

The Prophetic Books

The importance of studying the prophetic books is clear from the number of these books in the Bible. Most of the prophetic books are in the Old Testament. There is a total of 17 Prophetic books in the Bible: 4 Major Prophets and 12 Minor Prophets in the Old Testament, in addition to the book of Revelations in the New Testament.

Beside the main books you have many passages scattered across the Bible of prophetic nature.

Major

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

→ *The term "major" refers to their length, not their importance.*

Minor

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

→ *The term "minor" refers to the books' lengths, not their importance.*

The Meaning Of the Prophecy

A Prophecy is news of events that will come to fulfillment in the future. For example, Isaiah prophesied of Christ's virgin birth. (Isaiah 7:14)

A prophecy is not merely foretelling of events that have not happened yet, but it is a message to the listeners at the time of the telling.

1. A warning message (EX: Isaiah 3:5-23) (Jeremiah 11: 1-8)
2. A message of comfort (EX: Isaiah 11:1-16)

Thus the past, present and future intermingle. The prophecy becomes relevant not only to the original people it was directed to, but it is relevant to every generation, including us.

Who's the Prophet

A Prophet is the human being whose eyes are opened to the will of God and transfers it to the people. The Role of the prophet is distinctly different from the role of the priest. The Priest takes what's of the people and offers it in front of God, from their circumstances, problems, etc. However the prophet is he who takes from God and gives to the people. The two roles could be adopted by one individual such as Samuel, but either of these roles is a calling from God.

The Method of delivering of a prophecy

1. Through words (EX: Isaiah 1)
2. Through Example (EX: Hosea marries a harlot 1:2-5) (Ezekiel cuts his hair 5:1-4)
3. Or through Metaphoric actions (Ex: Jeremiah 13:1-11)

The Features of Prophecies

- A prophecy usually doesn't refer to only one time period but multiple; which means a prophecy could be fulfilled multiple times over the ages. Some prophecies reference events which transpired in the past, events that are currently transpiring (at the time of the telling), events that will transpire in the near future, and events which will transpire in the distant future.
- Example: Hosea 11:1
 - When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.
 - References an event in the past: The exodus from the land of Egypt
 - It's a prophecy of the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Land of Egypt, when He escaped from Herod.
 - It talks about the distant future. Refer to:
 - Isaiah 11:11-12
 - Isaiah 61:1-3
 - 1 Chronicles 17:12-13
- Most of the Prophetic books were written as poetry, so we need to understand the rules of the Hebrew poetry, to gain a deeper understanding of the meanings.
- Some Prophetic books can not be read as a single book, because in actuality they are a collection of multiple prophecies that were written long and far apart. As an example,
 - Isaiah 1-39 were written around 700 Before Christ, while 40-66 were written around 681 Before Christ.
 - Amos also prophesies about multiple cities.
- Many times we might get confused because we can not tell when the words of the Lord stop and the commentary of the prophet starts, thus we must realize that the personality of the prophet is actually hidden behind and becomes united with the word of God, that the Word of God becomes all in all.

Application

- Study Isaiah 1

Appendix A:

Isaiah 3

New King James Version (NKJV)

Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem

3 For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts,

Takes away from Jerusalem and from Judah
The stock and the store,
The whole supply of bread and the whole supply of water;
2 The mighty man and the man of war,
The judge and the prophet,
And the diviner and the elder;
3 The captain of fifty and the honorable man,
The counselor and the skillful artisan,
And the expert enchanter.
4 "I will give children *to be* their princes,
And babes shall rule over them.
5 The people will be oppressed,
Every one by another and every one by his neighbor;
The child will be insolent toward the elder,
And the base toward the honorable."
6 When a man takes hold of his brother
In the house of his father, *saying*,
"You have clothing;
You be our ruler,
And *let* these ruins *be* under your power,"^[a]
7 In that day he will protest, saying,
"I cannot cure *your* ills,
For in my house *is* neither food nor clothing;
Do not make me a ruler of the people."
8 For Jerusalem stumbled,
And Judah is fallen,
Because their tongue and their doings
Are against the Lord,
To provoke the eyes of His glory.
9 The look on their countenance witnesses against them,
And they declare their sin as Sodom;
They do not hide *it*.
Woe to their soul!
For they have brought evil upon themselves.
10 "Say to the righteous that *it shall be* well *with them*,
For they shall eat the fruit of their doings.
11 Woe to the wicked! *It shall be* ill *with him*,
For the reward of his hands shall be given him.
12 *As for* My people, children *are* their oppressors,
And women rule over them.
O My people! Those who lead you cause *you* to err,
And destroy the way of your paths."

