

A Study of the Prophets

OT Survey Lesson 102--Introduction to the Prophets

Introduction: Over the next year we will study a portion of the Old Testament that is often neglected by Bible students; but is one of great importance to our understanding of God's word. The last seventeen books of our O.T. are often referred to as "the prophets". The written messages of these men make up roughly a third of the whole O.T. Studying their messages will give us insight into God's view of human affairs and build our faith in the divine inspiration of their messages.

How "the Prophets" fit in the English Bible

1. In Bible drill classes perhaps you have learned that the English O.T. consists of five major divisions: 5 books of Law, 12 books of history, 5 books of poetry, 5 major prophets, 12 minor prophets totalling 39 books altogether.
2. Using your Bible's table of contents make a list of the five major prophetic books (beginning with Isaiah). Compare the length of Isaiah with Obadiah. Can you say why Isaiah might be classified among the "major" prophets while Obadiah is categorized among the "minor" prophets?
3. Make a list of the twelve minor prophets.
4. Note that the books are not arranged in chronological order. In class we will discuss this.

Prophets in the Old Testament

1. From the beginning God used prophets to reveal his will. In the early stages of man's history God spoke to the heads of families, who served as God's prophets. Who is mentioned as being a prophet in Genesis 20:1-7?
2. Who did Jesus imply was the first prophet of God? (Lk. 11:49-51)

3. What prophet is in a class all by himself because he gave the Law to the Jewish people? (Deut. 18:15-18)
4. Later God raised "oral" prophets to speak to his people about God's will. Peter indicates that _____ marks the beginning of the prophetic era (Ac. 3:24). Samuel lived during the days of the judges.
5. In the years that followed when kings were over Israel God used prophets to instruct and advise them. Look at these verses to find the names of some of those prophets: 2 Sam. 12:1 _____; 2 Sam. 24:11 _____; 1 Kgs. 11:29 _____; 1 Kgs. 12:21-22 _____; 1 Kg. 16:1 _____; 2 Chron. 20:37 _____; 1 Kg. 22:8 _____; 2 Kg. 14:25 _____.
6. Two of the most famous of the prophets living before the "literary" prophets are remembered for their miraculous works. Do you know who they are? (See 1 Kg. 16-2 Kg. 13)

The mission of prophets

1. What name is given to the prophets in 1 Chron 29:29. Why might this name have been given to the prophet? What else did God call his prophets? What did God say He did through his prophets?
2. How did prophets receive their office? (Jer. 1:4-10) God said, "I have put _____ into your _____".
3. A prophet would be best defined not as a foreteller of future events, but rather a "forthteller", a spokesman for God, whether about the present or the future. When God called Moses as a prophet to Pharaoh and the Israelites he appointed Aaron to be what two things? (Ex. 4:16; 7:1) What might we conclude then about what a prophet is?