



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Class Eight:
The Prophets

We are now on the last section of
the Old Testament

Most Bible Scholars divide this
section up into two sections:

The Major Prophets; and

The Minor Prophets

Let me let you in on a BIG secret

There is no difference between the
Major Prophets and the Minor
Prophets other than the size of
their books

Yep! That's the only difference

Some Prophets wrote more than
others

Some prophets even wrote nothing

Elijah and Elisha were both great prophets and worked all kinds of miracles

And neither of them wrote a single book

Here are some things that they did...

Elijah prayed and there was no rain for 3 ½ years

When soldiers came to arrest him, fire fell from Heaven and consumed them

He went to live with a widow and her son and while he was there, she never ran out of oil or flour

He raised her son from the dead when he died

He confronted the prophets of Baal and called fire down to consume the sacrifice on his altar

Parted the Jordan River

Was taken bodily into Heaven

Elisha was given a double portion of God's Spirit

Parted Jordan River

Healed water

Caused an ax head to float

Raised a Shunammite's son

Cleansed Naaman's leprosy

Revealed God's angels around their city

Struck the Syrian army with blindness

Healed the Syrian army's blindness

I planned to do all the prophets.

That attempt became repetitive:

1. God raises up a king
2. The king sins
3. God sends His prophet
4. The king is removed

So let's look at the prophets who wrote books

Isaiah was God's prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah

He was prophet during four kings:

1. Uzziah (Azariah) [good/evil]
2. Jotham [good]
3. Ahaz [evil]
4. Hezekiah [good]

It was during the year when King Uzziah died [740 BC] that Isaiah was in the Temple and had a vision of the glory of God

He saw God upon His throne and the angels worshiping Him

This vision made Isaiah realize how sinful he was

God cleansed him and called him

During the reign of Ahaz, when Judah was at war with Syria, Isaiah gave the prophecy of the Messiah being born of a virgin
He also gave the prophecy we use each Christmas:
“Unto us a child is born, a son is given...”

He later gave the prophecy of the Messiah being of the line of Jesse – David’s father
He used the name The BRANCH for the Messiah and that He would judge in righteousness
The Gentiles would turn to the Messiah

Isaiah gave the prophecy of the original fall of Lucifer from Heaven and how he would eventually become powerless
Many of his prophecies were against the enemies of Israel and the Day of Judgment when God would judge the earth

He also gave prophecies of the earth during the Millennium
God had declared that Hezekiah would die from his illness and Isaiah was sent to deliver the message
Hezekiah prayed for God to reconsider and spare him

God sent Isaiah back to tell Hezekiah that God was going to heal him
As a sign, the sun moved backwards ten degrees
Isaiah gave the prophecy of John the Baptist being a voice crying in the wilderness

As part of his prophecy of the coming judgment of Jerusalem falling before the king of Babylon and going into Captivity, Isaiah mentions King Cyrus by name as the one who would send the Jews home and order the rebuilding of the Temple

Isaiah gave the prophecy that the Messiah's back would be beaten and His beard would be pulled out
This was apart from Isaiah 53

Isaiah 53 is probably one of his greatest prophecies concerning the Messiah
On the surface, he declares that the Messiah will not be beautiful
He will be despised and rejected

He will be a man acquainted with sorrow
He will be wounded because of our sins
By His stripes we will be healed
He will be silent before His oppressors

He would be taken from prison
He would be cut off [killed]
He will die among thieves
He will be buried with the rich
All that was just on the surface

Using Equi-Distance Letter
Sequencing Codes the phrase:
“Yeshua [Jesus] is my name” is
encoded there
Pilate, Caiaphas and Annas
Mary is encoded three times
because there were 3 Marys at the
cross when Jesus died

James was encoded twice since
there were two James present
Peter, Matthew, John, Andrew
Philip, Thomas, Simon, Mathias
and Thaddaeus are encoded
Judas was not there and so he
was not encoded
“Let him be crucified”

There are other names and comments

They are encoded using different numbers of letters between the letters of each word

But this demonstrates that God authenticated Isaiah's prophecy by adding additional detail in code

Isaiah also notes that God will create a New Heaven and a New Earth

He notes that God is going to bring Israel forth as a nation again in just one day

Where Isaiah was about 150 years before the Babylonian invasion, Jeremiah was in the city of Jerusalem when it fell to Babylon

He predicted the fall of Jerusalem and was punished for his message

God also used Jeremiah to declare the end of the line of Solomon

He declared that Jehoiachin would be written as being childless

When Jehoiachin tried to flee the city before it fell he was captured
His children were killed before him
He was blinded

