

# Panorama of the Old Testament

## *Section Six: Prophets*

### 1) **Background**

- a) Prophecy (“neboaw” in Hebrew, “profaytiah” in Greek) is simply the speaking forth the words of God, directly receiving from His divine wisdom and knowledge.
- b) J. Barton Payne’s Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy statistics
  - i) 8,362 predictive verses (broadly prophetic)
  - ii) 1,817 predictions (more specific)
  - iii) 737 separate topics
- c) Truth about prophecy and prophets
  - i) All valid prophecy comes from God. He is the source, not man (2 Pet. 1:19-21).
  - ii) God uses prophets and prophecy to authenticate His divine power and knowledge (Isa. 46:10)
  - iii) Prophecy is God’s assurance that He has us and the world entirely under His divine control. Every major, and many minor, event in history has been foretold by God to give us perfect confidence in God who is Lord of all things.

### 2) Major Prophets

#### **a) Isaiah (760-698 BC, Judah)**

- i) The Bible in miniature
  - (1) First 39 chapters heavy with man’s sin and judgment
  - (2) Last 27 chapters are about God comforting His people, the suffering servant and the final judgments with a new heaven and new earth to follow
- ii) Judah is called out by God for sin and rebellion
- iii) Judah does not know God, their savior and deliverer and are paying the price for it
- iv) God is calling Judah (and all believers) to repent and put their trust in God

#### **b) Jeremiah & Lamentations (629-588 BC, Judah)**

- i) Jeremiah offers God’s truth against many false prophets regarding Judah’s defeat by Babylon
- ii) Perhaps the least chronological book of the Bible
  - (1) His words and writings were destroyed by unbelievers
  - (2) He had to reconstruct many of the destroyed writings out of sequence
- iii) The false prophets were giving words to Judah’s kings that they wanted to hear and believe
- iv) Jeremiah was treated harshly and mocked for his words of prophecy
- v) Jeremiah accurately prophecies that Judah would go into 70-years of captivity in Babylon

#### **c) Ezekiel (595-574 BC, Judah)**

- i) An exile prophet to Judah
- ii) Witnesses the predicted fall of Jerusalem to Babylon
- iii) Explains how God will gather His nation back at the end of the captivity because God’s name and his promises are connected to Judah
- iv) Israel has a glorious future and a new temple to look forward to at the end of the ages

#### **d) Daniel (607-534 BC, Judah)**

- i) God’s greatly beloved prophet
- ii) Becomes the #2 ruler in both Babylonian and Medeo-Persian empires
- iii) First six chapters are historical narrative of life in Babylon

- iv) Last six chapters are detailed prophecies of Judah's history through successive world empires
  - (1) Babylon
  - (2) Medeo-Persia
  - (3) Greece
  - (4) Rome part one
  - (5) Rome part two
  - (6) God's divine kingdom on earth
- 3) Minor prophets
  - a) **Hosea (785-725 BC, Northern Kingdom)**
    - i) Living out Israel's spiritual adultery in the prophet's real-life family
      - (1) Called to marry a prostitute name Gomer
      - (2) Had three children, but the last two may not have been his own
      - (3) Gomer left him for another man and then went into slavery
      - (4) Hosea had to purchase his own wife back from slavery
    - ii) Pronouncement of Israel's sins and God's judgment on their sins
    - iii) Prophecy of Israel's restoration and future promises
  - b) **Joel (835-756 BC, Judah) - The Day of the Lord (God's judgment and restoration)**
  - c) **Amos (787 BC, Northern Kingdom)**
    - i) God will judge Gentile nations
    - ii) God will judge Judah
    - iii) God will judge Israel
    - iv) The world and the leaders are corrupt
    - v) Visions of pending judgment
    - vi) God's glorious kingdom to come
  - d) **Obadiah (887 BC, Edom) – reaping what is sown**
  - e) **Jonah (862 BC, Assyria)**
    - i) Jonah called to proclaim Nineveh's judgment and destruction
    - ii) Jonah tries to outrun God, but is cast into the sea and swallowed by a creature
    - iii) Bleached and returned to land, he reluctantly completes his mission to proclaim judgment to Nineveh
    - iv) Climbs a hill to watch the outcome of Nineveh and is angry with God for His compassion
  - f) **Micah (750-710 BC, Judah)**
    - i) Warning to Judah (Israel's judgment came, so will Judah's)
    - ii) Warning to leaders who fail to submit to God
    - iii) Trust in the Lord for His great mercies
  - g) **Nahum (713 BC, Assyria)**
    - i) Nineveh will fall, God used them to judge Israel, but their time has also come
    - ii) Nineveh has engaged in ruthless bloodshed and idolatry
    - iii) Nineveh has pride and self-confidence that will be overthrown
  - h) **Habakkuk (626 BC, Judah)**
    - i) God will use wicked Babylon to judge wicked Judah
    - ii) The just shall live by faith and God is to be praised
  - i) **Zephaniah (630 BC, Judah)**
    - i) The Day of the Lord to the Jews
    - ii) The Day of the Lord to the Gentiles
    - iii) The Day of the Lord – God's kingdom established

**j) Haggai (520 BC, Judah post-exile)**

- i) The work of rebuilding post-exile is to be completed
- ii) Serve the Lord, be strong, fear not, the God of glory will provide
- iii) Judgment and the promised Messiah will come

**k) Zechariah (520-518, Judah post-exile)**

- i) God's encouragement to trust in Him
- ii) The Messiah will come and reign
  - (1) Rejected in part one
  - (2) Will reign in part two

**l) Malachi (397 BC, Judah post-exile)**

- i) Honor God – live godly lives
- ii) The Day of God's justice is coming
  - (1) First messenger is John the Baptist
  - (2) Second messenger is the promised Messiah
- iii) Proper and improper attitudes of the people
  - (1) Complainers vs. believers
  - (2) Evildoers vs. preachers