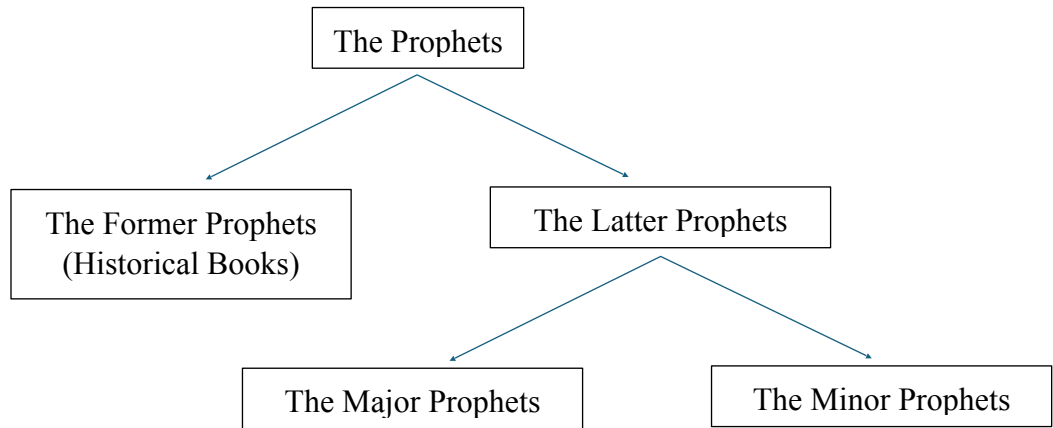


WEEK 4 | INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHETS // ISAIAH

THE PROPHETS



The Prophets

ISAIAH	JEREMIAH	EZEKIEL	THE TWELVE
Preexilic	Exilic	Exilic	Postexilic
16,930 words	21,819 words	18,731 words	14,357 words

- 1) The Designations (cf. 1 Sam 9:5-10; 1 Chr 29:29 [Samuel, *ro'eh*, "seer;" Nathan, *nabhi'*, "prophet;" Gad, *hozeh*, "seer"])
 - a. Prophet (*nabhi'*) – called to speak for God (cf. Exod 7:1; Deut 13:1-11; 18:14-22)
 - b. Man of God (*'ish elohim*) – belonging to God [i.e. Moses (Deut 33:1); Samuel (1 Sam 9:6); Elisha (2 Kgs 4:9)]
 - c. Seer – receiver of God's revelation (cf. Isa 30:9, 10) (1 Samuel 9:9, an aside by the author explaining the designations)
 - i. *ro'eh* (12x) [see *NIDOTTE*, 3:1007-15]
 - ii. *hozeh* (16x) [see *NIDOTTE*, 2:56-61]
- 2) Their Position in the Nation (Deut 18:14-22; Jer 18:18)
- 3) Their Character
 - a. Men of the Word of Yahweh (Isa 6:9; Amos 7:14-15; Jer 1:7-9)
 - b. Men of Authority (Isa 55:11; Hos 6:5)

The Major Themes of the Latter Prophets

- 1) The Central Theme of the Latter Prophets: Israel / Judah Was Indicted for Disloyalty to the Covenant Made at Sinai and therefore Received the Curse(s) of the Covenant;

however, Yahweh Will Be Loyal to His Covenant Oath to Noah, Abraham, Phinehas, and Israel (a New Covenant) in the Future

