

Intro

The Prophetic Table

Session 00000

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the significance of the placement of the Former and Latter Prophets in the canon.
- Define the role of a prophet.

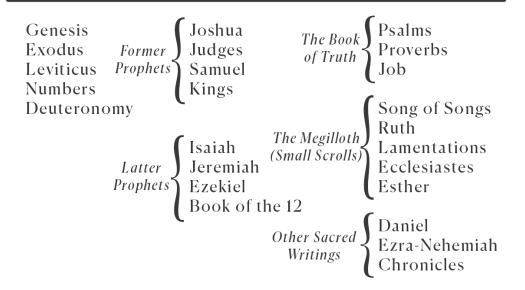
THE STORY SO FAR

The story so far has been structured according to the *covenants* and the narrative *problems*.

Covenants	Problems

THE PROPHETS IN THE CANON

The prophetic section of our Bibles is notoriously difficult to read because of its length, poetic nature, and scope. First, note its place in the canon of Scripture. The structure of the Prophets in the Hebrew Bible is different from that in our English Bibles. The Hebrew Bible has a threefold structure consisting of the *Torah* (Law/instruction), *Nevi'im* (Prophets) and the *Ketuvim* (Writings). Notice in the below chart what is included in the "Prophets". Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings make up the "Former Prophets" and are a narrative of Israel's history from their acquisition of the Promised Land to their devastating loss of the land through exile. The "Latter Prophets," however, are not narrative but a poetic commentary on the story.



Narrative Story Line

Torah

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Neviim

Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings

Poetic Commentary

Latter Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Book of the Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

Ketuvim

The Book of Truth: Psalms, Proverbs, Job

The Megilloth (Small Scrolls): Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

Narrative Story Line

Other Sacred Writings: (Esther) Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles

Together, the Former an	of the covenants	
and an	of Israel according to them.	

WHO WERE THE PROPHETS?

What was a prophet?

	_	_	
How can	we organiz	e the or	onhets?

Date of the Assyrian Captivity:

Date of the Babylonian Captivity:

Prophet	King(s)	Years of the Kings ¹
	Uzziah	792-740
Isaiah	Jotham	750–731
isalali	Ahaz	735–715
	Hezekiah	729–686
	Josiah	640-609
Jeremiah	Jehoiakim	608-598
	Zedekiah	597–586
Ezekiel	Jehoiachin	598-97
	Uzziah	792–740
	Jotham	750–731
Hosea	Ahaz	735-715
	Hezekiah	729–686
	Jeroboam II	793–753
Joel		
Amos	Uzziah	792–740
VIIIO2	Jeroboam II	793-753
Obadiah		
lonah	(2 Kings 14:25,	793–753
Jonah	Jeroboam II)	
	Jotham	750-731
Micah	Ahaz	735–715
	Hezekiah	729–686
Nahum		(ca. 650)
Habakkuk		(ca. 640–615)
Zephaniah	Josiah	640-609
Haggai		520
Zechariah		520
Malachi		

¹The dates in this table follow those found in Eugene H. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987), 320.

Not only were prophets covenant enforcers, they were also How should we understand the prophetic messages?				
How should we read the Prophets?				
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				

CONCLUSION

Consider these thoughts this week:

- Are there elements of the prophetic writings that make it difficult for you to understand them? What can you do this Fall to overcome those difficulties and increase your knowledge of the Prophets?
- How does thinking about prophets as *covenant enforcers* change our perspective on them?

HOMEWORK

- Read pp.346-364 in *Old Testament Theology* by Paul House
- Watch The Bible Projects' video on the <u>TaNak</u>

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