) Again, the message is from God not man. We also see a warning against listening to other "prophets" if we ourselves have a command from God. Remember when Agabus prophesied that Paul should not go to Jerusalem for fear he would be imprisoned? Paul had his own word from God and went to Jerusalem.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Write at least four elements of prophecy you have learned from this lesson.

   1. _____________________________________________________________

   2. _____________________________________________________________

   3. _____________________________________________________________

   4. _____________________________________________________________

2. Discuss what you have learned about how God works from the lives of these prophets.
LESSON 4

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

I Kings 17-21

OBJECTIVES: When you have completed this lesson you will be able to:

1. Describe the ministry of Elijah and Elisha as prophets.
2. Compare Elijah and Elisha to one another and to both the earlier non-writing prophets and later writing prophets.
3. Name the writing prophets in the order of their ministry and era in the history of Israel.

We think of these two prophets more as miracle workers than as the moral conscience of the nation. Why were they so dramatic in their ministries, and why did they do so many miracles?

Israel was no longer a God worshiping nation. They had adopted the idols and worship of the pagan nations that lived around them. They did not want or expect a message from God. Only spectacular miracles could focus the attention of the people on God's claim upon their lives. The miracle challenges them to affirm their belief in Jehovah and to realize the folly of idols that can not act.

1. Look at Elijah's prayer in I Kings 18:36. What three things are to be demonstrated in the fire falling to consume the sacrifice?

1. ______________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________

Prophetic miracles serve a divine purpose, to let it be known that Jehovah alone is God. That Elijah was his spokesman, and that the word that the prophet pronounced was from God.

2. We also see a bit of the personal life and nature of the prophet. After his great victory, what did he do that demonstrates his humanity? ch. 19 ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3. But we also see God's care for his servant. What did God do for Elijah? ch.19 ________

___________________________________________________________________________

God showed understanding for his attitude. He demonstrates His goodness and patience with Elijah's weakness. He provides both physical and spiritual refreshing. In spite of loss of faith for a moment, he receives a new commission and a demonstration of God's
confidence in him.

4. How would you describe God's relationship with Elijah?
___________________________________________________________________________

Both Elijah and Elisha were truly prophets in that:

1. They spoke for God.
2. They spoke God's words.
3. They spoke against sin, mainly against idolatry.
4. What they spoke came to pass.
5. Elijah had a personal revelation of God.
6. Elisha had a dramatic call and confirmation from God.

Although Elisha himself never wrote his prophecies, he was contemporary with the first writing prophet, Joel. Obadiah may have lived in the same era. Soon after the passing of these two great men, we see Israel and Judah fast approaching the time for their destruction. It was already decided by God. It was only a matter of the attitude and response of the people to God's message through the prophets.

Elijah's ministry began in 910 BC and went to about 896 BC.
Elisha's ministry went from about 896 BC to 856 BC.

5. How would you describe the ministry of Elijah in comparison to Elisha's? _____________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

6. Why does God send prophets, even though the people did not repent? ________________
___________________________________________________________________________

7. Why would God send prophets today? ____________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

8. What would a prophet's message be today? _________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

**RESUME**: There are three things one should keep constantly in mind as he studies a work of the prophets.

1. It is necessary to understand the political, moral, social and religious condition at the time in which the prophet lived and preached and how he proposed to meet those conditions.
We see that whatever the conditions, the prophet endeavored to meet them by pointing the people back to God. Before a nation could be changed, people's hearts must be changed toward Him. Judgement against sin must be preached to bring people back to God.

9. What must we first do to understand the prophets? _______________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

10. Why did the prophets warn of God's judgement against sin?
________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

2. Secondly, it should be noted that God directs the destine of all nations and that it is He who judges them. The same God that spoke by the prophets and judged the nations is the same God that speaks and judges nations today.

3. A final point that the student should particularly regard is the prophet's teaching of a future kingdom and king. Whatever was the condition of Israel, and its kings of the prophet's day, a lasting kingdom and king who would rule in righteousness, is going to come.

11. What else did the prophets speak of beside sin and judgement? _____________________
___________________________________________________________________________

THE WRITING PROPHETS

We studied in the last lesson that the non-writing prophets spoke but didn't write their messages. They functioned before 800 BC when the writing prophets began their ministries. In the Bible the first prophet seems to be Isaiah. But, Isaiah didn't speak until about 750 BC, fifty years later.

We must understand that the books of the Bible are not necessarily in the order they were written. The Prophets were arranged according to the size of the book. Isaiah is the largest and longest, therefore it is the first. The last three prophets in the Bible did not minister until after the people returned from captivity in Babylon.

12. Name some of the prophets that ministered before 800 BC. ______________________
___________________________________________________________________________

13. What is the differences between them and later prophets? _______________________
___________________________________________________________________________

14. Can you name any women prophets? (prophetesses)_____________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
Four Groups Of Prophets According To Their Times Of Ministry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prophet</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joel</td>
<td>840 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonah</td>
<td>790 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosea</td>
<td>760 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos</td>
<td>750 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah</td>
<td>745 BC</td>
<td>All before the captivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micah</td>
<td>740 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nahum</td>
<td>630 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nahumiah</td>
<td>639 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habakkuk</td>
<td>606 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obadiah</td>
<td>586 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah</td>
<td>586 BC</td>
<td>Prophesied before and during captivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>534 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel</td>
<td>570 BC</td>
<td>Prophesied during captivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haggai</td>
<td>520 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zechariah</td>
<td>520 BC</td>
<td>Prophesied after captivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malachi</td>
<td>450 BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice that they are not in Biblical order.

15. Why aren't they in Biblical order? ____________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

16. How are they grouped? ____________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

17. How many writing prophets were there? _________________

They prophesied for about 400 years altogether. Some of them were of the priestly line but most were not. They had a different ministry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the main ministry of a prophet?
2. Discuss the difference between Elijah and Elisha ministry and most of the other prophets.
3. What are some things we should be looking for as we study the prophets?
4. Review the order of the prophets and the name of the group they are in.

LESSON 5
JOEL - AMOS - OBADIAH

OBJECTIVES: When you have completed this lesson you will be able to write a short resume of the ministry of each of these three prophets. Include:

* To whom their message was addressed.
* The content of their message.
* What lesson you learned from their book.

These three prophesied in different times, so look at the chart that indicates the dates of their ministry. They were, however, all pre-exile prophets.

THE PROPHET JOEL

Joel prophesied in the same time period as Isaiah, 750 years BC. There had been a terrible invasion of locusts in the land which had literally covered and destroyed the land of Judah.

The four insects mentioned here are really the four stages in the development of the locust. At each stage they eat a different stage of the crop's development. They are compared to the innumerable army that will invade Judah and destroy it. Joel 1:1-6

1. What was Joel's first message for Judah? _______________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________

2. Who does God call on to lead the nation to repentance? _________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________

   We see repeatedly the phrase "the Day of the Lord". This refers to the day when the Lord will finally judge them.

3. What must they do so that God will not destroy them? 2:12,13 ___________________
   _________________________________________________________________________

   I asked you to write it all out for it is a key scripture. It is the formula for revival. It must be a heart change and not simply a change of lifestyle or new zeal for good works.

4. If we do repent with all our hearts, what will God do? 2:13 _____________________
   _________________________________________________________________________

5. Why does God accept our repentance? _______________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________
I believe that this text is applicable to natural catastrophes as well as spiritual. God has averted wars, invasions, storms and famine because His people have sought His face with all their hearts.

Not only was there to be repentance but they were to STOP DOING EVIL. This is followed by one of God's great and beautiful promises.

6. What does God promise to do if we change our ways?

2:19 ____________________________________________________________________
2:22 ____________________________________________________________________
2:23 ____________________________________________________________________
2:24 ____________________________________________________________________

In verse 13 He changes things because of His grace, compassion, patience and love.

7. What reason does He give for changing in 2:27? _________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

PENTECOST PROPHESIED - Although part of this prophecy in 2:28-32 was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, there remains a second part of that fulfillment. Compare this with Acts 2:17-21.

8. What remains to be fulfilled? ________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Jesus had fulfilled His promise before He ascended to heaven. He poured out His Spirit on all peoples. The outpouring is still going on today. Miracles still are happening. People who call on Him in faith are still being saved.

9. How many were filled with the Holy Spirit that day? ____________

10. How many were saved on the Day of Pentecost? ____________________

11. How long was it from prophecy to fulfillment? _______________________

12. Can we expect all the rest of the prophesies to be fulfilled too?_ __________

13. What great lessons do you learn from Joel about repentance? __________________
___________________________________________________________________________

35
14. What will follow repentance? _______________________________________________

THE PROPHET AMOS

AMOS was written at about the same time as Isaiah, Joel, and Hosea. Hosea, we will discover, is a prophet of love, of tenderness. Amos's message is hard. He was not a great and respected person but His message too came from God.

1. What kind of a prophet was Amos? __________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

2. What other character of Amos do we see in 7:1-6 _________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

You will find a historical background in II Kings 14:23-29 and 15:8-31. Assyria was weakened and Babylon had not yet become a power. Peace allowed prosperity and prosperity allowed the people to enjoy the good life, affluence, pleasure, intemperance and immorality. Does that sound familiar today?

