



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

UNDERSTANDING GENRE

The graphic features three horizontal brush strokes in shades of blue and cyan, overlapping each other. A white rectangular border is centered over the strokes, containing the text. The background is a light gray.

LESSON 3

INTERPRETING PROPHECY



WHAT IS PROPHECY?

- Prophet: Someone sent by God with a prophecy, a message from God
- Prophecy: Spirit-inspired utterance



GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION

- Investigate the Book's Background, Date, and Author
- Pay Attention to Context
- Expect Figurative Language
- Distinguish Between Conditional and Unconditional Prophecy



GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION

- Seek to Understand What the Author is Saying to Original Audience First
- Determine if the Prophecy Has Been Fulfilled or is Unfulfilled
- Note the Apologetic Value of Prophecy
- Understand the Difference between OT and NT Era Prophecy

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* by Robert L. Plummer
- *ESV Study Bible*
- *How to Read & Understand the Biblical Prophets* by Peter Gentry



Where to Start

Read the book of Isaiah. Using a good study Bible, determine the context and occasion of Isaiah's message. Highlight and investigate figurative language. Highlight and study specific prophecies. What is Isaiah prophesying? Has it been fulfilled? In what ways?



**Resources
to Get You
Started**

- *Christ-Centered Exposition:
Exalting Jesus in Isaiah, By
Andrew M. Davis*
- *A Survey of the Old Testament,
by Andrew E. Hill and John H.
Walton*



QUESTIONS!

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