



Office of The Prophet

Living Word Christian Center

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THE PROPHETS: THEIR MESSAGE—THEN AND NOW

The prophets were called and chosen by God to do two things:

- ⇒ to proclaim God's salvation to man
- ⇒ to prophesy and predict how God was going to save man

Both functions were necessary. The prophet had to proclaim salvation to the people of his own generation and to predict how God was going to save the people of all generations. But note: the predictions of the future salvation were not the prophet's own predictions. He had not been called to proclaim his own ideas or message; he had been called to proclaim the salvation of God Himself. He was a man given a very special call, a call to the most important task in all the world: the task of proclaiming the glory and wonder of God's salvation. God was making it possible for man to be saved and to live eternally.

The prophet conveyed the salvation of God...

- by pointing out the sins of the people
- by warning the people about the terrible and certain consequences of sin, the discipline and judgment of God
- by encouraging the people to repent by wholeheartedly turning back to God, worshipping Him and Him alone
- by proclaiming God's eternal plan of salvation and blessings to those who would believe

Speaking of the prophets, Peter Adams writes, "To respond to God's words is to respond to God."

"But those things, which God before had showed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" ([Acts 3:18-26](#)).

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF THE PROPHETS

NAME	DATE
Abel	Right after creation
Noah	At least seven generations after Adam
Abraham	2000 B.C.
Joseph	1900-1885 B.C.
Jacob/Israel	1858 B.C.
Moses	1405 B.C.
Deborah	1220 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Rebuked Israel for fearing idols	1210 B.C.
Samuel	1095-1015 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Rebuked Eli and his house for profaning the temple	1085 B.C.
David	1029-971 B.C.
Gad	1015-950 B.C.
Asaph	1004 B.C.
Nathan	1003-931 B.C.
Heman	971 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Rebuked King Jeroboam I for his idolatry	931 B.C.
Ahijah	931-910 B.C.
Shemaiah	926 B.C.
Iddo	910 B.C.
Azariah	896 B.C.
Jehu	886 B.C.
Hanani	870 B.C.
Elijah	860-845 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Prophesied a victory over the Syrians	856 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Prophesied total victory over the Syrians	855 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Rebuked King Ahab for sparing the evil Ben-Hadad	855 B.C.

Micaiah	853 B.C.
Elisha	850-795 B.C.
Eliezer	849-848 B.C.
Obadiah	845 B.C.
Joel	830 B.C.
Zechariah, son of Jehoiada	797 B.C.
Hosea	788-723 B.C.
Jonah	780-765 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Rebuked King Amaziah for his idolatry	767 B.C.
<i>Unnamed prophet</i> Warned King Amaziah not to hire Israel's army	767 B.C.
Amos	750 B.C.
Isaiah	740-690 B.C.
Micah	735-725 B.C.
Oded	733 B.C.
Nahum	663-612 B.C.
Zephaniah	640-609 B.C.
Jeremiah	627-562 B.C.
Huldah	623 B.C.
Habakkuk	615-598 B.C.
Urijah	608 B.C.
Daniel	605-535 B.C.
Ezekiel	593-571 B.C.
Haggai	520 B.C.
Zechariah, son of Berechiah	520-518 B.C.
Malachi	430 B.C.
Anna	4 B.C.
John the Baptist	A.D. 26
Paul	A.D. 35-64
Agabus	A.D. 43
John the Apostle	A.D. 95

THE PROPHETS

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>ABEL (BREATH)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Adam (Genesis 4:2). 2. Was called a prophet by Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:34-35; Luke 11:50-51). 3. Kept the flocks of animals (Genesis 4:2). 4. Brought an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice to God (Genesis 4:4). 5. Was murdered by his brother, Cain (Genesis 4:8). 6. Was avenged by God (Genesis 4:9-12). <p>Predictions and Messages By example he taught that a person must approach God through the sacrifice of a substitute offering (Genesis 4:4).</p> <p>Scripture References Genesis 4:1-16; Matthew 23:34-39; Luke 11:47-51; Hebrews 11:4; Hebrews 12:24</p>	<p>Time <i>The first years after creation, when Adam was still alive.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Outside the garden of Eden, where man first began to farm.</i></p>	<p>Abel's message is seen in his worship. Note what Abel did: when he approached the LORD, he brought an animal, a blood sacrifice. Why? Because his father, Adam, had taught him to approach God through the sacrifice of an animal. God taught Adam...</p> <p>⇒ that sin causes death. ⇒ that an innocent substitute had to sacrificially die in order to clothe man's shame and guilt ⇒ that thereafter man could only approach God through the sacrificial death of an innocent substitute</p> <p>Thus Abel pointed forward to Christ, the perfect sacrifice. He may not have completely understood, but Abel did approach God through the blood sacrifice, just as his father had taught him. Abel had <i>faith</i>. He believed that God would forgive his sins and accept him through the sacrifice of an innocent life. And note the remarkable testimony Scripture gives about Abel's faith in the coming Savior: Abel even today, although dead, testifies of Christ</p>	<p>No person can earn, win, or merit salvation. No person can approach God through his own works, energy, efforts, fruits, ways, religion, ceremony or ritual. The reason is clearly evident: no person is perfect. We have a sin problem and a death problem that has to be taken care of before we can ever become acceptable to God. God has taken care of this in the sacrifice of His Son for our sins. Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself and died for them. This is what the sacrifice of the innocent life symbolized in the Old Testament.</p> <p>Just like Abel, we must believe God, believe that the death (the blood) of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ covers our sins. God accepts no person apart from Jesus Christ, the promised seed and Savior of the world. God has never accepted any person apart from the shedding of the blood of His dear Son. The blood of Christ had to be shed for all persons through all the generations of human history. Apart from Christ, apart from accepting His sacrifice, no person can be</p>

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		<p>(Hebrews 11:4). What a striking legacy Abel left to the world!</p> <p>"And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering" (Genesis 4:4).</p> <p>"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4).</p> <p>"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel" (Hebrews 12:24).</p>	<p>saved from sin. No person can escape the judgment of death and hell apart from Christ.</p> <p>"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:33).</p> <p>"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6).</p> <p>"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3).</p> <p>"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" (Ephes. 5:2).</p>

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<p>AGABUS (LOCUST)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lived in Judea near Jerusalem (Acts 21:10). Ministered among a company of prophets (Acts 11:27-28). Prophesied with the words of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:28; Acts 21:11). Spoke for the prophets (Acts 11:28). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A severe famine would come to the entire Roman world (Acts 11:28). The Apostle Paul would be bound and taken prisoner, and eventually killed (Acts 21:11-13). <p>Scripture References Acts 11:27-30; Acts 21:10-14</p>	<p>Time <i>A.D. 43, at the beginning of the terrible persecution of Agrippa.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Antioch of Syria, where the followers of Jesus Christ were first called Christians.</i></p>	<p>Agabus prophesied two future events by the Spirit of God.</p> <p>First, Agabus prophesied that a great famine would occur. The disciples accepted the message given and gathered funds and stores of food to be used for those in need. Note this fact: the disciples did not waste time questioning God; they simply acted immediately on the information given, doing what was necessary for the church to continue.</p> <p>Some time later, Agabus prophesied that the Gentiles (or Romans) would take the Apostle Paul prisoner. Despite the danger of suffering and persecution, and eventually death, Paul was unhindered in his mission to preach the gospel. Knowing the prophecy, the fire of devotion within Paul burned all the more. Why? Because Paul trusted God. He understood that nothing is out of God's control. He firmly believed that as long as he continued to do the will of the Lord, the Lord would richly bless his labor for the gospel.</p> <p>"And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Giving is essential. Believers must give to those in need. And they should practice regular giving, not waiting for some disaster to strike and then scrambling for a solution to the problem. Giving should be a regular habit of the believer so the mission of the church can be carried out, even in difficult times. Believers will suffer. Believers suffer by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ being ridiculed ⇒ being mocked ⇒ being assaulted ⇒ being spoken evil of ⇒ being gossiped about ⇒ being slandered ⇒ being reviled ⇒ being insulted ⇒ being scolded ⇒ being falsely accused ⇒ being put on trial ⇒ even being murdered <p>But suffering is necessary. First of all, believers must live out the calling given to them by the Lord no matter how unpleasant, no matter what the cost. Second, suffering prepares the believer to participate in the glory of Christ. It is the necessary condition for exaltation. Suffering and struggling are a refining process through which the believer must pass. It refines the believer by forcing him to expand his</p>

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		<p>signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world" (Acts 11:27-28).</p> <p>"And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles" (Acts 21:10-11).</p>	<p>trust in God more and more. Suffering drives a believer to cast himself more and more upon the care of God; therefore, the believer moves closer and closer to the Lord praying, worshipping and fellowshiping with him more and more.</p> <p>God is in complete control of every situation. Sometimes He allows unpleasant trials to come our way, but this is all according to His will, according to His plan for our lives. We must trust God no matter what and do all we can to understand His will and to do it.</p> <p>"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12).</p> <p>"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (Phil. 1:29).</p> <p>"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the</p>

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			<p>appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:6-7).</p>
<p>AHIJAH (BROTHER IN JEHOVAH/ YAHWEH) THE SHILONITE</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lived in Shiloh (1 Kings 11:29). Called to minister during the time of Solomon and Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:28-29). Became blind in his old age (1 Kings 	<p>Time <i>The end of Solomon's reign, just before 931 B.C. until 910 B.C., near the end of the reign of Jero-boam I.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Ahijah's first prophecy was given in the countryside, just outside</i></p>	<p><i>Israel was divided because the king and people had forsaken God, engaged in false worship, disobeyed God's commandments and refused to walk in the ways of the LORD.</i></p> <p><i>Jeroboam, Solomon's very own trusted servant, became king over the Northern Kingdom just as Ahijah predicted. But when King Jeroboam displayed a life of wickedness and idolatry, judgment fell on him and on his entire</i></p>	<p>If we continue in sin and wickedness and become involved in false worship, we will face the judgment of God. God will chastise and discipline us in order to bring us back to Him. God is zealous for us and will not allow us to chase after worldly affections, not for long. If we refuse to repent, we will face the judgment of God's hand. Even future generations may suffer and bear the brunt of our sins, suffering the great and</p>

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<p>14:4).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The division of the nation of Israel into two kingdoms—the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (1 Kings 11:31). The death of Abijah, the son of King Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:9-13). The destruction of the entire family of King Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:10-13). The captivity and exile of Israel to a foreign land (1 Kings 14:14-16). <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 11:29-39; 1 Kings 12:15; 1 Kings 14:4-16; 2 Chron. 9:29</p>	<p><i>Jerusalem.</i> <i>Later, after the division of the kingdom, Ahijah ministered in his hometown of Shiloh, preaching mainly to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.</i></p>	<p><i>household, beginning with the immediate death of his own son.</i></p> <p>Eventually, all Israel would go into captivity, because they would not repent of their wickedness, nor turn from the state religion of idolatry and false worship instituted by Jerusalem.</p> <p>"And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee" (1 Kings 11:31).</p> <p>"But [you] hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back: Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam," ...Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. ...For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the</p>	<p>terrible consequences of God's wrath.</p> <p>"The LORD knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (2 Peter 2:9).</p> <p>"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:2).</p> <p>"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Proverbs 3:11-12).</p> <p>"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:5-6).</p>

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		river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger" (1 Kings 14:9-10, 12, 15).	
<p>AMOS (BURDEN-BEARER)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lived in Tekoa, on the edge of the Judean desert (Amos 1:1). Worked as a shepherd and as a farmer of sycamore trees (Amos 1:1; Amos 7:14). Wrote the book of Amos. Preached fiery sermons and saw startling visions. <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A sermon about God's coming judgment on sinful nations, including Israel (Amos 1:1-4:13). A sermon about the need for seeking God with the whole heart (Amos 5:1-27). A sermon warning the people not to be greedy (Amos 6:4-14). The vision of locusts—a picture of the crops being destroyed by the 	<p>Time <i>About 750 B.C., near the end of the rule of Jeroboam II in Israel and during the long reign of Uzziah in Judah.</i></p> <p><i>The time in which Amos preached was a very prosperous time economically and financially for the people of Israel, but not spiritually. Spiritually the hearts of the people were filled with greed, so much so that they oppressed the poor without mercy.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Israel, the Northern Kingdom.</i></p>	<p><i>God will judge sin wherever it is found. No sinner is exempt from judgment. Without genuine repentance, God's judgment will surely fall upon the sinner.</i></p> <p><i>Amos focused upon one theme, one subject: the coming judgment of God upon those who refused to turn from sin. Despite persecution and death threats, Amos faithfully continued to preach the messages given him by God, a series of blistering sermons against the sins of arrogance and pride.</i></p> <p>"Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel" (Amos 4:12).</p> <p>"Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel" (Amos 7:14-15).</p>	<p>Worldly gain, such as riches, social position, heritage, even religion will not save a person. Such things can be good if they are used to help the poor or advance God's kingdom. But when a person uses worldly gain just for the purpose of more worldly gain, God's judgment is sure to fall upon that person.</p> <p>At least two major applications can be seen in the prophecies of Amos.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Just think of the people gripped by greed who push aside the needs of others... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ to make themselves more comfortable ⇒ to buy some luxury ⇒ to enjoy more leisure time ⇒ to hoard more riches <p>Shockingly, some people are so gripped by greed, they even assault and murder in order to gain more and more. Unbelievably, they consider human life worthless if it stands in the way of their gaining more riches.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The minister of God must boldly preach the Word of God. He must not form his sermon based on

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<p>ferocious insects, but Amos interceded and God had mercy (Amos 7:1-3).</p> <p>5. The vision of fire—a picture of the fields being destroyed, but Amos interceded and God had mercy (Amos 7:4-5).</p> <p>6. The vision of a plumb line—a picture of the crookedness of Israel (Amos 7:7-9).</p> <p>7. The vision of a basket of fruit—a picture of the rottenness of Israel's sin (Amos 8:1-3).</p> <p>8. A sermon warning that God will severely judge those who treat the poor unfairly (Amos 8:4-14).</p> <p>9. The vision of the LORD standing on the altar, striking His own temple (Amos 9:1-10).</p> <p>10. The prophecy about the captivity and return of Israel (Amos 9:9-15).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Amos</i></p>			<p>what people want to hear, nor avoid certain subjects because he will not be popular. The messenger of the LORD must be unashamed and unswerving in his calling to preach the whole counsel of God. Even persecution, no matter how serious, must not prevent the minister from proclaiming the Word of God, declaring what God has anointed him to say.</p> <p>"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17).</p> <p>"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick [living] and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 1:3-4).</p>
<p>ANNA (GRACIOUS)</p>	<p>Time <i>About 4 B.C., eight days after</i></p>	<p><i>Anna's message was the greatest of all messages: Jesus Christ is the</i></p>	<p>1. God will greatly bless the person who places his entire hope in Him. God will</p>

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<p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Served in the temple as a woman prophet (Luke 2:36). Appeared as the first prophet since Malachi, a space of over 300 years. Descended from the tribe of Asher (Luke 2:36). Widowed for many years (Luke 2:36). Fasted and prayed continually (Luke 2:37). Loved and hoped in God, therefore she was blessed (Luke 2:37). Pointed out Christ to others (Luke 2:38). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world (Luke 2:38).</p> <p>Scripture References</p> <p>Luke 2:36-38</p>	<p><i>the birth of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Place</p> <p><i>At the temple in Jerusalem.</i></p>	<p><i>Redeemer, the promised Messiah Who brings redemption to all who ask for God's salvation. Anna shared this good news with anyone looking for redemption in Jerusalem.</i></p> <p>"And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him [the Christ child] to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38).</p>	<p>always bless the person who trusts in Him. We must rely on God for our salvation, rely on Him with our whole heart, holding nothing back, seeking Him continually. For there is no other person, no other place, no other source to whom we can turn for the salvation of our soul. Salvation is in Christ, and Christ alone.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Believers should be busy talking to everyone about Jesus Christ, for Jesus Christ came to earth to redeem us from our sins. And He will grant forgiveness to anyone who seeks for it, to anyone who will place his entire hope in the Lord. <p>"Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy" (Psalm 33:18).</p> <p>"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).</p>
<p>ASAPH (GATHERING)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Was the son of Berechiah (1 Chron. 6:39). Descended from the tribe of Levi and the clan of Kohathites 	<p>Time</p> <p><i>1004 B.C. Right after David was first crowned king in Hebron, he decided to bring the Ark of the Covenant from Kiriath-Jearim to</i></p>	<p><i>Asaph was one of the leading musicians during the days of King David. Although there is not any specific message recorded by Asaph, he lived a life of praise and worship and greatly encouraged others to do so. Down through the years, Asaph's testimony</i></p>	<p>The importance of praise and worship cannot be overstressed. As the Creator of the universe, the LORD expects us to praise and worship Him. It is the LORD Who has created life and Who sustains life. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat—</p>

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<p>(1 Chron. 6:33, 39).</p> <p>3. Appointed by David as a musician, Asaph played the cymbals and sang (1 Chron. 6:31, 39).</p> <p>4. Called a Seer (2 Chron. 29:30).</p> <p>5. Wrote lyrics which were used many years after his death (2 Chron. 29:30).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages Sang and played music to praise and glorify the LORD.</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Chron. 6:31-43; 1 Chron. 15:17-19 2 Chron. 29:30</p>	<p><i>Jerusalem. It was at this time that Asaph and the other musicians were appointed by King David to lead the people of Israel in worship, praising the LORD in songs of praise and celebration to the LORD.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the Holy City.</i></p>	<p><i>was that of leading and encouraging the congregation in praising the LORD.</i></p> <p>"So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah" (1 Chron. 15:17).</p> <p>"Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped" (2 Chron. 29:30).</p>	<p>every good and perfect gift we have comes from the hand of the LORD with Whom there is no changing.</p> <p>Because of all the richness and depth of all the blessings God pours out upon us—because of all the good and perfect gifts He so mercifully gives every day of our lives—the LORD expects, and rightly deserves, our worship and the praise of His holy name.</p> <p>"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31).</p> <p>"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah" (Psalm 68:19).</p>
<p>AZARIAH (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH IS MY HELPER)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <p>1. Was the son of Oded (2 Chron. 15:1).</p> <p>2. Ministered as the first of the prophets to the Southern King-dom of Judah after the division of the nation of Israel.</p> <p>Predictions and Messages Azariah instructed King Asa to extend the revival which had</p>	<p>Time <i>896 B.C., during the reign of Asa, king of Judah, who stirred a great reformation and revival among the people.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the Holy City and capital of Judah.</i></p>	<p><i>Revival was sweeping through the land of Judah resulting in changed lives and a reformation of worship. King Asa and his troops had just delivered a crushing defeat to the invading Ethiopians. But right afterward, Asa was tempted to rely on his own strength. So Azariah, the prophet, pressed the king and the people to seek the LORD more than ever before. He challenged them not to fall into a foolish and destructive attitude of pride</i></p>	<p>Seeking the LORD is essential for every believer. We must seek Him with our whole heart, seek Him continually.</p> <p>Anything that could trap us in a deadly snare of sin must be removed. Placing God first in our lives, first in everything we do, must be our never-ending effort. We must draw close to the LORD, as close as we possibly can. We must continue to stoke the fire of revival in our hearts, to let it burn hotter and hotter. Why?</p>

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<p>begun in the land. Asa was not to lose courage, but to continue to serve God with fervor (2 Chron. 15:2-7).</p> <p>Scripture References 2 Chron. 15:1-12</p>		<p><i>and self-reliance. Azariah declared that the LORD wanted the people to be as strong spiritually as they had been in battle.</i></p> <p>King Asa responded to Azariah's message and continued to stir a strong reformation among the people. He removed the pagan images of idolatry as well as those in charge of their worship. Then, he made all false worship illegal, instituting the death penalty for all who practiced it. Committing himself totally to the LORD, he established the purity of true worship, the worship of the LORD God alone (Jehovah/Yahweh).</p> <p>"Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the LORD is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you... be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work" (2 Chron. 15:1-2, 7).</p>	<p>Because we are always in need, in very desperate need, of God's help. Even when things seem to be going smoothly, we need God. We need Him...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ for daily guidance ⇒ for spiritual strength ⇒ to escape temptation ⇒ for our daily food ⇒ to hold the world together ⇒ for our very next breath ⇒ for <i>all</i> our needs, <i>for every single need, every day of our lives</i> <p>And remember this: God will <i>actively move in the behalf of the one who seeks Him</i>. Our labor is not in vain. There is a reward for serving God. God strongly supports those who wholeheartedly serve Him.</p> <p>"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).</p> <p>"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).</p> <p>"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of</p>

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			them whose heart is perfect toward him" (2 Chron. 16:9).
<p>DANIEL (GOD IS MY JUDGE)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was taken captive by the Babylonians and forced to live in Babylon (Daniel 1:1-2). 2. Prophesied to three major world powers—Israel, Babylon and Medo-Persia (Daniel 1:1-2; Daniel 5:31). 3. Possessed tremendous integrity (Daniel 1:8-10; Daniel 6:4; Ezekiel 14:1). 4. Was given a Babylonian name (Belteshazzar) because he was highly favored among the exiles, and because he needed to conduct business in Babylon (Daniel 1:7). 5. Was able to understand all kinds of mysteries (Daniel 7:15-28; Daniel 8:15-27; Daniel 9:24-27; Daniel 10:1-14; Ezekiel 28:3). 6. Was delivered miraculously from 	<p>Time 605-535 B.C., during the Babylonian captivity of Judah and on into the first years of the Medo-Persian Empire. Daniel was just a young man, only about thirty years old when he was taken captive. He lived the rest of his days in Babylon, ministering to his people, serving as a statesman for Babylon and recording history, writing down his visions and prophecies of the future.</p> <p>Place Near the Tigris River during the last years of the Babylonian Empire and the first few years of the Medo-Persian Empire.</p>	<p>The book of Daniel has one unmistakable message: God sets up kings and puts down kings. The powers of the world will struggle and struggle to gain domination, wealth, and control; but God is in control and overrules everything they do, working all things out for the good of genuine believers and accomplishing His will for the world. Only He can exalt or humble; only He can deliver or destroy. God is sovereign over all. He lifts up those who acknowledge His sovereignty and puts down those who become filled with pride and self-sufficiency.</p> <p>After the end of the Assyrian Empire, control passed mainly to Babylon, which had been firmly established by Nabopolassar. Nabopolassar's son (Nebuchadnezzar II, the king we read about in the book of Daniel) then took over. The first thing Nebuchadnezzar did was to export most of the Judeans to Babylon. This included Daniel and his three friends. But despite their new pagan surroundings, Daniel and his three friends became very successful and were highly</p>	<p>⇒ All the world is to praise God for His holiness.</p> <p>⇒ All the world is to praise God for His sovereignty and omnipotence.</p> <p>⇒ All the world is to praise God for His eternal existence.</p> <p>What an indictment against man! How little we praise and worship God—truly praise and worship Him. Think for a moment and imagine in your mind the four beings who surround the throne of God. They were created to worship God, and they worship Him day and night, never ceasing from worshipping Him. They cry out day and night the glorious praise: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8). The very thought of such a scene should bring us to our knees in repentance, humility and worship of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.</p> <p><i>What a lesson the book of Daniel has for us!</i> <i>For the LORD God Almighty dwells in glory and majesty, dominion, and</i></p>