Amos prophesied judgement. Because of that, he was not very well liked. He was a humble man, but not timid. He was a man of courage, but that courage was from God.

Amos saw three ORACLES, or messages. He calls them burdens because they weighed him down. Being a prophet of judgement is tough.

Chapters 1,2 are eight messages beginning with Israel's enemies and ending with Israel and Judah.

Chapters 3-6 are THREE SERMONS against Israel's sins.

- They all begin with "Hear the Word of the Lord.
- They all end with "therefore God will do."

Chapters 7-9 are FIVE VISIONS. They are all analogies of judgement.

Chapter 7:10-17 Is a dialogue between Amaziah, the priest, and the prophet.

Chapter 9:11-15 is a PROPHECY OF RESTORATION.

3. What does the priest, Amaziah, say to Amos? 7:12 _______________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Amaziah hated Amos because he prophesied evil for Israel for their worship of idols. By this time Israel and Judah had separated into two countries. The king of Israel, Jeroboam, had built an altar in the part of the country that he had taken. He had two idol calves for the
people to worship. Amos speaks to Israel while Joel is speaking to Judah.

4. Why did Amos prophecy this judgement against Israel? 7:14-16

In the first two chapters Amos denounces the sins of Israel's neighboring countries. But when we get to chapters 3-6, he denounces the sin of Israel. Perhaps he was getting the people to agree with him at first, then brings in their sins before they could get away.

5. Why did God desire Israel's repentance? 3:2

Israel was still very religious in spite of their sins. They sacrificed on several altars, but they did not repent of their sins.

6. What was God going to do because of their sin? 3:2

We can read all of chapter 4 to see all their suffering for sin.

Amos saw 5 visions in chapters 7-9. Each one of them has an interpretation but the most clear is in 7:7 which is the theme of this book. He sees a mason's cord with which he plumbs the wall. IT IS THE PLUMB LINE OF JUDGEMENT. It is totally unbiased and always true to its nature. IT IS THE LAW. God will always judge righteously. Religion cannot affect that judgement.

If you wish to study this prophecy, read the following verses. 3:1,2; 4:11,12; 5:4,6; 5:14,15; 5:21-25 and 8:11.

But there will be a day when they will seek the Word of God. 8:11. Today people are seeking money, food, pleasure, etc. They build churches everywhere, but there will come a day when they will be hungry and thirsty for the Word of God, but they won't find it.

8. What last promises did God make by Amos?
9. What messages of Amos are for today?__________________________________________

THE PROPHET OBADIAH

No one knows who wrote this book, nor do they know when it was written. It is very short. It speaks against the nation of Edom. It is the other name for Esau or the descendants of Esau. Esau and Jacob were brothers and if you remember, Jacob tricked his brother out of both his blessing and his inheritance. The two families became two nations that were traditional enemies.

The Edomites were idolaters and lived in the mountain strongholds. They lived by highway robbery. They would attack the camel trains passing through their country. As are most bandits, they were arrogant and cruel.

1. Why was God angry at Edom and want to punish them? verse 3 _____________________

2. What was God going to do with them? 4 _______________________________________

3. What had Edom done? 13,14 ________________________________________________

When the other nations had attacked Jerusalem, the people of Edom had mocked Judah. They had gone to pillage the country and refuges. They shouldn't have done that to their brother country. God was going to judge them as well as Israel.

4. In the end who would have the victory? 17,21

There are several lessons God wants to teach us from this short book.

1. God will not tolerate pride and will see that it falls.
2. God will finally wreak vengeance on the evil ones.
3. If a person mocks another in his distress, even though God has sent the punishment, he
too will be punished.

4. God treats His people in a special way. Even though He punishes them, in the end He will bless them because they are His chosen people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the message of the three prophets. How were they the same and how were they different?

2. Be prepared to tell something you learned from each of the three prophets.

LESSON 6
JONAH AND NAHUM

OBJECTIVES: When you have completed this lesson you will be able to:

1. Tell the story of Jonah accurately.
2. Write three lessons you can draw from Jonah.
3. Tell how Jonah is a type of Christ.
4. Explain the difference between Jonah and Nahum.
5. Give a lesson from Nahum for us today.

We will study these two prophets together, not because they are in the same era, but because they concern the same country, and the prophecies seem to be contradictory. Jonah appears about 800 BC while Nahum shows up on the scene about 150 years later. Because the historical situation is totally different, we will see that the prophecy also is different.

JONAH  Read the entire book of Jonah in one sitting.

Jonah is different than most of the other prophets in that there are only eight words of prophecy in the whole book. The rest is the history of God's dealing with a prophet and a nation that is not His.

The three main things we want to learn from the story of Jonah are:

1. Jonah's attitude toward a nation that was not his and an enemy of his people.
2. About God's grace and His method of dealing with a prophet in a very personal way.
3. That God is concerned with individuals, His people and other nations as well.

Jonah is a historical person testified to by both Jesus in the New Testament and II Kings 14:25 in the Old Testament. He was a prophet to Israel in the time of Jeroboam II about 782 BC.

1. How do we know that Jonah was a real person and not just a character in a story?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Nineveh was a very real city that existed and its ruins have been discovered by archaeologists. It is in Assyria north and east of Israel. (See your map.) It was, at the time of Jonah, the capital of the most powerful and cruel nation on earth. Recent archeology has disclosed that it was about 30 miles long and 10 miles wide. It had five walls, 3 moats, and the walls were 100 feet high and wide enough to drive 4 chariots abreast on them. It was a magnificent city and had become rich by looting other nations around them.

2. Why did God want to destroy Ninevah?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

40
Jonah is a book of Miracles.

God prepared a fish big enough to swallow Jonah.
Jonah was preserved miraculously 3 days and nights inside a fish.
Nineveh repented after hearing Jonah, a foreigner, preach.
A gourd grew up overnight to provide a shade for Jonah.

The miracles contain lessons for us but are not the main lesson of the book.

3. What prophetic message was Jonah to deliver to Ninevah? _________________________

4. What did Jonah do after receiving God's commission? ____________________________

5. Why didn't Jonah want to deliver the message of God? ____________________________

We can not blame Jonah too much, especially since he was a Jew and an enemy of Assyria. Israel was in great fear of this terrible nation. A Jew believed also that peoples of other nations were only good for the fires of hell. They had no idea of evangelizing other countries.

6. Name the things God did to get Jonah to do His will.
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

7. How did Jonah change in the belly of the fish? _________________________________

8. What message did God give Jonah when he arrived on dry land? _________________

   God's will had not changed, but the prophet had changed. It seems that God will go to almost any length to get His people to obey and do His will. Now the place where he landed was at the edge of the sea while Nineveh was far inland in the desert. We see that the
The prophet was not easy. Jonah does go now and announce the message of repentance.

9. What was the result of Jonah's preaching? ______________________________________

10. What did God do when Ninevah repented?

_____________________________________

We see here that God does change his mind in response to what people do. God's will was and is today that none should perish but that all people should come to repentance. God does not want to send all that evil upon the world we read about in the prophets. He only wants to bring the world to repentance.

11. What can we do to change the direction of history and save ourselves from judgement?

___________________________________________________________________________

In the first part of our story we meet JONAH, THE DISOBEDEDIENT PROPHET. Then in the fish's belly we had THE REPENTANT PROPHET. Then we find THE OBEDEDIENT PROPHET. But now he becomes THE ANGRY PROPHET.

12. Why was Jonah angry with God? ____________________________________________

It was quite evident that Jonah was racist but God is not. Romans tells us that the Gospel is for all, even our enemy.

13. What is the will of God in every situation? II Peter 3:9 ___________________________

This is very important in understanding otherwise difficult scriptures. God loves all the world. If we arrive at having the mind of Christ, we will even love our enemies. Jonah didn't. Do you?

We have noted in this story too, that often the prophet's message is not his own will or idea. Secondly, we note that anyone can repent and that anyone that does will be forgiven. We should never think that anyone is beyond redemption.

14. What was God's answer to Jonah? 4:10,11 _____________________________________

15. How many miracles do you find in Jonah? ______________ 42
16. What would you say the purpose of miracles is from the study of this lesson? __________

______________________________

Jonah was saved. Nineveh was saved from wrath, but Israel did not repent and was
destroyed. Perhaps the sinner is quicker to repent than the (self)righteous. Remember the
Pharisee and the Publican?

17. What lessons do you learn from Jonah? ________________________________

______________________________

JESUS AND JONAH  Matt. 12:40

18. How is Jonah an example Christ? ____________________________

______________________________

This subject could be developed much further but it is about types and shadows rather
than prophecy which we are studying at this course.

Here are some lessons that we have found in our study of Jonah.

* As God desires all men to be saved, it should be our desire too.
* It is dangerous to confuse our will with God's will.
* All men are saved by grace when they repent.

NAHUM

We will continue with Nahum even though nearly 150 years had passed since God relented
and did not punish Nineveh. Nineveh did repent but afterward it continued on in its sin and
disobedience. There was a day of grace, but the day of reckoning had now arrived.

