"IN THE PAST GOD SPOKE TO OUR FOREFATHERS THROUGH THE PROPHETS AT MANY TIMES AND IN VARIOUS WAYS..."

HEBREWS 1:1

A PERSPECTIVE ON THE PROPHETS

- 1. THE PROPHETIC ROLE:
 - A. A CALL FROM GOD
 - B. A SPOKESMAN FOR GOD
 - C. AN OUTSIDER TO THE COMMUNITY
- 2. THE PROPHETIC MESSAGE: (PALESTINIAN COVENANT: LEVITICUS 26, DEUTERONOMY 30-32)
 - A. OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSING!
 - B. DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS DISCIPLINE!
 - C. REPENTANCE BRINGS RESTORATION!
- 3. THE PROPHETIC TASK
 - A. CRITIQUING THE CULTURE LEADING TO GRIEF
 - B. ENERGIZING THE PEOPLE LEADING TO HOPE
 - C. CALLING FORTH ALTERNATIVE LIVING LEADING TO FAITH

PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING THE PROPHETS

- 1. THE PROPHETS ARE ANCHORED TO THE COVENANT PROMISES OF GOD.
 - A. MOSAIC COVENANT: ENFORCERS OF THE LAW
 - B. PALESTINIAN COVENANT: REFORMATION PREACHERS
 - C. NEW COVENANT: HOPE FOR THE FUTURE
- 2. THE PROPHETS ARE MORE LIKE PREACHERS THAN PREDICTORS.
- 3. THE PROPHETS FOCUS ON FORTH-TELLING MORE THAN FORETELLING.
- 4. THE PROPHETS ARE VERY PASSIONATE AND CREATIVE SO EXPECT IMAGINATIVE LANGUAGE.
- 5. THE PROPHETS ARE CALLING FOR REPENTANCE ABOUT RITUALISM, IDOLATRY, AND FORSAKING THE POOR.

AN APPROACH TO MAKE THE PROPHETS RELEVANT

- 1. DON'T FOCUS ON THE FUTURE TOO FAST.
- 2. KEEP THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT IN MIND ALWAYS.
- 3. HIGHLIGHT THE CALL FOR REPENTANCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.
- 4. Understand the focus on the future as a motivation for revival.



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TESTING THE PROPHETS

- 1. Test # 1 Consistency with Torah (Deuteronomy 13)
 - · EVEN IF THEY PERFORM MIRACLES.
- 2. Test # 2 Prophecies come true (Deuteronomy 18)
 - · NEAR FULFILLMENTS VERIFIES FUTURE FULFILLMENT.
 - · JESUS PREDICTED HIS RESURRECTION TO REDEEM.
 - WE CAN TRUST HIS RETURN TO JUDGE AND RULE.

PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING PROPHECY

- 1. PROPHECY IS "REVELATION" OF TRUTH FROM GOD.
- 2. PROPHETS ARE "SEERS" BECAUSE THEY SEE IT.
- 3. IMAGES MUST BE UNDERSTOOD FROM THE ORIGINAL CULTURE.
- 4. THE FUTURE IS PLACED IN PRESENT OR PAST TENSE EVEN THOUGH FUTURE.
- 5. THE CERTAINTY OF THEIR VISION IS ASSURED.
- 6. PAST PROPHECIES HAVE BEEN LITERALLY FULFILLED.
- 7. FUTURE PROPHECIES WILL BE LITERALLY FULFILLED.
- 8. NEAR AND FAR FULFILLMENTS ARE OFTEN NOT DISTINGUISHED.
- 9. SEQUENCE AND TIMING IS NOT CRITICAL.
- 10.PROPHECY STILL REQUIRES FAITH.



THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE NONWRITING PROPHETS

PREMONARCHIAL PROPHETS (4000 BCE - 1000 BCE)

ENOCH (GENESIS 5:22; JUDE 14)

ABRAHAM (GENESIS 15:1; 20:7)

MOSES (DEUT. 34:10; Hos. 12:13)

> MIRIAM (EXODUS 15:20)

SEVENTY ELDERS (NUMBERS 11:24-25)

ELDAD AND MEDAD (NUMBERS 11:26-30)

MOSES IS THE PROTOTYPE PROPHET (DEUT. 18:14-22; 34:10-12)

AARON IS AN EXAMPLE OF A PROPHET (EXODUS 7:1)

MONARCHIAL PROPHETS (1000 BCE - 750 BCE)

SAMUEL (1 SAMUEL 3:1)

GAD (1 SAMUEL 22:5)

NATHAN (2 SAMUEL 7:2)

AHIJAH (1 KINGS 11:29)

ASAPH AND SONS (1 CHRONICLES 25:1)

IDDO (2 CHRONICLES 9:29)

> SHEMAIAH (1 KINGS 12:22)

HANANAI AND JEHU (2 CHR. 16:7, 1 KINGS 16:1)

> ELIJAH (1 KINGS 17-2 KINGS 2)

ELISHA (1 KINGS 19-2 KINGS 13)

> MICAIAH (1 KINGS 22:8)

JEHAZIEL AND ELIEZER (2 CHRONICLES 20:14,37)

OBED (2 CHRONICLES 28:9)

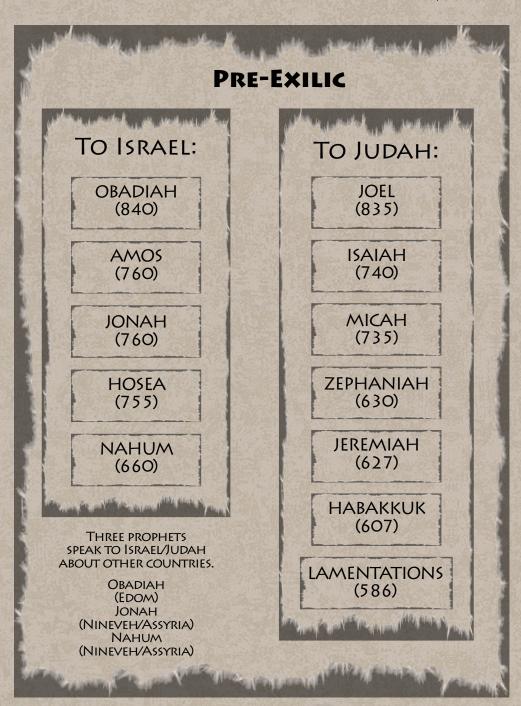
HULDAH (2 KINGS 22:14)

SAMUEL IS THE LAST JUDGE AND FIRST PROPHET (1 SAMUEL 3:1)

ELIJAH IS THE MODEL OF A PROPHET (LUKE 1:17)

MOSES AND ELIJAH ARE PRESENT AT THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST WITNESSES TO CHRIST BEING THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC MINISTRY (MATTHEW 17:3; MARK 9:4; LUKE 9:30)

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE WRITING PROPHETS





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THE WRITING PROPHETS IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