- 2) The Words and Symbolic Actions of the Prophets Were Directed by the Lord (Isa 20; Jer 16; Ezek 4; Hos 1)
- 3) The Prophets Reaffirmed Israel's Chosen [Elect] Status by the Lord [The Abrahamic Covenant] (Isa 41:8-20; 51:1-2; Jer 33:26; Mic 7:20)
- 4) The Prophets Confronted Israel / Judah with their Rebellion against the Lord evidenced in their Disobedience to the Mosaic Covenant (Isa 1; Jer 2-3, 11; Ezek 16; Hos 4:1-3)
- 5) The Prophets Affirmed the Lord Will / Did Judge Israel/Judah because of the Breaking of the Mosaic Covenant just as Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 Predicted (Joel 1:2-12; cf. Deut 28:38)
- 6) The Prophets Declared that Despite this Punishment, the Lord still Had Compassion for His Chosen People (Isa 12:1; 40:1-2; Hos 11:8-11)
- 7) The Prophets Predicted that the Lord's Compassion Will Lead to His Redemption / Deliverance of Israel to Emerge out of the pain of Punishment [Abrahamic Covenant and New Covenant] (Isa 11:10-12:6; 40:1-66:25; Jer 23:1-8; 31:23-40; Ezek 36:16-37:14; Hag 2:6-9; Zech 9:10-10:12; 14:1-15; Mal 4:5-6)
- 8) The Prophets Predicted that this Renewal Will Extend to All Nations [Noahic Covenant] (Isa 16:3-5; 17:7-8; 18:7; 19:16-25; 42:1-4; Zech 14:16-19)
- 9) The Prophets Saw the Coming King / Messiah as the Lord's Instrument of His Ultimate Punishment and Blessing for both Israel and the Nations [Davidic Covenant] (Isa 4:2-6; 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1-9; 49:1-7; Jer 23:5-6; 30:8-9; 33:14-18; Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-28; Hos 3:5; Mic 5:2; Zech 9:9; 12:10)

<i>The</i>	Torah – Priest (Lev 10:11; Deut 31:9-13; 33:10)
<i>Revelation</i>	Counsel – Wise Man (1 Kgs 4:29-34; cf. 2 Sam 15:12; 16:23)
<i>of Yahweh</i>	Word – Prophet (1 Sam 3:20-4:1a)

Biblical Background of the Latter Prophets

The important kings of Judah before the Exile were:

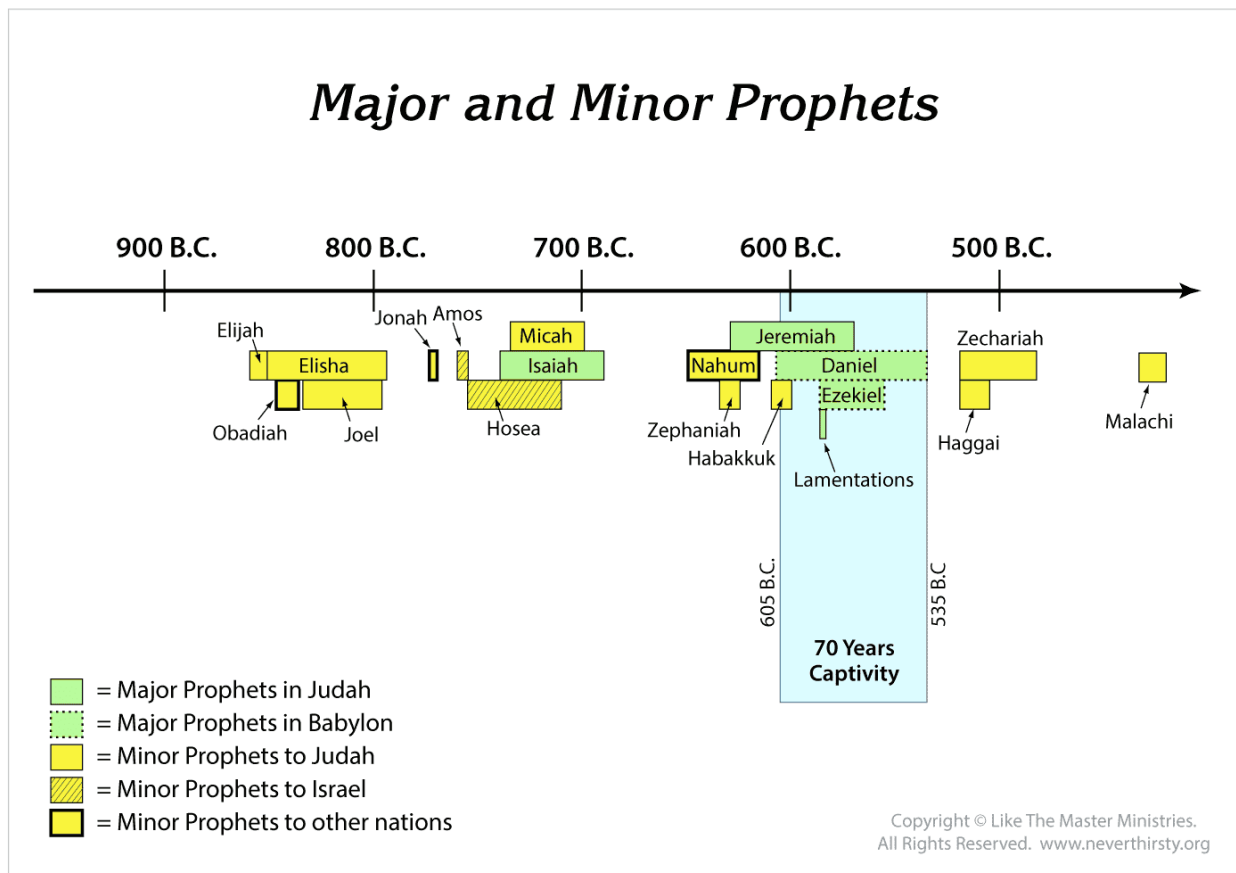
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|---|------------------------------|
| 1) Uzziah (Azariah) (2 Kgs 15:1-7) [790-739 BC] | (Isa 1:1; Hos 1:1; Amos 1:1) |
| 2) Jotham (2 Kgs 15:32-38) [750-731 BC] | (Isa 1:1; Hos 1:1; Mic 1:1) |
| 3) Ahaz (2 Kgs 16:1-20) [735-715 BC] | (Isa 1:1; Mic 1:1) |