1. Of what country was Nineveh the capitol? ________________

If you want to see the character of this nation at that time, look at II Kings 18. Jonah knew
that if God did not destroy Assyria and Nineveh, the day would come when they would
destroy Israel and Judah.

2. Does God get angry? ________ Write several words that describe His anger in

Nahum 1:2 _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________
3. What is God in Nahum 1:7? _________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

We can never separate God's goodness from His righteousness. They are both qualities of character or attributes of God. If you believe in one you must accept the other.

4. When God judges Assyria, what will be the result for Judah?________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5. What had Assyria done to merit such awful judgement: 3:1-3 _______________________
______________________________________ and in 3:4 ____________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

According to Isaiah 37:37 Assyria had attacked Judah and Jerusalem, but God had protected Jerusalem because it had repented. This time Nineveh did not repent, therefore in the year 612 BC God sent the Medes, Babylonians, and Scythians to execute His wrath and judgement. Nineveh was spared, but 50 years later destroyed so both Jonah's and Nahum's prophecies were true and fulfilled.

We will see similar situations regarding two prophets who gave two different prophecies, Isaiah and Jeremiah. Isaiah said God would protect Jerusalem. Jeremiah said God would destroy it. However, there was 70 years between their prophecies and the people had changed their response to God in the meantime.

6. Using these two illustrations, how do we interpret all Biblical prophecies? ____________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Often times when God's people or the church begins to compromise it opens the door for God's judgment on a nation. We can see this in the history of Germany. German evangelical theologians came to realize that the holocaust was due to the liberal theologians destroying faith, especially in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The church's compromise in it's stand for righteousness opened the door for Hitler's regime to come to power.

7. What might be a reason for the terrible suffering of the church in Germany during and after World War II? __________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

In the same way, if the church repents and calls on God, we can stop God's judgement on
our nation.

8. Does God forget to do what He has promised, either good or bad?  II Peter 3:9,10 _______

9. Should this make us fear or give us comfort? ____________________________________

10. What did you learn from the prophet Nahum for us today? _________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss what you have learned about God and about prophecy in this lesson.
LESSON 7

ZEPHANIAH and HABAKKUK

OBJECTIVES: When you have finished this lesson you will be able to:

1. Tell when Zephaniah and Habakkuk were ministering and the spiritual condition at the time.

2. Give a brief outline of the prophecy each one gave, including the time that each part will be fulfilled.

3. Explain Habakkuk's question and give God's answer. You will be able to apply that answer to your own questions.

READ II Kings 21:10-14 through 22:20 and II Chronicles 34

Zephaniah was a descendant of good King Hezekiah, therefore of the royal line. He ministered in the time of Josiah about 630 BC. After Hezekiah, his son, Manasseh became a very wicked king and destroyed all the good that Hezekiah had done. After two years his son, Amon, is killed and Josiah is made King at 12 years old. You remember that Josiah found the Book of the Law, read it, repented and restored the temple. He also destroyed the idols and the false altars of Judah. However, his revival did not have much effect on people in general. They were too far into sin. Samaria and Israel had already gone into captivity. Now Zephaniah prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem.

After a good reign, Josiah is killed when he goes out to try to intercept the Egyptians marching to defeat Assyria. This is the turning point in history as the great battle of Carchemish is fought when Assyria is finally defeated by the Babylonians. This is all important because all these events are prophesied by the prophets of Israel. Read II Ki. 22:14-20 to find the prophecy of Huldah the prophetess concerning this event.

READ ALL OF ZEPHANIAH BEFORE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS.

1. What do you notice about Zephaniah's prophecy? ___________________________________________________________________________

Here is a brief outline of his prophecies.

chap 1- Day of the Lord- vs 14,15 trouble and punishment
chap 2- The solution-before that Day "Seek the Lord" vs 1-3
chap 2:4-15-An answer to those that say the surrounding nations are more guilty.
chap 3:1 Jerusalem and rulers called to judgement
chap 3:8 Return from Babylon. I will judge the nations
9 they will call on the name of the Lord
10 return to Palestine
11, 12 the humbled remnant will return cleansed and at peace
chap 3:15-20 God will again establish Jerusalem as His city and dwell there.
Revelation 20, Daniel 2:35,44 and Daniel 7:14,22,27 (Millennium)

2. Why will God destroy Jerusalem?
___________________________________________________________________________

Remember that the Jews thought of the Day of the Lord as the last days when God would come to destroy all the non-Jewish nations and make everything alright.

3. What would God do in those days? 1:9,15 _______________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

4. But what must the people do? 2:1-3 ___________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5. What should they do so God would not punish them? 3:7 _________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

6. What two great promises do we find?
   1. 3:9 ___________________________________________________________________
   2. 3:17 ___________________________________________________________________

7. How do they apply to us? ___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

   In spite of their sins, He is still their God and is in the midst of them. Eventually He will bless them with the eternal promises.

8. What have you personally learned from Zephaniah? _____________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
HABAKKUK

We do not know when Habakkuk lived or prophesied except that it preceded Judah's deportation to Babylon. There are two parts in this little book. Maybe this was written about 626 BC.

1. A discussion between the prophet and God. chaps. 1,2
2. The prophet's prayer and God then manifests His glory. chap. 3

HABAKKUK IS THE QUESTIONING PROPHET.

1. What was his first question? 1:2

___________________________________________________________________________

The answer comes in 1:5-9

2. What was his second question? 1:13

___________________________________________________________________________

I think we sometimes have the same questions. We wonder why God doesn't straighten out the problems of the world. Maybe we too wonder if He really can.

3. What problem did he see in 1:4?

___________________________________________________________________________

4. Do you have the same problem? _____________

Maybe we don't doubt His power or wisdom but we get in a hurry and want Him to act.

Now Habakkuk has finished asking his questions and will stand and wait for God to give him an answer. The Lord does answer without reproof.

5. What was God's answer to his question? 2:2-4 it has two parts.

vs.2,3 ______________________________________________________________________

vs.4 ______________________________________________________________________

Be patient. God is not in a hurry. He has a time to accomplish His purpose. It is already written. The righteous live by faith that God is going to act according to His promises.

And so we have the great verse quoted by Paul and then discovered by Luther many years later. It was the basis of the doctrine of salvation by faith through grace. Romans 1:17, Hebrews 10:38 The Jews thought that they would live because they had observed the law
and done good.

We see in chapter 2:13-14 that there will be a day when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God. God is in control.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE chapter 3**

6. What do you see in Habakkuk's prayer in 3:1-15

___________________________________________________________________________

After God answers him, Habakkuk gives God a wonderful time of praise. From 3:16-19 we understand that he had understood the answer.

7. After this revelation, what would the prophet do no matter what came? __________

___________________________________________________________________________

8. When we glorify God and put our confidence in Him, what will He do? __________

___________________________________________________________________________

It is interesting to note that God wasn't angry with the prophet for asking questions. He was honest. He will reveal Himself to us if we are open with Him. In days like these when we are asking why and when, all He asks is for us to LIVE BY FAITH.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Do you sometimes feel like asking God a few questions?
2. What kinds of questions do you want to ask?
3. Did God answer some of them in the book of Habakkuk?
4. Do you suppose you will ever arrive at understanding God and His ways?
5. Can you trust Him even though you don’t understand what He is doing?
6. What did you learn from Habakkuk?
LESSON 8

HOSEA

OBJECTIVES: When you have completed this lesson you will be able to:

1. Explain the story of Hosea and his wife.
2. Give the spiritual message that God was giving Israel.
3. Give an application of this truth for us today.

The name Hosea is one form of Joshua or Jesus, meaning Salvation. Hosea is the prophet of love in contrast to his contemporary, Amos, who was so stern.

You will notice from your chronological chart in Lesson 4, that the date of this prophecy is about 750 BC. He began his ministry in the reign of Jeroboam II, who was the grandson of Jehu. It was a time of prosperity but great sin, as we saw in Amos. Jeroboam II is followed by a series of kings with short reigns. Zechariah, 6 months, murdered; followed by Shallum, 1 month, murdered; followed by Menahem, 10 years; Pekahiah, 2 years, murdered; Hoshea, 9 years and killed in the fall of Samaria to the Assyrians.

His book are messages, evidently given at different times in his ministry during these different kings.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND  Read II Kings 15-17

Religiously, the nation of Israel was idolatrous, not only worshiping the calf idol of Jeroboam I, but also worshiping Baal and its fertility rites that included prostitution as a form of worship as mentioned in Hosea. Immorality was rampant. Israel as a nation was in decay.

Politically, it was a time of turmoil, as you can see from the list of kings. Assyria was strong and during the reign of Menahem, Assyria took heavy tribute from Israel. Finally the Assyrian king, Shalmaneser, laid siege to Samaria and carried away the people to be scattered to the corners of the earth.

THE BOOK

Chapters 1-3 is a narrative of what happened in the life of the prophet under the direction of God to symbolize what was happening between God and His wife, Israel.

Chapters 4-14 are a collection of pronouncements against the spiritual adultery of Israel. Idolatry becomes adultery in that God considers Himself the husband of Israel in the relationship of love, trust, and faithfulness. Any turning to other gods then become adultery of the relationship.

