

# **GOD'S PROPHETIC MESSENGERS**



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- The word **PROPHET** comes from the word meaning “to announce”
- A **PROPHET** was God’s mouthpiece or the human instrument through which God declared His message to men
- The primary term for the prophet is one who spoke a message on behalf of his superior, God. The prophet was not the originator of the message, but simply proclaimed it

The **Books of the Prophets** address the "**classical**" period of prophecy—during the later years of the divided kingdoms of Judah and Israel, throughout the time of exile, and into the years of Israel's return from exile

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The 17 books that comprise the last section of the Old Testament is commonly known as the Books of Prophets who lived before 850 B.C.

## **However...**

There have been prophets throughout every era of God's relationship with mankind

# Prophetesses in the Bible

- Miriam (sister of Aaron)
- Deborah (Judges 4)
- Anna (Luke 2)
- Elisabeth, mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1)
- Hannah (1 Samuel:2)
- The Virgin Saint Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1)
- Four daughters of the evangelist Philip (Acts 21)

# TRUE prophets and FALSE ones



## Ways to Test For False Prophets

If the answer is “**yes**,” they are false prophets

*Matthew 24:4, 23, 24; 1 John 4:1; 1  
Tim. 4:1; Galatians 1:8*

Question	Scripture
Do they ever predict things that do NOT come to pass?	Deut. 18:21, 22
Do they turn people AWAY from the true God to other gods?	Deut. 13:1-3
Do they use instruments of DIVINATION (crystal balls, tea leaves, etc.)?	Deut. 18:10, 11
Is <b>JESUS CHRIST</b> the center of their predictions?	1 Samuel 9:9

If the answer is “**no**,” they are false prophets

A prophet of God is one who speaks the Word of God, whose message is confirmed by the work of God by a miracle

#	Prophecy	Source	Fulfilled
1	The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Matthew 1:1-16, Luke 3:23-33
2	He would be a prophet	Deuteronomy 18:18	John 6:14
3	He would be resurrected	Psalms 16:10-11	Acts 2:25-32
4	He would be a priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6
5	He would be (briefly) forsaken by God and cry out	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
6	He would be scorned and despised	Psalms 22:6	Matthew 27:39, Mark 15:29
7	He would be mocked	Psalms 22:7	Matthew 27:31, Mark 15:20, Luke 22:63 & 23:35-36
8	"Let the Lord save him... Let the Lord rescue him"	Psalms 22:8	Matthew 27:43
9	His hands and feet would be pierced	Psalms 22:16	John 19:23,37
10	He would be stared and gloated at	Psalms 22:17	Matthew 27:36, Luke 23:35
11	People would cast lots for his cloths	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35, John 19:23-24
12	None of his bones would be broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:31-36
13	He would be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 26:47-50
14	He would be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:27
15	He would be preceded by a messenger	Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1	Matthew 3:1-2, Luke 3:3-6
16	He would be spat upon and beaten	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67-68 & 27:30
17	He would suffer and be rejected	Isaiah 53:3	(Numerous)
18	He would be wounded and whipped	Isaiah 1153:5	Matthew 27:26
19	He would be silent before his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12-14
20	He was led away to be killed	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:31
21	He died for our sins	Isaiah 53:8	1 Corinthians 15:3
22	He had done no wrong	Isaiah 53:9	Luke 23:13-15
23	He would be buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57
24	He was filled with grief	Isaiah 53:10	Matthew 26:36-38
25	He would be crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27-28
26	He would be rejected and killed	Daniel 24-26	(Numerous)
27	He would be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-6, Luke 2:4-7
28	He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Luke 19:35-37, John 12:12-16
29	He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
30	The blood money would be thrown into a potter's field	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 27:5-7
31	He would be pierced (in this case, his side)	Zechariah 12:10-11	John 19:34,37

# **Minor Prophets Of the Old Testament**

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**“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion” (Psalm 137:1)**