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|---|-----------------------------|
| 4) Hezekiah (2 Kgs 18:1-20:21) [729-686 BC] | (Isa 1:1; Hos 1:1; Mic 1:1) |
| 5) Manasseh (2 Kgs 21:1-18) [695-642 BC] | |
| 6) Amon (2 Kgs 21:19-26) [642-640 BC] | |
| 7) Josiah (2 Kgs 22:1-23:30) [640-609 BC] | (Jer 1:2; Zeph 1:1) |
| 8) Jehoahaz (2 Kgs 23:31-33) [609 BC] | |
| 9) Jehoiakim (2 Kgs 23:34-24:7) [609-597 BC] | (Jer 1:3) |
| 10) Jehoiachin (2 Kgs 24:8-16) [597 BC] | (Ezek 1:2) |
| 11) Zedekiah (2 Kgs 24:18-25:21) [597-586 BC] | (Jer 1:3) |

The important kings of Israel before the Exile were:

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|--|---------------------|
| 1) Jeroboam II (2 Kgs 14:23-29) [793-753 BC] | (Hos 1:1; Amos 1:1) |
| 2) Pekah (2 Kgs 15:27-31) [752-732 BC] | (Isa 7:1) |
| 3) Hoshea (2 Kgs 17:1-6) [732-722 BC] | |

The Prophets in Time



ISAIAH

Isaiah 6:1 tells us that, “In the year that king Uzziah died,” the prophet Isaiah was called to ministry by Yahweh Himself in an incredible vision of the divine throne room. Isaiah ministered from the late 8th to early 7th century BC during the successive reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah (Isa 1:1). The events of this period are recorded in 2 Kings 15:1–20:21 and provide the historic backdrop of Isaiah’s oracles. Isaiah is a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah; the emphasis in his oracles centers on Judah and the city of Jerusalem under the Davidic king (though he also has a great deal to say about God’s intentions for the whole world).

Though he lived long before Judah’s exile in Babylon, Isaiah foretold this event and speaks a message of encouragement to the exilic community, promising them that God has not forgotten or abandoned them. Rather, God will work through an individual to redeem and restore Israel to the end, and, in so doing, will extend salvation not just to Israel but to the nations. The promises of the Abrahamic, Deuteronomic, and Davidic covenants are still in effect.