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<p>the den of lions (Daniel 6:19-23).</p> <p>7. Saw strange and vivid visions about Israel's future, about the coming dominant world powers of human history, and about a future period of history known as the <i>Great Tribulation</i> and the end of the world (Daniel 7:1-12:13).</p> <p>8. Wrote the book of <i>Daniel</i>.</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>1. The interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great statue, which symbolizes the coming great world powers (Daniel 2:17-19).</p> <p>2. The interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great tree which predicted the coming judgment against Nebuchadnezzar due to his pride (Daniel 4:19-27).</p> <p>3. The message that God gives political power to whomever He wishes (Daniel 4:25).</p>		<p>esteemed by the Babylonians. This was due to God's guidance, for they remained faithful to the LORD and to Him alone.</p> <p>Daniel became a close advisor and statesman for Nebuchadnezzar. Through the interpretation of dreams, which God inflicted upon the king, Daniel was lifted to a very high position in the Babylonian kingdom. Years later, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar became king. He was prideful like his grandfather before him. But there was a difference. Nebuchadnezzar repented and acknowledged God as the Sovereign over the earth, but Belshazzar refused to do so. The last straw came when Belshazzar defiled the articles of the temple of God by using them at a drunken feast in honor of a false god. At this, God literally wrote on the wall with His finger, burning a permanent message of immediate doom upon the king and the Babylonian empire. Belshazzar was slain that night as the Medo-Persian soldiers stormed the capital and the palace, and the new empire was put in place.</p> <p><i>But Daniel, who continued to give God honor and to remain humble, was quickly lifted up to a high</i></p>	<p><i>power. We owe Him our lives, all we are and have.</i></p> <p>"Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy" (Psalm 99:9).</p> <p>"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3).</p> <p>"Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest" (Rev. 15:4).</p> <p>"For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:45).</p> <p>"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee" (Job 42:2).</p> <p>"But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
4. The interpretation of the handwriting on the wall written to King Belshazzar by the finger of God Himself—the prediction of the soon coming judgment against Belshazzar and the end of the Babylonian Empire (Daniel 5:10-28).		<p><i>rank in the government of the Medes.</i></p> <p>Both before and after the change in power, Daniel saw amazing visions and received many startling messages from angels about the powers of the world, both present and future, and about the end times. Daniel wrote down many of these, but was instructed to withhold others. In all of his writings, Daniel continually proclaimed the great majesty of God and the need to honor Him.</p>	<p>pleased" (Psalm 115:3).</p> <p>"Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let [hinder] it?" (Isaiah 43:13).</p> <p>"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).</p>
5. The vision of the four beasts arising from the sea—a prophecy of the coming dominant world powers (Daniel 7:1-8).		<p>"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of</p>	<p>"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25).</p> <p>"For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever" (Deut. 32:40).</p> <p>"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27).</p>
6. The vision of Jesus Christ, the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9-10 ; Rev. 4:4 ; Matthew 19:28 ; 1 Cor. 6:3).			<p>"Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations" (Psalm 135:13).</p> <p>"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).</p> <p>"Thine, O LORD, is</p>
7. The vision of the fourth beast being destroyed—the prophecy about the defeat of the antichrist (Daniel 7:11-12).			
8. The vision of Jesus Christ—One like the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14).			
9. The vision of the ram and the two horns—a prophecy of the end of the Medo-Persian Empire and the rise			

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>of the Greek Empire (Daniel 8:1-14).</p> <p>10. The message from Ga-briel about Jeremiah's seventy weeks—the prediction that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, would be rejected 483 years in the future (Daniel 9:24-26).</p> <p>11. The message from Gabriel about Jeremi-ah's seventieth week—the prediction of the coming Tribulation, the desecration of the temple by the antichrist and the end of the world (Daniel 9:26-27; Matthew 24:15-25; Mark 13:14-23).</p> <p>12. The vision of the man dressed in linen stand-ing by the Tigris River (Daniel 10:1-14).</p> <p>13. The vision of the man who strengthened Dan-iel (Daniel 10:15-21).</p> <p>14. The prophecy about the coming Greek Em-pire and Alexander the Great (Daniel 11:2-4).</p> <p>15. The prophecies</p>		<p>brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the</p>	<p>the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all" (1 Chron. 29:11).</p> <p>"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved" (Psalm 93:1).</p> <p>"I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works" (Psalm 145:5).</p> <p>"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).</p>

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<p>about the coming empires of Egypt and Syria and their struggle for world power (Daniel 11:5-35).</p> <p>16. The prophecy of the distressing time at the end of the world—that those whose names are written in the Book of Life will be rescued (Daniel 12:1).</p> <p>17. The prophecy of additional resurrections during the Tribulation (Daniel 12:2-3).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Daniel</i></p>		<p>kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation there-of sure" (Daniel 2:36-45).</p> <p>"How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation" (Daniel 4:3).</p> <p>"And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:</p>	

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		<p>And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:34-35).</p> <p>"And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians" (Daniel 5:25-28).</p>	
<p>DAVID (LOVED)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Jesse and the youngest of eight sons (1 Samuel 16:11; 1 Samuel 17:12). 2. Lived in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1; 1 Samuel 17:12). 3. Descended from the 	<p>Time 1029-971 B.C.</p> <p>All his life, King David sang and wrote psalms (songs) to the LORD. In his times of rejoicing and in his time of despair, David cried out to God in beautiful</p>	<p><i>David was a shining example of trust in God, of placing his life in the palm of God's hand. Whenever David was in trouble, he turned to God as His Savior, trusting the LORD completely for deliverance. And the LORD always saved, delivered David because of the saving acts of God and in his behalf, David was able to write many</i></p>	<p><i>David trusted fully that God would do exactly as He had promised, that He would send the promised King and Savior to establish His throne forever in the world.</i></p> <p><i>The confessions of David's heart were made in simple trust, arising from a heart that was truly convinced that God does exactly what He says He will</i></p>

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<p>tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:1-6).</p> <p>4. Served the first king of Israel, King Saul, by playing music for him and by serving in Saul's army (1 Samuel 16:23; 1 Samuel 18:5).</p> <p>5. Defeated the giant Goliath as a youth (1 Samuel 17).</p> <p>6. Was anointed king over all Israel and reigned forty years (1 Samuel 16:1, 11-13; 2 Samuel 5:5).</p> <p>7. Was promised by God that the Savior would come through his line-age (Matthew 1:1-17).</p> <p>8. Wrote 73 Psalms (Psalm 22:1; Psalm 23:1; Psalm 41:1; Psalm 110:1).</p> <p>9. Played musical instruments in praise to the LORD (2 Samuel 23:2).</p> <p>10. Was a brilliant military leader and strategist. Led great military campaigns (1 Samuel 18:5-7).</p> <p>11. Had a heart that was like the heart of God (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p>	<p>songs of poetry.</p> <p>Place Many places throughout Judea and Samaria as well as southern Jerusalem, the City of David.</p>	<p>heartfelt Psalms that are recorded in the Holy Scripture. And God was able to use David to predict many of the prophecies about Jesus Christ hundreds of years before the Savior was born.</p> <p>"Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse declares, The man who was raised on high declares, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel, 'The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue'" (2 Samuel 23:1-2).</p>	<p>do. David's trust is a dynamic example for us, for it is simple trust God desires from man—nothing more and nothing less.</p> <p>We simply must rely on God. We must lean on Him with our whole heart, put our complete trust in the LORD to do exactly as He says. The LORD will save those who trust in Him.</p> <p>"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence" (2 Samuel 22:3).</p> <p>"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee" (Psalm 5:11).</p> <p>"O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me" (Psalm 7:1).</p> <p>"The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate" (Psalm 34:22).</p> <p>"Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know</p>

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<p>1. The Messiah, the Savior of the world, would be a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4; Matthew 27:50-51; Mark 15:37-38; Luke 23:44-46; Hebrews 6:20).</p> <p>2. The Messiah would be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Matthew 26:20-25; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:2-6; John 13:1-2; 1 Cor. 11:23).</p> <p>3. The Messiah's betrayer would be removed from office and replaced (Psalm 109:7-8; Acts 1:18-20).</p> <p>4. The Messiah, the Savior of the world, would be falsely accused (Psalm 27:12; Psalm 35:11; Matthew 26:59-62; Mark 14:55-59).</p> <p>5. The Messiah would be hated for no reason (Psalm 69:4; John 15:23-25).</p> <p>6. The Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16; John 20:25-27).</p> <p>7. The Messiah would bear the sins of the</p>			<p>the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee" (Psalm 143:8).</p>

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<p>world (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:45-46; Mark 15:33-34).</p> <p>8. The Messiah would be mocked (Psalm 22:6-8; Matthew 27:39-40; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-37).</p> <p>9. The Messiah would be given gall and vinegar (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:48; Mark 15:36; John 19:28-29).</p> <p>10. The Messiah would pray for His enemies (Psalm 109:4; Luke 23:34).</p> <p>11. The Messiah's garments would be gambled for (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-25).</p> <p>12. The Messiah would not have any broken bones (Psalm 34:20; see Exodus 12:46; John 19:31-37).</p> <p>13. The Messiah would be resurrected (Psalm 16:10; Matthew 12:39-41; Matthew 16:4; Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 11:29-32; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1-8).</p> <p>14. The Messiah would ascend to heaven</p>			

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>(Psalm 68:18; Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:6-9; Ephes. 4:8-10).</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Samuel 16– 1 Kings 2; Psalm 16, 22, 27, 34, 41, 68, 69, 109, 110</p>			

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>DEBORAH (HONEY BEE)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was married to Lapidoth (Judges 4:4). 2. Judged Israel, deciding civil cases for the people according to God's Word (Judges 4:4). 3. Wrote a song of deliverance after the defeat of Sisera and the Canaanite army (Judges 5). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barak was to gather ten thousand men from Naphtali and Zebulun, and God would deliver Sisera into his hand (Judges 4:4-8). 2. Sisera would be killed by a woman because Barak refused to go without Deborah (Judges 4:9). <p>Scripture References Judges 4-5</p>	<p>Time Approximately 1220 B.C., during a time of oppression by King Jabin of the Canaanites. It was about 200 plus years before King David and about 200 plus after the Exodus.</p> <p>Place Between Ramah and Bethel, in the hill country of Ephraim.</p>	<p><i>The LORD is a mighty Deliverer, Who will deliver Israel from the Canaanite enemies. Through Deborah, God instructed Barak to mobilize ten thousand troops and to meet the enemy commander Sisera, at the Kishon River. Grippled by fear and feeling inadequate for the task, Barak refused to go without Deborah's help. Granting his request, God used both Deborah and Barak to soundly defeat the oppressing Canaanites in a tremendous victory. But because Barak refused to obey God, he was denied the honor of capturing the enemy commander Sisera. Instead, the honor of killing the dreaded enemy commander was given to a woman name Jael.</i></p> <p>"Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, 'Behold, the LORD, the God of Israel, has commanded, 'Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun. I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many troops to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand.'" Then Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' She said, 'I will surely go</p>	<p><i>The courage of Deborah stands as a dynamic example for us all. Just imagine—facing a massive army unarmed! Deborah courageously accepted this challenge, but not Barak. He was reluctant, fainthearted, fearful, and unbelieving. From this experience of Deborah and Barak, we must learn one lesson: there is no room in the service of God for being fainthearted, fearful, or unbelieving. God commands us to be courageous, to step forth and face the enemy with courage and boldness, No matter what the enemy or its power, we are to be courageous in standing against it. God promises to help us and to deliver us if we will confront the enemy courageously in His name.</i></p> <p>"Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).</p> <p>"The wicked flee when no man pursueth, But the righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1).</p> <p>"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).</p>