READ HOSEA CHAPTERS 1-3, then answer the questions.

1. Who was the prophet contemporary with Hosea? _________________
2. What was the difference between their messages? ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3. Why did Hosea marry Gomer? _______________________________________________

There is some discussion as to whether Gomer was practicing prostitution or whether she
was a woman that had been given to the Baal to serve as a cultic prostitute. There is no
mention of children before the children she bears for Hosea. As we will see, she does later
go into prostitution showing how Israel left the Lord and went into prostitution with other
gods.


___________________________________________________________________________

5. How many children does she have by Hosea? ____________

Each one of these children are a prophetic message. Their names are the message.

   Jezreel---Is the name of the town where Jehu killed the family of Ahab so God says he
   will destroy Israel for the same sins as Ahab's.
   Lo-Ruhamah ---God will no longer have mercy on Israel.
   Lo-Ammi---God has rejected Israel as His people.

   Now the story is put into poetic language and it is difficult to know whether it is Israel or
   Gomer he is speaking about. Gomer runs away with her lover and lives in adultery.

6. Why did she go into adultery? 2:5 _____________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

7. Why do you suppose Israel served idols? _______________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

8. Why do people today often turn back to serve sin?

___________________________________________________________________________

9. What did God say he would do? 2:6-7 _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

   God makes life difficult for the backslider so that he will return back to God. But notice
   there is no repentance so God punishes her in 2:9-13. We cannot eat the pleasures of this
   world and the blessings of God at the same time. We must repent of our sin and receive our
punishment before we can move back into God's blessings. The Bible says that whatsoever a man sows, that will he also reap.

10. What will be the result of one who commits spiritual adultery? _____________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Like Gomer, people forget their source of blessings and turn away to the world. Then when hard times come they turn back to God. God is gracious and will forgive but often times they still reap problems for the sin they have planted.

11. After the chastisement, what will God do? 2:14,15 ______________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

In verses 16-23 we find the faithful husband accepting back the sinning, adulterous wife. He sanctifies her, remarries her, and then pours out his blessings again.

12. What does this poem of love in 2:16-23 teach you about God? _____________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

13. How does Hosea interpret this in prophecy for Israel? ____________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

MESSAGE FOR TODAY:

We know the character of God.
Monotheism - God will not tolerant any other gods.
Omnipotence - He will eventually judge sin.
Righteousness - He is righteous and only righteousness will satisfy Him.
Love - His love is eternal. His love is faithful. His love is self-sacrificing. Hosea 11:4; 14:4
There is hope for the backslider. Chap. 14

14. WRITE THE SINS OF ISRAEL. 4:1 _____________________ 4:11 _____________________
5:2 _____________________ 7:1 _____________________ 12:7 _____________________

15. HERE ARE SOME ILLUSTRATIONS OF SIN.

3:1 _____________________
4:16 _____________________
4:11

6:9

7:4

7:7

7:8

8:8,9

7:16

7:11

16. Is sin any different today? ______ Are we sometimes as foolish as Gomer? ______

Will God take us back? ______ What must we do? ________________________________

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss what you learned about prophecy from the ministry of Hosea.
2. What was God’s message to Israel through Hosea?
3. Discuss how people turn away from God. What is God’s response to people who turn away from Him? What must a person do to come back to God?
4. What is the result of backsliding?
5. What can we do to avoid backsliding in our own lives?
6. How can we help Christians who have backslidden?
LESSON 9

MICAH

OBJECTIVES: When you have completed this lesson you will be able to:

1. Describe Micah and his ministry.
2. Quote a scripture that shows what God wants from man.
3. Find the Messianic prophecies and explain their fulfillment.

THE PROPHET

Micah ministered between 740-700 BC, about the time of Isaiah. He followed both Amos and Hosea. He began his ministry before the fall of Israel and continued until the reign of King Hezekiah in Judah. He lived to see the fulfillment of his prophecy in the destruction of Samaria and Israel.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Judah, at the start of Micah's ministry, was strong and prosperous under King Uzziah. Prosperity brought the evils of luxury and greed. Uzziah's son, Jotham, was a good king and continued the policies of his father. However, Ahaz, Jotham's successor, was very wicked. During his reign, Israel and Syria formed a coalition against Ahaz. Ahaz then sold out to Syria.

When Hezekiah came to the throne, he started reform from the top but it didn't much affect the people and their way of life. It was during Hezekiah's reign that Assyria threatened to destroy Jerusalem, but God gave a wonderful deliverance in answer to Hezekiah's prayer. We will read about that in Isaiah.

READ II Kings chapters 18 and 19 to understand the history of this period. Micah rightly prophesied that it would not be the Assyrians that would invade Jerusalem, but Babylon.

THE BOOK

It is in three parts, each introduced by HEAR YE and closing with a PROMISE.

Part I 1:2 to 2:13
Part II 3:1 to 5:15
Part III 6:1 to 7:20

These are a collection of his messages and are repetitive because the people did not heed them. It is much like a preacher who must preach the same message over and over because the people do not change their ways.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK
1. To whom does Micah give his prophecy? 

Micah was a man of Judah but spoke to both Israel and Judah.

2. According to 1:3-7, why was God going to destroy Jerusalem and Samaria? 

___________________________________________________________________________

3. How did Micah's prophecy affect him? 1:1-16 

___________________________________________________________________________

4. What sin did he denounce in 2:1-2 

___________________________________________________________________________

5. What was the reaction of the other "prophets"? 2:6 

___________________________________________________________________________

6. What kind of prophet do the people really want? 2:11 

___________________________________________________________________________

We have an end time prophecy in 2:12-13 speaking of the eventual victory of Christ in His kingdom.


___________________________________________________________________________

8. After condemning these leaders, what does he say about himself? 3:8 

___________________________________________________________________________

In 3:12, he prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem, but in 4:1 he speaks of the temple being rebuilt and the temple becoming the center of worship for the whole world. It would seem that as he prophesies judgement, he gives a promise of a glorious future to encourage them.

9. When do you think that chapter 4 will be fulfilled? 

___________________________________________________________________________

Many believe that this is a prophecy that still will come to pass during the thousand year reign of Christ here on earth. Revelation 20:1-4
10. What will happen before that day according to 4:6-8 _____________________________

Remember at all times that the millennial kingdom is primarily a promise to Israel. Israel must be regathered to be the foundation of this kingdom.

11. What great prophecy is given in 5:2? _______________________________________

Notice how the time of the prophecy is mixed together. Verse 2 speaks of the birth of Messiah. Verse 3 speaks of the scattering of Israel during the time of the gentiles. Then verse 4 speaks of the end time kingdom. The prophet doesn't explain when these events will happen because as he looks in the future these things seem to happen together. That is eternal time where a thousand years is as one day to the Lord.

Chapter 6 begins with God taking Israel into court and charging her with sin in spite of the many blessings God has given her.

12. How does man usually try to make peace with God? 6:6,7 _______________________

13. What does God really want from His people? 6:8 (three things) __________________

In chapter 7 Micah shows sorrow for Israel's sin and for the judgment that is coming upon them. But even in sorrow there is hope. (7:7) The rest of the chapter is hope, prayer, and praise. Even as an Old Testament prophet, he sounds a great deal like a modern day preacher.

14. What great statement about God does he make in 7:18? _________________________

This is a mighty statement of faith in God's character. It is this kind of faith that sustains in our walk with Christ.

**RESUME**

Being a poor country man, Micah denounces the sins of the rich and educated leaders who should have been leading them to God. Social evil is the problem and cannot be covered by religious activity. He emphasizes that EVERY CRUELTY TO ONE'S FELLOW MAN WAS AN INSULT TO GOD as man is created in His image. Even as Amos and Hosea, he stresses that personal relationships, morality, and ethics are of concern to God. This is best
stated in Micah 6:8:

DO JUSTLY---good ethics in all of life.
LOVE MERCY--consideration for others when justice has not been done.
WALK HUMBLY with thy God.--personal experience with God.

Paul calls this "the mind of Christ" in Philippians 2:5

A MESSAGE FOR US TODAY

God is just, both in judgement and mercy.
Godly fear can bring hope.
God is sovereign and has a future plan that He will fulfill.
God requires brave men to speak out for Him in an age of wickedness in religion, in government, in business and in our personal lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn about the ministry of a prophet from Micah? Does this only apply to prophets?
2. What is our responsibility as Christians and ministers in our society?
3. What prophecies about Christ do we find in this book?
4. What end time prophecies do we see in this book?
5. What should these prophecies and messages of Micah do in our own life?
LESSON 10

ISAIAH

OBJECTIVES: When you have finished this lesson you will be able to:

1. Give a short resume on the prophet Isaiah himself.
2. Identify the time in which the book was written and give a description of the historical circumstances.
3. Give 8 principal themes in his prophecies.

It is interesting that the book of Isaiah has 66 chapters even as the Bible has 66 books. It is probably one of the most quoted of the prophets and has the most complete theology of redemption. We don't have time to really study the book of Isaiah. So we will just get an overview of its contents and its place in history.