STRUCTURE¹

- I. The Book of the King (1-37)
 - A. The preface: Judah – diagnosis and prognosis (1-5)
 - B. The triumph of grace (6-12)
 - C. The universal kingdom (13-27)
 - D. The Lord of history (28-37)
- II. The Book of the Servant (38-55)
 - A. The historical prologue: Hezekiah’s fatal choice (38-39)
 - B. The consolation of the world (40:1–42:17)
 - C. The redemption of Israel (42:18–44:23)
 - D. The great deliverance (44:24–48:22)
 - E. The greater deliverance (49-55)
- III. The Book of the Conqueror (56-66)
 - A. The ideal and the actual: the needs and sins of the Lord’s people (56:1–59:13)
 - B. The Coming of the Anointed Conqueror (59:14–63:6)
 - C. Prayer and response (63:7–6:24)

PURPOSE

To warn Israel of God’s impending judgment for their lack of trust and spiritual idolatry, while also encouraging a future generation in exile that God will indeed establish His king in Israel and rule over all the nations, fulfilling all His promises to Israel.

THEMES

¹ From Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction & Commentary* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1993).

- 1) Yahweh, “The Holy One of Israel” (cf. 2 Kgs 19:22; Ps 71:22; 78:41; 89:18; Jer 50:29; 51:5; Ezek 39:7; 25x – 1:4; 5:19, 24; 10:20; 12:6; 17:7; 29:19; 30:11, 12, 15; 31:1; 37:23; 41:14, 16, 20; 43:3, 14; 45:11; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7; 54:5; 55:5; 60:9, 14); “The Holy One of Jacob” (29:23); “The Holy One” (10:17; 40:25; 43:15; 49:7)
- 2) The Sinfulness of Judah (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 29, 30, 31, 39) & Yahweh’s Judgment (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 29, 30, 31, 32, 39)
- 3) The Sinfulness of the Nations (10, 13-23, 28, 34) & Yahweh’s Judgment (10, 24, 34, 47)
- 4) The Salvation of Yahweh (11:11-16; 12:1-2; 19:20; 25:9; 33:2, 6; 37:35; 38:20; 43:11-13; 45:17, 22; 49:6; 51:5, 6, 8; 56:1; 59:16, 17; 60:16; 61:10; 63:1, 8)
 - a. The Light (9:2; 42:16; 49:6; 58:8-11; 60:1, 19, 20)
 - b. The Child (7:14; 9:6-7)
 - c. The Shoot, Branch (11:1)
 - d. The Stone, Rock (28:16-17; 32:1-2)
 - e. The Servant (42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12)
 - f. The Redeemer of Israel (41:14; 43:14; 44:16, 24; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7, 26; 54:5, 8; 59:20; 60:16; 63:16)
 - g. The Second Exodus (11:11-16; 40:3-5; 41:17-20; 42:14-16; 43:1-3, 14-21; 48:20-21; 49:8-12; 51:9-10; 52:11-12; 55:12-13; 58:8; 60:2, 19; 63:7-9)
 - h. The Second Moses
 - i. Endued with Yahweh’s Spirit (42:1; cf. Num 11:25)
 - ii. Will Establish Justice (42:1, 3, 4; cf. Deut 4:8)
 - iii. Called by Yahweh (49:1-2; cf. Exod 3:1-4:12)
 - iv. Will Give a Covenant (42:6; 49:8; cf. Exod 24:1-11)
 - v. Will Be Rejected (49:7; 50:6; 53:3; cf. Exod 2:14; Num 12)
 - vi. His Humility (42:2-3; 53:2; cf. Num 12:3)
- 5) The Spirit of Yahweh (11:2; 32:15; 34:16; 40:7, 13; 42:1; 44:3; 48:16; 59:19; 61:1; 63:10, 14)
- 6) The Sovereignty of Yahweh (41:21-23; 42:9; 43:9-10; 44:6-8; 45:21; 46:9-11; 48:3)
- 7) Trust [*batah*] (12:2; 14:30; 26:4; 30:12, 15; 31:1; 32:17; 36:4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15; 42:17; 47:8, 10; 50:10; 59:4) / Faith [*‘aman*] (1:21, 26; 7:9; 8:2; 28:16; 43:10; 49:7; 53:1; 55:3)
- 8) Covenant (24:5 [Noahic]; 28:15, 18; 33:8 [human]; 42:6; 49:8; 54:10 [New]; 55:3 [Davidic]; 56:4, 6 [Mosaic]; 59:21; 61:8 [New])