No one of Solomon's line has sat on the throne since

Mary is of David's line through his son Nathan

Jeremiah also prophesied that Judah would be in captivity to Babylon seventy years

When Cyrus defeated Babylon and sent the Jews home it had been exactly 70 years

Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah and of Daniel
He prophesied when Judah was taken into captivity during the first invasion
God gave him visions that still baffle Bible students today

Just like Isaiah, his calling was part of a vision of God and God's great glory
What is interesting is his vision of God's throne and the wheels within wheels showed a man on God's throne
This would be Jesus after His resurrection

Unlike Isaiah's vision of God's throne, his vision included the four living creatures John describes in Revelation
Ezekiel was given a vision of the corruption in the Temple and the glory of God leaving the Temple

Ezekiel had a vision of a valley filled with dried bones coming back to life

This was God's promise to restore Israel even though it appeared to be dead

Just like John, Ezekiel was given a book by an angel and ordered to eat the book

Ezekiel had a vision of the future Temple and its structure and measurements

Ezekiel predicted the fall of Tyre noting the debris would be thrown into the sea and the dirt scraped off and also thrown into the sea

Alexander the Great did this

Finally, Ezekiel had visions of the invasion of modern-day Israel being invaded by Russia and surrounding nations

Bible scholars suggest Ezekiel 38 – 39 are the next events on the Prophetic Calendar

I will suggest that Daniel is one of the greatest prophets concerning the end times and the Messiah
Daniel was a young man when he was taken into captivity to Babylon
He was trained to be a wise man of Babylon

His first encounter was when Nebuchadnezzar had a dream but could not remember it
Nebuchadnezzar demanded his wise men both tell him the dream and its interpretation
God gave Daniel the details of the dream and its meaning

In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue of a man
The head was gold
The chest and arms silver
The belly bronze
The legs and feet were iron
The toes were iron and clay

The metal represented the four kingdoms of the world and future
Gold was Babylon
Silver was Medes/Persia
Bronze was Greece
Iron was Rome
Iron and clay = Antichrist's kingdom

In the dream, a rock not cut by human hands broke off, struck the statue and destroyed it
The rock grew into a mountain that filled the earth
This would be the kingdom of Jesus
He is the Rock not cut by human hands

Daniel later had his own vision of four creatures and these four creatures represented each of the four kingdoms
We have Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refusing to bow to the king's statue and saved from the fiery furnace

Daniel served under several kings
When Belteshazzar offended God
by drinking to gods in Temple
cups, a hand wrote on the wall
Daniel translated the writing
Belteshazzar kingdom would end
that night, and it did

He rose to power in the
Persian Empire and officials
set him up to be killed
Because he prayed to God in
violation of a new law he was
thrown into the lions' den

The next morning he was still alive
because an angel protected him
Those who sought his death were
thrown in and died instantly
He had a visitation from Gabriel
and was given the Prophecy of the
70 Weeks

The 70 weeks was a code
Each week was a period of seven years
Each year was 360 days long
From the date the decree is signed to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem until the Messiah would be revealed was 69 weeks

69 Weeks X 7 Years X 360 Days
This comes out to 173,880 days
The decree was signed March 14, 445 BC by our calendar
173,880 days later would be April 6, 30 AD - the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem declaring He was the Messiah

Daniel had a vision of a ram and a goat
The ram was Persia and the goat was Greece
The battle between Persia and Greece happened exactly as Daniel saw it

Chapter 11 of Daniel describes the events that took place between the Old and New Testament in great detail

Chapter 12 of Daniel notes that from the day the daily sacrifices cease until the Abomination of Desolation is set up will be 1,290 days

Hosea was a contemporary of Isaiah and Amos

While Isaiah was in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Amos and Hosea were in the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Where most prophets are given messages to preach Hosea was given a life to live as part of his message

God sent Hosea to marry a woman of low moral character

After giving birth to children,
she left him
He eventually found her in a
slave market and bought her
back
She was a picture of Israel –
an unfaithful wife

Hosea was a picture of God
He was the husband who still
loved the unfaithful wife
He sought her out
He redeemed her from her sin

Hosea's message was a basic
one for Israel
Turn away from their false gods
and come back to God or God
would judge them
There are two passages of
interest in Hosea

The first is Hosea 6:1 – 2

In this passage the prophet declares that God has beaten them for two days and on the third day He will heal them

If a thousand years is one day to God then Bible scholars suggest from the Crucifixion to the Rapture will be 2,000 years/2 days

The third day when God brings them back will be the thousand years of the Millennium

Again, this is speculation because no one knows exactly when the Rapture will take place

The other passage is Hosea 12:10
In this passage God describes how he will speak to us through the prophets

One way will be visions

But the other way will be to use similitudes [this is similar to that]