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<p>ELIEZER (GOD IS MY HELPER)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Dodavahu (2 Chron. 20:37). 2. Lived in Mareshah (2 Chron. 20:37). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>Rebuked King Jehoshaphat for forming an alliance with an evil king, King Ahaziah of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (2 Chron. 20:37).</p> <p>Scripture References 2 Chron. 20:35-37</p>	<p>Time 849-48 B.C., at the end of the reign of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.</p> <p>Place Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.</p>	<p><i>Eliezer rebuked King Jehoshaphat of Judah for making an agreement with the evil King Ahaziah of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Eliezer declared that God had caused their gold-seeking ships to be destroyed because God was so displeased with Jehoshaphat's actions.</i></p> <p>"And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly: And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber. Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Aha-ziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish" (2 Chron. 20:35-37).</p>	<p>God warns the believer against compromising and forming worldly alliances with the unbelievers and wicked people of this world. God demands spiritual separation. For if we fellowship, closely associate with the sinful and wicked of this earth, eventually we will be seduced to join in and participate in their sin. Compromise is forbidden by God. We are to live lives of spiritual separation, not compromising our commitment to God, not engaging in the sinful and wicked behavior of unbelievers.</p> <p>"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34).</p> <p>"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
			<p>that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).</p> <p>"But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Cor. 5:11).</p>
<p>ELIJAH (YAHWEH IS GOD)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was from Tishbi (1 Kings 17:1). 2. Lived in Gilead (1 Kings 17:1). 3. Ministered to the Northern Kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 17:1). 4. Performed many miracles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Prevented rain for three years (1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17). ⇒ Multiplied flour and oil during the entire time of the drought (1 Kings 17:14). ⇒ Raised a child from the dead (1 Kings 17:22). ⇒ Called fire down from heaven (1 Kings 18:38; 2 Kings 1:10). 	<p>Time 860-845 B.C., during the reigns of Ahab, Aha-ziah and Jehoram, kings of Northern Israel.</p> <p>Place The Northern Kingdom of Israel.</p>	<p><i>For over three years, Elijah predicted that it would not rain. Through this terrible drought, Elijah was able to warn the people time and again against the false worship of Baal. Baal was thought to be the god of the weather and fertility, and the worship of this false god was strongly encouraged by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. But with fervor and stunning miracles, God called people to repentance through Elijah's ministry.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, a showdown was held between Elijah and the false prophets of Baal, a confrontation that was to prove once and for all who the real God was. Perhaps no scene in the Old Testament is more dramatic than when Elijah called down fire from heaven upon his sacrifice on Mt. Carmel. The spectacular, miraculous event proved once for all that Jehovah/Yahweh is the</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The LORD (Jehovah, Yahweh) is the One and only living and true God: there is no other God. All false gods are just this: false. They are nonexistent, not really living, not possessing life. They are powerless, unable to respond. Being lifeless, they cannot hear prayers, nor reach out to help us in our desperate hours of need. False gods are totally incapable of being present with us as we walk day by day. They are unable to guide us or to fulfill any promise ever made by a false prophet. All other so-called gods are false. They exist only in a person's imagination. 2. If a person refuses to believe God's Word, he will not believe nor follow the Lord, even if he sees a dramatic sign from heaven. <p>"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>⇒ Brought rain (1 Kings 18:41).</p> <p>⇒ Divided the Jordan River and crossed on dry ground (2 Kings 2:8).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A long, severe drought would come to Israel (1 Kings 17:1). 2. The flour and oil of the widow of Zarepath would multiply miraculously so that she would have an unending daily supply as long as the drought continued (1 Kings 17:14). 3. A torrential rain would come to end the long drought (1 Kings 18:41). 4. The blood of Ahab would be licked up by the dogs to avenge the blood of Naboth (1 Kings 21:19; 2 Kings 9:24-26). 5. The household of Ahab would be destroyed and come to a complete end (1 Kings 21:21-24). <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2</p>		<p><i>One True God, the only real and living God.</i></p> <p><i>Sadly, despite this tremendous display of God's power, Ahab and the people still did not repent.</i></p> <p>"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word" (1 Kings 17:1).</p> <p>"For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth" (1 Kings 17:14).</p> <p>"And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain" (1 Kings 18:41).</p> <p>"And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin" (1 Kings 21:22).</p>	<p>the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).</p> <p>"Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isaiah 44:8).</p> <p>"Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed" (Luke 16:31).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>ELISHA (GOD IS THE SAVIOR)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Shaphat (1 Kings 19:16). 2. Lived in Abel-Meholah (1 Kings 19:16). 3. Was anointed by Eli-jah to take his place, as God instructed (1 Kings 19:16). 4. Performed many miracles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Parted the Jordan River (2 Kings 2:14). ⇒ Made bitter water sweet (2 Kings 2:19-22). ⇒ Saved an army by causing water to appear in ditches (2 Kings 3:13-20). ⇒ Multiplied the widow's oil (2 Kings 4:1-7). ⇒ Raised a child from the dead (2 Kings 4:32-37). ⇒ Purified a pot of food from poison (2 Kings 4:38-41). ⇒ Multiplied bread and grain to feed one hundred men (2 Kings 4:42-44). ⇒ Healed a leper (2 Kings 5:1). 	<p>Time 850-795 B.C., during the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz and Jehoash, kings of Northern Israel.</p> <p>Place Israel, The Northern Kingdom of Israel.</p>	<p>God will save those who have faith in Him. Time and time again, in both the words and deeds of Elisha, this message of salvation was demonstrated.</p> <p>Elisha had strong faith in God and faithfully followed God. But he not only followed, he demonstrated an iron determination in living a godly, righteous life. Elisha's life was a beacon, a bright example to everyone he met. Persevering to his very last day on earth, he repeatedly demonstrated the saving, miraculous power of God.</p> <p>"And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land" (2 Kings 2:21).</p> <p>"For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts" (2 Kings 3:17).</p> <p>"And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the LORD, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof" (2 Kings 4:43).</p> <p>"And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned</p>	<p>Far too often men and women demonstrate traits of weak character, traits such as insincerity, deception, impurity, dishonesty, corruption and wickedness. Whereas they should be living lives of honor, goodness, purity, morality, & sincerity. This is not the way any of us should be living. We should be men and women of honor and uprightness, holding ever so high the principles of morality, righteousness and justice for all people everywhere.</p> <p>We should be followers of Christ, and we should persevere, be steadfast in our faith. Once we profess Christ, we must continue to profess and follow after Him. <i>Continuing on</i> is the evidence of our faith. When people see us continuing to follow Christ, they know that our profession is true. But if we profess to be a follower of the LORD and then refuse to live like He says, people know that we are making a false profession. We must <i>continue on</i>, being steadfast, enduring, persevering in following Christ—this assures our salvation, that our profession is true, that our life demonstrates what we say.</p> <p>"Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame" (1 Cor. 15:34)</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>EZEKIEL (GOD IS STRONG)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Buzi (Ezekiel 1:3). 2. Served as a priest in the temple (Ezekiel 1:3). 3. Wrote the book of <i>Ezekiel</i> (Ezekiel 1:1-3). 4. Was taken captive into Babylon (Ezekiel 1:2; 2 Kings 24:11-16). 5. Called to be a watchman to the people of Israel (Ezekiel 3:17). 6. Called to be a sign or symbol to the people of Israel (Ezekiel 12:6, 11; Ezekiel 24:21-27). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visions of the glory of the LORD and Ezekiel's calling (Ezekiel 1-3). 2. Prophecies concerning Judah and Jerusalem—that God would judge and send the people into captivity because they profaned the holy temple (Ezekiel 4-24). 3. Prophecies 	<p>Time 593-571 B.C., before and during the final captivity and exile of Judah and Jerusalem in 586 B.C.</p> <p>Place <i>Ezekiel first prophesied in Jerusalem, but later was taken captive into Babylon. In Babylon (or the land of the Chaldeans), Ezekiel was sitting next to the River Chebar, when the Spirit of God revealed to him strange and wonderful visions of the glory of the LORD and of heaven (Ezekiel 1:3).</i></p>	<p><i>"Know that I am the LORD." This main message of Ezekiel occurs sixty-three times throughout the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel's messages strongly emphasized the holiness of God, and the fact that God will judge sin. But the LORD will also forgive and restore those who repent and turn to Him. God is known by His judgment; but He is better known by His mercy.</i></p> <p><i>Throughout his ministry, Ezekiel was greatly persecuted and eventually killed for his straightforward preaching. But he stood fast, unswervingly preaching the messages the LORD laid upon his heart.</i></p> <p>"For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know</p>	<p>Despite the love of God, people shockingly reject the LORD. This is why God judges and shows His wrath. Man is without excuse. Man has no defense, no answer, no reason that can justify his rebellion against God.</p> <p>Yet God is merciful to the person who repents. He gave His Son to die for us. We do not deserve it—we never have and we never will—but God loves us with an incomprehensible love. Therefore, He has given His Son to die for us, as our substitute, in our behalf. But a person must accept the gift of God's Son, accept Jesus Christ by true faith and repentance in order to receive God's mercy.</p> <p>"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).</p> <p>"Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zech. 1:3).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>concerning other nations—that God would judge their sin, especially Egypt, but Israel will be restored (Ezekiel 25–32).</p> <p>4. Prophecies concerning the restoring of Israel—that Israel would be restored when the people repented and turned back to the LORD (Ezekiel 33–39).</p> <p>5. A vision and a detailed description of the future temple and of heaven (Ezekiel 40–48).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Ezekiel</i></p>		<p>that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 14:7-8).</p> <p>"And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them" (Ezekiel 6:10).</p> <p>"But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die" (Ezekiel 18:21).</p> <p>"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" (Ezekiel 33:11).</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>GAD (FORTUNATE)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <p>1. Recorded some of the history of King David (1 Chron. 29:29-30).</p> <p>2. Ministered as a prophet for many years.</p> <p>3. Served by the side of King David and King Solomon as</p>	<p>Time 1015-950 B.C., before the division of the nation of Israel.</p> <p>Place Jerusalem and certain areas to the south, while he served by the side of King David</p>	<p><i>Our strength and security is in the Lord. No amount of human ability or might can keep us safe—only God can. So as we face the trials, temptations and enemies of life, we must remain humble before the Lord, never allowing ourselves to become puffed up with pride, thinking that we have some great ability or resource to conquer the hardships and sufferings of life. It is never by our own</i></p>	<p><i>A spirit of pride, conceit, and haughtiness is a terrible evil. For when we exalt ourselves, we walk around acting as though we are better, more capable, more deserving, more moral, more righteous than someone else. But note this inescapable truth: we reap what we sow. If we sow prideful sin and evil, we reap the consequences. So it is with any act of wickedness. This is a spiritual</i></p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>the king's seer (2 Chron. 29:25).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warned David to flee from Judah whenever Saul was about to find him (1 Samuel 22:5). 2. Announced God's judgment for David's sin of numbering the people (2 Samuel 24:10-15; 1 Chron. 21:9-13). 3. Gave instructions to David for ending the severe plague of judgment on the people (2 Samuel 24:18-19; 1 Chron. 21:18-19). <p>Scripture References 1 Samuel 22:4; 2 Samuel 24:11-19; 1 Chron. 9-19; 2 Chron. 29:25</p>	<p>and King Solomon.</p>	<p>strength, but God's that we triumph in life.</p> <p>"They dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold. And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth" (1 Samuel 22:4-5).</p> <p>"The word of the Lord came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and say unto David, Thus saith the Lord, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land?...advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me" (2 Samuel 24:11-13).</p> <p>"Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar</p>	<p>law set up by God for the purpose of divine judgment. A person may repent, but the wickedness will result in some consequence of suffering.</p> <p>"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).</p> <p>"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).</p> <p>"With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles" (2 Chron. 32:8).</p> <p>"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered" (Proverbs 28:26).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>unto the Lord in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the Lord...Then David said to Ornan, Grant me...this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar...unto the Lord:...that the plague may be stayed from the people" And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the Lord; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering. And the Lord commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof" (1 Chron. 21:18-19, 22, 26-27).</p>	
<p>HABAKKUK (TIGHTLY EMBRACED)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministered to Judah, the Southern Kingdom. 2. Wrote the book of <i>Habakkuk</i> (Habakkuk 1:1). 	<p>Time 615-598 B.C., during the reigns of Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim, about 20 years before the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem.</p>	<p><i>The heart of Habakkuk ached to the point of breaking. The prophet was in anguish for three reasons. First, Habakkuk saw the horrible wickedness of Israel, the deep sin of his own people. Second, he knew that the terrible judgment of God's hand was coming because of Israel's sin. Third, and what weighed most</i></p>	<p><i>God's chosen way for us to approach Him is that we "live by faith." After all, Scripture declares as clearly as it can: no man is justified by the law in the sight of God. God is perfect; He is perfectly righteous. No man can achieve perfection; therefore, no man can live in the presence of God. No matter how good he is or how much</i></p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The oracle of the wickedness of the people (Habakkuk 1:1-4). The oracle of the shocking invasion of the Chaldeans (Habakkuk 1:5-17). The answer of God to Habakkuk's plea—the wicked will be judged, but the righteous will live by faith (Habakkuk 2:1-20). The prayer of Habakkuk—the LORD is glorious and mighty (Habakkuk 3:1-16). The praise of Habakkuk—the LORD protects those who trust in Him even in the midst of trouble and distress (Habakkuk 3:17-19). <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Habakkuk</i>; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11-12; Hebrews 10:37-38</p>	<p>Place Judah, the Southern Kingdom.</p>	<p><i>heavily on his soul, Habakkuk longed to be acceptable before the holy God Whom he served.</i></p> <p><i>In his book, Habakkuk recorded several question he asked of God and the LORD's answer to his questions. After humbly pleading and lamenting to the LORD, Habakkuk waited (for the prophet never presumed, not even for a moment, that God is unjust). He simply asked his questions and then waited for the LORD to change his heart, so that he could fully trust Him.</i></p> <p><i>Among the LORD's answer to Habakkuk is the vital message found in Habakkuk 2:4. This important verse teaches us that we must guard against pride and trust in God. Habakkuk faithfully preached this message, longing for his people to listen and repent.</i></p> <p>"Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth" (Habakkuk 1:4).</p> <p>"For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not</p>	<p><i>good he does, he cannot achieve perfection. The fact is evident, for if a man had achieved perfection, he would be perfect—living forever in a perfect state of being, even on this earth.</i></p> <p><i>But note this: What God does is take a person's faith and count that faith as righteousness, as perfection. Therefore, a man is able to live in God's presence by faith or justification. The point is this: God's way for a man to approach Him is the way of faith: "The just shall live by faith."</i></p> <p>"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).</p> <p>"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth" (1 Chron. 16:31).</p> <p>"God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness" (Psalm 47:8).</p> <p>"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long" (Proverbs 23:17).</p> <p>"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>theirs" (Habakkuk 1:6).</p> <p>"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4).</p> <p>"God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise" (Habakkuk 3:3).</p> <p>"The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places" (Habakkuk 3:19).</p>	<p>can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him" (Eccles. 3:14).</p>
<p>HAGGAI (FEAST OF YAHWEH)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministered to Judah, the Southern Kingdom. Wrote the book of Haggai (Haggai 1:1). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The declaration that it is time to build the temple of the LORD (Haggai 1:2). A sermon about taking courage because the LORD is with you (Haggai 2:4). 	<p>Time 520 B.C., when the second foundation of the temple was to be laid.</p> <p>Place Jerusalem, the Holy City and place of the temple.</p>	<p><i>Haggai's messages were given to encourage and strengthen the returned exiles of Jerusalem as they sought to rebuild their temple and nation. He taught that the Spirit of the LORD mightily dwells among those who reverence and honor Him.</i></p> <p><i>The citizens of Jerusalem at this time had just returned from captivity in Babylon. Although they were in their own land, it was new and unfamiliar because it was their ancestors, not them, who had been taken captive seventy years before. Naturally, the people were glad to be free. But they still felt somewhat discouraged, unsure of what to do next. They were a people without direction.</i></p>	<p><i>How many of us have little rituals, prayers, habits, ceremonies, and objects that we use to keep us religiously secure? So many of us seek religious security while at the same time we neglect the weightier matter of breaking God's Law. It is not the man-made place or the man-made ritual that saves a person. What saves a person is coming to God in true worship, bowing before Him, acknowledging Him as God, acknowledging that His Son, Jesus Christ, is the only way and the only hope of salvation.</i></p> <p><i>The place of worship is no longer the temple or any other particular location on earth. God's presence now dwells in the hearts and lives</i></p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>3. The foretelling of the future blessing of Israel by the LORD (Haggai 2:19).</p> <p>4. The prophecy that Zerubbabel will be lifted up as a leader (Haggai 2:23).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Haggai</i>; Ezra 5:1; Ezra 6:14</p>		<p><i>Through the prophet Haggai, the LORD gave special direction and greatly encouraged the people. Haggai told of a bright future and promised a strong leader in Zerubbabel. Most of all, the Spirit of the LORD would be among the people if they would honor the LORD and give Him their true heartfelt worship.</i></p> <p>"Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built" (Haggai 1:2).</p> <p>"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts" (Haggai 2:4).</p> <p>"Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you" (Haggai 2:19).</p> <p>"In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the</p>	<p><i>of His people. His people worship Him wherever they are, and they can worship Him every day all day long. True worship means that we focus on the object of worship, being sure that we are truly worshipping the Father, God Himself. A person may be in a fancy, expensive church or in a broom closet worshipping, and yet not be worshipping the Father. A man's whole being must be focused upon the only true and living God, worshipping Him and Him alone.</i></p> <p><i>God desires worship, for He created man to worship and fellowship with Him. Therefore, man needs to truly worship God. Man needs to worship God with the spiritual drive and ability of his soul, seeking the most intimate communion and fellowship with God. Man needs to worship God with the spiritual core of his life and being, trusting and resting in God's acceptance and love and care.</i></p> <p>"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely" (Psalm 147:1).</p> <p>"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		LORD of hosts" (Haggai 2:23).	<p>"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him" (Rev. 19:7).</p> <p>"Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints" (Psalm 149:1).</p> <p>"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:3).</p>
<p>HANANI (MERCIFUL)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministered to Judah, the Southern Kingdom (2 Chron. 16:7). Father of Jehu, the prophet (1 Kings 16:1-7). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The declaration that it was foolish for King Asa to rely on anyone other than the LORD (2 Chron. 16:7-9). The declaration that the LORD supports those who completely rely on Him (2 Chron. 16:9). <p>Scripture References 2 Chron. 16:7-10</p>	<p>Time 870 B.C., at the end of the reign of Asa, king of Judah, and just after King Asa made a treaty with the Arameans (Syrians).</p> <p>Place Jerusalem, in the palace of the king.</p>	<p>We must rely totally on the Lord, and our dependence upon Him must not be passive. Rather, we must actively seek to trust the Lord more and more. For He searches the earth seeking people who are totally committed to Him. His eyes scan back and forth, looking for people who will place their lives fully into His hands. Furthermore, He longs to meet their needs and to strengthen and deliver them from all the hardships and temptations of life. But the people of Judah failed to actively trust and seek the Lord. Consequently, they were to suffer the judgment of God.</p> <p>"And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of</p>	<p>Note the wonderful promise of Scripture: God works through the events of this world to meet the needs of His dear people, those who are fully committed to Him. No matter how terrible the trial or temptation, God moves within the event for one purpose and one purpose only: to deliver and to strengthen those who are fully committed to Him. A person who is fully committed can rest assured in this promise of the Lord. For the Lord will provide, protect and guide His dear people. Even in the moment of death, the Lord will transfer us into His presence—quicker than the eye can blink (2 Timothy 4:18).</p> <p>"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalm 27:4).</p> <p>"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thine hand. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars" (2 Chron. 16:7-9).</p>	<p>work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (2 Timothy 4:18).</p> <p>"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).</p> <p>"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you" (1 Peter 5:10).</p>
<p>HEMAN (FAITHFUL)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Joel (1 Chron. 15:17). 2. Served as the seer to King David (1 Chron. 25:5). 3. Appointed by David to lead the congregational music (1 Chron. 25:1). 4. Born into the tribe of Levi (1 Chron. 24:31). 5. Prophesied along with his family 	<p>Time 971 B.C., the last days of the life of King David. In these solemn times of last instructions from King David, Levites were assigned the task of making sure the worship of the LORD continued down through coming generations.</p>	<p><i>Heman praised the LORD with music and greatly encouraged the congregation of Israel in their worship of God. Leading music was his official position under King David. Heman prophesied while playing musical instruments. Just as Asaph, Heman's father, had faithfully served under King David, now Heman, Asaph's son, carried on the work. Heman carried on the legacy of his father, praising the LORD with music and spurring the people on in their devotion to the LORD.</i></p>	<p>The importance of praise and worship cannot be overstressed. Because of all His good and perfect gifts—the LORD expects us to worship and praise His holy name.</p> <p>Music is one way, a very powerful way, to give praise to the Lord. We are to be talking about Christ, admonishing others in the Word of God and singing within our hearts the hymns of the church. We are to walk about rejoicing and praising the Lord within our hearts, being filled with the joy of the Lord and His Word, and</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>through the music (1 Chron. 25:1-8).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages None recorded. Since he is called a "seer," he must have sung some of the LORD's predictions through the music of worship, as well as advised David about the results of certain royal decisions.</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Chron. 25:1-8</p>	<p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the Holy City.</i></p>	<p>"Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals. ...Of Heman: the sons of Heman; Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hana-niah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamtiezer, Joshbeka-shah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth: All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. All these were under the hands of their father for song in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman" (1 Chron. 25:1, 4-6).</p>	<p>bearing strong testimony for the Lord.</p> <p>"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16).</p>
<p>HOSEA (SALVATION)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Beerli (Hosea 1:1) 2. Prophesied for many years, his ministry extending through the reign of four kings (Hosea 1:1). 	<p>Time <i>788-723 B.C., during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah and ending just before the fall of Samaria in 722 B.C.</i></p>	<p>Hosea had a hard life. He was given a very unusual command from God: to marry a prostitute. Hosea's life was an illustrated sermon of the unfaithfulness of the people, and how they had turned away from God. During the course of their marriage, Gomer, Hosea's wife, bore three children to Hosea, two of them fathered</p>	<p><i>God disciplines believers. He chastens, corrects, and rebukes believers. Now God does not cause bad and evil in life. God loves man. Therefore, God's concern is not to cause problems and pain for us; His concern is to deliver us through all the trouble and pain on earth and to save us for heaven and eternity. How does God do</i></p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>3. Ministered to Judah, the Southern Kingdom (Hosea 1:1).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The illustrated sermon about Hosea's unfaithful wife (Hosea 1:1–3:5). 2. The sermon about God's case against Israel, that they were full of sin and that they must repent (Hosea 4:1–6:3). 3. The sermon about God's certain judgment of sin (Hosea 6:4–10:15). 4. The sermon about God's love for Israel, even though they were rebellious (Hosea 11:1–13:16). 5. The prophecy that Christ would come out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15). 6. The sermon about God's call to repentance (Hosea 14:1-3). 7. The promise of God's blessing coming upon the 	<p>Place <i>Judah, the Southern Kingdom of Israel.</i></p>	<p>by someone else. Once, Hosea had to go to the public auction and buy his wife back from slavery. The shame of the situation was unbearable, which was the very message preached to the people. Judah should have been...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ ashamed at the way they had been acting ⇒ ashamed at the way they had run away from the LORD ⇒ ashamed at the way they had gone after the lust of their flesh ⇒ ashamed at the way they had failed to serve God, in particular after all He had done for them <p>Hosea preached bold, straightforward messages to the people, warning them that they must repent from their sin and seek the LORD. The people had been committing spiritual adultery against the LORD, running after the pleasures and the false gods of the world, pleasing their carnal nature. They needed to allow the LORD to break through the callousness of their hearts, for their souls were as unyielding as dry ground that had not been plowed. Otherwise, the hand of God's judgment would chastise them. But even in chastisement, God's people must remember that God disciplines His people.</p>	<p><i>this? By chastising us. When we think of chastisement, we usually think of discipline and correction and it does mean this. But it also means to train and teach and instruct a person.</i></p> <p><i>Every true child of God knows the discipline of God's hand. His discipline differs with each of us, but each of us can recognize His discipline nevertheless.</i></p> <p><i>God stirs, guides, directs, teaches, trains, and instructs us all along the way, making us stronger and stronger in life and drawing us closer and closer to Him.</i></p> <p>"I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon" (Hosea 14:5-6).</p> <p>"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).</p> <p>"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee" (Job 22:21).</p> <p>"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>people (Hosea 14:4-8).</p> <p>8. The sermon about God's challenge to the wise listener (Hosea 14:9).</p> <p><i>Scripture References</i> The book of <i>Hosea</i></p>		<p>"Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth" (Hosea 6:1-3).</p> <p>"It is in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows. And Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods. Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of</p>	<p>live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		thy mighty men" (Hosea 10:10-13).	
<p>HULDAH (LIFE)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the wife of Shal-lum, the keeper of the wardrobe (2 Kings 22:14). 2. Lived in the Second Quarter of Jerusalem (2 Kings 22:14). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophecy that God would judge Jerusalem for idolatry, for ignoring God's Word (2 Kings 22:14-17; 2 Chron. 34:22-25). 2. The prophecy that God would be kind to King Josiah, because Josiah had humbled himself, recognizing the sin of the people and the importance of heeding God's Word (2 Kings 22:18-20; 2 Chron. 34:26-28). 	<p>Time 623 B.C., the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, when King Josiah decided to repair the temple and a copy of the Law of Moses was found during the renovations.</p> <p>Place Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, the Southern Kingdom of Israel.</p>	<p>King Josiah gave specific instructions to repair the temple of the LORD. While the repairs were being made, a copy of the Law was found in the temple. King Josiah read the Word of God and was aghast at what he read, because he realized that the people had grossly neglected the law and disobeyed the LORD's commandments.</p> <p>Earnestly wanting to understand what he had read, he commissioned a delegation of officials to seek a prophet who could explain God's Word to him. The delegation went to Huldah the prophetess who gave the following explanation: the penalties for disobeying the laws found written in the Book were to be executed, because the people had forsaken the LORD, worshipped false gods, and provoked the LORD to anger. God was going to judge and destroy the city of Jerusalem.</p> <p>But despite the terrifying message of judgment spoken by Huldah, the LORD had a very special message for King Josiah. Josiah had grieved over the people's sin, and he had humbled himself before the LORD in prayer and personal repentance. Because Josiah's heart was</p>	<p>What a lesson for us! To Josiah and his people, the Word of God had been lost. To many of us, the Word of God is neglected and ignored, even denied and rejected. Some of us act as though we do not believe the Bible is the written Word of God. After all, if we truly believed that the Bible is God's Word, we would read, study and feast upon it.</p> <p>The Bible truly is what it claims to be, God's Word; and if we ignore it and neglect it, what will God say to us when we face Him?</p> <p>Above all that is to be feared in this life is the neglect or denial of God and His Holy Word. Nothing on this earth is as important as doing exactly what God's Word says, obeying Him and keeping His commandments. But before we can keep His commandments, we must know what His commandments are. And there is only one way to learn God's commandments: study His Holy Word.</p> <p>"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).</p> <p>"These were more noble</p>

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<p>Scripture References 2 Kings 22:14-20; 2 Chron. 34:22-28</p>		<p>tender and responsive to the Word of God, Josiah would not personally experience the terrible judgment. It would come after Josiah's death.</p> <p>"Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched. But...because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this</p>	<p>than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).</p> <p>"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>IDDO (APPOINTED)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded some history about Solomon, Rehoboam, and Abijah (2 Chron. 9:29). Called a seer by the Scripture, a seer to whom God gave special vision against the wickedness and false worship of Jeroboam I (2 Chron. 9:29). Kept genealogical records (2 Chron. 12:15). Was not the "Iddo" who was the father of Zechariah the prophet. <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>Wrote about the rebuke of Jeroboam given by the unnamed prophet at Bethel (1 Kings 13:1-5).</p> <p>Scripture References</p> <p>2 Chron. 9:29; 2 Chron. 12:15; 2 Chron. 13:22</p>	<p>Time</p> <p><i>910 B.C., after the close of the ministry of Ahijah, the Shilonite, and after the reign of Jeroboam I, who put the idols of the golden calves at Dan and Bethel.</i></p> <p>Place</p> <p><i>Judah, the Southern Kingdom of Israel.</i></p>	<p>place" (2 Kings 22:15-20).</p> <p>Iddo was appointed by God to keep a record of Jeroboam's terrible wickedness and false worship and of the unknown prophets who rebuked the king. How did Iddo know about these events? The Scripture expressly states that Iddo was given special visions concerning Jeroboam (2 Chron. 9:29).</p> <p>It should be noted that the unnamed prophet who gave the rebuke to Jeroboam did not remain faithful. He forgot God's Word and went off on his own, doing what he thought was right instead of following God's clear instructions.</p> <p>Apparently, because of the prophet's unfaithfulness, God later raised up Iddo to record the event so the world would have a permanent warning against the wickedness and the false worship of Jeroboam I.</p> <p>The unnamed prophet who cursed the altar at Bethel could not have been Iddo the seer because the unnamed prophet was killed before returning home (1 Kings 13:24).</p> <p>"Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the</p>	<p>Accountability is clearly taught in Scripture. The Lord is coming; and when He comes, He will judge the works of His servant and followers. All works of the believer will be inspected by the Lord so that each believer may be rewarded in perfect justice, receiving exactly what is due, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10).</p> <p>"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing" (Matthew 24:44-46).</p> <p>"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).</p> <p>"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).</p> <p>"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not</p>