	<b>BOOK</b>	<b>MEANING</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	<b>KINGS</b>	<b>THEME</b>
PRE-EXILIC	1. Obadiah	Servant/Worshipper of Jehovah	840-830	2 Kings 8-12	Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah, Joash (S)	Retribution
	2. Joel	Jehovah is God	830-820	2 Kings 12	Joash (S)	Visitation
	3. Jonah	Dove	780-760	2 Kings 14	Jeroboam 2 (N)	Commission
	4. Amos	Burden Bearer	755-750	2 Kings 14	Jeroboam 2 (N)	Threatened
	5. Hosea	Salvation	760-710	2 Kings 14-17	Jeroboam 2, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea (N)	Estrangement
	6. Isaiah	Jehovah is salvation	740-690	2 Kings 15-21	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh (S)	Salvation
	7. Micah	Who is like Jehovah	735-700	2 Kings 15-20	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah (S)	Arraignment
	8. Nahum	Compassionate	650-620	2 Kings 21-23	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah (S)	Doom
	9. Zephaniah	Hidden by Jehovah	630-620	2 Kings 22-23	Josiah (S)	Vindication
	10. Habakkuk	Embraced	620-605	2 Kings 22-24	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim (S)	Justice
	11. Jeremiah	Established by Jehovah	625-585	2 Kings 22-25	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah (S), Nebuchadnezzar	Warning
EXILIC	12. Lamem.	Grieving	585-580	2 Kings 25	Nebuchadnezzar	Disconsolate
	13. Ezekiel	Strength	593-570	2 Kings 24-25	Zedekiah (S)	Glory
	14. Daniel	God is my Judge	606-530	2 Kings 23-25; Ezra 1-4	Jehoiakim (S), Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus	Dominion
POST-EXILIC	15. Haggai	Festal	520	Ezra 5-6	Zerubbabel, Darius 1 (Persian)	Consider
	16. Zechariah	Remembered by Jehovah	520-480	Ezra 5-6	Zerubbabel, Darius 1, Xerxes	Consummation
	17. Malachi	My Messenger	430-420	Nehemiah 13	Artaxerxes, Darius 2	Apostasy

N=Northern Kingdom S=Southern Kingdom



# Stage 1 of the Exile

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- 605 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar, chief of Babylonian armies laid siege to Jerusalem and took nobles and young men as hostage to Babylon (Daniel, 3 young men)
- Possibly at this point Jeremiah prophesized about the captivity

# Stage 2 of the exile

- 597 B.C.
- Jehoiakim rebels against Nebuchadnezzar

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- Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem and takes 10,000 captives to Babylon.
- At this time, king Jehoiakim dies and his son Jehoiachin had been on the throne for 3 months
- He was taken captive, stayed in Babylon until the death of Nebuchadnezzar (561 BC) (2 Kings 25:27-30)
- Jehoiachin paid for his father rebellion
- Nebuchadnezzar carried with him elite and wealthy people (Ezekiel)

## Stage 3 of Exile

- 586 B.C.

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- King Zedekiah ignored the warning of Jeremiah (27,28) and plots against Nebuchadnezzar.
- Nebuchadnezzar returns and captives all the remaining population. His captain burn the city and the temple (586)
- A tiny remnant of Jews including Jeremiah was left in Judah. They fled to Egypt taking Jeremiah with them against his will

# Stages of the Return (Restoration)

- Judah fell to the nation of Babylon
- Babylon was destroyed by Persia in 539 BC
- Thus the return to Judah was under the Persians
- The Babylonians like the Assyrians had a policy of expatriation, to remove people from their native lands and place them throughout the rest of the empire in order to avoid an organized resistance
- The Persians had the policy of repatriation, to replace people back into their native lands in order to gain their loyalty.

