

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN SEVEN SENTENCES

Prophets

Main Idea: Living as God's saved people is a matter of total commitment to God expressed through love and humble submission toward God and others.

A. THE OFFICE OF THE PROPHETS

1. There were many prophets in the Old Testament—some, not all, had books of the Bible named after them.
2. Prophets spoke for God.
3. Prophets heard God's word.
4. Prophets saw things from God's point of view.
5. Prophets had minds of their own.
6. Prophets felt what God felt.

B. THE TIME OF THE PROPHETS

The books of prophecy relate to a period of about 300 years leading up to the destruction and exile of both kingdoms and the years immediately after their return to Jerusalem.

C. THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROPHETS

1. Prophets used persuasion.
EX: Isa. 1:10-15, Jer. 2:22-28
2. Prophets used poetry.
EX: Amos 8:10, Hosea 7:14
3. Prophets used pictures.
EX: Jer. 2, Isa. 52:7-10
4. Prophets made predictions.

D. THE MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS

1. Prophets declared a wider message about God's sovereignty over and expectations for the world.
 - Yahweh, the God of Israel, is sovereign over all nations of the world and history.

Daniel 4:33-37

³³ Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

³⁴ At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: "What have you done?"

³⁶ At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

- God demands justice in society.

Michah 6:8-13

No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good,
and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.

Fear the Lord if you are wise!

His voice calls to everyone in Jerusalem:

“The armies of destruction are coming;
the Lord is sending them.”^[b]

¹⁰ What shall I say about the homes of the wicked
filled with treasures gained by cheating?

What about the disgusting practice
of measuring out grain with dishonest measures?^[c]

¹¹ How can I tolerate your merchants
who use dishonest scales and weights?

¹² The rich among you have become wealthy
through extortion and violence.

Your citizens are so used to lying
that their tongues can no longer tell the truth.

¹³ “Therefore, I will wound you!
I will bring you to ruin for all your sins.

- God desires radical obedience over religious observance.

Michah 6:6-8

What can we bring to the Lord?

Should we bring him burnt offerings?

Should we bow before God Most High

with offerings of yearling calves?
⁷ Should we offer him thousands of rams
and ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Should we sacrifice our firstborn children
to pay for our sins?
⁸ No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good,
and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.

Amos 5:21-24

"I hate all your show and pretense—
the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies.
²² I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings.
I won't even notice all your choice peace offerings.
²³ Away with your noisy hymns of praise!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
²⁴ Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice,
an endless river of righteous living.

2. Prophets declared a specific message to remember the covenant.

- The covenant involved history.
- The covenant involved commitments.
- The covenant involved warnings and promises.