

# The Prophets



THE MESSENGERS

& THE MESSAGE



# The Prophets

What is a Prophet?

Who are the Prophets?

The Prophets' Context

The Prophets' Call & Warning

The Prophets' Hope

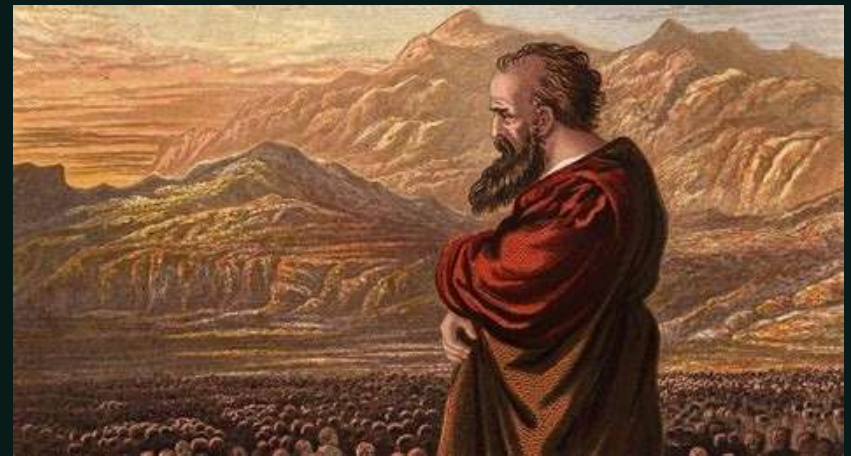




# What is a Prophet?

*“One who speaks forth on behalf of God, the infallible declaration of divine revelation, often but not restricted to what will come to pass.”*

- Biblical Doctrine





# Prophets that Worked. Prophets that Wrote.





Who are the Prophets?

The Messengers

# The Prophets of the Old Testament

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## THE MAJOR PROPHETS

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

## THE MINOR PROPHETS

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

# The Prophets' Context

Rebellion. From Genesis to Judges to Kings  
Syncretism. The Golden Calf & High Places  
Prosperity. The reigns of Uzziah & Jeroboam II  
Invasions. Assyria & Babylon loom



# The Prophets' Context

Rebellion. *Abortion/MAID, Marriage, Gender*  
Syncretism. *The Modern Church*  
Prosperity. *1<sup>st</sup> World Comforts (smartphones)*  
Invasions. *Lockdowns, Bill C-4, Global Tension*







# The Prophets' Message

The Call. The Warning.

# The Prophets of the Old Testament

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## PRE-EXILIC

- Isaiah/Jeremiah
- Hosea/Joel/Amos
- Obadiah/Nahum
- Jonah
- Micah
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah

## EXILIC

- Daniel
- Ezekiel

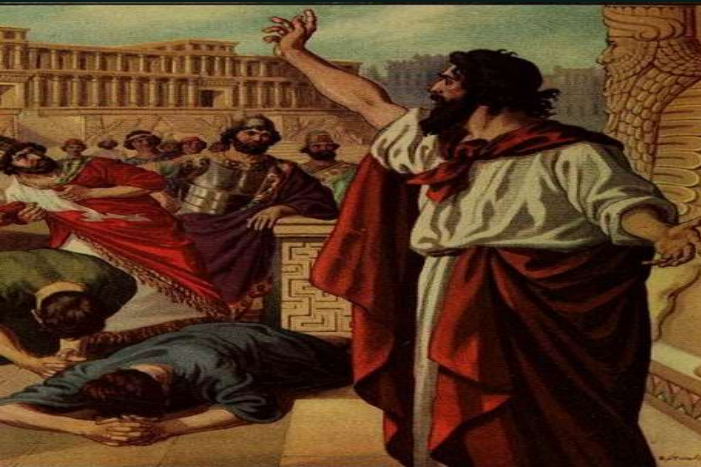
## POST-EXILIC

- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

# The Pre-Exilic Message

Before the Destruction (in the North) and Exile (in the South), the message of the prophets was three-fold:

Repent!





# Repent!

“Israel, you have violated the covenant and lived as rebels against your God.”

