



For last four months I have been taking a class on the section in the Hebrew Scriptures called the “Prophets.” The Hebrew Scriptures are divided into three sections: the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings.



The **Torah** is also known as the **Pentateuch**, which when translated from the Greek means “five books.” These are the first five

books of the Bible, sometimes referred to as “The Law.” **The Prophet** section consists of 21 books, beginning with Joshua and continuing through Second Kings, then jumping to the major prophetic books and ending with the twelve minor prophets. **The Writings** includes thirteen books; the last two being First and Second Chronicles.

So, even though Joshua wasn’t considered a prophet, the book named after him is in the prophetic section of the Hebrew Scriptures. This designation helps us understand that a prophet is someone who is closely connected to God and who listens to and acts in the ways of God, not simply someone who predicts the future.

This month I will begin a four part sermon series on four particular prophets. These men, though there were also prophetesses, remind us of our need to have a relationship with God. These men may not have been the most sought after people in Israel, but they were the ones who had the closest relationship with God.

In fact, as we read throughout the Old Testament about the kings of Israel and Judah, there was usually a prophet who was a consultant to the king, like King David and the prophet Nathan. The prophet was the one who helped hold the king accountable to the ways of God.

The four prophets we will learn about during my sermon series will help us exam our lives and guide us in our growing relationship with the Master of the Universe. Those who want to delve deeper can learn more about them by attending the Adult Education class that will follow the worship service on Zoom..

This role of “prophet” is also part of my calling as a pastor. It is not my favorite role, for at times it requires me to challenge my hearers, including myself, in our walk with God. As a pastor of a church, I am called not only to comfort the afflicted, but to also afflict the comfortable, which also includes myself.

I take comfort in Paul’s message to the Philippians in chapter two when he says we are to have the same mindset and attitude, to think the way Jesus would have thought, taking on the role of a servant and being humble. I take comfort, because I know that God will use my faltering lips and my trembling heart, and will open my mind to share the words we need to hear.

There will be times in our lives when we need to replace that which is erroneous thinking with compassion for those around us, even if it means addressing the hard issues, even if it means the answers aren’t as clear as we would like. In Romans 8:28 we are assured that good will be worked out in the end.

So, as we enter this eighth month of pandemic disequilibrium, let us continue to listen for God’s word to us. May we be ready to embrace the new way of thinking, the new way of embracing the world around us, and the transformed life God wishes for us to have. Let us hear the words of the prophets and know that they are not only for our good, but for the good of God’s kingdom. Blessings, Pastor Randy

Adult Education

Adult Education coming to a Zoom classroom near you!

The new school year has begun and learning continues all around us! I am your new Adult Education Elder at JKPC: Nanette Wehe, email sing55on@gmail.com Please contact me with any ideas you have about what you'd like to see added to our adult education opportunities at JKPC.



As we find new ways of accomplishing our everyday tasks in today's world, we are in fact learning. Learning of all kinds keeps our brains active and more agile. Similarly, taking some time to focus on our faith, the Bible, and other's insights is a good way to keep our minds, hearts, and souls fresh and willing to engage with God in our everyday lives.

Please join us for a new class on The Prophets offered by Pastor Randy via Zoom. The class will meet at 11 a.m. for four sessions on Sundays October 18, 25 (@11:30 a.m.), November 1, and 8. No need to purchase a book as materials will be emailed to you before each class! A description is below.

"The Prophets" Adult Education Zoom Classes

What will tomorrow bring? That phrase has become more of our current existence than we really want, but wouldn't we want to know more about our future? When we think of a prophet we think usually of someone who would predict the future. Yet, the prophet in the Bible was more of a person who reminded their listeners of God's presence, desires, and activity in their lives.

Starting October 18, I will preach and later that day teach, about what it means to be a prophet. I will explore with you four different prophets found in the Hebrew Scriptures. Many of their stories will be familiar, but do we truly understand their role in the life of the Israelites and their words to us in the 21st Century?

We will begin with "The Passionate Prophet" Elijah. Remember this is the one who stood with Moses on the "Mount of Transfiguration" speaking to Jesus. Why was his role so important and why do you think he was taken up to the heavens when his time here on earth was over?

"The Compassionate Prophet" was not so interested in Israel as a whole, but the stories we have about Elisha are when he addresses the needs of particular people. He asked for a double portion of God's spirit, what does that mean? He served not only Israelites, but also their oppressors.

One of my favorite prophets is "The Reluctant Prophet." Jonah was given a calling to go east, but instead he fled west. Since there wasn't much land left going west he ended up on a boat and later got doused before he agreed to follow the calling of God. This is another prophet who was sent to preach to someone other than the "chosen" people.

Finally, we will look at just a small portion of "The Hopeful Prophet." Actually the book of Isaiah, we believe, has three parts and they seem to cover three different time periods. How can that be? Yet this reading in each of the three sections of Isaiah allude to a coming Messiah. A Messiah who would be a king, a servant, and a deliverer.

Join me on Zoom for a class beginning at 11:00 am each Sunday, except for the 25th when it will be at 11:30 am. Please let the office know jkcpcdublin@sbcglobal.net or me know jkcpcrandy@sbcglobal.net so I can add you to the invite. I will send out a question sheet, but after each presentation we will have a discussion about your questions as well as mine.

Hope to see you on the screen.

Blessings, Pastor Randy