

The Prophets

Presented July 28, 2024

The Lamplighters Class

According to **the Merriam-Webster Dictionary**, a prophet is “one who utters divinely inspired revelations; one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight; one who foretells future events; an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group.”

In the Bible, there were categories of prophets listed as major and minor, which is based on the length of their books in God’s Word. Major prophets tended to have longer books in the Bible (the book of Jeremiah is considered the longest) with broader topics, while minor prophets had shorter books that were more specific in topic. The prophets’ works held many prophecies given by God, so the determination of major and minor prophets was based on how long their books were in the Old Testament.

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah (Lamentations), Ezekiel, Daniel

Isaiah

Main Theme: Israel’s judgment and salvation

Here are familiar scriptures

Isaiah 2:4	Isaiah 6:8
Isaiah 40:31	Isaiah 9:6

Jeremiah

Main Theme: Judah’s unfaithfulness to God will be the cause of its destruction

Major events

Jeremiah called to be a prophet	Jeremiah 1
Prophecies concerning Judah Jeremiah 2-45	Jeremiah 2-45
Prophecies concerning other nations	Jeremiah 46-51
Epilogue	Jeremiah 52

Lamentations – Author probably Jeremiah

Main theme: Sin breeds destruction

Major events:

The devastation of Jerusalem	Lamentations 1
God gives the Israelites over to a desolate fate	Lamentations 2
Jeremiah is grieved over the Israelites, but he continues to trust in God	Lamentations 3
Contrast between Israel's former glory and present state of decay	Lamentations 4
The Israelites call out to God for mercy	Lamentations 5

Ezekiel

Main theme: God's expectations for Israel

Major events:

Ezekiel is called and commissioned by God	Ezekiel 1-3:27
Visions, warnings and predictions concerning the people's guilt and Jerusalem's pending destruction	Ezekiel 4-24
The fall of Jerusalem	Ezekiel 33:21
Predictions and promises outlining the nation's restoration	Ezekiel 33-48

Daniel

Main theme – God's sovereignty over the affairs of people

Major events:

Daniel and his three friends refuse to eat the king's food; instead they thrive on vegetables	Daniel 1
Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and is rewarded a position of power in the kingdom	Daniel 2
Divine intervention saves Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they are thrown into the fiery furnace	Daniel 3
Nebuchadnezzar goes mad and lives like a wild animal	Daniel 4
Daniel interprets the handwriting on the wall and tells King Belshazzar his days are numbered	Daniel 5
Divine intervention saves Daniel when he is thrown into the lion's den	Daniel 6
Visions and prophecies about God's hand in history	Daniel 7-12

MINOR Prophets

Hosea

Main theme: Rebelling against God is spiritual adultery

Major events:

God tells Hosea to marry an adulterous woman as a symbol of Israel's apostasy	Hosea 1-2:1
Israel punished and restored	Hosea 2:2-23
God's charge against Israel because of the people's unfaithfulness	Hosea 4-5:7
Israel condemned for rejecting God	Hosea 9:10-10:15
God loves Israel despite the fact the people "hardened their hearts" against Him	Hosea 11:1-11
Israel's sins and coming judgment because of their persistent rebellion	Hosea 11:13-13:16
Invitation for Israel to repent and be restored	Hosea 14:1-9

Joel

Main theme: The blessing of repentance

Major events:

A time of Judgment	Joel 1-2:10
Plague of locusts	Joel 1:4-9
Severe drought	Joel 1:10-20
Land devastated by invaders	Joel 2:1-10
People called to penitence and prayer	Joel 2:12-17
The deliverance and blessings to come	Joel 2:18-3:21

Amos

Main theme: Religious observances no substitute for showing mercy

Major events:

Impending judgments on the surrounding nations	Amos 1:3-15, 2:1-3
Discourses against Judah and Israel	Amos 2:4-5, 2:6-16
Israel called to sincerely seek God	Amos 5
Series of five visions portray the imminence of the Day of Doom and the dispersion of the northern tribes	Amos 7-9:10
A message of hope for the future	Amos 9:11-15

Obadiah

Main theme: God judges those who harm His people

Major events:

Edom's doom is announced	Obadiah 1:2-9
The reason for Edom's doom: Hostility toward Israel	Obadiah 1:10-14
The deliverance of Israel, the coming day of the Lord	Obadiah 1:15-21