Isaiah 1:1-20



# Repent!

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“Covenant Violations” took 3 main forms before the Exile:

## Idolatry



## Idolatry

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*“Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.”*

- Isaiah 2:8

# Idolatry

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“As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed; they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets, *who say to a tree, ‘You are my father,’ and to a stone, ‘You gave me birth.’*”

- Jeremiah 2:26-27

# Idolatry

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- Hosea 4:17-19, 8:1-5 (see 1 Kings 12:25-33)
- Amos 5:25-26 (Jeroboam II)
- Micah 1:5 (Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah)
- Zephaniah 1:4-6 (Josiah)



# Repent!

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“Covenant Violations” had took 3 main forms before the Exile:

Idolatry



Social Injustice



# God's Law: Justice Defined

Justice for orphans, widows & sojourners  
(Deuteronomy 10:17-19, 24:17-22, 26:12-13)

Care for the poor (15:7-11)

“Legal” justice (19:15-21)

Just treatment of workers (24:14-15).



## Social Injustice

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“For wicked men are found among my people... they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of evil; *they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy.*”

- Jeremiah 5:26-28

## Social Injustice

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“(4:1) Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, *who oppress the poor, who crush the needy.* (5:11) *You trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him.*”

- Amos 4-5

# Repent!

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“Covenant Violations” had took 3 main forms before the Exile:

Idolatry



Social Injustice



Ritualism



## Ritualism

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*“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?”*  
says Yahweh; I have had enough of burnt offerings  
of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not  
delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of  
goats.”

- Isaiah 1:11

## Ritualism

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*“ Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? ...He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does Yahweh require of you but *to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?*”*

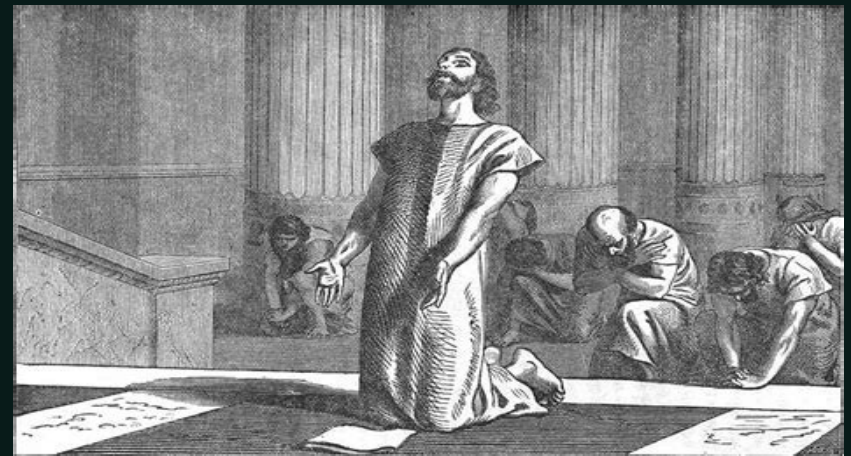
- Micah 6:7-8



# Ritualism: Fasting

“Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to Yahweh?”

Isaiah 58:1-7





# The Pre-Exilic Message

Before the Destruction (in the North) and Exile (in the South), the message of the prophets was three-fold:

Repent!



Judgment!



# Judgment

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*“ ‘Shall I not punish them for these things?’  
declares Yahweh, and shall I not avenge myself  
on a nation such as this?’”*

- Jeremiah 5:29

# Judgment

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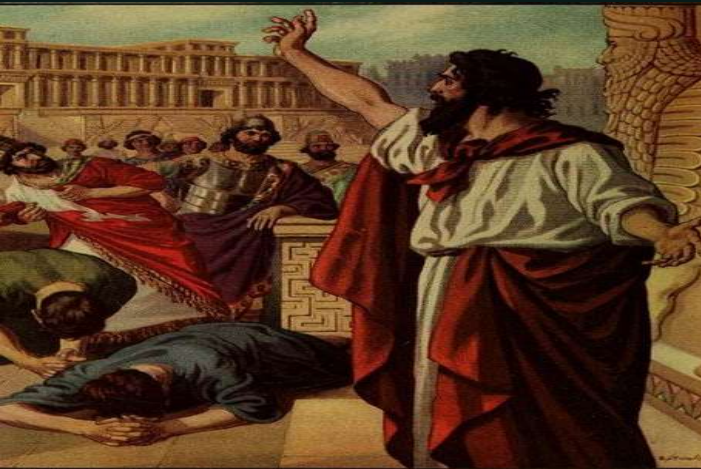
- Hosea 5:1, 9
- Amos 5:27
- Micah 1:2-7
- Zephaniah 1:4-6



# The Pre-Exilic Message

Before the Destruction (in the North) and Exile (in the South), the message of the prophets was three-fold:

Repent!