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		<p>prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against [about] Jeroboam the son of Nebat?" (2 Chron. 9:29).</p> <p>"Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies?" (2 Chron. 12:15).</p> <p>"And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo" (2 Chron. 13:22).</p>	<p>in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).</p> <p>"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; and continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Timothy 4:16).</p>
<p>ISAIAH (SALVATION IS FROM THE LORD)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Amoz (Isaiah 1:1). 2. Ministered alongside Hosea the prophet. 3. Saw a tremendous vision of the LORD (Isaiah 6). 4. Prophesied more about the Messiah than any other prophet. <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A holy group of people will remain 	<p>Time 740-690 B.C., during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.</p> <p>Place Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah.</p>	<p>Isaiah's prophecies and sermons centered on the holiness of God and His desire to save mankind from his sin. Spurred on by his dramatic and unforgettable vision of God's holy throne, he warned people of coming disaster. But he also had many words of comfort to say from the LORD. Most importantly, Isaiah prophesied of the coming Savior, Who would bear the punishment for the sins of the world.</p> <p>But the main message of Isaiah is the same as the meaning of his name: "Salvation is from the LORD." It is essential to understand this biblical truth.</p>	<p>The way to God is through Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus Christ alone saves, for there is no other exalted Lord. Therefore, no man can be saved by any other name other than the Lord's name.</p> <p>No teacher is capable enough, no prophet is noble enough, no minister is good enough to save himself, much less anyone else. Therefore, no matter the claim and no matter the strength of a person's name, no man has the name by which God can save people. All men are mortal. Therefore, no man can make another man immortal. But the Name which God uses to save men is eternal, the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>after the captivity (Isaiah 6:11-13).</p> <p>2. Christ, the Savior of the world, will live among men on the earth (Isaiah 7:13-16).</p> <p>3. Foreign armies will quickly invade and smash Samaria (Isaiah 8:1-4).</p> <p>4. Christ will be the Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:1-7).</p> <p>5. The Savior will come from the family of David (Isaiah 11:1-6).</p> <p>6. Judgment will come on wicked nations (Isaiah 13:1-20:6).</p> <p>7. The Servant of the LORD will come on a Mission of mercy (Isaiah 42:1-9).</p> <p>8. A remnant of God's people will be gathered back to the prom-ised land (Isaiah 43:1-45:25).</p> <p>9. King Cyrus, who would help Israel many years later to return to the promised land, is called by name (Isaiah 45:1-13).</p> <p>10. Yahweh is the</p>		<p>For it is not just that salvation comes from the LORD (Jehovah/Yahweh) the One True God; but that salvation only comes from the LORD. It only comes through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah whom the Father sent into the world to give His life as a ransom for the world. There is no other that can save. Only the LORD can rescue man from his desperately sinful situation.</p> <p>"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2).</p> <p>"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:9).</p> <p>"Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and</p>	<p>Son of God Himself.</p> <p>"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6).</p> <p>"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>only Savior (Isaiah 45:18-25).</p> <p>11. Babylon will fall (Isaiah 47:1-48:15).</p> <p>12. Christ will be the Suffering Servant and die an atoning death (Isaiah 52:13-53:12).</p> <p>13. An everlasting covenant will be given to Israel (Isaiah 55:3-5).</p> <p>14. A Messiah will come to save (Isaiah 61:1-11).</p> <p>15. A description of the Millenium (Isaiah 66:14-24).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Isaiah</i>, 2 Kings 18-20</p>		<p>there is none else" (Isaiah 45:21-22).</p> <p>"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>JACOB/ISRAEL (DECEIVER/CONTENDER WITH GOD)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <p>1. Was the son of Isaac, son of Abraham (Genesis 25:19-26).</p> <p>2. Fathered twelve sons, who became the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel (Exodus 1:1-7).</p> <p>3. Tricked his brother, Esau, into giving him the birthright; thus, the</p>	<p>Time <i>1858 B.C., after Jacob and his sons had sojourned in Egypt 17 years and more than 400 years before the Exodus.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Goshen, a territory in the land of Egypt</i></p>	<p>In the later years of Jacob's life, he predicted the future of his twelve sons. His sons were to become the twelve tribes of Israel; consequently, Jacob was predicting the future of the nation of Israel and ultimately of the Savior to come, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Although Jacob was not ordinarily a prophet, while on his deathbed, Jacob was anointed by God's Spirit to</p>	<p>Just think of this wonderful fact: God had a plan to save us before the world was ever made. How marvelous is God's love. And so that there would be no mistake, God revealed His plan in His Holy Word. God outlined very specific facts about Jesus Christ so that it would be clear that He is the Messiah, Son of God, and Savior of the world.</p> <p>Note just six of the</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>Messiah, the Savior of the world, came through Jacob's family (Genesis 25:27-34).</p> <p>4. Tricked his father, Isaac, into giving him the blessing of the firstborn, taking it from his brother, Esau (Genesis 27:30-40).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages Jacob prophesied about the future of his twelve sons. The most important of all these prophetic utterances is that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, would come from the tribe of Judah.</p> <p>Scripture References Genesis 48-49</p>	<p><i>that was ruled by Pharaoh Sunusret III.</i></p>	<p>prophesy. The most important part of what Jacob predicted had to do with his son Judah. Judah would be the tribe from which the Messiah would arise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (Genesis 49:10).</p>	<p>essential facts, facts that clearly teach that Jesus Christ is the promised Seed, the Savior of the world:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Jesus Christ is "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev. 5:5). ⇒ Jesus Christ is the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6). ⇒ Jesus Christ gives rest to the human soul (Matthew 11:29). ⇒ Jesus Christ came to the earth so that we might have life, abundant life (John 10:10). ⇒ Jesus Christ is the Savior and lord of the world and all owe their obedience to Him (Isaiah 45:22-23; Phil. 2:9-11). ⇒ Jesus Christ came and gave His life on the cross for the redemption of humankind, and He will return again to gather His people unto Himself (Mark 13:27; John 14:1-3; 1 Thes. 4:16-18). <p>"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
			<p>loose the seven seals thereof" (Rev. 5:5).</p> <p>"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).</p>
<p>JEHU (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH IS HE)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Hanani the seer (1 Kings 16:1). 2. Was not the king whom Elijah and Elisha anointed to be king of Israel and to execute the LORD's vengeance upon the household of Ahab. 3. Recorded history about some of the kings of Israel (2 Chron. 20:34). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The family of King Baasha would be completely destroyed because of his terrible idolatry (1 Kings 16:1-3). 2. The wrath of the LORD would be upon 	<p>Time 886 B.C. at the end of the reign of Baasha, king of Israel, to 853 B.C., during the reign of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, the year Jehoshaphat made an alliance with the evil King Ahab of Israel.</p> <p>Place Samaria, the northern capital, in 886 B.C.; Jerusalem, the southern capital in 853 B.C.</p>	<p><i>Before Israel conquered the land of Canaan, the LORD had strongly given them two warnings. First, they were to drive out the Canaanites completely and without mercy so that the evil of idolatry would not creep into the pure worship of the LORD. Second, they were not to intermarry with the heathen nations.</i></p> <p><i>The message of Jehu rekindled the fire of God's warning that had been given down through the centuries. But as before, His warnings through Jehu were not heeded. King Baasha followed after the false gods of idolatry. And King Jehoshaphat intermarried with the family of Ahab and Jezebel in order to</i></p>	<p>God expects His followers to love everyone, even the wicked and those who hate God and His followers (Matthew 5:44). But while loving and reaching out to the unbelievers of the world, the believer must never compromise his testimony for the LORD. He must never act against God's Word, disobeying the commandments of the LORD. He must always live a life of spiritual separation, a life that does not fellowship or form alliances with unbelievers. The believer must always take a stand for righteousness against wickedness.</p> <p>"But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>Jehoshaphat because of the evil alliance he had made with King Ahab. However, because Jehoshaphat had removed the wicked idols of Ashtoreth, the LORD also saw the good in Jehoshaphat's heart (2 Chron. 19:2-3).</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 16:1-3, 12; 2 Chron. 19:1-3</p>		<p><i>form an alliance. God was angry because these kings, the leaders of His people, had rejected and disobeyed His Holy Word. They had ignored God's written message, so God raised up Jehu the prophet to once again warn the leaders and people: they must obey God's Word or face the judgment of God.</i></p> <p>"Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying, Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins; Behold, I will take away the posterity of Baasha, and the posterity of his house; and will make thy house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat" (1 Kings 16:1-3).</p> <p>"And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the</p>	<p>a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Cor. 5:11).</p> <p>"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 10-11).</p> <p>"Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee" (Exodus 34:12).</p> <p>"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>LORD. Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God" <u>(2 Chron. 19:2-3)</u>.</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>JEREMIAH (YAHWEH WILL RISE UP)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Known as "the weeping prophet." Lived in Anathoth (Jeremiah 1:1; Jeremiah 29:27). Was the son of Hilkiah (Jeremiah 1:1). Served as a priest in the line of Abiathar. Called as a youth. Is thought to have written a large portion of the Bible: 1 & 2 Kings, Jeremiah, Lamentations. <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The vision of the almond branch (Jeremiah 1:11-12). The vision of the steaming pot (Jeremiah 1:13-16). The sermon about Israel's disobedience to God's Word and the coming judgment (Jeremiah 2:1-6; Jeremiah 34:17; Jeremiah 35:17). The sermon that Judah will be taken captive if they do not repent (Jeremiah 7:1-7; Jeremiah 26:1-7). The prophecy that the house of the LORD will be made into a den of robbers (Jeremiah 7:11; Matthew 21:13). The lesson of the linen waistband (Jeremiah 13:1-10). The prophecy of a great drought (Jeremiah 	<p>Time 627-562 B.C., after the fall of Samaria until long after the final captivity of Judah, from King Josiah to King Gedaliah.</p> <p>Place Jerusalem until he was forced to go to Egypt.</p>	<p><i>Many important prophecies and messages have been given to the world by the LORD through His prophet Jeremiah: Often the LORD aroused Jeremiah to use symbols or illustrated the message of his prophecy.</i></p> <p><i>Of all his prophecies (some foretelling, but most preaching), one overall message comes through loud and clear: The LORD will rise up. Over and over Jeremiah's messages pointed out that God arises in favor of those who truly serve Him, and in judgment of those who refuse to hear His Word.</i></p> <p><i>God will arise and defend His faithful followers, delivering them from evil circumstances. God will even change His mind about judging a person if that person truly repents and then follows the LORD completely, trusting fully in His power to save.</i></p> <p>"And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear" (Jeremiah 25:4).</p> <p>"Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and</p>	<p>God is not some far away Being Who has no interest in what happens in the world. The LORD is the Creator of the earth and everything and everyone in it. He created every person for the purpose of worshipping Him, that men and women might have communion, a personal relationship, with Him. He is zealous for the souls of people. He rises up, calling for people to turn from sin and follow Him.</p> <p>But God will not rise up in our behalf forever. Eventually the time of judgment comes. And when the instant comes for judgment, judgment will fall swiftly and justly. Every person will be placed on the scales of judgment. It is then that a person must be on the side of Jesus Christ, God's Son.</p> <p>Always remember this unchanging fact: Without being on Christ's side, the scales of judgment will never tip in our favor, no matter what:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ No matter how much money we have given to the church or charity. ⇒ No matter how many people we have helped. ⇒ No matter how "good" of a person we have been. ⇒ No matter how much we have sacrificed. ⇒ No matter how we

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>JESUS CHRIST (JEHOVAH IS SALVATION)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is God's Son, the King of kings and LORD of lords, the Messiah, the Savior of the world (Matthew 14:33; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; 1 Timothy 6:15; Rev. 17:14; Rev. 19:16). 2. Is proclaimed by the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. 3. Stands forever as Prophet, Priest, and King (Deut. 18:18; Hebrews 5:6; Rev. 19:16). 4. Is the subject of endless facts too numerous to mention. <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proclamation that God wants to save every person ever born in the world (John 3:16). 2. The prophecy that the people would ask for Him to perform miracles of healing (Luke 4:23). 3. The declaration that anyone who does not follow His teaching will be destroyed (Matthew 7:24-27). 4. The prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 	<p>Time <i>During the years of Roman Oppression (A.D. 26-29) the Pre-eminent Prophet, the Son of God Himself was sent into the world in human flesh to save and set free all people of all generations.</i></p> <p>Place <i>The nation of Israel under Roman rule.</i></p>	<p>No greater prophet than Christ has ever lived—or ever will live—for no one else is perfect; no other prophet is God in the flesh. No greater message has ever been proclaimed—or ever will be—than the great gospel message, the good news of salvation. The good news is that Jesus Christ has come so that we can escape death and hell and have eternal life through Christ's death upon the cross and His resurrection from the grave. Through Him we will live with God in perfection forever and ever. What more can be said?</p> <p>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).</p>	<p>God loves every man, not just the religious and the good. He does not love only the people who love Him. He loves everyone, even the unlovely and the unloving, the unbelieving and the obstinate, the selfish and the greedy, the spiteful and the vengeful.</p> <p>God wants man to know His love. He wants to reach everyone in the world with His love. So God demonstrated His love in the most perfect way possible: He sent His Son into the world to reveal the truth of life to man and to pay the penalty of sin for man, in "behalf of man." Through the death of His Son upon the cross, God poured out the very life blood of His Son for man. No greater love could ever be expressed; no greater act could ever be carried out to show the depth of perfect love.</p> <p>"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1).</p> <p>"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>(Matthew 24:2; Mark 13:2).</p> <p>5. The prophecy that the end of the world would come and terrible judgment would fall (Matthew 24:1–25:46).</p> <p>6. The prediction that Peter would deny the LORD three times in one night (Matthew 26:34; Mark 14:30; Luke 22:34; John 13:38).</p> <p>7. The prophecy that Christ would be killed and rise again on the third day (Matthew 12:40; Matthew 17:22-23; Matthew 20:18-19; Mark 8:31; Mark 9:31; Mark 10:33-34; Luke 18:32-33).</p> <p>8. The prophecy that Christ would ascend to the right hand of the Father in heaven (John 6:62; John 14:2-3; John 16:10).</p> <p>9. The prophecy that Christ would come again to judge the world, rewarding the faithful and punishing the wicked (Matthew 10:42; Matthew 16:27; Matthew 22:13; Matthew 25:21; Rev. 22:12).</p> <p>10. The prophecy that the end of this age and world was coming, coming suddenly and unexpectedly (Matthew 24:1–25:46).</p>			<p>longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).</p> <p>"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).</p> <p>"Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself" (Hebrews 7:27).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
Scripture References Deut. 18:15-18 ; Matthew 21:11 ; Luke 24:19 ; Acts 7:37			
JOEL (YAHWEH IS GOD) Known Facts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Pethuel (Joel 1:1). 2. Wrote the book of <i>Joel</i> (Joel 1:1). 3. Prophesied in Judah for a short time during the ministry of Elisha. Predictions and Messages <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophecy of the coming devastating locust invasion (Joel 1:1-2:20). 2. The prophecy that restoration will come to Israel in abundance (Joel 2:21-27). 3. The prophecy of the Day of Pentecost (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:1-24). 4. The prophecy that a remnant will escape the coming judgment because they will call upon the LORD (Joel 2:32). 5. The prophecy of God's judgment against evil nations (Joel 3:1-19). 6. The prophecy of God's greatness and the truth that Jerusalem is protected by God (Joel 3:16-21). Scripture References The book of <i>Joel</i> ; Acts 2:16	Time 830 B.C., <i>during the ministry of Elisha and during the reign of Joash, king of Judah</i> Place <i>Jerusalem and Judah, the Southern Kingdom.</i>	Joel predicted several national disasters. In particular, Joel predicted that a locust invasion was going to wipe out the land, one that would be talked about for generations. The plague would be so terrible that no harvest would be left, none whatsoever. But Joel also prophesied that the Spirit of God would come in a special way and that there would be tremendous days of refreshing for those who stay true to the LORD. The message of Joel teaches that those who call upon the LORD will be saved. Judgment will come because of sin, but it will not last forever. Blessing and restoration will also be sent by God, but only for those who are called by God's name, only for those who truly acknowledge the LORD as the only true and living God. "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as	Man is self-centered and rebellious toward God. He likes to feel independent. Consequently, man is dead to God and resistant to the pulling call and quickening power of God. Both God and man have a part in salvation. God calls. He attracts, draws, pulls, and tugs at the heart of man to come. But note: God will not call forever. When a man senses the call and pull of God, he must act then and there. He must believe and make the decision to follow Christ. "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:13). "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call" (Joel 2:32).	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>JOHN THE APOSTLE (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH HAS BEEN GRACIOUS)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Zebedee, the brother of James (Matthew 10:2). 2. Called away from the fishing trade to follow Christ (Matthew 4:21). 3. Followed Christ closely. 4. Wrote the <i>Gospel of John</i>, the <i>Epistles of 1, 2, 3 John</i>, and the book of <i>Revelation</i>. 5. Was the only one of the twelve apostles not to be martyred, although an attempt was made against his life. <p>Predictions and Messages The book of <i>Revelation</i></p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>John</i>, the</p>	<p>Time <i>A.D. 95, near the end of John's life.</i></p> <p>Place <i>The island of Patmos, where John was exiled after a failed attempt to kill him by boiling him in oil.</i></p>	<p>All prophecy points to this undeniable fact: Jesus Christ is the King of kings and LORD of lords. The book of <i>Revelation</i> shows Christ in all His glory and splendor. Christ is the Righteous Judge, the Righteous Lamb and the Righteous King. <i>Revelation</i> teaches us that to overcome the world, we must be fully committed to following Christ, the One Who has already overcome the world.</p> <p>God's purpose in revealing to John the great revelation of Christ is to focus attention upon the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and His ultimate triumph over the world and its ungodliness and evil.</p> <p>God's purpose is to show the great redemption that He is preparing for all those who truly believe and follow His Son. God's purpose is to show man that he can be saved from the terrible things that are</p>	<p>God has appointed a day to judge the world. The day of judgment is set, already determined. God demands that all men repent now, repent of their sin and idolatry, from the vain imaginations of the world. Every man has a <i>concept</i>, a thought about God. But we should <i>seek</i> and find the only living and true God as revealed in the Holy Bible. This we do by reading and obeying His Word. Every person is personally responsible for forsaking the idols of this world and for finding God. Man is now to repent.</p> <p>God wants people to know that they can be saved while there is still time for them to repent. It is God's purpose to lead people to repentance and salvation, to lead them to the glorious inheritance of the great redemption that is to be given to all true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>"O Jerusalem, wash</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p><i>Epistles of 1, 2, 3 John, and the book of Revelation</i></p>		<p>coming upon the earth.</p> <p>"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John" (Rev. 1:1).</p> <p>"These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks" (Rev. 2:1).</p> <p>"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Rev. 5:13).</p> <p>"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:17).</p> <p>"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10).</p> <p>"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:16).</p>	<p>thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?" (Jeremiah 4:14).</p> <p>"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30).</p> <p>"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7).</p> <p>"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:24).</p>
<p>JOHN THE BAPTIST (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH</p>	<p>Time <i>A.D. 26, at the</i></p>	<p>Jesus Christ is "the Lamb of God Who takes</p>	<p>God does not value a man by his social status nor</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>HAS BEEN GRACIOUS)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Zacharias the priest and Elisabeth, and the first cousin of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:5-63). 2. Was the forerunner of Jesus Christ (Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 11:12-15; Matthew 17:10-13). 3. Lived and preached in the countryside and desert places of Palestine (Matthew 3:1-4). 3. Was jailed and beheaded by Herod (Mark 6:24-28). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>The unmistakable declaration that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God, Who would take away the sin of the world (John 1:29).</p> <p>Scripture References Malachi 4:5; Matthew 11:9; Mark 11:32; Luke 7:26; John 20:6</p>	<p><i>beginning of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Place <i>The Jordan River, about 20 miles east of Jerusalem.</i></p>	<p>away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).</p> <p>Christ declared an astonishing thing: John the Baptist was the greatest man ever born of a woman. John was neither a prince nor a king. He was not a man of wealth, fame, or power. Who was he? Why would Christ make such a striking statement about him? He was simply a man who believed in the Messiah and who totally committed his life to that belief. But notice: John was chosen for this special task because he was so dedicated, so committed to God. John lived a life of total dedication to the Lord and of self-denial. He rejected the carnal, fleshly pleasures of this world and the coveting of its possessions.</p> <p>"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).</p>	<p>by how far he gets in this world, but by his commitment to Jesus Christ. Christ declared John's eminence over all men; and in John, we have a blazing example of humility, of self-denial and commitment to God.</p> <p>And Christ declared that those who humble themselves will be greater still in the kingdom of God. It is an astonishing thought! But that is how much God values commitment and humility.</p> <p>"Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11).</p> <p>"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15).</p> <p>"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
			<p>"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).</p>
<p>JONAH (DOVE)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Ammitai (2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:1). 2. Wrote the book of <i>Jonah</i> (Jonah 1:1). 3. Ministered to the Northern Kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 14:25). 4. Tried to resist obeying God's instructions to go to Nineveh (Jonah 1:3). 5. Was called to a foreign nation (Jonah 1:2). 6. Converted the entire city of Nineveh with his preaching (Jonah 3:5-10). 7. Lived in Gath-Hepher (2 Kings 14:25). 8. Quoted the Psalms repeatedly in his prayer for God to save him from the great fish (Jonah 2:2-9). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nineveh will be overthrown in forty days (Jonah 3:4). 	<p>Time 780-765 B.C., during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel.</p> <p>Place Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, about 500 miles east of Israel.</p>	<p><i>Jonah was called by God to preach to Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrians. But Jonah did not want to go. He had a simple reason: The Assyrians were known for their cruelty to his people. Their war strategy was not only designed to take control of lands, but to instill absolute terror in the people they were conquering. The Assyrians wanted to make sure that the people would be so afraid of them that they would not ever try to avoid paying the demanded tribute each year.</i></p> <p><i>So Jonah tried to run away from God. Jonah got on a ship sailing in the opposite direction. But God sent a storm. Jonah knew why the storm had come. At Jonah's request, the men of the ship threw him overboard. But God was gracious. He had a great fish prepared to swallow Jonah. When Jonah repented, the fish threw Jonah up onto the land. After recovering from his ordeal, the repentant prophet went to Nineveh and preached. The city</i></p>	<p>We can now obtain the mercy of God. We need God to have mercy upon us because we have sinned against Him. We have done everything imaginable against God...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ ignored Him ⇒ neglected Him ⇒ rebelled against Him ⇒ disobeyed Him ⇒ rejected Him ⇒ denied Him ⇒ cursed Him <p>God will forgive our sins; He will have mercy upon us. But we must come to the throne of grace and ask for mercy. We must humble ourselves and fully acknowledge that mercy comes only through Christ Jesus.</p> <p>"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of her heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy" (Micah 7:18).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>2. Israel's borders will be extended and restored to their original positions (2 Kings 14:25).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Jonah</i>; 2 Kings 14:25; Matthew 12:39-41; Matthew 16:4</p>		<p><i>repented too, and they were saved from judgment.</i></p> <p><i>The book of Jonah clearly teaches that no matter how evil a person is, God will forgive him if he truly repents. No place represented self-exaltation and opposition to God more than Nineveh. God was so angry with the Ninevites that their total destruction was only forty days away. Yet, when they repented, God relented, forgave Nineveh and spared the city.</i></p> <p>"But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9).</p> <p>"But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (Jonah 3:8-10).</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>JOSEPH (HE HAS ADDED)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Jacob (Genesis 29:22-24). 2. Was persecuted and sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:4; Genesis 23-28). 3. Was forced to live in Egypt, a slave to Potiphar, falsely accused by his master's wife (Genesis 39:1-2; Genesis 11-17). 4. Remained faithful to God (Genesis 39:21-23). 5. Raised up after many years in prison to the throne of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh (Genesis 41:39-41). 6. Had a gift from God for interpreting dreams (Genesis 40:6-22). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pharaoh's butler would be restored to his position (Genesis 40:9-13). 2. Pharaoh's baker would be executed (Genesis 40:16-19). 3. Seven years of bountiful harvest would come to Egypt, but they 	<p>Time <i>1900-1885 B.C., during Joseph's reign as secondary only to Pharaoh of Egypt.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Ancient Egypt, during the time of the Pharaohs.</i></p>	<p><i>God is in complete control, and He carries out His plan regardless of the evil intentions of mankind. Joseph had all kinds of evil done against him. He was...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ hated and persecuted by his brothers ⇒ sold into slavery ⇒ reported dead to his father ⇒ tempted by an immoral woman ⇒ falsely accused of adultery ⇒ imprisoned for twenty years <p><i>Despite all of these awful experiences, God's purpose for Joseph was not stopped, not even hindered. At just the right time, God lifted Joseph up to be the second highest ranking official in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh himself. Even then Joseph did not take credit for himself. He gave all honor and praise to God for the interpretation of the dreams of Pharaoh. Through dreams, God delivered Joseph out of all his troubles and used him in a mighty way to save lives of multiplied thousands.</i></p> <p>"Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up</p>	<p>God's plans overrule man's opposition. God's counsel controls the evil of men, subjecting and using even the wickedness of men to work all things out for good and to achieve His will for the earth. Not even rulers, no matter how powerful they are, can stop or hinder the hand of God.</p> <p>People do all kinds of evil, trying to control situations, trying to rule over someone or to exert some authority beyond their position. Just think for a moment of the terrible evil things people in the world do every day. They ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ hate ⇒ steal ⇒ murder ⇒ destroy ⇒ commit immorality ⇒ encourage others to sin ⇒ revile those who will not take part in their sin ⇒ persecute believers ⇒ even attempt to stamp out the gospel and the church <p>But no matter what people do, they cannot stop the will of God and His plan. They will fail, for God has a plan and He will overrule and carry out His plan.</p> <p>Kings and rulers stand up and rally against God and His Christ, the Messiah.</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>would be followed by seven years of terrible famine (Genesis 41:25-32).</p> <p>Scripture References Genesis 40:1-23; Genesis 41:1-32</p>		<p>thine head, and restore thee unto thy place and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler" (Genesis 40:13).</p> <p>"Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee" (Genesis 40:19).</p> <p>"Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land" (Genesis 41:29-30).</p> <p>"And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass" (Genesis 41:32).</p> <p>"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (Genesis 50:20).</p>	<p>They stand against, stand in opposition to and in hostility toward Christ, foolishly thinking that they always have and always will overthrow God's plan. But they will fail.</p> <p>God's great plan of salvation will continue to march triumphantly down through the ages of history. Despite the railings of the devil and all his forces, God's church will go forward, will grow and conquer more and more. God rules and will continue to rule over all the evil plans of men.</p> <p>It is critical to know that God not only has a plan for the world, but for every person. The believer can rest assured that nothing can stop the plan God has for his life.</p> <p>"The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations" (Psalm 33:10-11).</p> <p>"Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?" (Eccles. 7:13).</p>
<p>MALACHI (MY MESSENGER)</p> <p>Known Facts</p>	<p>Time 430 B.C., about one hundred</p>	<p><i>Many of Malachi's listeners had participated in the great revivals of Ezra</i></p>	<p>True worship means more than ceremony, ritual and form. True worship</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>1. Prophesied after the captivity in Judah.</p> <p>2. Lived in the time of Nehemiah.</p> <p>3. Was the last of the Old Testament writers.</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>1. The declaration that God has always loved Israel (Malachi 1:1-5).</p> <p>2. The declaration that worship must be sincere (Malachi 1:6-14).</p> <p>3. The declaration that failing to honor the LORD results in a curse (Malachi 2:1-9).</p> <p>4. The declaration that marriage is holy before the LORD (Malachi 2:10-16).</p> <p>5. The call to return to the LORD (Malachi 2:17-3:7).</p> <p>6. The declaration that a person must not rob God of His tithes and offering, not if the person wishes to be blessed by God. (Malachi 3:8-12).</p> <p>7. The prophecy concerning the judgment of the wicked—they will not be spared (Malachi 3:13-18).</p> <p>8. The declaration that</p>	<p><i>years after the Temple had been rebuilt under the direction of Hag-gai and Zechariah. Malachi was the last of the prophets to appear until Christ was born.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the capital city of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.</i></p>	<p><i>and Nehemiah and had fully committed their lives to the LORD. But now, just a few years later, they had slipped away from the LORD, turning back to a life of sin and neglecting the worship of the LORD and their duty to support the House of God (Malachi 1:6-14; Malachi 3:6-12).</i></p> <p><i>The people were apathetic, complacent, only half-heartedly committed to the LORD. They needed to be called back to God. Thus God raised up Malachi to preach the utter necessity of repentance. In scathing sermon after scathing sermon, he pointed out the seriousness of Israel's sin. He called the people to return to the true worship of God.</i></p> <p>"For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 1:11).</p> <p>"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto</p>	<p>must be sincere in heart, completely genuine.</p> <p>True worship, worship which truly draws us closer to the LORD must be five things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Worshipping the only living and true God, the worship of Him and Him alone. ⇒ Approaching and seeking God's acceptance exactly as He says through the substitute sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. ⇒ Living for God by following the Lord Jesus Christ and obeying His holy Word. ⇒ Hoping in the resurrection and not holding on to this world, but looking to the next. ⇒ Always seeking to have a pure conscience. This means... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · struggling, even to the point of pain, to keep a pure conscience · struggling to be "void of offense"—to keep from stumbling and from causing others to stumble · struggling to have a clear conscience toward both God

