



# 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
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### 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.

TORAH		NEVI'IM		KETUVIM				
LAW		PROPHETS		WRITINGS				
Genesis	<i>Former Prophets</i>	{	Joshua	<i>The Book of Truth</i>	{	Psalms		
Exodus							Judges	Proverbs
Leviticus							Samuel	Job
Numbers							Kings	
Deuteronomy								
	<i>Latter Prophets</i>	{	Isaiah	<i>The Megilloth (Small Scrolls)</i>	{	Song of Songs		
							Jeremiah	Ruth
							Ezekiel	Lamentations
							Book of the 12	Ecclesiastes
								Esther
				<i>Other Sacred Writings</i>	{	Daniel		
							Ezra-Nehemiah	
							Chronicles	

### 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 and Latter Prophets are an \_\_\_\_\_ of the covenants

and an \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel according to them.

## WHO WERE THE PROPHETS?

What was a prophet?

How can we organize the prophets?

Date of the Assyrian Captivity:

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Date of the Babylonian Captivity:

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

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

## **HOW DID THEY SAY WHAT THEY SAID?**

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 TaNak

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