

# Old Testament: The Prophets

## Leadership Institute - Sep 23, 2025

### Introduction:

- \_\_\_\_\_: a message from God
- \_\_\_\_\_: proclaims God's purpose and plans
- Pre Classical Prophets: Moses, Deborah, Samuel, Nathan, Elijah, Elisha
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prophets: (8th-5th century BC) Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, Joel, Obadiah, Malachi
  - Functioned as advisors and social commentators
  - Warned of national disaster
  - Promised hope: a remnant, restoration, and the coming Messiah
  - Major crises included the Assyrian expansion, the Babylonian exile, and the Persian period, which emphasized return and rebuilding.
- Four categories of prophetic \_\_\_\_\_:
  - *Indictment oracles*: confronting the people with their sins (religious unfaithfulness, political corruption, or personal injustice)
  - *Judgment oracles*: declaring the consequences. (political, spiritual and economical)
  - *Instruction oracles*: What God's people needed to do to return to Him.
  - *Aftermath or Hope oracles*: God's plan was after judgment (hope)
- \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy: A later form of prophecy that used visions as vehicles for divine messages.
- \_\_\_\_\_: Expressions of grief in crisis, showing both human sorrow and God's purpose in hardship.

### Major Prophets

The purpose of prophetic books was to collect the oracles of the prophets.

- Isaiah - \_\_\_\_\_ - Proclaims God's judgment and the hope of redemption through the coming Servant of the Lord
- Jeremiah - \_\_\_\_\_ - Proclaims God's judgment on Judah's unfaithfulness, calls for repentance, and promises a future new covenant.
- Lamentations - \_\_\_\_\_ - A poetic lament over Jerusalem's fall and hope in His deliverance
- Ezekiel - \_\_\_\_\_ - God's glory and judgment on His people and the nations, with the promise of restoration and renewed hearts.
- Daniell - \_\_\_\_\_ - Revealing that human empires are temporary, but God's sovereign kingdom is forever.

### Isaiah (Author: Isaiah / Date: ~740-686 BC)

- Purpose: Reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- Summary:

- Prophecies during Assyrian threat (Isaiah 1-39), Babylonian exile (40-55), post exilic period and beyond (56-66)
- Judgement & Hope
- Key Theme for further study:
  - God's \_\_\_\_\_ (the Messiah)
    - The future Davidic King (Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-10)
    - The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 42, 49, 50:6, 52:23-53:12)

### **Jeremiah** (Author: Jeremiah / Date: 627- 586 BC)

- Purpose: To call Judah back to faithful \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord.
- Summary:
  - "Weeping prophet"
  - Judah will be exiled
  - Hope in the \_\_\_\_\_(Jeremiah 31:31-34)
    - Law in hearts and minds (v 33)
    - Forgiveness of sins (v 34)

### **Lamentations** (Author: Jeremiah / Date: After 586 BC)

- Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_ the destruction of Jerusalem
- Summary:
  - Poetic expression of grief over loss
  - God's \_\_\_\_\_ of His people
  - Anticipation of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (ch 3)

### **Ezekiel** (Author: Ezekiel / Date: 593-570 BC)

- Purpose: To warn the people of Judah that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem is coming.
- Overview/Themes:
  - Exiled in Babylon
  - Concerned w/ people returning to God
  - Hope of future \_\_\_\_\_
    - God's presence will return
    - New Covenant
      - the promise of a future prince (34:24-26)
      - resurrection of His people like dry bones (37)
      - the gift of a new heart and spirit (36:22-32).
    - "Son of Man" is also mentioned in Daniel (7:13-14), together pointing to the Messiah, who is both fully human and fully divine.

### **Daniel** (Author: Daniel / Date: 605 - 536 BC)

- Purpose: Revealing God's \_\_\_\_\_
- Overview/Themes:
  - Daniel and his friends were exiled yet \_\_\_\_\_
  - Earthly kingdoms rise & fall; God's kingdom is eternal

- Unlike other prophetic books:
  - Narrative stories (1-6) and \_\_\_\_\_ visions (7-12)
  - Daniel 7:13–14 The “Son of Man” receives everlasting dominion.
    - The Messiah’s kingdom will never pass away; Points forward to Christ’s eternal reign.

### Minor Prophets

Also known as the “Book of the Twelve” because all twelve short books were traditionally collected together as a *single scroll* in the Hebrew Bible.