Isaiah was written between 760 and 700 BC. It was in the same era as Micah and we will see a similarity between the two men's messages. According to Isaiah 1:1, his ministry was during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. He is best known for his ministry in the time of Hezekiah when according to his prophecy the city was spared from destruction by the Assyrian army.

Some theologians will say that because of the many prophecies it could not have all been written in the time of Hezekiah but that later others added to the book using his name. Almost all evangelical teachers would teach that there was only one Isaiah and that the book was written by only one man.

1. To whom were the prophecies of Isaiah addressed? _________________
2. When was Isaiah written? ________________________________________

Isaiah was not part of the royal household nor a paid prophet of the king. He, however, had access to the king's house and was known of the king. In fact, it was the son of Hezekiah, the wicked Manasseh, who killed Isaiah for his prophecies.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND II Kings 15:1-6; 15:32 to 16:19; 18:1 to 21:17; II Chronicles 26:1 to 33:20

3. When did Isaiah receive his call from God? Isaiah 6:1 _________________

SEVEN GREAT THEMES IN ISAIAH

FIRST THE PROPHET'S CALL Isaiah chapter 6 Read the chapter.

4. What did Isaiah see in his vision? __________________________________
5. What else did he see besides the Almighty? _________________________
6. What did the Seraphim do?

Isaiah saw first of all the glory of God. When he did he saw also his own filthiness and sin. He then confessed his sin and was cleansed.

7. What was the result of his visions for himself?

___________________________________________________________________________

8. How did God prepare Isaiah for his prophetic ministry?

___________________________________________________________________________

God can use any kind of person or object for His own glory but He prefers to use those vessels that are HOLY or Sanctified.

9. What did God wish to do with Isaiah?

___________________________________________________________________________

10. What was Isaiah's response to God?

___________________________________________________________________________

God uses holy men but he also chooses to use those that are willing. Isaiah becomes the example of how God calls and sends his prophets.

11. What special lesson or message do you see in this chapter?

___________________________________________________________________________

SECOND THE CONDEMNATION OF SIN AND ITS JUDGEMENT It is the theme of the entire book.


___________________________________________________________________________

THIRD THE USELESSNESS OF SACRIFICES

13. Why wouldn't God accept their sacrifices? 1:15

___________________________________________________________________________

FOURTH GOD DEMANDS TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

14. What is true righteousness according to 1:17?

___________________________________________________________________________
15. What do they need to do to obtain forgiveness? 1:16

16. If we really repent, what will God do? 1:18

We find the same idea in I John 1:9. We might say that Isaiah is the Gospel of the Old Testament. Or maybe we should say that God has not changed and what He demands from men is still the same.

FIFTH GOD WILL PURIFY HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL and that will involve punishment before restoration.

17. What does God say he will do in 1:25?

God purifies his people in the fires of suffering just as the goldsmith purifies the gold.

18. After He has finished purifying them, what will He call them? 1:26

SIXTH THE PROMISE OF THE LAST DAYS

19. What will come to pass for Israel in the last days?

2:2

2:2

2:3

2:4

2:4

2:4

20. What does God invite Judah to do? 2:5

SEVENTH MESSIAH WILL COME There are many prophesies of both the first and second coming of Christ. Most of these prophecies were misunderstood and so ignored. Very
few people were ready to accept Jesus when He did come. We will look at only a few of these scriptures now.

21. What would be the sign that the Messiah would appear? 7:14 ______________________

___________________________________________________________________________

22. According to 9:2 what would Jesus be? ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

23. What would the child be called? _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

We see also in 11:1,2 the Messiah would be a descendant of Jesse and David. The Spirit of the Lord would rest upon Him. Many of the prophecies speak of Messiah as the great king who would reign over all the earth. The Jews liked such wonderful messages of the Messiah but they totally rejected the suffering Savior for their sins.

Undoubtedly, Isaiah 52:12 to 53:12 are the most outstanding and important for us.

24. What question does the prophet give in 53:1? ____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

If you lived in the time of Isaiah, would you believe that God could become man to save His enemies?

**READ ISAIAH 53:1-12**

25. Why must the Messiah suffer? 53:4 _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

26. How would the world consider the suffering of Jesus? 53:4

___________________________________________________________________________

27. For whom was He wounded and crushed? 53:5 _____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

28. What do His wounds give us? ___________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

29. What was He like? ______________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

30. Who was responsible for His death? 53:10 ___________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
31. What three things were accomplished by his death? 53:11,12? ________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

All these prophesies were accomplished on the cross. Although so clear to us, they were hidden to the eyes of those who would not believe.

The other great part of Isaiah is the wonderful deliverance of Judah in chapters 36,37.

Beside condemning their sins, he also mocked their foolish worship of idols. READ Isaiah 44:6-23

Again, Isaiah preached against their religiosity and lack of true obedience to God. READ Isaiah 58:1-14.

32. What kind of a fast does God desire? 58:3-7 ______________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Then in 66:1-4 Isaiah defines what is true worship.

33. What kind of worship does God really desire? ______________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

We have barely touched on the message of Isaiah but we have seen that the message of God has not changed. 750 years before Christ, the details of His death were all foretold. Nothing happened by accident. It was God's will and plan.

34. What part of Isaiah is the most precious to you? ____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Write the seven themes we have seen in Isaiah.

1. ______________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________________________
6. ______________________________________________________________________
7. ______________________________________________________________________
8. ______________________________________________________________________

2. Discuss what you have learned from each of these seven themes.

3. What importance do the prophecies of Isaiah have for us?

4. Discuss some of the prophecies you have seen in Isaiah.

This has been a quick overview of the book. You will probably never learn and understand everything in the book.
OBJECTIVES: When you have finished this lesson you will be able to:

1. Explain who Jeremiah is, when he prophesied, and to whom he spoke.
2. Describe the principle message of Jeremiah.
3. Explain the political and moral conditions in Judah.
4. Tell some of the actions of Jeremiah and why he did them.

Jeremiah ministered about 629 BC, about 50 years before the destruction of Jerusalem, and continued until they were carried into captivity. If you remember, in Isaiah, Assyria had attacked and taken the country of Israel and most of the country of Judah. They had come to the gates of Jerusalem, but because of the prayer of Hezekiah and the message of Isaiah, the city was spared. Isaiah prophesied that they would not enter the city nor even shoot an arrow there. It all came to pass exactly as Isaiah had said, but now good Hezekiah is dead. Manasseh his son was very evil and a series of evil kings followed except for good king Josiah who began a reform.

The political situation has changed drastically. Assyria is no longer a power but a new power base has risen in Babylon. In fact in the days of Jeremiah, Babylon is besieging Jerusalem and we find his prophecy addressing the current problem. With the new situation, his prophecy is not one of deliverance but one of judgement for sin.

His message of destruction and his counsel to surrender and obey the Babylonians was not very welcome. As a result he suffered much persecution. When the city finally falls and the people are carried into Babylonian captivity. Jeremiah is left in Jerusalem with a remnant of people. The people who stayed in Jerusalem eventually fled to Egypt, taking poor old Jeremiah along, where he dies.

1. When did Jeremiah minister? ________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

2. To whom did he prophesy? ________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

3. What was the spiritual condition of Judah at this time? _______________________

___________________________________________________________________________

4. What was the political situation in Judah? _________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND  Read Jeremiah 1:1-3; II Kings 23-25; II Chronicles 34-36

We might say that Jeremiah was the last of the prophets to Judah in Jerusalem. Ezekiel begins his ministry in Babylon while in captivity. They lived and ministered in the same era although Jeremiah was much older. You will find their prophecies complimenting one another, speaking from two different places - Jeremiah still in conquered Jerusalem while Ezekiel is in exile.

THE PROPHET

Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet. He also wrote the book of Lamentations. It is a lament over the prophecy he is called to give. In spite of his tender spirit, he is a fearless man. He is a prophet of doom but also of hope. The balance is always there. He is also a very dramatic messenger, acting out some of his messages to get the attention of the people. He was hated, feared, persecuted, rejected, and yet they had to respect him.

His Call - Jeremiah 1:1-10

5. What attitude did the prophet have toward himself? ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

6. Where did he claim his message came from? ____________________________________________

7. What was he commissioned to do? _____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

8. Why do you suppose he did not want to be a prophet? _________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

9. What excuses do you give for not wanting to obey the commission God is giving you?

_____________________________________________________________________________________

We may be humble like Jeremiah, but that has no importance because it is God who will give the message and God who will do the work. He was not seeking honor or position, but did what he was commissioned to do. As we follow his story we find that he really was a valiant man in the power of the Almighty. Here are some of the hard things God asked him to do.

10. How could Jeremiah be so bold? 1:8,19 ______________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________
11. Why was God going to judge Jerusalem? 1:16

12. How does God describe his relationship to Judah?


God was their husband, their source, but they had sought the help of idols. Any other source is like a cracked cistern. Rather than confess their sins, they had sought more religious help in false gods. The worst was Baal, a fertility god.

14. With what does he compare idol worship to? 3:1-3

15. How did God punish them?

It had been nearly a hundred years since Assyria had destroyed the country of Israel, but Judah had not taken the warning. They continued in their sins. God even says they were worse than Israel.