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>the righteous will triumph (Malachi 4:1-3).</p> <p>9. The prophecy that one like Elijah (John the Baptist) will come as a forerunner to the Messiah (Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 11:12-15; Matthew 17:10-13).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Malachi</i></p>		<p>me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 3:7).</p>	<p>and men</p> <p>"There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god" (Psalm 81:9).</p> <p>"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23).</p> <p>"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ" (Phil. 1:10).</p>
<p>MICAH (WHO IS LIKE JEHOVAH/YAHWEH?)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lived in Moresheth (Micah 1:1). Wrote the book of <i>Micah</i> (Micah 1:1). Ministered only a few years, but prophesied to both the Northern and Southern Kingdom (Micah 1:1). Prophesied with Isaiah (Micah 1:1; Jeremiah 26:18; see Isaiah 36-39). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The prophecy of God's judgment against Sa-maria and Jerusalem for 	<p>Time <i>735-725 B.C., during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Judea, Jerusalem and Samaria.</i></p>	<p>In Micah's day, the Assyrians were just a few years away (722 B.C.) from conquering Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The Assyrians would be within easy striking distance of Jerusalem. Although Micah sternly warned Judah that a terrible situation was coming for the nation, the religious leaders would not believe it. Micah preached that not even God's holy mountain would be spared. But the leaders assumed that since the temple and God's Holy Place was in Jerusalem, the foreign invasion was impossible. Their pride would lead to their downfall.</p> <p>Micah warned the</p>	<p>God is to be feared, for He resists and stands opposed to the proud. The very thing we do not want to be is prideful. For the only way to escape the judgment of God's hand is to humble ourselves under His mighty hand. If we stand up to His hand, we will be stricken down; but if we humble ourselves under His hand, we will be protected and lifted up, exalted forever and ever.</p> <p>God is going to exalt the humble. The day is coming when the humble will be exalted in all the glory and majesty of Christ. They will be exalted to live with Christ, ruling and reigning with Him and serving Him throughout the entire</p>

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<p>idolatry (Micah 1).</p> <p>2. The prophecy that judgment will come against social injustice (Micah 2:1-11).</p> <p>3. The prophecy that there will be restoration for those remaining (Micah 2:12-13).</p> <p>4. The prophecy that wicked leaders will be judged (Micah 3).</p> <p>5. The prophecy of the promise of peace and purity of worship (Micah 4:1-5).</p> <p>6. The prophecy that Israel will be made strong (Micah 4:6-5:1).</p> <p>7. The prophecy that Christ will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-6; Matthew 2:5-6).</p> <p>8. The prophecy that Israel will be pure from the idolatry of the world (Micah 5:7-15).</p> <p>9. A sermon about what God requires of a person (Micah 6).</p> <p>10. A sermon concerning the terrible corruption among the people (Micah 7:1-6).</p> <p>11. A prayer of</p>		<p>people: The LORD absolutely requires justice, mercy and humility. No matter how much we do in the name of the LORD, without these three things, we cannot hope to be acceptable before God. Without living the way God requires, judgment will come, terrible judgment.</p> <p>But if we walk humbly before people, showing mercy and executing justice, and truly worshipping the LORD, the LORD will accept us. For He accepts all who obey His Word and walk humbly before Him.</p> <p>"Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? The LORD's voice crieth unto the city, and the man</p>	<p>universe. They will be with Christ, worshipping and serving Him forever and ever.</p> <p>"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).</p> <p>"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).</p> <p>"But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee" (Psalm 55:23).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>repentance (Micah 7:7-11).</p> <p>12. The prophecy about Israel's future restoration (Micah 7:12-20).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Micah</i>; Jeremiah 26:18; Matthew 2:5-6</p>		<p>of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it" (Micah 6:6-9).</p>	
<p>MICAH (WHO IS LIKE JEHOVAH/YAHWEH?)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Imlah (1 Kings 22:8-9). 2. Suffered persecution for speaking the Word of the LORD (1 Kings 22:24). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophecy that King Ahab of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah would meet with disaster if they tried to battle the Aramean (Syrian) army (2 Chron. 18:16). 2. The declaration that the LORD had allowed a lying spirit to influence the false prophets so that Ahab would be enticed into battle and to his doom (1 Kings 22:19-23; 2 Chron. 18:18-22). 	<p>Time 853 B.C., at the end of the reign of King Ahab.</p> <p>Place Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom.</p>	<p>The battle at Ramoth-Gilead would be a disaster. Micaiah gave this prophetic message to King Ahab of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah, who were planning to attack the Arameans (Syrians). Even though an attendant of the king warned Micaiah not to give a negative message to King Ahab, he advised that everyone go home and not fight the Arameans (Syrians) at this time. But the LORD had allowed a lying spirit to influence the false prophets to speak in unison so that Ahab would go against what the LORD had truly said. Because of his terribly wicked life and rule, God's longsuffering with Ahab had run its course. Now, it was time for Ahab to face the judgment of God.</p> <p>"Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no</p>	<p>We must guard ourselves against false prophets and false teachers, for the world is full of both. Far too often, the pulpits of the world are filled with false prophets who preach a doctrine other than the doctrine of Christ and His Holy Word. Their focus is not the Word of God but some other religious literature or some feel-good message. Ignoring the truth of God's Word, they seek the approval of their congregations by tickling their ears with messages of positive thinking and self-esteem or by placing too much emphasis on healing and miracles or a particular spiritual gift. These subjects are important, for they are each a part of God's Word. But the whole counsel of God's Word is to be proclaimed—both negative and positive.</p> <p>False prophets seek merely to captivate or pacify us, giving us messages they feel will secure our approval and enhance their own honor</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>Scripture References 1 Kings 22:1-37; 2 Chron. 18:1-34</p>		<p>master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace" (2 Chron. 18:16).</p> <p>"Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee" (1 Kings 22:23).</p>	<p>and recognition.</p> <p>We must guard against false teachers, wherever they come from, whatever position they have. False teachers mislead us into half-truths, lies and serious doctrinal error, which will lead to destruction.</p> <p>"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15).</p>
<p>MOSES (DRAWN OUT)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the only prophet of Old Testament times with whom God spoke face-to-face (Exodus 33:11). 2. Was born into the tribe of Levi (Exodus 6:16-20). 3. Was the son of Amram and Jochebed (Exodus 6:20). 4. Was raised as an Egyptian (Exodus 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:26-27). 5. Ran from Egypt to escape from a murder charge (Exodus 2:11-15). 6. Heard God speak from the burning bush where God 	<p>Time <i>1405 B.C., near the end of Moses' life.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Across the Jordan from the promised land, in the Arabah, the dry desert land east of the Jordan River.</i></p>	<p>Throughout his final forty years, Moses proclaimed the holiness and sovereignty of the LORD. During this time of leading the Israelites from the exodus from Egypt to the promised land of blessing, Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (which is really one great book called "the Law" or "the Instruction" or "the Pentateuch"). In these Scriptures are found:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The beginnings of the world and the Israelite nation (Genesis). 2. The account of Israel's Exodus from Egypt, their escape from bondage: A type of escaping from the bondage of sin (Exodus). 3. The Law of God which Moses 	<p>The greatest commandment is clear: we must love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We must know that "the LORD our God <i>is</i> one LORD" (Deut. 6:4). Note these three vital facts about this great declaration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God is the <i>only</i> living and true God, the only God Who can save, deliver and redeem. 2. The Lord is our God. We have a personal relationship with the Lord. It is a daily experience. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Therefore, we should love, adore and worship Him. 3. The Lord is one Lord. There is no other. The many false gods of the world exist

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>revealed His Name to him (Exodus 3:1-14).</p> <p>7. Led the people of Israel out of bondage (Exodus 14:21-31).</p> <p>8. Performed many miraculous signs (Exodus 4:30; Exodus 7:20; Exodus 8:6, Exodus 17; Exodus 9:10, 23; Exodus 10:13, 22; Exodus 14:21, 27).</p> <p>9. Received the Law from God on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:1-24:18).</p> <p>10. Received the instructions for the Tabernacle from God on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 25:1-31:18).</p> <p>11. Was prevented from entering the promised land because he disobeyed God (Deut. 34:4).</p> <p>12. Wrote the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>1. The prophecy of the coming Messiah, the Savior of the world (Deut. 18:15-18).</p> <p>2. The Song of Moses: a prophecy</p>		<p>received on Mt. Sinai (Exodus).</p> <p>4. The instructions for the Tabernacle, the place of worship: A picture of heaven (Exodus).</p> <p>5. The instructions for the sacrifices, showing how man can approach God and be acceptable to God: The sacrifices foreshadowed Jesus Christ and His sacrifice as a sin offering. Through His sacrifice a person can be saved from sin, death and hell (Leviticus).</p> <p>6. The journeys of the Israelite people: powerful lessons on following God (Numbers).</p> <p>7. The sermons of Moses: the first studies concerning the nature and character of God and how people can follow and live for God (Deuteronomy).</p> <p>Thus the Mosaic Covenant, the law of God, lays the groundwork for all that follows in the Old Testament and in the Bible. For the Law points out that we need a Savior and that we must humbly come to</p>	<p>only in the imaginations of people.</p> <p>Look at how great God is! No wonder the Scripture commands us to love God with our whole being, with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We are to love Him thoroughly, fully, completely—in every way for the rest of our lives.</p> <p>"And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it" (Deut. 32:46-47).</p> <p>"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).</p> <p>"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:4-5).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>concerning the future of Israel (Deut. 32:1-43).</p> <p>3. The Blessing of Moses: a prophecy concerning the future of each of the twelve tribes of Israel (Deut. 33:1-29).</p> <p>Scripture References The books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy; Joshua 8:31-32; 1 Samuel 12:8; 1 Kings 8:56; 2 Kings 23:23-25; 1 Chron. 22:13; Psalm 90; Isaiah 63:11-12; Matthew 17:1-3</p>		<p>God on His terms, offering the Sacrifice that He demands. The Law also points out that the believer must be separated from the world, refusing to live like the world and not being conformed to the world. The Law of Moses proclaims the very same message the entire Bible proclaims, that we need the salvation provided in Jesus Christ, God's Son.</p> <p>Moses preached his series of sermons (found in the book of <i>Deuteronomy</i>) as the children of Israel were getting ready to enter the promise Land. At the end of his life, he warned Israel not to forget the LORD, not to go astray as they had in the past.</p> <p>As he preached, Moses also broke out into song and prophesied of the future of Israel. Most importantly, Moses told of One Who would rise later, One Who would be similar to Moses. Moses spoke of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Just as Moses spoke the words God gave him to speak so Jesus Christ spoke and did what the Father spoke and directed Him to do. Just as Moses delivered God's people from the bondage of Egypt so Christ delivers God's people from the bondage of sin.</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken ... I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him" (Deut. 18:15, 18).</p> <p>"Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God" (Deut. 32:1-3).</p> <p>"And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words" (Deut. 33:1-3).</p>	
<p>NAHUM (COMFORT)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lived in Elkosh (Nahum 1:1). Prophesied about Nine-veh, just as Jonah did, but the Ninevites did not listen to Nahum, and they were destroyed (Nahum 2:8-13). Wrote the book of <i>Nahum</i> (Nahum 1:1). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A poem about God's zeal for justice—His goodness and protection for those who take refuge in Him and His fierce wrath that falls upon the wicked (Nahum 1:2-8). The doom of the Nin-evites, who will be destroyed even though they have many weapons (Nahum 1:9-2:13). 	<p>Time <i>663-612 B.C., during the reign of Manasseh, Amon and Josiah.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Judah, the Southern Kingdom and Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, hundreds of miles from Jerusalem.</i></p>	<p>The outcry of evil from Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrians, reached up to God, calling out for judgment. And swift judgment was on the way. The Ninevites thought that they were unstoppable, too mighty to even be slowed down. For the small country of Judah, Nineveh personified the word terror. But Nahum had a message from God: <i>The LORD is zealous, avenging His people and pouring out wrath upon His enemies.</i></p> <p><i>About one hundred years earlier, Nineveh had repented under conviction of Jonah's preaching to them. But now, the city had returned to its wicked and brutal ways, caring only about conquest and plunder, power and wealth.</i></p> <p><i>Nahum preached a message of total destruction. This time, the Ninevites did not repent and the judgment of God fell on the entire city.</i></p>	<p>God is going to rectify all the injustices of the world. God's judgment is going to fall upon every person who has mistreated others. All unjust behavior of men will bear the terrible judgment of God, all the...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · killing · mocking · cursing · cheating · abusing · stealing · fighting · prejudice · bitterness · hatred <p>The list could go on and on, but the point is this: much of the world's behavior is evil and unjust. God <i>must judge</i> the world, for judgment is the righteous and just penalty for evil. All the injustices of the world must be corrected. God is going to judge the world. He is just and righteous Himself; therefore, His very nature demands that all the</p>

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<p>3. A funeral poem about Nineveh, the greedy and violently wicked city (Nahum 3:1-19).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Nahum</i>; Isaiah 52:7</p>		<p><i>Tragically, the Ninevites had felt all powerful, so powerful that nothing or no one could harm their large fortified city. But when God pronounced judgment on them, nothing and no one could save them. Nineveh was destroyed in 663 B.C.</i></p> <p>"God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet" (Nahum 1:2-3).</p> <p>"There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit [report] of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?" (Nahum 3:19).</p>	<p>injustices and wrongs that men have inflicted upon others be judged and punished.</p> <p>God will execute justice and avenge His people. God sees the great need of His people, and God alone can meet their need.</p> <p>Therefore God, the just Judge of the universe, will avenge them of their adversaries (spiritual as well as human). Even now, when His people pray, continually bringing their case before God, He hears their plea, and He delivers them. And when the time comes, justice will be executed against the persecutors of His people.</p> <p>"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25).</p> <p>"And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily" (Luke 18:7-8).</p> <p>"So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth" (Psalm 58:11).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>NATHAN (HE HAS GIVEN)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ministered during the time of the united kingdom under King David and King Solomon (2 Samuel 7:1-5; 1 Chron. 17:1-4). Named David's son Jedidiah (who later became known as Solomon) (2 Samuel 12:25). Stood with David against Adonijah the rebel, helping establish Solomon on the throne (1 Kings 1:8-46). Wrote the history of the kingship of David and Solomon (1 Chron. 9:29; 2 Chron. 29:25). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The prophecy that Israel would have a permanent dwelling place (2 Samuel 7:4-10; 1 Chron. 17:3-9). The prophecy that God would establish David's family on the throne forever—that the Messiah, the King of kings, would come through David's family (2 Samuel 7:11-17; 1 Chron. 17:10-15). The parable of the poor sheep owner—the exposure of David's sin of adultery (2 Samuel 12:1-9). 	<p>Time <i>1003-931 B.C., during the reigns of King David and King Solomon when the kingdom of Israel was still united and strong.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the capital of Israel and the city chosen by God to place the temple.</i></p>	<p>Through all the messages sent by God through Nathan the prophet, this one theme stands out: the LORD will greatly bless and defend all who honor Him.</p> <p>King David had a burning desire to build a temple for the LORD. Nathan had encouraged David to build the temple; but that very night God corrected Nathan, reversing his counsel to David.</p> <p>Nonetheless, God was very pleased with David and blessed David greatly because David honored Him with his whole heart. Note the tremendous blessings that Nathan predicted would be given to David by God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David would be given a position of astounding royalty and power. David would have the blessing of God's presence and guidance through the years. David would be given the power to conquer his enemies. David would be given an honorable name and reputation. David was assured that the promised land would be given to Israel. David was assured that he would receive future rest from all his enemies. David would receive a never ending 	<p>God is good, and His goodness is overwhelming. But we live in a wicked world, a world where evil men roam and commit acts of terror, violence and lawlessness. In addition to evil men, the world is full of misfortune and hardship, temptation and trial. Yet in the midst of all the difficulties and problems of life, God's goodness shines through. For if we trust the Lord, He promises to save and deliver us and to meet our every need. No matter what the terrible circumstance, God will pour out His goodness upon us, strengthening and helping us to walk through any problem or difficulty. God is good, and He longs for us to trust Him. And if we trust Him, His goodness pours out the riches promises to us, promises that assure us of the most victorious and fruitful life imaginable. This is the wonderful promise of the incredible goodness of God.</p> <p>"And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).</p> <p>"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him" (Psalm 28:7)⁴</p> <p>"Thou art good, and</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>NOAH (REST)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Lamech (Genesis 5:28-29). 2. Found favor in the sight of God (Genesis 6:5-8). 3. Was a righteous man (Genesis 6:9). 4. Received instruction from God to build an ark to preserve his family and some of each living animal (Genesis 6:13-21). 5. Entered into a covenant with God to be saved (Genesis 6:18). 6. Built the ark (Genesis 6:22). 7. Called a preacher of righteousness by the Scripture (2 Peter 2:5). 8. Was saved by following God's instructions (Genesis 7:1-24). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preached righteousness to a wicked generation (2 Peter 2:5). 2. Prophesied about the future of his three sons and their descendants 	<p>Time <i>Unknown, but at least seven generations after Adam.</i></p> <p>Place <i>The center of civilization, before the tower of Babel.</i></p>	<p>Noah was a preacher of righteousness, warning people that the judgment of God was coming upon the whole world. What did he preach? Simply what God had told him—there is a consequence for sin. God would eventually withdraw his Spirit: His Spirit would not always strive with man, not forever. If man did not repent, the consequences of his sin would come upon him.</p> <p>Through the preaching of Noah, the Spirit of God was doing just what He does with people today when they hear the Word of God preached and taught in the power of God. He was convicting them of sin and of coming judgment.</p> <p>But the people were resisting and quenching the convictions of the Spirit. They were not listening to the voice of God struggling within their hearts. They wanted to live like they wanted, to do their own thing.</p> <p>Consequently, God had no choice. God had to give man a final warning: if man did not repent, God would withdraw His Spirit and let judgment fall upon the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.</p> <p>"And the LORD said,</p>	<p>Judgment for sin is coming. Yet, people act as if the world will go on undisturbed. People act as if tomorrow will be just like today. The world continues in sin, foolishly rushing here and there, living as if there is no consequence for sin.</p> <p>Think how much our society is like the first society of earth. Think of the cult of beauty and sex, the power given to the immoral, the sin that runs wild all through society. But it will not continue forever. Just like Noah's day, eventually God will withdraw His Spirit and judgment will fall. The terrible wrath of God will be made known to the sinner, either when he dies, or when the judgment of God falls upon the entire world. A person simply cannot live an immoral and wicked life and hope that God will not notice. There are consequences for sin, serious consequences.</p> <p>"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>(Genesis 9:25-27).</p> <p>Scripture References Genesis 5–8</p>		<p>My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years ... And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth" (Genesis 6:3, 7).</p> <p>"And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant" (Genesis 9:25-27).</p> <p>"[God] spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (2 Peter 2:5).</p>	<p>all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37-39).</p> <p>"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).</p>
<p>OBADIAH (SERVANT OF JEHOVAH/YAHWEH)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrote the book of <i>Obadiah</i> (Obadiah 1). 2. Ministered to Judah, the Southern Kingdom of Israel (Obadiah 16-17). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophecy of the 	<p>Time <i>845 B.C., during the reign of King Jehoram of Judah.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Judah, the Southern Kingdom of Israel.</i></p>	<p>Edom will be overthrown because of her pride, a pride which led to a lifestyle of wickedness, and savage brutality, and violence against the Israelites down through the centuries.</p> <p>The Edomites were the descendants of Esau and were actually related to Judah. Because of their ancient relationship, the Edomites should have been</p>	<p>All boasting and arrogance, pride and conceit is wrong. It is wrong to elevate ourselves above others, to think that we are <i>better</i> or <i>higher</i> than anyone else. God will severely judge all pride.</p> <p>"Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment" (Psalm 73:6).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>doom of the nation of Edom (Obadiah 1-16).</p> <p>2. The prophecy that Judah will overpower Edom, taking away Edom's territory and ending the evil nation's violence against Judah (Obadiah 17-21).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Obadiah</i>; 2 Kings 8:20-22; 2 Chron. 21:8-20</p>		<p>good neighbors to Judah, but instead they were hostile, brutal and savage.</p> <p>Now, God would make them pay for their arrogance. Edom would suffer one invasion after the other over the next several centuries. Eventually, just as predicted, in the second century B.C., the Maccabees, who were Jewish zealots, finally conquered the Edomites and subjected them under the heel of Judah's authority.</p> <p>"The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle" (Obadiah 1:1).</p> <p>"Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD" (Obadiah 1:4).</p> <p>"But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of</p>	<p>"And he shall spread forth his hands in the midst of them, as he that swimmeth spreadeth forth his hands to swim: and he shall bring down their pride together with the spoils of their hands" (Isaiah 25:11).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>their destruction; neither shouldst thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress" (Obadiah 1:12).</p> <p>"For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head" (Obadiah 1:15).</p>	
<p>PAUL (SMALL, LITTLE)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lived in Tarsus (Acts 9:11; Acts 21:39). Was an apostle "born out of due time" (1 Cor. 15:8). Was originally named "Saul" (Acts 13:9). Persecuted the Christians, fiercely persecuted them (Acts 8:1-9:2). Was converted in a dramatic confrontation with Christ (Acts 9:3-9). Became just as zealous for Christ as he had been for Judaism (2 Cor. 12:15). Made many missionary journeys, taking the gospel to the world (Acts 13:1-28:31). 	<p>Time <i>A.D. 35-64, all the years of Paul's life after his conversion.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Various churches, homes and prisons, north and east of the Mediterranean Sea.</i></p>	<p>If the message of Paul can be summed up in a few words, it can only be done in his own words:</p> <p>"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16-17).</p> <p>"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16).</p> <p>What greater example could be set before us than the life of Paul, other than the life of Christ? The Apostle Paul was the apex of dedication and service, surpassed only by Christ</p>	<p>The hope of salvation—the forgiveness of sins, a victorious and conquering life and the gift of eternal life—all this has been entrusted into the hands of Paul and to all other believers. Note exactly what the Bible teaches: God's Word and the teaching of God's Word have been committed to men by the commandment of God. God's Word and the preaching of His Word are not an option. God commands that we take care of His Word, that we be good stewards of the truth of the gospel, that we preach and teach it to the whole world.</p> <p>"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:</p>