Jonah

Main theme: Those who are shown mercy should not begrudge mercy to others

Major events:

Jonah called to preach in Nineveh but runs away to sea to escape God	Jonah 1:1-3
Jonah swallowed by a big fish	Jonah 1:4-17
Jonah's rescue and prayer of thanksgiving	Jonah 2:1-10
Jonah obeys when called to preach in Ninevah a second time	Jonah 3:1-10
Nineveh repents and Jonah resents God's mercy toward the city	Jonah 4:1-11

Micah

Main theme: Yahweh(God) is God of all nations

Major events:

God condemns the sins of Jerusalem and Samaria	Micah 1:2-16
Micah promises God will deliver the people	Micah 3-4
The birthplace of the Messiah foretold	Micah 5:2
God's case against Jerusalem because of the ingratitude	Micah 6:1-16
Micah's lament over fallen state of mankind	Micah 7:1-7
Hope for the future	Micah 7:8-20

Nahum

Main theme: Nineveh's coming judgment

Major events:

Nineveh's run and Judah's salvation	Nahum 1:9-2.2
Description of the siege of Nineveh	Nahum 2:3-2:13
Nahum's pronouncement of doom over Nineveh	Nahum 3

Habakkuk

Main theme: The mysteries of divine intervention

Major events

Habakkuk asks God why Judah's wickedness goes unpunished	Habakkuk 1:1-4
God reveals His plan to use the Babylonians as an instrument of justice	Habakkuk 1:5-11
Habakkuk asks how God can use "Wicked Heathen" to destroy righteous people	Habakkuk 1:12-17
God replies that the Babylonians will be judged, too	Habakkuk 2:2-20
Habakkuk's song of trust and delight in God	Habakkuk 3:1-19

Zephaniah

Main theme: The judgment of God in the *Day of the Lord*

Major events:

The lineage of Zephaniah	Zephaniah 1:1
Prophecy of the day of Yahweh coming against Judah	Zephaniah 1:2-18
Judgment on the surrounding area detailed	Zephaniah 2:1-3:8
The glorious future of Israel	Zephaniah 3:14-20

Haggai

Main theme: The role of the temple as part of the Jewish identity

Major events:

God speaks through Haggai; God's blessings are withheld because the temple has been left in ruins	Haggai 1:3-11
Word of encouragement as the rebuilding begins	Haggai 1:12-15
The future glory of the temple revealed	Haggai 2:1-9
God's message of hope to Zerubbabel	Haggai 2:20-23

Zechariah

Main theme: God's encouragement to those rebuilding the temple

Major events:

Vision 1: The Horsemen: God's return to Jerusalem	Zechariah 1:7-17
Vision 2: Four horns destroyed: The end of the captors	Zechariah 1:18-21
Vision 3: Jerusalem can't be measured: Return to prosperity	Zechariah 2:1-13
Vision 4: The high priest reinstated: The coming of the Davidic king	Zechariah 3:1-10
Vision 5: The lampstand and other trees: God's presence	Zechariah 4:1-14
Vision 6: The flying scroll: Evil banished from Judah	Zechariah 5:1-4
Vision 7: The woman in the basket: Wickedness exiled to Babylon	Zechariah 5:5-11
Vision 8: The four chariots: God rests and the high priest is crowned	Zechariah 6:1-15
The coming Messiah and the kingdom; punishment and reward will be meted	Zechariah 9:1-14:21

Malachi

Main theme: The dangers of spiritual apathy and indifference; many reforms needed to pave the way for the Messiah.

Major events:

The sins of the people and the priests- Failure to respond to God's love	Malachi 1:2
Dishonoring God's name	Malachi 1:6
Presenting sub-standard offerings	Malachi 1:7,8, 13-14
Priests corrupt the law	Malachi 2:1-8
Sinners honored	Malachi 2:17, 3:15
Titles withheld	Malachi 3:8
Impiety Justified	Malachi 3:14
Social sins	
Intermarriage with unbelievers	Malachi 2:11
Sorcery, impurity, oppression	Malachi 3:5
Bright promises	
Outpouring of great blessing	Malachi 3:10-12
The saints become God's special treasure	Malachi 3:16-18
A new day of righteousness	Malachi 4:2-3
The promise of a great spiritual reformer; a second Elijah	Malachi 4:5-6