16. In spite of their sin, what does God tell them?

God is so merciful, and would forgive if they would only repent. God, knowing they would not repent, then pronounces the coming destruction of Jerusalem. 3:14 to 4:19

17. How did Jeremiah feel giving all these terrible announcements? 9:1

WRITE A SHORT REVIEW OF THIS FIRST PART OF JEREMIAH.

18. Could the prophecy of doom have been averted? 7:1-8

19. Should Jeremiah have interceded for them? 7:16
God gives some wise counsel in 9:23,24. Underline it. It is a statement of God's thinking about man and how we should think.

20. What changed promise into cursing? 11:1-5 ____________________________

The word COVENANT appears here referring to the covenant of the law, but it also appears in the New Testament. Actually the New Testament is the New Covenant in His blood. The same promises and curses we see in 11:1-5 are for us today depending if we chose to obey or reject God's new covenant of the blood of His Son.

In 7:1 Jeremiah is told to preach in the gate of the temple, but in 11:6 he is told to go out to the towns of Judah. He starts at the church but ends up in the highways and byways.

His reward, they conspired to kill him. 11:18-23. They curse him, ridicule him and threaten him, but he stays faithful and faithfully proclaims what God gives him to say.

21. Where did he get strength to do all this? 16:19 ____________________________

Jeremiah uses some illustrated sermons. 13:1 "the linen belt", in 18:1-17 "the broken vase", in 24:1-4 "the basket of figs", in 32:6-25, "the field he purchased". In this study we will not try to interpret these, but only say that to an Israelite of his day they were very clear and graphic.

We also find some Messianic prophecies in Jeremiah. In the midst of all the dire predictions, there are promises. See 23:5-8 The Branch who is the Lord Our Righteousness.

22. How long were the people of Judah to stay in Babylon? 25:11 ________________

23. But what would God do to Babylon after He had finished using them to punish Judah?

25:11-14 ____________________________

Sometimes God uses a wicked nation to punish his people.

24. Why did they want to kill Jeremiah? 26:1-11 ____________________________

People don't like the truth. They want to hear encouraging sermons, prophecies of blessings, and promises of God's help.

READ THE STORY OF JEREMIAH IN chapter 26,28,34,36-45. It is a fascinating story of a great man of God.

To understand all this, you need to study the history of the last years of Judah in Kings or Chronicles. Nebuchadnezzar did come and carry off many of the people in the year 597 BC. In chapter 28 God speaks to the puppet king that is left in Jerusalem and in chapter 29 Jeremiah writes a letter to encourage those carried away to Babylon. It seems that up to
chapter 29 these had all been oral messages, but in chapter 30 God tells him to write them. He had a secretary named Baruch to whom Jeremiah dictated these messages. How could he remember them all? He was inspired of God. The order is repeated in 36:1. Baruch then goes and reads them in public. The king wants to hear the words of the book but doesn't want to heed them. chapter 36.

25. What did the king do when he heard the word from God? 36:23 ____________________

___________________________________________________________________________

26. What do men always do when they hear the Word but do not want to obey? __________

___________________________________________________________________________

27. What was God's response to this audacity? 36:28 ________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Men may try to destroy the Word but they will die and the Word of the Lord will live forever. In chapter 37 he is put in prison. In chapter 38 he is put down into a dry cistern. But in 38:14, the king in desperation turns to the man of God for a message. In chapter 40 Jeremiah is freed. In chapter 41 he is carried by assassins into Egypt. Even there, he is still the prophet speaking the word of God. By 587 BC the rest of the people are carried away to Babylon and the history of Israel and Judah come to an end as a nation. They come back from Babylon, as prophesied, but they do not become an independent nation again until 1947 AD.


___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

29. How can we apply that lesson today?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Remember that this has only been a survey of Jeremiah. Maybe we can study the book in detail some day. If you try to read and understand it all you will probably be confused, but with this brief study you will begin to appreciate this man of God more.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review the history of the time of Jeremiah.
2. Are there some lessons we can learn from the history of Israel and Judah?
3. Review the life and ministry of Jeremiah
   - What was he called to do?
   - What was his message?
   - What are some things he did?
   - How was he received by the people?
   - What can we learn about prophecy from his ministry?

4. How is the life and ministry of Jeremiah going to change your life and ministry?
LESSON 12

EZEKIEL

OBJECTIVES: When you have finished this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Give the approximate time that Ezekiel ministered, where he gave his prophecies, and to whom he was speaking.
2. Describe the political situation of his day.
3. Tell his principal messages.
4. Recount several of Ezekiel's experiences.

It would be impossible to study all of Ezekiel in one lesson so we will only try to introduce you to him and his message.

Ezekiel has three main parts.

Part 1 - Written in Babylon to send to the people in Jerusalem to call them to repentance. chapters 1-24
Part 2 - Written in Babylon to pronounce judgement on other nations chapters 25-32
Part 3 - Written in Babylon to the people in captivity in Babylon to console and encourage them. chapters 33-48 They are end time messages and prophesy their return to their own country.

1. Where did Jeremiah minister? _______________________

2. Where did Ezekiel live when he was prophesying? ______________________________

Both of these great prophets lived in the same time. Their messages are quite different for several reasons. First, their point of view was different, one being in captivity with the message to be sent to Jerusalem, while the other lived in Jerusalem and spoke to the people around him.

Secondly, Ezekiel spoke many times in figures of speech that to us are very difficult to understand not having experienced or seen the things he spoke about. However, I am sure the people of his time understood perfectly even as we understand the examples of our day.

3. Why might we find Ezekiel difficult to understand? ______________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ezekiel ministered in about 595 BC. He was already in exile in Babylon. Jeremiah, having started his ministry long before this time, prophesied the fall of Jerusalem and the captivity in Jeremiah 25. The actual fall of Jerusalem is told in II Kings 25. However, in chapter 24 we find that Nebuchadnezzar had already invaded the land. Jehoiachin, the king, and his mother surrendered to him and were led off into captivity. The leaders of Judah were deported also,
leaving only a puppet to rule in Jerusalem.

Interestingly enough, Jeremiah, who had prophesied this, then writes to those in captivity in Babylon while Ezekiel, who has been carried away already, writes back to the people left behind.

To understand what was going on in Babylon, you can read the book of Daniel who was one of the captives taken to Babylon at this time.

THE PROPHET:

When Ezekiel was about 20 years old, his father, Buzi, a priest of the order of Zadok, probably sensed that Ezekiel was interested the priesthood too. He encourages him to learn all he can about the temple and its worship. After 5 years of studies, they were stopped in 597 BC when the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem. The city fell after a brief resistance, but it was already morally rotten from within. Jeremiah who had been warning the people for 20 years was put in jail. Ezekiel was carried off to Babylon with the other leaders. He ends up in the great city of Tel-abib in Babylon, where his story begins.

THE VISION - READ Ezekiel chapter 1

4. Where was Ezekiel when he saw this vision? ____________________________________

5. What were the first things he saw? ____________________________________________

6. What was the second thing he saw? ___________________________________________

7. In 1:25-28 what did he see? __________________________________________________

There are lots of interpretations of this vision so I will not attempt another. However, I will give the importance of the event. Ezekiel, the Jews in exile, as well as those in Jerusalem, were in a terrible state. They needed a fresh vision of the Almighty. They had been so long in idolatry that they thought that Jehovah was dead. All the things Ezekiel saw were centered on manifesting the glory and power of the one who sat on this glorious throne.

8. From this vision of Ezekiel, what would you think heaven is like? ________________

______________________________________________________________________________

9. What is the response of a man who sees the glory of God? _______________________

______________________________________________________________________________

This was a spiritual preparation for the prophet. Would you expect an experience of this type? Maybe not, but many of the prophets had wonderful experiences with God at the time of their call so that they would always know that it was God who called and sent them.

HIS CALL - READ chapter 2
10. What was Ezekiel's commission? 

___________________________________________________________________________

11. How did he receive the Word of the Lord? 3:3 

___________________________________________________________________________

He eats the Word. The prophet should first take the word into his own life before proclaiming it to others.

12. Would the people listen to his message? 3:7  

13. What was Ezekiel to do? 3:18-21 

He was to warn them but was not responsible for their response. He would only be guilty if he disobeyed.

**ILLUSTRATED MESSAGES**

Read chapter 4 and 5 to see the first of several messages. Remember that Jerusalem had not yet been destroyed and many thought it wouldn't be but Ezekiel shows that it will be destroyed.

14. Be prepared to tell about one of Ezekiel's illustrations from chapters 4 and 5. Write it here. 

___________________________________________________________________________

15. What did God show Ezekiel in chapter 8? 

___________________________________________________________________________

He could not go to Jerusalem to see what was happening so God shows him what the people were doing. The people were still continuing in idolatry of the worst kind. It is possible that they had seen that the Babylonians worshiped in that manner and they were very powerful. Maybe if they did too they could defeat the Babylonians.

Read chapter 12 for another illustrated sermon at the order of God. You will notice that God also gives the interpretation of the action.

In chapter 10 he sees the glory again in a vision.