Joel was God's prophet to King Joash in the Southern Kingdom of Judah around 835 BC – 796 BC
His prophecy is concerning the Day of the Lord
This would be the Tribulation
He ends with a picture of the Millennium

Although Amos lived at the time of King Uzziah and lived in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, God sent him to prophesy against Jeroboam II, the king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Amos preached against the sins of Israel, but some of his messages fall within the Tribulation Period
He predicts a famine, not a lack of bread, but a lack of God's Word
He also speaks of God restoring His people in the End Times

Obadiah is one of three prophets that were sent to speak specifically against one of the surrounding kingdoms and not Israel or Judah

The other two prophets were Jonah and Nahum who preached against Nineveh

Obadiah was sent to deliver judgment upon Edom
Edom was the descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob [Israel]

They cheered and encouraged Babylon to destroy Jerusalem

As a result, God declared through Obadiah that Edom would suffer the very fate that they sought for Jerusalem

It seems Edom will rise again and the united Northern and Southern Kingdom shall wipe Edom out

We all know the story of Jonah
God sent him to Nineveh
This was the capital of Assyria
Assyria conquered the ten tribes
that made up the Northern Kingdom
of Israel
They scattered them throughout the
Assyrian Empire

Jonah refused to go and warn
Nineveh of God coming
destruction
He knew God would be
merciful and he wanted to see
Nineveh destroyed

Jonah's rebellion led to a great
storm and his being thrown
overboard into the sea
A great fish – which Jesus
identifies as a whale – swallowed
Jonah
All the time Jonah fought God, the
whale continued to take him to
Nineveh

When Jonah finally gave in and agreed to preach to Nineveh he probably looked like the Zombie Apocalypse due to the whale's stomach acids

The people repented and God held off their destruction

Jonah was not happy

We will see when we get to Nahum that God did fulfill His promise to destroy Nineveh
He did this about one hundred years after Jonah

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah
His message was for both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah
His message for the Northern Kingdom was about twenty years before it fell to Assyria

His message to Judah was about 130 years before Jerusalem fell
He also gives us a picture of the Millennium when swords are beaten into plowshares
He predicted the city where the Messiah would be born - Bethlehem

Nahum was about 100 years after Jonah
God had held off destroying the city because it repented
Now Nahum delivers the prophesy of the city being destroyed

He foresaw the attack by the Persian
He noted the river being diverted
The river washed away the foundation of the city walls so that the city fell and was judged by God

Habakkuk is believed to have been a contemporary with Zephaniah and Jeremiah
We know he was in the Southern Kingdom of Judah
But little else is known of him personally

He asks God why He does nothing about the evil
God tells Habakkuk that He is going to send the Chaldeans
Habakkuk is known for his watchtower
“The just shall live by faith”

Habakkuk 3:17:
“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

Zephaniah was born during the reign of Manasseh, Judah's most evil king

He is at the end of the Southern Kingdom of Judah

He would be contemporary with Habakkuk, Jeremiah and Ezekiel

He speaks of the Day of the Lord

Haggai is one of three prophets who ministered after the Return

Haggai delivered four sermons within a period of four months

He then disappeared

He was calling the people to come back and complete the work on the Temple

Zechariah's ministry covered two periods of his life

When he was young God gave him eight visions in one night

Then when he was old, God spoke through him once more

He was one of three prophets ministering after the Return

His first message is to call people to rebuild the Temple

He also prophesies against those who scattered the Jews but these 8 visions seem to have immediate and long-term fulfillment

When God uses him in his old age he is given visions of End Times

He sees the Triumphant Entry

He saw Jesus' betrayal and the money paid to Judas

He sees the lifting of spiritual blindness

He sees the Antichrist

Jerusalem will be a Cup of Trembling

He sees 2/3rds of Israel killed
Jesus returning to Mount of Olives

Flesh of invaders being consumed, eyes melting in sockets

He speaks of the Messiah
rebuilding the Temple
He describes the Feast of
Tabernacles during the
Millennium

Malachi was a contemporary of
Nehemiah
After the rebuilding of the walls,
Nehemiah returned to Persia
Corruption slipped into the
priesthood
God sent Malachi to address this

Some key passages:
God does not change
Bring the tithes into the
storehouse
God keeps a record of when
we talk about Him
Sun shall arise with healing

He closes his book – and the Old Testament – with the promise to send Elijah before the Day of the Lord

This brings us to our whirlwind coverage of the Old Testament
Again, for the more traditional overview I would recommend you go to our website and pull up the Modular on Old testament Survey by our former pastor, Harold Anderson
There is a textbook for his classes

QUESTIONS