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<p>8. Was taken prisoner by the Roman empire (Acts 21:11-13; Acts 25:14).</p> <p>9. Wrote much of the New Testament.</p> <p>10. Was martyred for the cause of Christ (by Nero in A.D. 64, according to church history).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>1. A prophecy given to Paul by an angel—that all on board the ship caught in a storm would live (Acts 27:12-26).</p> <p>2. A prophecy that Christ will return to the earth (Phil. 3:20; 1 Thes. 4:16).</p> <p>3. A prophecy that the world will become very evil in the last times, with some saints even falling away (2 Thes. 2:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-7).</p> <p>4. A prophecy that the saints of God will be resurrected (1 Cor. 15:50-57; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thes. 4:13-18).</p> <p>5. A prophecy of the antichrist—that the man of sin will be revealed in the end time (2 Thes. 2:1-5).</p> <p>6. A prophecy that Christ will receive those who are His into heaven and</p>		<p>Himself. Paul exhausted himself preaching and teaching the gospel, finally giving his life as a martyr.</p> <p>In all the preaching and prophecies of Paul, there was one clear point, one unmistakable focus: the gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news that Christ paid the price for sin on Calvary. Every person who accepts this, calling on the name of the Lord, can be saved from his sins. This person can become acceptable to God and be given a wonderful entrance into heaven, the place of eternal reward and receive the Spirit of God into his heart and life. With the presence of God's Spirit in his life, the believer has the power to live a conquering triumphant life through all the trials and temptations of life. No matter what the believer faces—even if it is the terrible evil of the last days—God empowers the believer to be "more than a conqueror" (Romans 8:37-39). Think, when the believer comes face-to-face with death, quicker than the eye can blink, the Lord transfers him to heaven, the place of eternal reward.</p> <p>"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him</p>	<p>and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).</p> <p>"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).</p> <p>"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>their eter-nal reward (1 Cor. 1:8).</p> <p>7. A prophecy that death will be destroyed (1 Cor. 15:24-26).</p> <p>Scripture References Acts 8:1-28:31, the books of Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon</p>		<p>that loves us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39).</p> <p>"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (2 Timothy 4:18).</p>	
<p>SAMUEL (God hears)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dedicated to God from birth (1 Samuel 1:11; 1 Samuel 2:18). 2. Was favored highly with God and man (1 Samuel 2:26). 3. Was given prophecies from God even as a boy (1 Samuel 3:1-18). 4. Was recognized as a prophet to all Israel (1 Samuel 3:20). 5. Lived in Ramah (1 Samuel 7:17). 6. Appointed his sons as judges, but they were wicked 	<p>Time <i>1095-1015 B.C., about forty years before King Saul and during most of his reign.</i></p> <p>Place <i>In the center regions of Israel, serving as judge to the entire nation. In order to hear all the cases, and judge Israel rightly, Samuel traveled on a regular yearly circuit all his life from Bethel to Gilgal to</i></p>	<p>The messages, ministry and life of Samuel the prophet can be summed up in three words: "Serve the LORD." With this simple message, Samuel guided and judged the people of Israel for eighty years. Samuel encouraged the people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To serve the LORD with all their heart (1 Samuel 12:20, 24). 2. To serve the LORD and not to turn aside (1 Samuel 12:20). 3. To serve the LORD in truth (1 Samuel 12:24). 4. To serve the LORD, considering what great things He had 	<p>Just imagine the impact Samuel's life and ministry had. There was no one, not a single person who could accuse Samuel of wrongdoing. he had lived a righteous life and served faithfully throughout all the years, throughout all the days of his life.</p> <p>What a testimony! What a dynamic, living example for us. We must live righteous lives, keeping all the commandments of God, obeying Him in all that He says. We must be faithful and diligent in all that we do. This is the strong declaration of God's Holy Word:</p> <p>"Moreover it is</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>(1 Samuel 8:3).</p> <p>7. Anointed Saul as king (1 Samuel 10:1).</p> <p>8. Recorded events of David's reign and the regulations to govern the king and control his power (1 Samuel 10:25; 1 Chron. 29:29).</p> <p>9. Faithfully served as a judge all his days (1 Samuel 12:1-5).</p> <p>10. Called down rain and thunder during the dry season—a sign that Samuel was God's spokesman (1 Samuel 12:16-18).</p> <p>11. Anointed David as king over Israel (1 Samuel 16:1, 13).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>1. The prophecy that judgment would fall on the family of Eli, the priest, because of his evil sons (1 Samuel 3:11-14; 1 Samuel 4:17-22).</p> <p>2. The prophecy that if Israel would get rid of their false gods, the LORD would help Israel defeat the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:3).</p> <p>3. The prophecy that when Israel cried out to the LORD</p>	<p><i>Mizpeh and back to his home in Ramah</i> (1 Samuel 7:15-17).</p>	<p>done for them (1 Samuel 12:24).</p> <p>Samuel's testimony is one of the strongest records of faithfulness ever lived. In Samuel's lifetime, he witnessed some of the most horrifying evil and wickedness ever committed upon the face of the earth, even by the leadership of Israel. For example, Eli, the priest who reared and trained him, would not control his own wicked sons. They committed the most vile acts of immorality imaginable—at the very tabernacle itself, the worship center of Israel (1 Samuel 2:22). Saul, whom God had raised up to serve as king, turned out to be a great disappointment. Despite Samuel's great trust in him, Saul disobeyed God time and time again, until God finally had to remove him from the kingship and instruct Samuel to anoint another (David). But Samuel was faithful, faithful to the end. Through all the years he stayed true to the LORD despite all the horrifying evil of society.</p> <p>"If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the</p>	<p>required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).</p> <p>"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).</p> <p>"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).</p> <p>"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Rev. 17:14).</p> <p>"Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day" (1 Kings 8:61).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>because of the severe rule of the king they had insisted on, the LORD would not hear them (1 Samuel 8:10-18).</p> <p>4. The declaration that Saul's donkeys had been found (1 Samuel 9:20).</p> <p>5. The prophecy that God would change Saul into a different man so that he could serve as king (1 Samuel 10:6).</p> <p>6. The sermon of the history of Israel—a strong message that God would be with Israel so long as they faithfully obeyed Him (1 Samuel 12:6-15).</p> <p>7. The prophecy that the LORD would take Israel out of the promised land if they did evil (1 Samuel 12:24-25).</p> <p>8. The declaration that God had rejected Saul and chosen another (David) to be king (1 Samuel 13:13-14; 1 Samuel 15:17-29; 1 Samuel 28:16-17).</p> <p>9. The message from God to Samuel, that God was sorry he</p>		<p>commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God: But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers ...</p> <p>And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>had made Saul king, because Saul had been so disobedient (1 Samuel 15:10-11).</p> <p>10. The prophecy that Saul and Jonathan would die the next day in battle (1 Samuel 28:18-19).</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Samuel 1:1-25:1; 1 Samuel 28:8-20; Jeremiah 15:1</p>		<p>consumed, both ye and your king" (1 Samuel 12:14-15, 20-25).</p> <p>"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Samuel 15:22-23).</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>SHEMAIAH (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH HEARS)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded the history of Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:15). Ministered to Judah, the Southern Kingdom (1 Kings 12:22; 2 Chron. 12:5). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The message to King Rehoboam that the rebellion of Jeroboam and the northern tribes of Israel was the will of God and that Rehoboam should not try to stop the uprising (1 Kings 12:22-24; 2 Chron. 11:2-4). The prophecy that Jerusalem would be given into the hand of Egypt's King Shishak because the people had been unfaithful, forsaking the Law of the LORD (2 Chron. 12:5). The prophecy that the people would become servants of Shishak, but Jerusalem would not be destroyed, 	<p>Time <i>926 B.C., the fifth year of the reign of Rehoboam, king of Judah.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, the Southern kingdom of Israel.</i></p>	<p>Shortly after the ten northern tribes had revolted and formed the Northern Kingdom, Rehoboam mobilized an army of 180,000 soldiers to put down the rebellion. His purpose was to invade the northern tribes and permanently subject them under his rule. But while marching north to attack, God's prophet Shemaiah confronted Rehoboam. God's prophet had a stark warning for the king and the leaders of Judah (2 Chron. 11:2-4). They were not to fight against their brothers, the Israelites. Rather they were to return home, for the ruptured, divided kingdom was of God, the work of His hands. Hearing this stern warning from the prophet, the king and the people obeyed the LORD and returned home.</p> <p>But five years later when the scene refocuses upon Rehoboam and Judah, tragic differences are seen in the life of the king and people. They have turned away from the LORD, disobeying His Word and committing apostasy against Him. The hearts of Rehoboam and the people have wandered away from the LORD. As a result Shemaiah, the prophet, had</p>	<p>God demands obedience, a lifetime of obedience. We are to always obey God's Holy Word, His commandments. Obeying God today and disobeying Him tomorrow does not make us acceptable to God. A life of inconsistency—obeying this week and disobeying next week—exposes a heart of insincerity and hypocrisy, a heart of dishonesty before God. A true profession of Christ means that we keep God's Word, obey His holy commandments. When we keep some commandments now and break other commandments later and continue a path of inconsistency, this is a life of deception and duplicity. Professing to be a follower of the LORD and consistently breaking His commandments is living a double life. It is attempting to establish a relationship with the LORD that is phony, double-dealing, shifty—a fake life that professes to obey God by living an unfaithful, untruthful life—a hypocritical life.</p> <p>"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>because the people had repented at the LORD's first message (see note #2—2 Chron. 12:7-8).</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 12:22-24; 2 Chron. 11:2-4; 2 Chron. 12:5-8, 15</p>		<p>another message for the king and people: Shishak, the Egyptian king was going to destroy Jerusalem. Upon hearing this message, the leaders quickly humbled themselves before the LORD. Thus God sent Shemaiah back with an amended message: Shishak would still attack and some of the people would be taken away as slaves, but the city of Jerusalem would remain. Note: the more severe judgment of God was averted because the people repented, but they still suffered the consequences for their sin.</p> <p>"But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the Lord" (1 Kings 12:22-24).</p>	<p>Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).</p> <p>"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14).</p> <p>"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" (Deut. 5:29).</p> <p>"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (James 4:8).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>"Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the Lord, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak. Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The Lord is righteous. And when the Lord saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries" (2 Chron. 12:5-8).</p>	

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p style="text-align: center;">The UNNAMED PROPHET who prophesied total victory for King Ahab of Israel over the Arameans (Syrians)</p> <p>Known Facts Delivered a message from God to King Ahab (1 Kings 20:28).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages The entire Aramean (Syrian) army would be given into the hand of King Ahab.</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 20:26-30</p>	<p>Time 855 B.C., <i>during the reign of Ahab of Israel and during the ministry of Elijah the prophet.</i></p> <p>Place - <i>Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.</i></p>	<p>The LORD sent His prophet to King Ahab once more to announce that He would deliver the vast army of the Arameans (Syrians) into the hands of the Israelites. Through the victory Ahab was to learn a great truth: The LORD is sovereign; His power is not partial or limited, but absolute. The LORD was going to prove that He was not just one god among many, not just a god of the hills as the Syrians falsely believed. He alone is the LORD (Jehovah/Yahweh), the only true and living God.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD" (1 Kings 20:28).</p>	<p>The lesson for us is a much needed one: The LORD's sovereignty (His power) is not limited or partial, but absolute. The LORD is sovereign everywhere, throughout the entire universe. He is sovereign over all nations and kingdoms upon earth and in heaven. No limitation whatsoever hampers God's sovereignty or power. God controls all events and all happenings. And His sovereign power will eventually end all evil.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet" (1 Cor. 15:25).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"The LORD shall reign for ever and ever" (Exodus 15:18).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all" (Psalm 103:19).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The UNNAMED</p>	<p>Time 856 B.C.,</p>	<p><i>The LORD sent His prophet to King Ahab with</i></p>	<p>God's purpose for helping us in times of trouble is to</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>PROPHET who prophesied a victory for King Ahab of Israel over the Arameans (Syrians)</p> <p>Known Facts Delivered two messages from God to King Ahab (1 Kings 20:13, 22).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophecy that the LORD would deliver the Arameans (Syrians) into the hand of King Ahab (1 Kings 20:13-15). 2. The prophecy that the Arameans would attack again the next year (1 Kings 20:22). <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 20:1-25</p>	<p>during the reign of Ahab of Israel and during the ministry of Elijah the prophet.</p> <p>Place Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.</p>	<p>a very special message during a very difficult time. The massive Syrian army was surrounding Ahab's capital city of Samaria. The situation seemed utterly hopeless. But the LORD longed to reach the heart of Ahab, longed for Ahab to stop Jezebel's savage purge of God's prophets and the worship of the LORD. Thus the LORD sent an unnamed prophet to Ahab, announcing that God was going to give a miraculous victory to the king for one specific purpose: to prove that He alone is God, the only true and living God. Ahab followed the battle instructions given him and achieved a great victory.</p> <p>Later, after the battle, the prophet came again and warned Ahab that the Arameans would attack again the next year. Now note this fact: even this warning should have aroused Ahab to repent, for God was still reaching out to him in compassion, patiently longing for him to turn from his wickedness, to acknowledge the one and only true God. But Ahab's heart was stubborn and unyielding.</p> <p>"Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all</p>	<p>prove that He alone is God. There is only one true and living God, only one Creator, only one Sovereign LORD and Majesty of the universe. All other gods are false, deceivers that mislead and entrap human beings and capture their loyalty. And the terrible tragedy is this: if we are deceived into following and worshipping false gods, we condemn and doom ourselves. When hardships and misfortunes fall upon us, there is no living God to help us; for we are following false gods that are lifeless and powerless to help. We must recognize the LORD, the only true God. We must trust in the only One Who can help us in time of trouble.</p> <p>"Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee" (Neh. 9:6).</p> <p>"Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands" (Psalm 102:25).</p> <p>"I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD. And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou. Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand" (1 Kings 20:13-15).</p> <p>"Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest: for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee" (1 Kings 20:22).</p>	<p>Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end" (Daniel 6:26).</p> <p>"But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalm 37:39).</p>
<p>The UNNAMED PROPHET who rebuked Eli and his house for profaning the temple of the LORD</p> <p>Known Facts Delivered a message to Eli the priest (1 Samuel 2:27-34).</p>	<p>Time <i>1085 B.C., when Eli, the priest, was an old man.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Shiloh, the central place of worship in Israel prior to the rule of the kings.</i></p>	<p>An unnamed prophet was sent by God to pronounce the terrifying judgment against the priestly family of Eli. All three of his sons who were priests, would soon die, and the priesthood of Eli's family was to be transferred to the family of a faithful priest.</p> <p>The unnamed prophet declared three things:</p>	<p>Judgment upon the immoral and wicked of this world will definitely take place. This is the strong prophetic message of God's Word. Just when the judgment of God is going to fall upon this world is unknown. Just when each of us is going to stand before God, even the minister, is unknown. But the day is definitely coming. The only</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The prophecy that each generation of Eli's family would be stricken so that all the men would die in the prime of life (1 Samuel 2:27-33; esp. v.31). The prophecy that Eli's sons would both die in the same day—a sign that the prophecy concerning Eli's family would come true (1 Samuel 2:34). The prophecy that the LORD would raise up a faithful priest in place of Eli (1 Samuel 2:35-36). <p>Scripture References 1 Samuel 2:12-36</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> He challenged Eli and his sons to remember the history of the priesthood. He pointed out what a privilege it was for priests to approach God and present the offerings to him. For the offerings symbolized the redemption of God's people through the blood of the sacrifice. He pronounced the charge of God against Eli and his sons—that they had scorned the holy things of God and committed immorality. He pronounced the judgment of God against Eli and his sons. <p>The wickedness of Eli and his sons had been so horrible that God was left with no choice. He had to cut them off as priests.</p> <p>"And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD,... Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and</p>	<p>sure thing that we know about our lives is this: we will die and after that will be the judgment. Judgment is sure, definite, and absolutely certain. Judgment is coming.</p> <p>"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).</p> <p>"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:31-33).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith,...Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house....And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them. And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread'' (1 Samuel 2:27, 29-31, 34-36).</p>	
<p>The UNNAMED PROPHET who rebuked Israel for fearing the false gods</p>	<p>Time <i>Approximately 1210 B.C., during the oppression of</i></p>	<p>The LORD raised up a prophet to rebuke the Israelites because the Israelites needed to be warned as never before.</p>	<p>If we continue in sin—walk day by day disobeying God—a strong rebuke and correction are needed. We need to be awakened, stirred,</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>of the Amorites</p> <p>Known Facts Delivered a message to the Israelites (Judges 6:8-10).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages The message that Israel had been disobedient because they were in fear of the Amorites (Judges 6:8-10).</p> <p>Scripture References Judges 6:7-10</p>	<p><i>the Israelites by the Amorites.</i></p> <p>Place <i>The southern regions of Israel.</i></p>	<p>For generations, the Israelites had been failing God, turning back time and again to the sins and evil of their neighbors and engaging in their false worship. The prophet rebuked Israel for four specific sins or evils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The Israelites had forgotten God's salvation, His wonderful deliverance from Egyptian slavery. ⇒ The Israelites had forgotten God's deliverance down through the centuries from their oppressors and forgotten His gift of the promised land. ⇒ The Israelites had forsaken God, engaging in false worship or idolatry. ⇒ The Israelites had refused to listen to God, disobeying Him and breaking His commandments. <p>"The LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of</p>	<p>aroused out of our slumber and hardness of sin.</p> <p>When we sincerely confess our sins and repent, God will deliver us. But we need to learn one truth: we are not to return to our sin. The sin is to be forsaken or left behind, and we are to walk forward, growing more and more in the righteousness of God. If we return to the same sin time and again, continuing in sin, we deserve to be rebuked.</p> <p>"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).</p> <p>"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephes. 5:11).</p> <p>"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Timothy 5:20).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		bondage; And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice" (Judges 6:8-10).	
<p style="text-align: center;">The UNNAMED PROPHET who rebuked King Ahab of Israel for sparing Ben-Hadad, the evil king of Aram (Syria)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belonged to the school of the prophets (1 Kings 20:35). 2. Delivered a message to King Ahab (1 Kings 20:39-42). 3. Was known as a prophet (1 Kings 20:41). <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophecy that a fellow prophet would be killed by a lion (1 Kings 20:36). 2. The message that King Ahab had done evil by sparing Ben- 	<p>Time 855 B.C., during the reign of Ahab of Israel and during the ministry of Elijah the prophet.</p> <p>Place Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.</p>	<p><i>Under God's instructions, an unnamed prophet sought to disguise himself in order to confront King Ahab. The unnamed prophet ordered a fellow prophet to strike him so that he would appear to be a wounded soldier when he confronted the king. But the fellow prophet refused. As a result, the unnamed prophet predicted the other prophet's death. The next man obeyed and struck the unnamed prophet, wounding him so that his disguise would not be questioned.</i></p> <p><i>Disguised as a wounded soldier, the unnamed prophet waited by the road for the king. When Ahab finally arrived and was passing by, the unnamed prophet cried out for a pardon. He told the king that he was in trouble</i></p>	<p>The lesson we need to learn is that disobedience has consequences. If we disobey God, we stand condemned and will bear the hand of God's judgment.</p> <p>In giving the commandments, God intended good for us. The commandments tell us how to live good, honorable and productive lives that are victorious and conquering. Through obedience, we can live lives that prove to be successful and that bring a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction to the human heart.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>Hadad, the evil king of Aram (1 Kings 20:39-42).</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 20:31-43</p>		<p><i>because he had let a prisoner escape. Ahab demonstrated his hard heart by condemning the man. As soon as Ahab had issued his verdict, the prophet stripped off his disguise and pronounced God's condemnation upon Ahab for letting Ben-Hadad, the evil king of Syria, go free. Ahab's life would be demanded in place of the life of Ben-Hadad.</i></p> <p>"Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him" (1 Kings 20:36).</p> <p>"And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver. And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto</p>	<p>Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thes. 1:7-9).</p> <p>"But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers" (1 Samuel 12:15).</p> <p>"And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known" (Deut. 11:28).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it" (1 Kings 20:39-40).	
<p style="text-align: center;">The UNNAMED PROPHET who rebuked King Amaziah of Judah for his idolatry</p> <p>Known Facts Delivered a message to King Amaziah of Judah.</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The rebuke of King Amaziah for foolishly worshipping the gods of the Edomites (2 Chron. 25:15). The prophecy that King Amaziah would be destroyed because he would not listen to the message of the prophet (2 Chron. 25:16). <p>Scripture References 2 Chron. 25:14-16</p>	<p>Time <i>767 B.C., the last year of the reign of King Amaziah of Judah.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.</i></p>	<p>Almost unbelievably and certainly tragically, Amaziah committed the terrible sin of false worship. As part of the plunder from his victory, the king brought back the idols of Edom, set them up and worshipped them. Why would King Amaziah commit such folly, turning away from the LORD to false idols? Perhaps King Amaziah began to think that he actually had the support of these false gods so he began to worship them in thanksgiving for the victory he had achieved.</p> <p>The anger of the LORD was aroused and burned against Amaziah. God sent a prophet to warn the king by asking him a question: why had the king worshipped false gods, gods that could not save their own people from the hand of Amaziah? Reacting in rage, the king rejected the prophetic warning and threatened the prophet if he continued issuing his message of rebuke. But fearlessly, the prophet issued a final warning: God would judge and destroy the king for his</p>	<p>Believers must guard and keep themselves from idols. What does this mean?</p> <p>An idol is anything that takes first place in a person's life, anything that a person puts before God. An idol is anything that consumes man's focus and concentration, anything that consumes his energy and efforts more than God. A person can make an idol out of anything in this world; a person can take anything and worship it before God; he can allow it to consume his mind and thoughts and life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ houses ⇒ lands ⇒ job ⇒ position ⇒ spouse ⇒ children ⇒ sex ⇒ food ⇒ power ⇒ cars ⇒ boats ⇒ sports ⇒ money ⇒ comfort ⇒ television ⇒ possessions ⇒ pleasures ⇒ recreation <p>But idols are not gods, no</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>sin and for not heeding the warning.</p> <p>"Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand? And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel" (2 Chron. 25:15-16).</p>	<p>matter what their worshipers may think. There is no other God but One. It is true that people call out to gods, but...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · they are gods of their own minds and imaginations, ideas and notions. · they are gods of wood and stone. · they are gods and lords of their own creation. · they have no power to save or deliver. <p>"Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21).</p> <p>"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things" (Romans 1:22-23).</p>
<p>The UNNAMED PROPHET who rebuked King Jeroboam I for his idolatry</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lived in Judah (1 Kings 13:1). 2. Prayed for King Jeroboam and the king's withered hand was healed (1 Kings 13:6). 	<p>Time <i>931 B.C., the first year of the reign of King Jeroboam I, when the country of Israel had just split into two nations, the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of</i></p>	<p>Just as King Jeroboam was standing by the altar he had set up at Bethel, getting ready to present a false sacrifice, he was suddenly confronted by a young unnamed prophet. The young man prophesied against the altar of false worship established by Jeroboam. The altar and its priests would be destroyed by a future descendant of David named Josiah.</p> <p>To prove that this</p>	<p>The lesson for us is strikingly clear: idolatry and false worship do not please the LORD. God totally opposes idolatry and false worship. Idols are not just images made out of wood, stone, metal or some other material. We can make an idol out of anything, for idols are anything that captures our heart more than God.</p> <p>Whatever captivates our hearts, whatever the focus of our hearts is, whatever we</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>3. Commanded by God not to delay—not even to eat or drink—while on his mission (1 Kings 13:9).</p> <p>4. Broke the command of God by visiting and having a meal with an old prophet (1 Kings 13:19).</p> <p>5. Was killed by a lion because he disobeyed God's command (1 Kings 13:24).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>1. The prophecy that a king named Josiah would execute all the false prophets on the altar at Bethel which King Jeroboam had set up for idolatry (1 Kings 13:2).</p> <p>2. The prophecy that the altar at Bethel would split apart (1 Kings 13:3).</p> <p>Scripture References 1 Kings 13:1-25; 2 Kings 23:15-20</p>	<p><i>Judah.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Bethel, just north of Jerusalem.</i></p>	<p>event would take place, the young prophet gave Jeroboam a sign. The altar would immediately be split apart by the power of God Himself and the ashes would pour out. And so it happened.</p> <p>Pointing to the young man, Jeroboam ordered his guards to arrest him. Instead, another shocking sign happened, which abruptly interrupted the arrest. Jeroboam's hand immediately withered. Terrified, Jeroboam pleaded with the prophet for help. The prophet prayed for the king and his hand was restored.</p> <p>"And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out" (1 Kings 13:2-3).</p>	<p>give our hearts to, that person or thing becomes our god, our idol. For that person or thing possesses our hearts, our primary interest and attention. As a result, God is denied, ignored or forgotten.</p> <p>"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;...Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" (Romans 1:18, 25).</p> <p>"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Exodus 20:4).</p> <p>"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them" (Deut. 11:16).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p style="text-align: center;">The UNNAMED PROPHET who warned King Amaziah of Judah not to hire the army of Israel</p> <p>Known Facts Delivered a message to King Amaziah.</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The warning that King Amaziah of Judah will meet with disaster if he deploys the troops of Israel into battle (2 Chron. 25:7-8). 2. The message that God has the power to help or to bring defeat (2 Chron. 25:8). 3. The message that God is able to supply far more than anything ever lost (2 Chron. 25:9). <p>Scripture References 2 Chron. 25:5-10</p>	<p>Time <i>767 B.C., the last year of the reign of King Amaziah of Judah.</i></p> <p>Place <i>Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.</i></p>	<p>King Amaziah of Judah was preparing for war against the age-old enemy of Israel, the Edomites. Amaziah had just hired the armies of Israel to assist him in his battles. But before he could deploy these troops, Amaziah was confronted by a prophet of the LORD who issued a strong warning to the king. The prophet told King Amaziah that he must not allow Israel's mercenary troops to march with him. For the LORD was not with Israel. Living wicked lives and engaging in false worship, the people of the Northern Kingdom had rejected the LORD and were no longer placing their hope in the eternal covenant given to David. They had abandoned the LORD; consequently, the LORD had abandoned them.</p> <p>Still speaking to Amaziah, the prophet continued his warning. If the king marched into battle with the Israelite mercenary soldiers, he would be defeated. Even if he fought courageously against the Edomites, the LORD would make sure he was defeated. For the LORD has the power to help or to overthrow an army.</p>	<p>Believers are to turn away from evil associations. Close associations always influence us. If we fellowship with godly people, we will be influenced by godliness. But if we fellowship with ungodly people, their ungodliness will influence us. It is impossible to escape the influence of close associations. We all influence each other; and the more closely we are associated, the more we are influenced.</p> <p>If a believer associates with the wicked, eventually the wicked will encourage the believer to join him in his sinful behavior. A godly person is always pulled down, influenced negatively by close associations with those who smoke, take drugs, get drunk, or engage in immoral behavior. No matter who we are or how strong we may be, we will be strongly influenced to participate in the sinful behavior. For this reason the LORD commands us to live lives of <i>spiritual separation</i>. Believers are not to fellowship nor become closely associated with the wicked and evil of this earth. We are to be spiritually separated.</p> <p>Living upon the earth, we are to be friends with everyone, unbeliever as well as believer. And we are to be kind, caring, and helpful to</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>The prophet further assured King Amaziah that God would provide far more plunder—more than enough—to cover his losses if he would just discharge the unbelieving troops.</p> <p>"But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim. But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down. And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this" (2 Chron. 25:7-9).</p>	<p>everyone. But we are not to form close alliances, associations, or bonds with the wicked and evil of this earth.</p> <p>"But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Cor. 5:11).</p> <p>"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment" (Exodus 23:2).</p>
<p>URIJAH (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH'S ANGE LIGHT)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Shem-aiyah (Jeremiah 26:20). 2. Lived in Kiriath-Jearim (Jeremiah 26:20). 	<p>Time 608 B.C., at the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah.</p> <p>Place Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah, in the</p>	<p>All that is known about the messages of Urijah is that they were similar to those of Jeremiah, the prophet. By this one fact, we can know something of what Urijah prophesied.</p> <p>First, Urijah was bound to be a true prophet, proclaiming the messages given him by God. He was</p>	<p>The preacher must not compromise the Word of God. He must say exactly what God gives him to say. After all, the message is not his, but God's. It is not his to change or alter in the least. Even if it means death, the man of God must not give another message or a watered down version of the truth. He</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>3. Prophesied in Judah (Jeremiah 26:20-21).</p> <p>4. Fled to Egypt to escape execution by King Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 26:21).</p> <p>5. Was brought back from Egypt by the king's men and slain (Jeremiah 26:22-23).</p> <p>6. Given the burial of a common criminal (Jeremiah 26:23).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages Preached messages similar to those of Jeremiah the prophet (Jeremiah 26:20).</p> <p>Scripture References Jeremiah 26:20-23</p>	<p><i>palace of the king.</i></p>	<p>not speaking the popular, conscience-soothing messages of the false prophets of that time.</p> <p>Second, Urijah was courageous, warning both king and citizen to repent of their wickedness and false worship or else face the judgment of God. Otherwise, why would the king be so angry and determined to have Urijah executed?</p> <p>Third, we can be sure that Urijah preached the truth of God's Word right up until the day of his martyrdom.</p> <p>"And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjathjearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah" (Jeremiah 26:20).</p>	<p>must not seek to say what is popular or more acceptable to his listeners. He must preach the whole counsel of God without regard to circumstances or popular opinion. He must say exactly what God gives him to say.</p> <p>"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).</p> <p>"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).</p> <p>"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:23).</p> <p>"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! (1 Cor. 9:16).</p> <p>"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2).</p>
<p>ZECHARIAH (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH HAS BROUGHT TO MIND), THE SON OF JEHOIADA</p> <p>Known Facts</p>	<p>Time 797 B.C., a year before the death of Joash, king of Judah.</p> <p>Place -</p>	<p>After the death of Jehoiada, the priest, King Joash, who had led a tremendous revival and spiritual reformation in his younger years, slipped away from the LORD and</p>	<p>How many people have a wonderful beginning in life but a terrible ending? Think of people who have walked through many years of life with upright characters, living honest, moral, and just lives.</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>1. Was the son of Jehoiada, the priest (2 Chron. 24:20).</p> <p>2. Was stoned to death because of his message (2 Chron. 24:21).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages The message that the LORD had forsaken the people of Judah because they had forsaken the LORD and his commandments by their false worship and idolatry (2 Chron. 24:20).</p> <p>Scripture References 2 Chron. 24:17-22; Matthew 23:34-39; Luke 11:47-51</p>	<p><i>Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah.</i></p>	<p>committed terrible apostasy. Joash listened and gave in to wicked, influential leaders who were false worshipers. Because of their terrible apostasy of turning away to false worship, they stood guilty before the LORD and aroused His anger. God sent prophet after prophet to warn the king, but the king and people stubbornly rejected the prophets of God, refusing to listen to their warnings and refusing to repent.</p> <p>In mercy, however, the LORD made one last attempt to get Joash and the people to repent. The Spirit of the LORD came upon Zechariah with a very special message for the king and the people. They had disobeyed God's commandments and forsaken Him; consequently, the LORD had now forsaken them.</p> <p>But in the depth of their stubborn, stiff-necked rebellion, they still did not repent. Instead, they actually murdered the prophet Zechariah. Furious over the pronouncement of judgment against them, Joash ordered the prophet stoned to death in the very courtyard of the temple itself.</p> <p>Looking up into the</p>	<p>Yet in the latter years of their lives their character has declined, deteriorated. Some have become immoral and dishonest, even cheating other people. Others are no longer kind and gracious but, rather, unkind, mean-spirited, and reactionary, sometimes even cursing or assaulting those who love and care for them.</p> <p>Whereas they used to live righteous lives and profess to be followers of the LORD, they are now backsliding, living carnal, fleshly lives. They not only ignore the LORD but they also deny Him. They curse His name, use profanity, and tell off-colored jokes. They no longer worship the LORD or are faithful in church attendance. Instead of setting the example that we must listen to the Word of God being taught, they slip into immorality, tearing out the hearts of parents, wives, husbands, children, former pastors, and teachers.</p> <p>Far too many who begin with Christ eventually turn away from Him, committing terrible apostasy against Him.</p> <p>"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12).</p> <p>"They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy;</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>eyes of the king as he lay dying, Zechariah pronounced a divine curse upon the king and the people. They were to soon face God's vengeance. The next year, the Arameans (Syrians) attacked and overran the countryside. Joash was killed in battle.</p> <p>"And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you" (2 Chron. 24:20).</p>	<p>and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13).</p> <p>"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage" (Galatians 4:9).</p> <p>"Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:8-12).</p>
<p>ZECHARIAH (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH HAS BROUGHT TO MIND), THE SON OF BERECHIAH</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Berechiah, the priest (Zech. 1:1). 2. Was the grandson of 	<p>Time 520-518 B.C., during the reign of Darius the Mede, when the Israelites had returned from captivity</p> <p>Place Jerusalem, the</p>	<p>The people of Israel had just come out of foreign captivity and badly needed to have a strong sense of direction. Zechariah, along with Haggai, the prophet, immediately pointed them to God, greatly encouraging the people to restore the temple so that it</p>	<p>God is sovereign. He rules over the entire universe. But a person should not think that God is far off in outer space someplace.</p> <p>Coming out of terrible tragedy, it is easy for a person to feel that God is a billion miles away. After a tragedy, it is difficult to have a sense of direction. But it is during</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>Iddo, the priest (Ezra 6:14).</p> <p>3. Ministered at the same time as Haggai, the prophet (Ezra 5:1; Ezra 6:14).</p> <p>4. Prophesied in Jerusalem after the return from captivity (Zech. 1:1; Ezra 6:16).</p> <p>5. Helped to restore the temple (Ezra 6:14-15).</p> <p>6. Saw startling visions of the end times (Zech. 1:7-6:8).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <p>1. The sermon that the people needed to repent and turn to the LORD (Zech. 1:2-6).</p> <p>2. The vision of the horseman beside the myrtle trees—the promise of restoration of the temple and to Jerusalem (Zech. 1:7-17).</p> <p>3. The vision of the four horns and the four craftsmen—the prophecy of future world powers (Zech. 1:18-21).</p> <p>4. The vision of a man with a measuring line—the prophecy of divine protection</p>	<p><i>capital city of the remnant of Israel.</i></p>	<p>might be worthy to be used to worship the LORD.</p> <p>Now it was not just a building project that Zechariah was leading. As a spiritual leader of thousands of exiles who had just returned from captivity, Zechariah realized the great importance of quickly calling the people to genuine worship. He had to ground them firmly in the LORD right away. And so Zechariah encouraged the people time and again to turn to the LORD with their whole heart, to worship the Great Shepherd of their souls.</p> <p>Zechariah helped to lead a very great revival. His many visions and prophecies emphasized the love of a sovereign God for His people, and His desire to uphold them and work in their behalf. For those who were determined to serve God wholeheartedly, they would be supported and sustained by the LORD. He would bring about marvelous things in their future.</p> <p>"Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD</p>	<p>hardship that a person needs to seek God like never before and to draw close to Him for understanding, for God cares about our problems.</p> <p>We must always be aware that God is not an unconcerned observer of the world He created. He truly cares about every struggle we go through, and He longs to move in our lives to make the future better, much better than our past.</p> <p>God did not just create the world, wind it up and leave it on its own to fly throughout space with man making out the best he can. God is interested and concerned with the world—so much so that He came to earth in human flesh to show how vitally concerned He is. God would not leave man to grope and grasp in the dark. His call to repentance is not for the purpose of pushing man down but to bring him up, to show man that there is a bright future ahead for those who determine to wholeheartedly serve the LORD.</p> <p>"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).</p> <p>"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>for Jerusalem (Zech. 2).</p> <p>5. The vision of Joshua the High Priest being accused and slandered by Satan—a prophecy of the redemption for all Israel (Zech. 3).</p> <p>6. The prophecy of the Messiah, the Savior of the world, the Righteous Branch Who would take away the sins of the land and bring peace (Isaiah 11:1; Zech. 3:8-10; Matthew 2:23).</p> <p>7. The vision of a golden lampstand and two olive trees—the prophecy of continual anointing for Zerubbabel, who was a type of Christ (Zech. 4).</p> <p>8. The vision of a flying scroll—a declaration that wickedness will be purged from the land (Zech. 5:1-4).</p> <p>9. The vision of a woman in a basket—the prophecy of the rebellion of Babylon in the end times (Zech. 5:5-11).</p> <p>10. The vision of four chariots—the declaration of God's sovereignty over all</p>		<p>of hosts" (Zech. 1:3).</p> <p>"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built" (Zech. 8:9).</p>	<p>my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears" (2 Samuel 22:7).</p> <p>"When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them" (Deut. 4:30-31).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>nations (Zech. 6:1-8).</p> <p>11. A sermon about the proper attitude for religious ceremony (Zech. 7:4-7).</p> <p>12. A sermon about loving your neighbor (Zech. 7:8-14).</p> <p>13. The prophecy of God's favor coming upon Jerusalem and Judah (Zech. 8:1-17).</p> <p>14. The prophecy of the salvation of the Gentiles (Zech. 8:18-23).</p> <p>15. The prophecy of God's judgment upon Judah's enemies (Zech. 9:1-10).</p> <p>16. The prophecy of the Christ's kingly declaration—that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, would enter Jerusalem riding on a young donkey (Zech. 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11).</p> <p>17. The prophecy of restoration to all Israel (Zech. 9:11-10:12).</p> <p>18. The illustration of two shepherds' staves—a prophecy of the rejection of the Messiah, the Great Shepherd (Zech. 11).</p>			

