

Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

The Prophetic Books

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets: Final 12 books of Old Testament

- Written between 760-460 BC

The Prophets function: to speak for God

- Some are described in narratives more for what they did than what they said (Elijah, Elisha Gad, Nathan, Huldah, Jonah, etc..)
- Only sixteen prophets collected their spoken oracles into books.

The Prophetic function in Israel

1. Covenant enforcement mediators

- Reminding Israel of the blessings and cursing's associated with keeping the law.
- Blessings: Leviticus 26:14-38, Deuteronomy 4:32-40; 28:1-14.
- These are national blessings, not individual.
- Blessing categories: life, health, prosperity, agricultural abundance, respect and safety.
- Cursing's/punishments: Leviticus 26:14-39, Deuteronomy 4:15-28; 28:15-32:42
- These are national punishments, not individual.
- Cursing categories: death, disease, drought, death, danger, destruction, defeat, deportation, destitution, and disgrace.

Exercise: Amos 9, Hosea 5-9

2. The prophets spoke God's message, not their own

- God chose the prophet (Isaiah 6, Jeremiah 1, Ezekiel 1-3, Hosea 1:2, Amos 7:14-15, Jonah 1:1, etc..)
- The hearers were often reminded that the message was from God.

Exercise: Jeremiah 27 & 28

Lesson 12

Studying the Bible: The Prophetic Books

January 12, 2016

Suggested Reading

HTRTBFAIW: pages 187-211

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 26:14-39

Deuteronomy 4:14-39; 28:1-68

Isaiah 6

Key Verses:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2 *Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.*

Notes

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Studying the Bible: Old Testament Narratives

January 12, 2016

3. As God’s direct representatives, the prophet held unique influence on the affairs of the nation

- The prophet was able to correct the royalty.
(2 Samuel 12:1-14; 24:11-17)
- The prophet was able to correct the clergy.
(Hosea 4:4-11, Amos 7:17, Malachi 2:1-9)
- Prophets both installed and deposed kings.
(1 Kings 19:16; 21:17-22)
- Prophets both declared war or spoke against it.
(Jeremiah 27:8-22)

4. The prophet’s message is not original

- The content of a message stems from the Mosaic Law.
- The style of the message is unique to the prophet and his generation.
- Even the Messianic prophecies have their foundation in the Law.

Notes
