

Bible emphasis in presentation:

- As the **WORD OF GOD**
- As the **THREAD OF CHRIST**
- As a **PURPOSE FOR EACH BOOK**

22 Books of History & Poetry behind us, now 17 books of Prophecy to observe

OVERVIEW of the PROPHETIC BOOKS

Covering c.500 years of history – 900 to 400 BC

The prophetic books belong to the “dark ages” of God’s chosen people

4 prophets of greater importance (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel)

Isaiah & Jeremiah wrote pre-exile to Babylon

Ezekiel & Daniel wrote during the exile to Babylon

12 prophets of lesser importance (the 12 “Minor Prophets”)

Hosea through Zephaniah wrote pre-exile to Babylon (9 books)

Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi wrote post-exile to Babylon (3 books)

- ✓ The prophetic books are written to the Hebrew nation about the Hebrew nation
- ✓ There is no “church” in the prophets at all (though there are references to a “new covenant” to come and transferable concepts that relate to the church)
- ✓ **The prophets wrote about a coming Messiah – an anointed One of God who was like unto God Himself**
- ✓ Therefore the “thread of Jesus” is all through the prophets – often in vivid detail
- ✓ Many prophecies concerning Messiah are so specific that it gives us great assurance that the Bible is indeed the Word of God

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPHETS

The office of prophet began with **Samuel** – prophet voice to the early kings of Israel

Elijah (1 Kings) and **Elisha** (2 Kings) were prophets to the early divided kingdom

Neither wrote any words of prophesy – their ministry was works of miracle

Then came the **“major” and “minor” prophets** that we cover in today’s lesson

The New Testament opens 400 years later with the prophet **John the Baptist**

- ✓ The prophet was always a Hebrew
- ✓ A prophet was only sent while the Hebrew nation was not walking with God
- ✓ The prophets were fearless men with an unpopular message
 - They denounced the sins of their day
 - They exposed the cold formalism of their religion
 - They pointed men to the law of God
 - They came to relay God’s message of judgment
 - They came to relay God’s message of future events to come
- ✓ **There were 3 key elements** in the message of the prophets
 - A message of judgment to their own age
 - A message of predicted future events
 - Future judgment on Israel and surrounding nations
 - The coming of the Messiah – both in rejection and final glory
 - A message to our own age – eternal principles of right and wrong

17 HISTORICAL BOOKS + 5 EXPERIENTIAL BOOKS + 17 PROPHETIC BOOKS = O.T.

5 Books of Moses - the basis of Biblical history

12 Books of History (9 pre-exile, 3 post-exile)

5 Books of Poetry - the basis of Biblical experience

5 Major Prophets - the basis of Biblical prophecy

12 Minor Prophets (9 pre-exile, 3 post-exile)

CHRONOLOGICAL GROUPINGS OF THE OT PROPHETS

To	JONAH	(mp#5)862-830 BC
Northern	AMOS	(mp#3)787 BC
“Israel”	HOSEA	(mp#1)785-725 BC

Branch; and He will reign as king a act wisely and do justice and righteousness n the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The Lord our righteousness.' “

EZEKIEL – The Thread of Christ - “I Am Jehovah”

Ezekiel was a prophet to the Jews captive in Babylon

Ezekiel was a prophet of visions

- The divine throne above the 4 living creatures (chapter 1)
- The burning vine (chapter 15)
- The dry bones (chapter 37)

Ezekiel 1:26 Now above the expanse ... there was something resembling a throne ... and on that ..., high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man.

Ezekiel 37:12-14 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, “Thus says the Lord God, behold I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it, declares the Lord.”

DANIEL – The Thread of Christ – “The Giver of Life”

Daniel kept a clean heart and body; Ezekiel called him a model of righteousness

Daniel was a prophet of dreams

3 best-known stories

- Shadrack, Meshack & Abednigo in the fiery furnace (King Nebuchadnezzar – chap 3)
- The handwriting on the wall (King Belshazzar – chap 5)
- Daniel in the lion’s den (King Darius – chap 6)

Best-known prophecy - the “70 Weeks” of Daniel (the great Tribulation – chap.9)

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

MINOR PROPHETS – The Thread of Christ

Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.

Zechariah 6:12-13 Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.”

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.

Malachi 3:1-2 Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like a fullers’ soap.

Malachi 4:2 But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

ISAIAH The evangelist

“Messiah the King”

JEREMIAH The ‘weeping prophet”

“The Righteous Branch”

EZEKIEL	The prophet of visions	“I Am Jehovah”
DANIEL	The prophet of dreams	“The Giver of Life”