- Hosea - \_\_\_\_\_ - God’s steadfast love for an unfaithful bride
- Joel - \_\_\_\_\_ - Repentance in light of “the Day of the Lord”
- Amos - \_\_\_\_\_ - Israel is condemned for their injustice and is called higher
- Obadiah - \_\_\_\_\_ - God will judge Israel’s enemies
- Jonah - \_\_\_\_\_ - God’s compassion to all people
- Micah - \_\_\_\_\_ - God calls his people to righteousness
- Nahum - \_\_\_\_\_ - God avenges evil
- Habakkuk - \_\_\_\_\_ - Faith in God even when we don’t understand His ways
- Zephaniah - \_\_\_\_\_ - Urges Judah to repent before the Day of the Lord
- Haggai - \_\_\_\_\_ - Urging God’s people to put God first
- Zechariah - \_\_\_\_\_ - Encourages and offers hope to a discouraged people
- Malachi - \_\_\_\_\_ - Call to repentance and renewed covenant obedience

### Hosea (Author: Hosea / Date: 793-752 BC)

- Purpose: God’s \_\_\_\_\_ love despite Israel’s unfaithfulness
- Overview/Themes:
  - Hosea’s marriage to Gomer
    - God’s faithfulness vs Israel’s unfaithfulness
    - God’s love, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Judgment as loving discipline
    - hope = restoration

### Joel (Author: Joel / Date: ~ 500 BC)

- Purpose: Repentance in light of “the day of the Lord.”
- Overview/Themes:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
    - Illustrated by the locust plague
    - Judgement and salvation
  - \_\_\_\_\_ leads to God’s relentment (2:12-13)
    - God restores what the locust destroyed (2:25)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of God
    - The promised outpour of God’s Spirit on all people (2:28-32)

### Amos (Author: Amos / Date: 760-50 BC)

- Purpose: To \_\_\_\_\_ Israel's injustice and call them higher.
- Overview/Themes:
  - Social \_\_\_\_\_
    - Apostasy, moral/social collapse, and political corruption
  - The Day of the Lord
    - for the nations and for Israel (4:12)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ in turning to God (5:12, 9:14-15)

**Obadiah** (Author: Obadiah / Date: ~ 586 BC)

- Purpose: The \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel's enemy, Edom
- Overview/Themes:
  - Judgment and restoration
    - Judgment on Edom (1:10)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ for Israel (1:15-21)

**Jonah** (Author: Jonah / Date: ~786-746 BC)

- Purpose: Demonstrate God's \_\_\_\_\_ to all people
- Overview/Themes:
  - God's Grace & Compassion
    - Human \_\_\_\_\_
    - God's compassion (4:11)

**Micah** (Author: Micah / Date: ~739-681 BC)

- Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_ of injustice for Judah
- Overview/Themes:
  - Called to live \_\_\_\_\_ (6:8)
  - Deliverer to come
    - Bethlehem birth of a future ruler (5:2)

**Nahum** (Author: Nahum / Date: ~664 - 612 BC)

- Purpose: To pronounce \_\_\_\_\_ of Nineveh
- Overview/Themes:
  - Nineveh fell in 612 BC
    - Ended the Assyrian Empire (that captured Israel)
  - God's \_\_\_\_\_ to avenge evil (1:7-8)
    - God fights for His people

**Habakkuk** (Author: Habakkuk / Date: ~ 609-605 BC)

- Purpose: God's \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with the nations
- Overview/Themes:
  - Wrestling with evil and suffering
  - Trusting God
    - "The righteous shall live by \_\_\_\_\_" (2:4)

■ Choosing Joy (3:18-19)

**Zephaniah** (Author: Zephaniah / Date: ~ 640-621 BC)

- Purpose: Urge Judah to \_\_\_\_\_ before the Day of the Lord
- Overview/Themes:
  - Warning of Judgement (1:14)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of restoration
    - Purification & faithful remnant

**Haggai** (Author: Haggai / Date: ~520 BC)

- Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_
- Overview/Themes:
  - Putting God first
    - rebuilding of the \_\_\_\_\_ (symbolized realignment with God)

**Zechariah** (Author: Zechariah / Date: 520-516 BC)

- Purpose: To encourage and offer \_\_\_\_\_.
- Overview/Themes:
  - A discouraged people
  - Repentance and true devotion
  - Apocalyptic visions
    - Restoration and \_\_\_\_\_ Hope (8,9:9,12:10)

**Malachi** (Author: Malachi / Date: ~475-450 BC)

- Purpose: Repentance and renewed \_\_\_\_\_ obedience
- Overview/Themes:
  - Post-exilic community's guilt
    - Corrupt worship, unethical behavior, complacent priesthood (1:6-2:16)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ for the future
    - A prophet like Elijah to come (2:17-3:5)

**Group Discussion Notes:**

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