# Stage 1 of the return

- 538 BC (Ezra 1-6)
- Political leader was Zerubbabel, Levitical / religious leader was Joshua
- Purpose of this return was to rebuild the temple which was completed in 516 BC

# Stage 2 of the return

- 458 BC (Ezra 7-10)
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- The religious leader of this return was Ezra the scribe
  - Smaller population who returned
  - Purpose of this return was to purify the worship services (Pagan wives had been taken and squatters were in the temple)

## Stage 3 in the return

- 445/444 BC (Nehemiah 1:1-13)
- Nehemiah was allowed to return to the land
- Purpose of the return to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and enable people to re-inhabit the city
- Prophet ministered at this time was Malachi

# Books of the Minor Prophets

- Put together as one book by the men of the great synagogue in Ezra's time
- their writings are shorter, and less in bulk than the other Prophets books
- Nine of these prophets prophesies before the captivity
- The last three after the return of the Jews to their own land



# The Minor Prophets

1. Hosea – “Salvation” “God saves” (750-725 BC)
2. Joel – “Jehovah is God” (830 BC)
3. Amos – “Burden-bearer” (755 BC)
4. Obadiah – “Servant /worshiper of Jehovah” (845 BC)
5. Jonah – “Dove” (780 BC)
6. Micah – “Who is like the Lord?” (740-700 BC)

# The Minor Prophets

7. Nahum “Consolation”, “Comforter” (630-612 BC)

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8. Habakkuk “Embrace” (612-606 BC)
9. Zephaniah “Jehovah Hides” (625 BC)
10. Haggai “Festive or Festival” (520 BC)
11. Zachariah “Jehovah Remembers” (520-518 BC)
12. Malachi “My Messenger/Angel” (445-432 BC)

# Messianic Prophecies

**Isaiah 9:6-7** – Someone GREAT is to come!

**Zechariah 9:9-10** – The Messiah would be a King over a huge kingdom. He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding upon a donkey and leading a colt, the foal of a donkey

**Amos 9:11** – He would once again exalt the Throne of David

**Micah 5:2** – He would be born in Bethlehem

**Isaiah 7:14** – He would be born of a virgin

**Isaiah 11:1-2** – To be of the House of David

**Daniel 9:25** – The time of His birth

# Messianic Prophecies

**Zechariah 11:12; 13:7** – He would see violence & His price would be 30 pieces of silver

**Jeremiah 31:15** – The murder of the innocent children of Bethlehem would occur in an attempt to kill the Christ

**Jeremiah 31:31** – The Law of Moses would be replaced with a New Covenant

**Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:3-5** – The Messiah would be announced by a forerunner who would possess the spirit of Elijah

**Isaiah 53** – Details of His death

# Messianic Prophecies

According to scholars, there are 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ

The mathematical probability of all these prophecies being fulfilled in one man is 1 out of 84 followed by 97 zeros

(Joseph P. Free, Archeology and Bible History, pg. 234)

***GLORY BE TO GOD FOREVER AMEN***

# The Major and The Minor Prophets of the Old Testament

1000 B.C.	931 B.C.	Assyrian Captivity 722 B.C.	Babylonian Captivity 586 B.C.	400 B.C.
Pre Exile			Exile	Post Exile
			← 70 years →	
<b>Israel</b>				
Jonah (4) Amos (9) Hosea (14)			-- Daniel (14)	Haggai (2)
Saul	David	Solomon		
<b>Judah</b>			-- Ezekiel (48)	Malachi (4)
Obadiah (1) Isaiah (66)			Nahum (3)	Zachariah (14)
Joel (3) Micha (7)			Habakkuk (3)	
			Zephaniah (3)	
			Jeremiah (53)	

## Assyrian Crisis Prophets

Prophets who spoke to Israel

Hosea

Amos

Jonah

## Pre-exile Babylonian Crisis Prophets

Prophets who spoke to Judah before their captivity

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Micah

Zephaniah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Joel

Obadiah

## **Babylonian Captivity Prophets**

Prophets who spoke to Judah  
in their captivity in Babylon

**Daniel**

**Ezekiel**

## **Post-exile Babylonian Crisis Prophets**

Prophets who spoke to Judah  
after their return from exile.

**Haggai**

**Zechariah**

**Malachi**