16. What happens this time when he sees the God's glory?
God is so good to give them the promise of a return in chapter 11:16-25. His eternal plan for Israel is being accomplished even in their punishment.

In chapter 16 he compares Israel to a little child he has saved, yet when she grows up, she runs away into prostitution.

Chapter 18 verses 20-23 are often quoted as examples of the prophetic message. Read it and underline. In verse 22 it says the sins of the father will not be passed on to the children if they walk in righteousness. In verse 30 God says that each person will be judged for their own ways. In verses 21 and 31 we see that if a person turns away from their sin that God will give them a new heart.

17. How does God judge us? 18:20-23

READ Ezekiel. 24:15-27 You find a strange and very difficult passage.

18. What was this sign of the death of Ezekiel's wife mean?

From chapter 25-32 Ezekiel pronounces God's judgement on the surrounding nations that have oppressed Israel and are evil themselves. There is a portion that is outstanding in that it depicts more than the country or its king. It has a double meaning.

**Ezekiel 28:11-19**

19. Who is he speaking about in 28:11,12?

20. But who else is he speaking about in 13-17?

This is a description of Satan's fall. This is similar to Isaiah 14.

From chapter 33 on to the end of the book Ezekiel is speaking to the people in captivity. They are words of encouragement. They will have a future.

In chapter 33 we find the second of two messages on the responsibility of a prophet as a WATCHMAN for Israel. From verse 21 on to 33, Ezekiel recounts the fulfillment of the prophecy in 24:27. His wife died and his mouth was opened to speak. The messenger had left Jerusalem to announce its fall the very day his wife died.

21. What is the responsibility of the watchman or prophet? 33:1-9
THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES. 37:1-1

This vision has been interpreted many ways, but the meaning for the people of Israel was that they would be regathered and become a nation again.

22. What is God's interpretation of this vision? 37:11-14

23. Has this been fulfilled, being fulfilled, or will it be fulfilled in the future?

GOG AND MAGOG - CHAPTERS 38,39

This portion must be studied in detail along with Daniel and Revelations. It is concerning an attack against Israel in the last days. There has been a lot of discussion as to who Gog and Magog are but no one is certain. One thing is certain is that God will defeat and destroy them.

THE NEW TEMPLE - CHAPTERS 40-48

There are many problems with the explanation of these chapters when he speaks of the construction of the temple in Jerusalem. There are many details how it should be done but he doesn't say when it will be done. There was a temple rebuilt after they returned from captivity, but it didn't conform to this description. Again in the time of Jesus, Herod built another temple but neither did it conform to these specifications. Some believe it is to rebuilt just like he says in the future, possibly in the New Jerusalem which John writes about in Revelation 21:1-22:15.

READ CHAPTER 47:1-12

24. When this temple is rebuilt, what will come out of it?

25. What is the source of the water?

The altar is the place where God resides. It is the place where worship is made. It is there that the water, the Holy Spirit flows.

26. What happens where the water flows?

Wherever the Holy Spirit flows, there is healing, and there is fruitfulness. The more the water flows, the more the production.
27. Is there enough blessing for all the world? _________

We remember that before the temple was destroyed, Ezekiel has seen the glory of God leave the temple (10:18) and then later in 11:23 the glory had even left Jerusalem.

28. What happens in 43:4? ____________________________________________________________

The Glory of the Lord returns to His place. That will happen when His Kingdom is established on the earth.

We don’t know what happened to Ezekiel, but we do know that God used him mightily. Maybe we cannot explain all the prophecies or his mysterious messages but we can know the one who gave them.

29. What have you learned from Ezekiel? ______________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

30. How will what you have learned change your life? ______________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss Ezekiel’s ministry. Where did he live? Who did he minister to? What was his message? How did he give this message?
2. Be prepared to share one of Ezekiel’s messages in class.
3. What importance do these messages have for us today?
LESSON 13

THE POST EXILE PROPHETS

HAGGAI-ZECHARIAH-MALACHI

OBJECTIVES: When you have finished this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Give an historical background to show the difference between the pre-exile and the post-exile prophets.
2. Write several lessons we find in the message of these prophets that apply to us today.
3. Give the principal message of each of these men.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

We have finished giving the pre-exile prophets an overview. The last two of them, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, spoke during the exile. They both spoke of a future day when Israel would again come back to their land to live. Some of those prophecies referred to the end times, but some of them were to be fulfilled after the 70 years in exile.

We said that we must read Daniel to find out what was going on during that exile period. The book of Esther gives us a glimpse of life in the latter part of the exile after the Medes and Persians had destroyed Babylon. Take time to read this short story.

There are two historical books that give the background for these three prophets. Ezra recounts how by God's intervention the Jews were sent back to their homeland to rebuild the temple in about 536 BC. Haggai and Zechariah tell about the rebuilding of the temple. Nehemiah, 90 years later, in 456 BC, leads another delegation back to Palestine to rebuild the walls of the city. Malachi gives his message to the Jews back home, who had settled down and forgot the God that had brought them home in about 397 BC. He is the last of the prophets and God has no further message for Israel until Messiah comes. From Saul to Malachi was little more than 650 years.

1. When was Jerusalem destroyed? ________________________________

2. What happened to the people when Jerusalem was destroyed? ________________________________

3. Where were they in captivity? ________________________________

They were in Babylon, but about 607 BC, the Medes and Persians came and defeated Babylon and became the world power. You find this in Daniel.

4. Who wrote about this period of Israel's history? ________________________________
HAGGAI

5. When did the king of Persia send Ezra to build the temple? ________________

Haggai begins his ministry some 16 years later. The emperor of Persia had appointed a governor over Judah.

6. What problem caused God to speak by Haggai? 1:2-5 __________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

7. What was the result of their negligence of the task God had brought them there to do?
1:6-12 _____________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

8. What was the immediate response of the people to Haggai's message? 1:12-14 _______

___________________________________________________________________________

So we see that his message and ministry was to stir up the people to rebuild the temple instead of meeting their own needs first. He promised blessing if they did and trouble if they didn't. He also gives some wonderful promises that could apply to us too. Read them, mark them and meditate on their implication for us.

9. In 2:5, why should they not fear? __________________________________________

10. What is prophesied about Jesus in 2:7? _____________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

11. What belongs to God? ________________________________ So do you think he can meet your need? _______


___________________________________________________________________________

ZECHARIAH

This prophet takes up where Haggai left off. Haggai was an old man and perhaps dies before the work is finished. Their ministry may have overlapped some.

After the first 6 verses, most of the book is a series of visions he had that were messages for the people. Each of them are a revelation of God.
13. What does he do in 1:1-6

VISION 1 1:7-17 Four colored horses

VISION 2 1:18-21 Four horns

VISION 3 2:1-5 The Measuring Line

  Interpretation—judgement on the nations that have harmed Israel but blessing to Israel.
  Why? 2:8 Israel is the apple of his eye.
  What? 2:11 He will dwell among them.

VISION 4 3:1-10 Joshua the high priest

  The interpretation a bit difficult but we see the prophecy of Christ in 3:8 as the
  BRANCH. Repeated in 6:12. Out of this branch would grow the entire body of Christ.

VISION 5 4:1-10 Golden candlestick with seven lamps and the two olive trees.

  The interpretation is not clear but we see one great truth in 4:6. What seems impossible to
  man is possible in the Spirit of God.


VISION 8 6:1-8 Four chariots and horses.

  These speak of judgement but end in the rule of Christ 6:12. Rev. 6:4 also speaks of
  these four horses.

GREAT PROMISES

14. What promise do we find in 9:9?

15. What is the promise in 10:1?

16. Is this only rain or is it a spiritual rain?

  Certainly if we find ourselves in a dry desert experience, we can cry for the rain of his
  refreshing spirit. 12:10

17. When was 11:12,13 accomplished?

18. When will 12:10b be accomplished?
19. When was the messianic prophecy of 13:7 fulfilled? _____________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

PROPHECIES

Most of these were accomplished at Jesus' first appearing, but as at the end of most prophecies, he gives a word of encouragement in a message that some day God will make it all right.

20. When Jesus comes, where will he come to? 14:4 _____________________________

21. What will happen when he comes the next time? 14:9 ____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

This must be linked to the millennial period of Revelation. It is the time when Christ shall reign. When all enemies of God have been brought under the iron rule of the Just One. No matter how dark the day, for the believer, the child of God, there is always hope.

MALACHI

We have come to the last of the prophets before the great 400 years of silence. The people had had so many prophets but had not heeded their call to repentance nor their warnings. They had even experienced God's chastisement in captivity. This is a new generation and it seems that each generation must learn its lessons for itself.

22. How had Israel despised God? 1:6-8 __________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

23. Who was going to honor God? 1:11 __________________________________________


25. What sin does he condemn in 2:16? __________________________________________

After condemning certain sins, he complains that they have wearied Him with their words. Wicked people that pray a lot. They thought that because times had changed that perhaps God had changed too. But He replies that He changes not. 3:6,7

26. What meaning does 3:6 have for us today? _____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

I hope you have noticed in 3:5 some of the sins that God condemns. As before the captivity, they are committing the same social sins. They never go back to the idolatry of pre-exile days even as we probably will never take up the witchcraft of our ancestors, but we
do the same practices because we are still satisfying their own desires.