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>19. The prophecy that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:13).</p> <p>20. The prophecy that Israel will never again abandon the LORD (Zech. 12:1-13:9).</p> <p>21. The prophecy that the Jews will recognize Jesus Christ as the true Messiah, as their true Savior, in the last days (Zech. 12:10-14).</p> <p>22. The prophecy that in the end times, the LORD will be the only king on the earth (Zech. 14).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Zechariah</i>; Ezra 5:1; Ezra 6:14; Ezra 8:3, 11, 16</p>			
<p>ZEPHANIAH (JEHOVAH/YAHWEH IS DARKNESS OR GOD HIDES)</p> <p>Known Facts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the son of Cushite (Zeph. 1:1). 2. Was a descendant of the righteous King Hezekiah (Zeph. 1:1). 	<p>Time 640-609 B.C., during the entire reign of Josiah, king of Judah, who led the last great revival before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.</p>	<p>After Manasseh and Amon, two of the most wicked kings in all of Judah's history, God raised up a godly king—Josiah. It was at the tender age of eight that Josiah was crowned king. Obviously, some consistent and righteous believers had a strong, spiritual influence upon young Josiah, for he</p>	<p>Deep concern for righteousness and for true worship should grip our hearts. For righteousness and true worship determine our destiny, both individually and corporately, as a society and nation.</p> <p>Righteousness builds a character of integrity within people, and righteous individuals build up a nation.</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>3. Prophesied to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, helping to lead the way for the religious reforms of Josiah (Zeph. 1:1).</p> <p>Predictions and Messages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophecy of the coming judgment against Judah and Jerusalem (Zeph. 1:2-18). 2. The sermon about seeking the LORD to escape His wrath (Zeph. 2:1-3). 3. The prophecy of the coming judgment against the Philistines (Zeph. 2:4-7). 4. The prophecy of the coming judgment against Moab and Ammon (Zeph. 2:8-11). 5. The prophecy of the coming judgment against Cush (Zeph. 2:12). 6. The prophecy of the coming judgment against Assyria (Zeph. 2:13-15). 7. The prophecy of the coming judgment against Jerusalem (Zeph. 3:1-7). 8. The prophecy of the purity of Israel in the last days (Zeph. 3:8-13; Rev. 14:1-5). 9. The prophecy of the 	<p>Place <i>Judah, the South-ern Kingdom of Israel and Jerusalem, the capital city.</i></p>	<p>lived a righteous life in the sight of the LORD. In fact, Scripture says that he followed the godly example of David, never deviating from the righteous example set by the ancient king (2 Kings 22:2).</p> <p>During his reign, Josiah had one major concern: the restoration of the temple and the true worship of the LORD, the only living and true God (2 Kings 22:3-7). No doubt, the prophet Zephaniah was one of the people who had a strong spiritual influence on Josiah.</p> <p>Zephaniah called the people to repent and to turn back to God. They had acted no better than their evil neighbors, and the wrath of God was about to be poured out. But there was still a ray of hope if only the people would repent and change their evil ways. Scripture reveals to us that the nation did listen to Zephaniah and the other prophets of that time and that the invasion of Babylon was delayed because of their change of heart (2 Chron. 34:27-28). As a result of the messages of Zephaniah and others, Josiah started one of the two great revivals in</p>	<p>If a person is righteous, he is honest, just, true, moral and law-abiding. He keeps the laws of the land and works diligently at his job in order to make a significant contribution to society. Righteousness builds the character of morality and integrity. And when there are enough of us with righteous characters, we build a nation of righteousness, a nation of enormous strength. This can be the experience of any of us.</p> <p>True worship also determines our destiny. If we truly worship the true and living God with a humble and repentant attitude, accepting the sacrifice of His Son, then He will accept us. Think about this glorious truth: The LORD God of the universe, Who sent His Son to die for our sins, is the true and living God who loves us. It is He who is to be worshipped, and He alone. There is a bright future for anyone who turns from sin, lives a righteous life, and truly worships God.</p> <p>"Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame" (1 Cor. 15:34).</p> <p>"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
<p>restoration of Israel and Jerusalem (Zeph. 3:14-20).</p> <p>Scripture References The book of <i>Zephaniah</i></p>		<p>Israel's history. (The other was by Hezekiah, the ancestor of Zephaniah.)</p> <p>Zephaniah's message announced the coming terrible judgment of God, in very dark words. But there was also promised blessing and a bright future ahead for those who turned to God.</p> <p>"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you. Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger" (Zeph. 2:1-3)</p> <p>"I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in</p>	<p>soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12-13).</p> <p>"By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked" (Proverbs 11:11).</p>

PROPHET	TIME/ PLACE GIVEN	MAIN MESSAGE	PRACTICAL APPLICATION
		<p>every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD" (Zeph. 3:18-20).</p>	

The gift of a *prophet*

The gift of a *prophet* : This is the gift of speaking under the inspiration of God's Spirit. It includes both prediction and proclamation, and neither one should be minimized despite the abuse of the gift.

There is no question, the gift to predict events has been abused to the point of the ridiculous. However, the abuse of a gift does not eliminate the fact that the Spirit of God sometimes gives believers a glimpse into coming events in order to prepare and strengthen them to face the events.

However, the major function of prophecy is clearly stated by Scripture, and the fact should be heeded by all believers:

"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort" ([1 Cor. 14:3](#)).

The gift of a *teacher*

The gift of a *teacher* : Some commentators consider teaching to be part of the gift of the pastor, that is, the pastor is the pastor-teacher. The function of the teacher is the gift to instruct believers in the truth of God and His Word. It is the gift to root and ground people in doctrine, reproof, correction, and righteousness. Teaching is a high calling, one of the greatest of callings. Teaching is ranked second only to the spiritual gifts of apostle and prophet ([Acts 13:1](#); [1 Cor. 12:28](#); [Ephes. 4:11](#)). Every apostle and prophet and pastor has the gift of teaching, but every teacher is not an apostle or prophet or pastor. The gift of teaching bears one of the largest

responsibilities given by God; therefore, the teacher will be required to give a strict account to God for his faithfulness in using his gift (see note, Teacher—" [James 3:1](#)).

The spiritual gift of teaching is the gift of understanding and communicating the Word of God, of edifying believers in the truths of God's Word. It involves understanding, interpreting, arranging, and communicating the Word of God. The gift of teaching is given to the believer who commits his life to the Word of God, to sharing its glorious truths with God's people.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" ([Acts 20:32](#)).

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" ([1 Cor. 12:28](#)).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" ([Ephes. 4:11](#)).

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" ([2 Tim. 2:15](#)).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" ([2 Tim. 3:16](#)).

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" ([Acts 17:11](#)).

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" ([1 Peter 2:2-3](#)).

Gifts, Spiritual:

([Ephesians 4:12-16](#)) Gifts, Spiritual: every believer's gift has a threefold purpose. Note a significant fact: the five gifts described above are gifts that involve speech or proclamation. They are very specialized gifts, gifts that are usually looked upon as being the official or professional gifts of the church. They are not given in full measure to every believer although every believer...

- should be as an apostle in that he is serving Christ in a very special ministry and faithfully using the gift God has given him.
- should be as a prophet in that he is daily proclaiming God's Word.
- should be as an evangelist in that he is bearing witness to the lost.
- should be as a pastor in that he is shepherding and caring for people all the time.
- should be as a teacher in that he is teaching the truths of God's Word to all whom he knows.

1. There is an immediate purpose for the professional or office-bearing gifts in the church and among God's people. It is to equip believers to do the work of the ministry. The word "perfecting" (*katartismos* [PWS: 2898](#)) means to equip for service and ministry. This is critical to see, for the office bearer in the church is not to be the only one who goes about doing the work of the ministry. In fact, his *primary task* is to be an equipper, a person who makes disciples and prepares others to serve Christ (see note, Discipleship—" [Matthew 28:19-20](#)). Note another critical point: the very purpose for equipping laymen is so that the body of Christ, the church, may be built up. This is a significant point, for it means that the church cannot be built up without the members themselves doing the work of the ministry. All believers within a church must be involved in the work of the ministry. As Wuest says: "This is an order that the Body of Christ, the Church might be built up, by additions to its membership in lost souls being saved, and by the building up of individual saints." (Wuest, Kenneth S. *Ephesians and Colossians*. "Wuest Word Studies," Vol.1. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1953, p.101.)

If the work of the ministry was left up to the professional ministers, the task would never get done, for there are too few official ministers. Lay persons must be equipped to reach the lost and to minister to the needs of a world reeling under the weight of evil and suffering and death.

2. There is an eternal purpose for the office-bearing or professional gifts. It can be stated no clearer than what the verse itself says. It says three things:

- a. The minister of God works to bring about a perfect unity among God's people. The minister of God is called...
 - to bring peace and reconciliation to the church.
 - to lead people into perfect harmony and oneness of spirit.
 - to shepherd people out of cliques, divisiveness, murmuring, grumbling, griping, and all the other sins that militate against a perfect unity.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" ([1 Cor. 1:10](#)).

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you" ([2 Cor. 13:11](#)).

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" ([Ephes. 4:3](#)).

"Only let your conversation [behavior] be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" ([Phil. 1:27](#)).

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" ([1 Peter 3:8](#)).

Christ is Superior to the Prophets

Hebrews 1:1-4:13

A. Christ is Superior to the Prophets, Hebrews 1:1-3

DIVISION OVERVIEW: Revelation— God: man has always felt an inner drive to live forever in a perfect world. Therefore, he has sensed an inner need to search and find out if there is a God, and if there is, to please Him and to gain His approval and acceptance. This is where so much religion has come from, from the inner struggle of men to find God.

