

Introduction to Prophets - God's Messengers To A Wayward People

Focus of Our Study

A Study of God as Experienced and Announced by the Prophets

Key Questions

- 1~Why Did the Role of Prophets Come Into Being?
- 2~How are the Books of the Prophets Classified?
- 3~What Labels Identified the Prophets?
- 4~What About False Prophets?
- 5~How Did Jesus View the Prophets?
- 6~How Can A Study of the Prophets Help Discipleship and Church Ministry Today?

1. Why Did the Role of Prophets Come Into Being?

"If Israel had not sinned..."

2. How are the Books of the Prophets Classified?

Former Prophets

Historical Books
(Except Ruth, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Chronicles)

Latter Prophets

(Writing Prophets, except Daniel and Lamentations)

OR

Historical Classification of Literary Prophets

(Neo-) Assyrian Era

Jonah
Amos
Hosea
Isaiah
Micah

(Neo-) Babylonian Era

Zephaniah
Habakkuk
Jeremiah
Nahum
Ezekiel
Obadiah
Lamentations

Persian Era

Daniel
Haggai
Zechariah
Joel
Malachi

3. What Labels Identified the Prophets?

navi. Assyrian: nabu, "to call, proclaim". Thus navi is

One called by God

One who calls out to others, messages on God's behalf

One who calls people to God.

man of God: one belonging to God for special purposes, 1 Sam. 9 In forth-teller rather than fore-teller.

4. What About False Prophets?

Amos and Amaziah, Amos 7.10ff

Jeremiah and Hananiah, Jer. 28.15ff

Micaiah and Ahab's false prophets, 1 Kings 22.7ff

5. How Did Jesus View the Prophets?

Persecution-Proven Heroes (Luke 11:46-52)

Rewarded in Heaven (Luke 13:23-30; Matt. 5:12; Matt. 10:41)

6. How Can A Study of the Prophets Help Discipleship and Church Ministry Today?

Increase Biblical understanding

Volume, Variety

Need for Balance: Background and Textual Studies

The Prophets are...

Wielders of Sledgehammers

Profiles of Courage

Examples of Authenticity

People of Perception

On Reading the Prophets (empathetically)

A Transforming Opportunity to Know God, Then Speak For God