27. What is the last sin that Malachi brings up that is causing their financial problems? 3:8-12
___________________________________________________________________________

28. What is the curse for those who do not pay their tithes? _________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

29. What is the promise for those who are faithful in tithes and offerings? _____________
___________________________________________________________________________

30. Did Jesus approve of the tithing program in the Old Testament for those that followed Him? Matthew 23:23 ____________

   In 3:13-18 He tells of the blessing it is to obey the Lord. They are written in a book of remembrance. They are the ones that are His, not just those born of the race of Abraham.

31. What must we do to be blessed of the Lord? ____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

MESSIAH PROPHESIED 3:1

Notice that there are two people spoken of in 3:1. First it is the one who prepares the way, fulfilled in John the Baptist, and the second is the one who comes to His temple, which is Jesus.

Then the last word is that the very next prophet will be the one who prepares the way, Elijah. This is John the Baptist who came in the Spirit of Elijah. He was the man from the wilderness, dressed in rough clothing, one crying out in the desert.

32. What is the last prophecy in Malachi? _________________________________________

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the difference between the pre-exile and post-exile prophets.
2. Discuss the ministry of Haggai and a promise you received.
3. Discuss the visions of Zachariah and what you learned from his ministry.
4. Discuss what sins God condemns in Malachi and the result of those sins. Has God changed? Does He judge these sins today?
LESSON 14

PROPHETS AND PROPHECY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION: We have been studying the prophets and their messages in the Old Testament, but we realize that these are all under the old covenant of the Law. However much the messages and ministry are similar, they are based upon a different foundation. The messages of the men of old are relevant for us today but must be interpreted in the light of the New Testament revelation of salvation by the completed redemption, not on the law that foreshadowed it.

1. How should we interpret the messages of the prophets in the Old Testament? ___________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

OBJECTIVES: When you have finished this lesson, you will be able to:

State your belief about what a prophet is and what his ministry would be in today's church, basing your arguments on scripture alone.

DEFINITION OF PROPHECY

Prophecy is the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God. In the New Testament it is used of the gift or of that which is spoken.

Prophecy according to VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS ----

IT IS THE DECLARATION OF THAT WHICH CANNOT BE KNOWN BY NATURAL MEANS, Matthew 26:68, IT IS THE FORTH-TELLING OF THE WILL OF GOD, WHETHER WITH REFERENCE TO THE PAST, THE PRESENT, OR THE FUTURE. See the following scriptures. Gen 20:7; Deut l8:18; Rev 10:11; and Rev 11:3......

2. What is prophecy? _________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

DEFINITION OF A PROPHET from Vine's.

A prophet is one who speaks forth or openly proclaims a divine message, denoted among the Greeks as an interpreter of the oracles of the gods.

The Hebrew word, roeh, was translated "seer". This is a person that had direct communication with God.
The Hebrew word, nabhi, meant one from whom the message of God springs forth or one to whom anything is secretly communicated.

In the Old Testament the prophets messages were mostly the proclamations of the Divine purposes of salvation and glory to be accomplished in the future. The prophesying of the N.T. prophets was both a preaching of the Divine counsels of grace already accomplished and the foretelling of the purposes of God in the future.

Not all the writings of prophets was prophecy. Much of it was also a written history of God's dealing with Israel and Judah.

3. Give in your own words the definition of a prophet from what you have read above?
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________

4. What is the difference between a Old Testament and N.T. prophet?
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________

5. Was all the writing of the prophets prophecy? ________________

   All the writers of the OT are referred to as the former prophets as well as many of the patriarchs. They were divinely inspired to interpret the actions of God in history. Some sometimes foretold future events by the same spirit.

   John the Baptist stands in between the Old and the New. After 400 years of silence, God was again speaking through the prophet spoken of by Isaiah and Malachi. His message and ministry were definitely of the Old Covenant calling for repentance but he also foretold the coming of the Savior. We must also mention the prophecies of Anna, Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah and Simeon. They seemed to be special miraculous testimonies to the Messiah rather than a ministry.

   During Christ's ministry of three years, outside of Christ's prophecies, there was no other prophet or prophecy as he was both THE prophet and the fulfillment of prophecy up to that time.

   There are many references to prophets and prophecies in the Gospels but they are all referring to the O.T.

   After the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost we begin to see a new prophetic ministry. That is what we want to look at as we are still in the same epoch, the time of grace.

6. Was Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost as a prophecy? ____________ Why? ________
7. In what ways may a man give a message according to Paul in I Corinthians 14:6? ______

______________________________________

It would seem that there are four ways for a man of God to speak a true message from God.

**REVELATION** -- something that God had privately revealed to a man by the Holy Spirit such as the revelations Paul received about the meaning of the gospel while he was in Arabia. Gal.1:11-17 This seems to be limited to the apostles whom God inspired to write the revelations of the New Testament. see Galatians 1:6-10 and Revelations 22:18,19

Today we limit any new revelations to illumination of scripture that is already accepted in the Bible. The church when it was finally establishing the Bible as the official accepted Word of God, insisted that nothing be accepted that was not authored by either a disciple of Jesus or an apostle.

8. What is revelation? _________________________________________________________

_________________________________ Do we have new revelations today? ____________

**KNOWLEDGE** -- God certainly used the accumulated knowledge of Paul, the teacher of the law of Moses, and later his experience as an apostle, as a means of teaching others. This could also be a Word of Knowledge given by the Spirit.

9. How do we gain knowledge? _______________________________________________

_________________________________ Is knowledge important in the work of God? _____________

**PROPHECY** -- This is a special word from God to reveal His counsel and purposes as well as the interpretation of events in the mind of God. This may and should occur during the ministry of preaching or exhorting. Ephesians 3:1-5 and Galatians 1:11-20

**WORD OF INSTRUCTION** -- This might be interpreted to mean a teaching or doctrine that had already been established. This came into being as the apostles taught and wrote. What they taught and wrote became the Word of God even as the Old Testament. See II Peter 3:14-16. This is probably the most common form of ministry when a minister takes the written Word and expounds from it.

Read II Peter 1:12-21 to see how Peter separated the words of the apostles from those of other so called prophets. In fact most of II Peter is devoted to the denunciation of those who came up after the chosen apostles and proclaimed a new revelation. Christ's apostles saw their ministry as an extension of the prophetic ministry of the Old Testament.

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10. What is a word of instruction? _______________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

11. Would all the disciples of Jesus and apostles be prophets? __________

   It would seem that it was accepted that these men would be speaking the word of God. Prophecy as such is not mentioned until in the book of Acts chapter 13.


   It is interesting to note that they were not of the 12 but converts after Jesus' death. Here both Barnabas and Saul are named as prophets. It was likely that another prophet spoke the message to confirm what God had already shown Paul and Barnabas.

   Paul is the only one of the prophets that was accepted in the same category as the 12. He was the one chosen last. I Corinthians 15:7,8.

13. What did these prophets do? Acts 13:5 ________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
in 13:9 ____________________________________________

   Let's look at the scriptures in the New Testament that refer to the ministry of prophecy and try to write at least one fact about prophets, prophesying, or prophecies after each reference. When we have finished, we will try to write some principles that will become our teaching on the subject.

14. Write what you see about prophecy in each of the verses below. Acts 11:27-29
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

   How did the people respond to the prophecy?____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Acts 20:23 and 21:10-12 ______________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

   How did Paul respond to this warning? _________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

15:32 ______________________________________________________________________

What was the basic ministry of Judas and Silas? ________________________________
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verse</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acts 19:6</td>
<td>Were these people apostles or were they appointed prophets?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rom 12:6</td>
<td>How can we classify this type of prophesying?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rom 16:26</td>
<td>What are the prophetic writings?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Cor 12:10</td>
<td>Are these persons prophets in the sense of the apostles?</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Cor 12:7</td>
<td>What was the purpose of this gift?</td>
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<td>I Cor 12:28,29</td>
<td>Is he speaking of the gift or the ministry?</td>
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<td>I Cor 13:2</td>
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<td>I Cor 13:9</td>
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<td>I Cor 14:3</td>
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<td>I Cor 14:4,5,6</td>
<td>Why is prophecy greater than tongues?</td>
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<td>I Cor 14:24,25</td>
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<td>I Cor 14:29,31</td>
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<td>I Cor 14:32</td>
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<td>I Cor 14:39</td>
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Eph 3:1-5

Eph. 4:11

I Thes. 5:20

I Tim. 1:18

Gal. 1:11,12; 15-20

We will not study prophecy in Revelation or the two prophets in Revelation chapter 11. These are not part of the NT example of prophets but must be studied as a part of the last days prophecies.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Be ready to explain what the ministry of a prophet was in the Old Testament.
2. Is O.T. prophecy important for us today? How do we interpret O.T. prophecy?
3. What have you learned about prophecy from the New Testament?
4. What is the difference between O.T. and N.T. prophecy?
5. What is the most important thing you have learned in this study of the Old Testament prophets? Write your answer below.