Oppression and Luxury Condemned

13 The Lord stands up to plead,
And stands to judge the people.

14 The Lord will enter into judgment
With the elders of His people
And His princes:

“For you have eaten up the vineyard;
The plunder of the poor *is* in your houses.

15 What do you mean by crushing My people
And grinding the faces of the poor?”
Says the Lord God of hosts.

16 Moreover the Lord says:

“Because the daughters of Zion are haughty,
And walk with outstretched necks
And wanton eyes,
Walking and mincing *as* they go,
Making a jingling with their feet,

17 Therefore the Lord will strike with a scab
The crown of the head of the daughters of Zion,
And the Lord will uncover their secret parts.”

18 In that day the Lord will take away the finery:
The jingling anklets, the scarves, and the crescents;

19 The pendants, the bracelets, and the veils;

20 The headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands;
The perfume boxes, the charms,

21 and the rings;
The nose jewels,

22 the festal apparel, and the mantles;
The outer garments, the purses,

23 and the mirrors;
The fine linen, the turbans, and the robes.

24 And so it shall be:

Instead of a sweet smell there will be a stench;
Instead of a sash, a rope;
Instead of well-set hair, baldness;
Instead of a rich robe, a girding of sackcloth;
And branding instead of beauty.

25 Your men shall fall by the sword,
And your mighty in the war.

26 Her gates shall lament and mourn,
And she *being* desolate shall sit on the ground.

Jeremiah 11

The Broken Covenant

11 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, **2** "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; **3** and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Cursed *is* the man who does not obey the words of this covenant **4** which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God,' **5** that I may establish the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them 'a land flowing with milk and honey,'^[a] as *it is* this day.'"

And I answered and said, "So be it, Lord."

6 Then the Lord said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying: 'Hear the words of this covenant and do them. **7** For I earnestly exhorted your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, until this day, rising early and exhorting, saying, "Obey My voice." **8** Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded *them* to do, but *which* they have not done.'"

The Reign of Jesse's Offspring

11 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight *is* in the fear of the Lord,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;

And a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea.

10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious."

11 It shall come to pass in that day
That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time
To recover the remnant of His people who are left,
From Assyria and Egypt,
From Pathros and Cush,
From Elam and Shinar,
From Hamath and the islands of the sea.

12 He will set up a banner for the nations,
And will assemble the outcasts of Israel,
And gather together the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth.

13 Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart,
And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not envy Judah,
And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

14 But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the
west;

Together they shall plunder the people of the East;
They shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab;
And the people of Ammon shall obey them.

15 The Lord will utterly destroy^[a] the tongue of the Sea of Egypt;
With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River,^[b]
And strike it in the seven streams,
And make *men* cross over dry-shod.

16 There will be a highway for the remnant of His people
Who will be left from Assyria,
As it was for Israel
In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 5

A Sword Against Jerusalem

5 "And you, son of man, take a sharp sword, take it as a barber's razor, and pass *it* over your head and your beard; then take scales to weigh and divide the *hair*. **2** You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are finished; then you shall take one-third and strike around *it* with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them. **3** You shall also take a small number of them and bind them in the edge of your *garment*. **4** Then take some of them again and throw them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire. From there a fire will go out into all the house of Israel.

Isaiah 1

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

The Wickedness of Judah

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth!
For the Lord has spoken:
"I have nourished and brought up children,
And they have rebelled against Me;
3 The ox knows its owner
And the donkey its master's crib;
But Israel does not know,
My people do not consider."
4 Alas, sinful nation,
A people laden with iniquity,
A brood of evildoers,
Children who are corrupters!
They have forsaken the Lord,
They have provoked to anger
The Holy One of Israel,
They have turned away backward.
5 Why should you be stricken again?
You will revolt more and more.
The whole head is sick,
And the whole heart faints.
6 From the sole of the foot even to the head,
There is no soundness in it,

But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores;
They have not been closed or bound up,
Or soothed with ointment.
7 Your country *is* desolate,
Your cities *are* burned with fire;
Strangers devour your land in your presence;
And *it is* desolate, as overthrown by strangers.
8 So the daughter of Zion is left as a booth in a vineyard,
As a hut in a garden of cucumbers,
As a besieged city.
9 Unless the Lord of hosts
Had left to us a very small remnant,
We would have become like Sodom,
We would have been made like Gomorrah.
10 Hear the word of the Lord,
You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the law of our God,
You people of Gomorrah:
11 "To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?"
Says the Lord.
"I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle.
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
Or of lambs or goats.
12 "When you come to appear before Me,
Who has required this from your hand,
To trample My courts?
13 Bring no more futile sacrifices;
Incense is an abomination to Me.
The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—
I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.
14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts
My soul hates;
They are a trouble to Me,
I am weary of bearing *them*.
15 When you spread out your hands,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Even though you make many prayers,
I will not hear.
Your hands are full of blood.
16 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.
Cease to do evil,
17 Learn to do good;

Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor; [a]
Defend the fatherless,
Plead for the widow.
18 "Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says the Lord,
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.
19 If you are willing and obedient,
You shall eat the good of the land;
20 But if you refuse and rebel,
You shall be devoured by the sword";
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Degenerate City

21 How the faithful city has become a harlot!
It was full of justice;
Righteousness lodged in it,
But now murderers.
22 Your silver has become dross,
Your wine mixed with water.
23 Your princes *are* rebellious,
And companions of thieves;
Everyone loves bribes,
And follows after rewards.
They do not defend the fatherless,
Nor does the cause of the widow come before them.
24 Therefore the Lord says,
The Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel,
"Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries,
And take vengeance on My enemies.
25 I will turn My hand against you,
And thoroughly purge away your dross,
And take away all your alloy.
26 I will restore your judges as at the first,
And your counselors as at the beginning.
Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city."
27 Zion shall be redeemed with justice,
And her penitents with righteousness.
28 The destruction of transgressors and of sinners *shall be* together,
And those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

29 For they^[b] shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees
Which you have desired;
And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens
Which you have chosen.

30 For you shall be as a terebinth whose leaf fades,
And as a garden that has no water.

31 The strong shall be as tinder,
And the work of it as a spark;
Both will burn together,
And no one shall quench *them*.

Hosea 1

New King James Version (NKJV)

1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

The Family of Hosea

2 When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea:

“Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry
And children of harlotry,
For the land has committed great harlotry
By *departing* from the Lord.”

3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. **4** Then the Lord said to him:

“Call his name Jezreel,
For in a little *while*
I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu,
And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

5 It shall come to pass in that day
That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

Jeremiah 13

New King James Version (NKJV)

Symbol of the Linen Sash

13 Thus the Lord said to me: “Go and get yourself a linen sash, and put it around your waist, but do not put it in water.” **2** So I got a sash according to the word of the Lord, and put *it* around my waist.

3 And the word of the Lord came to me the second time, saying, **4** “Take

the sash that you acquired, which *is* around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates,^[a] and hide it there in a hole in the rock.” 5 So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the Lord commanded me.

6 Now it came to pass after many days that the Lord said to me, “Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the sash which I commanded you to hide there.” 7 Then I went to the Euphrates and dug, and I took the sash from the place where I had hidden it; and there was the sash, ruined. It was profitable for nothing.

8 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 9 “Thus says the Lord: ‘In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.

10 This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing. 11 For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me,’ says the Lord, ‘that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear.’

Hosea 11

New King James Version (NKJV)

God’s Continuing Love for Israel

11 “When Israel *was* a child, I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son.

2 As they called them,^[a]
So they went from them;^[b]
They sacrificed to the Baals,
And burned incense to carved images.

3 “I taught Ephraim to walk,
Taking them by their arms;^[c]
But they did not know that I healed them.

4 I drew them with gentle cords,^[d]
With bands of love,
And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck.^[e]
I stooped *and* fed them.

5 “He shall not return to the land of Egypt;
But the Assyrian shall be his king,
Because they refused to repent.

6 And the sword shall slash in his cities,
Devour his districts,
And consume *them*,
Because of their own counsels.

7 My people are bent on backsliding from Me.
Though they call to the Most High,^[f]
None at all exalt *Him*.
8 "How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I set you like Zeboiim?
My heart churns within Me;
My sympathy is stirred.
9 I will not execute the fierceness of My anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim.
For I *am* God, and not man,
The Holy One in your midst;
And I will not come with terror.^[g]
10 "They shall walk after the Lord.
He will roar like a lion.
When He roars,
Then *His* sons shall come trembling from the west;
11 They shall come trembling like a bird from Egypt,
Like a dove from the land of Assyria.
And I will let them dwell in their houses,"
Says the Lord.

Isaiah 61

New King James Version (NKJV)

The Good News of Salvation

61 "The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
3 To console those who mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes,
The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

1 Chronicles 17

New King James Version (NKJV)

God's Covenant with David

17 Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord *is* under tent curtains."

2 Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that *is* in your heart, for God *is* with you."

3 But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, **4** "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: "You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. **5** For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from *one* tabernacle *to another*. **6** Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar-'" **7** Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. **8** And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a name like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth. **9** Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, **10** since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel. Also I will subdue all your enemies. Furthermore I tell you that the Lord will build you a house.^[a] **11** And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. **12** He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. **13** I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* who was before you. **14** And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.'"

15 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.