Judgment!



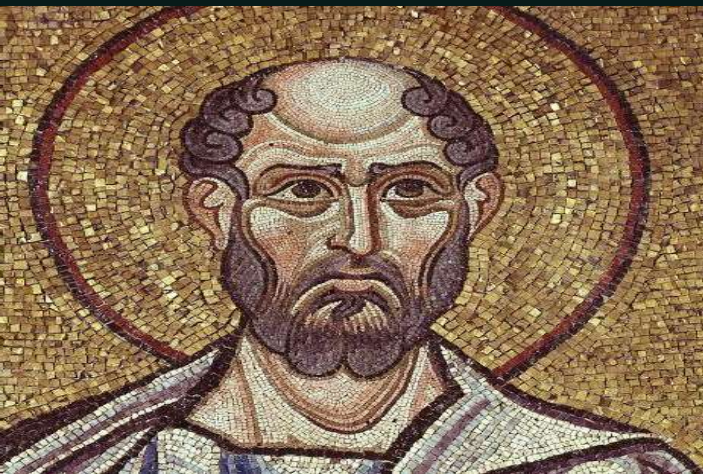
Restoration



# The Pre-Exilic Message

Some pre-exilic prophets, had a very specific call and message:

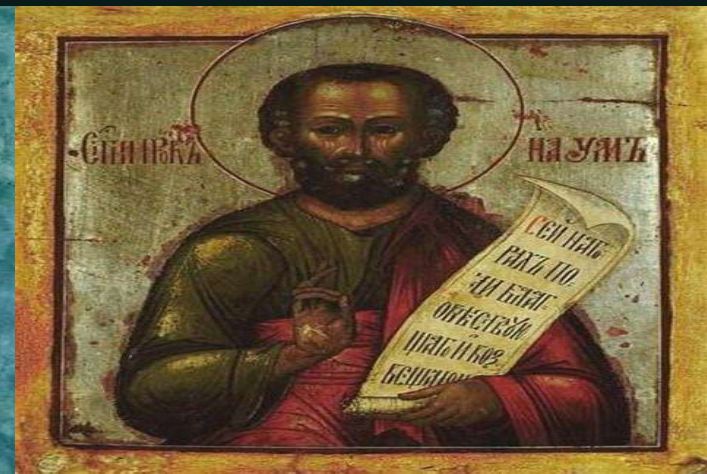
Obadiah



Jonah



Nahum



To Assyria... For Judah.

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“Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! *Keep your feasts O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.*”

- Nahum 1:15



## Jeremiah

(years of messages and ministry)



## Jonah

*“Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be  
overthrown.”* Jonah 3:4)



# The Exilic Message

Two prophets gave messages predominantly while Israel was in exile:

Ezekiel



Daniel





# The Post-Exilic Message

3 prophets delivered their message after the return of exiles to Jerusalem:

Haggai



Zechariah



Malachi



Restoration?

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*“In the second year of Darius the king.”*

- Haggai 1:1

*“In the eighth month... of Darius.”*

- Zechariah 1:1

## Post-Exilic Message

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“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house [of Yahweh] lies in ruins?”

- Haggai 1:4

## Post-Exilic Message

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“Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, *do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.*’”

- Zechariah 7:9-10

# Israel

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You were chosen and rebelled.



# Israel

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You were chosen and rebelled.

You continued and were judged.



# Israel

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You were chosen and rebelled.

You continued and were judged.

You were exiled and returned...



# Israel

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You were chosen and rebelled.

You continued and were judged.

You were exiled and returned...

...Faithfully, providentially... *So?*





# Malachi

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- “polluted offerings” (1:7)
- “corrupt priests” (2:8)
- “foreign marriages” (3:11)
- “you are robbing *me*” (3:8)



## Restoration

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“Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet *before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*”

- Malachi 4:5

# The Prophets: Recap

The Prophet's Call: Repent!

- *From Idolatry. Social Injustice. Ritualism*

The Prophet's Warning: Judgment!

- *Assyrian, Babylonian invasion looms*



Next Week

The Prophets' Hope



Questions?

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# POD Sign-Up

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Wednesday,  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sign up in foyer.