The great tragedy is this: men have groped and grasped after God as though they were in a dark world that gave no evidence of God. But this is just not so; there is no need for man to be in the dark about God. Why? Because God has revealed Himself, and He has revealed Himself in many different ways:

- ⇒ through nature or what might be called a revelation of His Supreme deity and power. A person can look at nature and clearly see God's deity and power.
- ⇒ through conscience or what might be called an inner witness or sense of duty to God.
- ⇒ through law or what might be called a revelation of Supreme justice.
- ⇒ through religion or what might be called a revelation of how to worship and become acceptable to God.
- ⇒ through prophets and priests or what might be called the revelation of God through human spokesmen and mediators.

The list could go on and on, but the point is that God has revealed Himself to man, and each revelation has been very important for man's understanding of God. But despite all these

revelations, something vital is still missing. If man is ever to know God, there is only one way, the very same way that man gets to know anybody. Man can know *about a person*, know all the facts about a person's life; but until he personally meets the person and associates and fellowships with him, he does not personally know him. Therefore if man was to ever know God, God had to reveal Himself in the most supreme way possible: He had to come to earth and show Himself to man, revealing exactly who He is and what He is like. This is the whole point of these four chapters. In fact, it is the point of the whole Book of Hebrews: the Supreme revelation of God is Jesus Christ, God's very own Son. God has revealed Himself in the most glorious way possible: He has sent His very own Son into the world.

(1:1-3) Introduction: men have usually looked upon the prophets of religion as great men of God. They have seen the prophets of God...

- as very special servants of God.
- as men who had a special message from God.
- as men who could tell others how to become acceptable to God.
- as men who could tell others how to live and please God.

This was a true concept, just so the prophet was one of the chosen prophets of the Old Testament. The prophets of the Old Testament were great men of God. They were men to whom God spoke and to whom God entrusted His message. But as great as the prophets of the Old Testament were, they fade into insignificance when compared to Jesus Christ, God's very own Son. Jesus Christ is far, far Superior to the prophets.

- [1. Jesus Christ is the supreme spokesman of God \(v.1\).](#)
- [2. Jesus Christ is the appointed heir of all things \(v.2\).](#)
- [3. Jesus Christ is the Creator and Maker of the worlds \(v.2\).](#)
- [4. Jesus Christ is the very glory of God Himself \(v.3\).](#)
- [5. Jesus Christ is the express image of God \(v.3\).](#)
- [6. Jesus Christ is the Sustainer of the universe \(v.3\).](#)
- [7. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of mankind \(v.3\).](#)
- [8. Jesus Christ is the supreme Mediator \(v.3\).](#)

1. (1:1-2) Revelation— Jesus Christ, Deity: Jesus Christ is the supreme spokesman of God. This is the first reason why He is superior to the prophets. Note the glorious truth: God has spoken to man. He is not as most people think, far off in the distance, someplace in outer space, so far away that He is unconcerned with what is happening to man and his world. The very opposite is true: God is concerned with our lives, with the trials and trouble, sin and evil, suffering and disease, death and decay—with all that happens to us. Therefore, God has spoken to us; He has given us the wonderful words of life and of deliverance. He has told us exactly how to conquer the trials and temptations, the corruption and death of this world. When did God speak to man, and where can we find the record of God's Word? If God is really not far off in the distance someplace—if God has really spoken to man, then we must find His Word and heed it. For His Word would mean everlasting life and victory over all the evil and trials and corruption and death of this life. Where is God's Word? It is found in two places.

1. First, God's Word is found in the prophets. In ancient times God spoke to man by His prophets, that is, by persons whom He had chosen to proclaim His Word to the world. Who are

these persons? They are the men and women of the Old Testament Scriptures. But note a significant fact: God spoke through the prophets...

- "at sundry times": that is, in many parts; in many separate revelations, at many different times.
- in many ways.

What does this mean? No man could possibly receive and understand or explain the whole revelation of God. God and the truth of God is too big for any one man. Therefore, God had to make many revelations to many different people, and He had to use many different ways to speak to men. No man could ever contain or share the whole revelation of God.

Matthew Henry states it well by saying that there had to be a *gradual opening* of man's mind concerning the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

- ⇒ God spoke to Adam and told him that the Savior would come from the seed of the woman ([Genesis 3:15](#)).
- ⇒ God spoke to Abraham and told him that the Savior would come from his seed ([Genesis 12:3](#); [Genesis 18:18](#); [Genesis 22:18](#)).
- ⇒ God spoke to Jacob and told him that the Savior would come through the tribe of Judah ([Genesis 49:10](#)).
- ⇒ God spoke to David and told him that the Savior would be born of his house ([2 Samuel 7:13](#)).
- ⇒ God spoke to Micah and told him that the Savior would be born at Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#)).
- ⇒ God spoke to Isaiah and told him that the Savior would be born of a virgin ([Isaiah 7:14](#)).

Note also the different ways in which God spoke to the prophets:

- ⇒ He spoke to Moses in a great thundering voice in the midst of a storm ([Exodus 19:19](#); [Deut. 5:22](#)).
- ⇒ He spoke to Elijah by a still small voice ([1 Kings 19:12](#)).
- ⇒ He spoke to Isaiah in a vision ([Isaiah 1:1](#)).
- ⇒ He spoke to Samuel in a dream ([1 Samuel 3:5](#)).

On and on the list could go, for God spoke to his prophets in many different ways. But the point to see is this: each prophet could present only a part of God's revelation. No one of them could present the whole revelation of God. The full revelation of God is not found in the prophets. Where is it found then? This brings us to the second point.

2. Second, God's Word, His full revelation, is found in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. "In these last days [God has] spoken to us by His Son." This is the most astounding truth imaginable! For God could send no greater messenger with His Word than to send His very own Son. And this is the astounding declaration of this passage: God has sent His Son to proclaim His Word to men.

Before Christ, no man could fully grasp or understand God, and no man could fully proclaim the Word of God. Men could understand only a part or fragment of God. But now God's very own Son has come to earth and revealed God, proclaiming all that God is. And note: it is He Himself who is the revelation of God. He embodies the Word of God. In fact, He is the Word of God. Everything that God ever wanted to say to man is said in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the perfect expression of God's mind. Everything that man needs to know about God and the conquest of life with all its trials, corruption, and death is seen in Jesus Christ.

Thought 1. This means several wonderful things.

- 1) God loves man. He has not left man in the dark, groping and grasping and trying to find the truth of life and death and the hereafter. God has spoken to man and revealed the truth about...
 - where we have come from.
 - why we are here.
 - where we are going.
 - how we can conquer the trials, evil and death of this life and world.
- 2) If we want to know the truth about God and ourselves, we have to look to God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He and He alone is the full revelation of God.
- 3) Jesus Christ is superior to all the prophets; He alone is the supreme revelation of God. As great as the Old Testament prophets were, they were not above God's Son. The Lord Jesus Christ is above the prophets; He is the supreme—the full and final—spokesman for God. There can be no greater spokesman than that of God's own Son.

2. (1:2) Jesus Christ, Deity—Heir: Jesus Christ is appointed the heir of all things. This is the second reason why He is superior to the prophets. What is meant by heir? It means that Jesus Christ is to receive and be "the lawful Owner of all things" (Amplified New Testament). Jesus Christ alone has inherited all that God is and has. No man is great enough or worthy enough to be the heir of God; only Christ is. He alone has *lived and walked perfectly* before God. Among men, He alone has obeyed God perfectly, therefore, He alone has inherited all that God is and has; He alone has been appointed to be the Owner of all things. What is it that Jesus Christ is to inherit and receive?

⇒ Jesus Christ is to inherit all power in heaven and earth.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" ([Matthew 28:18](#)).

⇒ Jesus Christ has inherited the authority to execute all judgment upon men.

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" ([John 5:22](#)).

⇒ Jesus Christ is going to inherit the Lordship over both the dead and the living.

"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living" ([Romans 14:9](#)).

⇒ Jesus Christ is going to inherit the whole universe: a new heavens and earth and a new world capital.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" ([2 Peter 3:10-13](#)).

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband....And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it" ([Rev. 21:1-2, 23-26](#)).

⇒ Jesus Christ is going to inherit all government—an eternal government.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#)).

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom" ([Hebrews 1:8](#)).

⇒ Jesus Christ is going to inherit all power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.

"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" ([Rev. 5:12](#)).

⇒ Jesus Christ is going to inherit all the angels and all the other spiritual authorities and powers.

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" ([1 Peter 3:22](#)).

⇒ Jesus Christ is going to inherit a name above every name and every knee shall be bowed before Him vindicating His claim to be both Lord and Savior.

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" ([Phil. 2:9-10](#)).

3. ([1:2](#)) Jesus Christ, Creator— Creation: Jesus Christ is the Creator and Maker of the worlds—all of the worlds. This is the third reason why Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets. The word "worlds" can also be translated as ages. Jesus Christ is the creator of both the universe and the ages that roll in one upon another, creator of both the worlds and time as it moves forward from event to event, and generation to generation. The Amplified New Testament states it well:

"He [Christ] created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time [that is], He made, produced, built, operated and arranged them in order" ([Hebrews 1:2](#)).

Colossians states it even better:

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" ([Col. 1:16](#)).

The point is this: the creation of Christ includes all the worlds (plural) of all the dimensions of being, wherever they are and however many there may be. This is exactly what is meant by the plural "worlds." It is also what is meant when Colossians says that Christ created all things "that are in heaven, and in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dimensions, or principalities, or powers."

⇒ If there are other *visible planets and living beings* in outer space, Christ created them.

⇒ If there are *invisible worlds and beings* in other dimensions, Christ created them.

It does not matter what kind of world or creatures they may be—thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers—Christ created them all. There is nothing in existence that He has not created.

- no planet
- no star
- no creature
- no dimension
- no vegetation
- no mineral
- no element
- no thing

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" ([John 1:3](#)).

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" ([1 Cor. 8:6](#)).

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" ([Ephes. 3:9](#)).

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" ([Col. 1:16](#)).

4. (1:3) Jesus Christ, Glory: Jesus Christ possesses the very glory of God. This is the fourth reason why Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets. Note the word "being" (*on* ^{PWS: 334}). It means "absolute and timeless existence" (A.T. Robertson. [Word Pictures In The New Testament, Vol. 5. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1932, p.335](#)). This means that Jesus Christ Himself possessed the glory of God before He ever came into the world. He has always existed in the glory of God; He is eternal.

What does glory mean? It means all the brightness of God—all the brilliance, radiance, splendor, and light of God's Being. It means that God's very presence—in all of His light and purity—dwells among us in the person of Jesus Christ. It meant that in Christ "dwelt all the fulness [glory] of God" ([Col. 2:9](#)). Men could look at Jesus Christ and see the glory of God in Him—the very light and radiance of God's Being.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" ([John 1:14](#)).

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" ([John 17:5](#)).

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" ([John 17:24](#)).

Thought 1. Many commentators point out that the sun is a good illustration. Just as the glory of the sun's light reaches down to earth and touches the lives of men, so Jesus Christ, who is the glory of God, reaches down and touches the lives of men.

5. (1:3) Jesus Christ, Deity— Image of God: Jesus Christ is the express image of God. This is the fifth reason why Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets.

- ⇒ The word "express" means the very stamp, mark, and impression—the very reproduction of God. Jesus Christ is "the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature."
- ⇒ The word "image" (*hupostasis*) means substance. Jesus Christ is the very substance, the very Being, Person, and embodiment of God.

"I and my Father are one" ([John 10:30](#)).

"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" ([John 14:9-10](#)).

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" ([2 Cor. 4:4](#)).

"[Christ] who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God" ([Phil. 2:6](#)).

"[Christ] who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" ([Hebrews 1:3](#)).

6. (1:3) Jesus Christ, Deity: Jesus Christ is the Sustainer of the universe. This is the sixth reason why He is superior to the prophets. No man holds the universe together, but Christ does. God has not created the world and left it to fly through space to take whatever course it will. God is not going to let the world destroy itself. God is in control. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is controlling the world and moving it forward to a climactic moment of renewal and recreation—what the Bible calls the *great day of redemption*. And note how He is holding it together: by the power of His Word. He simply speaks and the laws that hold the world together are set in motion (cp. the law of gravity. See outline—" [Col. 1:16-17](#) and notes—" [Col. 1:16-17](#) for more discussion.) The Word of Jesus Christ is...

- perfect and pure energy
- perfect and pure force
- perfect and pure power
- perfect and pure order
- perfect and pure unity
- perfect and pure solidarity
- perfect and pure cohesion

It is His Word that holds everything together. It is his love and power...

- that keeps the universe from flying apart and disintegrating.
- that keeps evil from completely conquering and utterly destroying all things.

"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" ([Col. 1:17](#)).

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" ([Hebrews 1:3](#)).

7. ([1:3](#)) Jesus Christ, Deity— Redemption: Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of mankind. This is the seventh reason why He is superior to the prophets. Redemption has not come from some great prophet who has made purification for our sins. Christ and Christ alone could sacrifice Himself for our sins. How could He do this? In fact, how could any man do this? No man can; this is the point of this passage. Only a perfect Person could ever purify and cleanse men from their sins. This is the reason Jesus Christ had to come to earth and live a perfect life. He had to secure perfect righteousness for man and die as the perfect substitute for man. By so doing, He stands for all men...

- His perfect righteousness stands for all men.
- His sacrificial death stands for all men.

When a man believes in Jesus Christ, truly believes, the righteousness and death of Jesus Christ cover him. God takes the man's faith and honors it; He honors it by *counting* the man as being in the righteousness and death of Jesus Christ. The man is righteous in Christ, and he has already died to sin in Christ. Therefore, the man is purified; his sins are cleansed and washed away.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" ([1 John 1:7](#)).

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" ([Rev. 1:5](#)).

8. ([1:3](#)) Jesus Christ, Deity: Jesus Christ is the supreme Mediator and Intercessor. This is the eighth reason why He is superior to the prophets. He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, sitting there as the great Mediator and Intercessor for man. No other person could ever come close to being seated at the right hand of God; no other person could ever be accepted by God as the Mediator and Intercessor for man. Christ and Christ alone can sit at the right hand of God. Note two significant points.

1. Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God as the exalted Lord and as the Sovereign Majesty of the universe. He is the supreme Being of the universe, the Person who is to be supremely respected and honored, worshipped and served by all beings in both earth and heaven.

"He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all things, that he might fill all things" ([Ephes. 4:10](#)).

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" ([Phil. 2:9](#)).

2. Jesus Christ is in the presence of God as our Mediator and Intercessor, as the only Person who has the right to represent man before God. Note: Christ is not exalted to stand as our Prosecutor and Judge; contrariwise, He is before God to represent us, to plead for us, to offer His righteousness and sacrificial death for us. This means a most wonderful thing: someday when we appear before God, if we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior, God will be able to deal with us in love and not judgment. Because Jesus Christ stands before God as our Mediator, God will accept all those who have trusted Christ to be their Mediator. Remember, however: all those who have rejected Jesus Christ as the Mediator shall face Jesus Christ as the Sovereign Lord and Judge.

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" ([Romans 8:34](#)).

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" ([Hebrews 7:25-26](#)).

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens" ([Hebrews 8:1](#)).

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" ([1 Tim. 2:5](#)).

"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises" ([Hebrews 8:6](#)).

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" ([Hebrews 9:15](#)).

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" ([Hebrews 9:24](#)).

"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel" ([Hebrews 12:24](#)).

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" ([1 John 2:1](#)).

UNDERSTANDING THE PROPHETS

(Selected Old Testament Scriptures)

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STUDY GUIDE

Overview

The prophet served a major role in Old Testament times. Prophets were God's spokesmen, sent to give supernatural guidance to individuals and to the nation.

God through Moses had warned His people not to seek guidance from occult sources (cf. [Deut. 18](#)). In that passage God promised to send prophets to unveil His will. These prophets were to be authenticated by foretelling future events. What the true prophet foretold would surely happen.

The primary message of the Old Testament prophets was to the men and women of their own time. And the authenticating signs could be observed by their contemporaries. But many of the

Old Testament prophets looked far beyond their own times and their writings convey a sweeping vision of the then-distant future. Many of these prophecies concern Jesus in His first coming. Others concern events hundreds of years future to the prophets, but events now far in our past. But perhaps most of the far-view prophecies concern the time of the end.

As we read the written works of the prophets in our Old Testaments, we are struck by common end-time themes that recur again and again in both the Major and Minor Prophets. While we do not have enough data to speak with certainty about the details of what still lies ahead, we surely have enough to see the future's broad outlines.

In this introductory unit we survey the future through themes that are repeated again and again by the Old Testament prophets.

Commentary

The roots of prophecy are found in the covenants of the Old Testament. **The word covenant (*b'rit*) means a contract, oath, or promise.** When God first spoke to Abram in Ur He made a personal commitment, expressed in a covenant which explained what God intended to do. In that first great covenant promise, God said He would:

- *make Abraham a great nation* (fulfilled in the Jewish and Arab races who trace their origins to Isaac and Ishmael).
- *bless Abraham* (fulfilled in God's daily care and in counting Abraham's faith as righteousness).
- *make Abraham's name great* (fulfilled in the respect paid him by Jews, Christians, and Muslims).
- *bless those who treat Abraham's people well and curse those who do not* (fulfilled in history and illustrated in the fate of Nazi Germany).
- *bless all the families of the world through Abraham* (fulfilled in Jesus, the Saviour, who is a Jew), and finally
- *give Abraham and his descendants the land of Palestine* (still unfulfilled in its defined extent!).

The land "from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates" ([Genesis 15:18](#)) has in historic times been partially occupied by the Hebrew people, but in its defined extent has never yet been theirs.

As the centuries passed, the original covenant stated in [Genesis 12](#) and restated in [Genesis 15](#) and [Genesis 17](#) was further defined by additional covenant promises. The Davidic Covenant promised that a descendant of David's would rule: "Your throne will be established forever" ([2 Samuel 7:16](#)). Permanent, endless rule of Israel's Promised Land was guaranteed to One from David's family.

Again centuries passed, and both Northern tribes (Israel) and Southern tribes (Judah) were torn from Palestine by foreign conquerors. Did this mean the ancient covenant promises were set aside? Had the sins of the Jews led God to withdraw His promised blessings?

To answer this question, the Prophet Jeremiah was told to announce a New Covenant. God had not changed His mind!

**"Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears . . ." declares the Lord.
"They will return from the land of the enemy. So there is hope for your future,"
declares the Lord. "Your children will return to their own land."**

[Jeremiah 31:16-17](#)

In this New Covenant promise, God announced His intention to change the hearts of His people in a great national conversion.

"I will put My Law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

[Jeremiah 31:33-34](#)

While God's commitment to keep His promises remains firm, the Lord also added a special set of promises and warnings for each generation of Israelites. The Law covenant did not speak of the time of the end, but spoke to people who would live in the centuries before the end came.

In the Law God gave each generation this commitment: Those who obeyed Him and kept His commandments would be blessed in their present, even as all humanity will be blessed at history's end. And those generations and persons who failed to obey would suffer divine judgment.

Imbedded in the promises and the warnings found in [Deut. 28](#), are portraits of national poverty, defeat, and exile! In a striking way [Deut 28](#) pictures exactly what has happened to the Jewish people—*often!*

It happened when Assyria defeated Israel.

It happened when Babylon defeated Judah.

It happened when Rome finally crushed the Jews in A.D. 70.

And yet, with its warning of defeat and exile Deuteronomy contains a promise of restoration to the land.

When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations, and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where He scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

[Deut. 30:1-6](#)

One of the great questions debated by Christians with differing prophetic views is whether or not this [Deut. 30](#) promise was fulfilled in the return from Babylon some 500 years before Christ.

The answer is "yes"—and "no"!

Certainly the return from Babylon was a fulfillment of God's Deuteronomy promise. But it was not a *complete* fulfillment. How do we know? We know because after the return took place, the postexilic prophets repeat the same themes we find in Deuteronomy and in the prophets who spoke before the Babylonian Captivity. For instance, Zechariah said:

This is what the Lord Almighty says, "Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with cane in hand because of his age. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there." This is what the Lord Almighty says, "It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to Me?" declares the Lord Almighty. This is what the Lord Almighty says, "I will save My people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be My people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."

[Zech. 8:4-8](#)

How significant Isaiah's statement, made long before the first Exile, seems.

In that day the Lord will *reach out His hand a second time* to reclaim the remnant that is left of His people.

[Isaiah 11:11](#), italics mine

What then do we conclude? First, that the prophet's picture of still-future events is rooted in the covenant promises God has given His Old Testament people. Second, that themes repeated by prophets before and after the Babylonian Captivity, while partially fulfilled in the return from that exile, have a more complete fulfillment ahead.

And third, when we see themes, rooted in the covenants, repeated in the prophets of all Old Testament eras, we can assume that these repeated themes foreshadow events that are still future to our own times.

Link to Life 1: Youth / Adult

Help your group see the pattern of scattering and return defined in [Deut. 28-30](#). A mini lecture should accomplish this.

Then ask: "Does this passage describe something in history, or something yet future?" After discussion, divide into study teams to look at the following passages which deal with the scattering and return of the people of Israel.

Have your teams note carefully. Is the final return natural or supernatural? Where are the people who return found? How is this event like or unlike the return described in Ezra and Nehemiah?

The passages: [Isaiah 11:11-12](#); [Isaiah 14:1-3](#); [Isaiah 27:12-13](#); [Isaiah 43:1-8](#); [Isaiah 49:16](#); [Isaiah 66:20-22](#); [Jeremiah 16:14-16](#); [Jeremiah 23:3-8](#); [Jeremiah 30:10-11](#); [Jeremiah 31:8, 31-37](#); [Ezekiel 11:17-21](#); [Ezekiel 20:33-38](#); [Ezekiel 34:11-16](#); [Ezekiel 39:25-29](#); [Hosea 1:10-11](#); [Joel 3:17-21](#); [Amos 9:11-15](#); [Micah 4:4-7](#); [Zeph. 3:14-20](#); [Zech. 8:4-8](#).

After reports, locate each prophet on a timeline. What are the implications of seeing the same theme repeated before and after the Babylonian Exile and return?

The Old Testament covenants provide that Testament's basic orientation to the future. What the prophets describe is essentially how God's promises to Abraham will be kept. The prophets do not change those purposes, but expand and develop themes found in the original covenants.

What then are recurring themes that tell us more about this regathering the Bible speaks of as a prelude to giving Israel her Promised Land?

A Great Tribulation

Few themes linked with history's end have drawn so much attention. Few are so emphasized in the Old Testament. When the prophets speak of the "Day of the Lord" (a phrase which like "that day" indicates the time of the end and God's active involvement in it), they often sound much like Amos:

Woe to you who long for the Day of the Lord! Why do you long for the Day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not the Day of the Lord be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

[Amos 5:18-20](#)

While the "**Day of the Lord**" as a theological term encompasses all that happens in the extended period during which God fulfills His promises and brings history to its conclusion, the emphasis in most Old Testament passages is on the dark time of tribulation and judgment initiating that day.

The Day of the Lord is pictured as a terrible time for humanity; an era of purposeful judgment. Earth is wasted and emptied, its inhabitants devastated. There is gloom and darkness, trouble and woe, for God's wrath is fully expressed against sinning humankind (cf. [Deut. 4:30-31](#); [Isaiah 2:19](#); [Isaiah 24:1, 3, 6, 19-21](#); [Isaiah 26:20-21](#); [Jeremiah 30:7](#); [Daniel 9:27](#); [Daniel 12:1](#); [Joel 1:15](#); [Joel 2:1-2](#); [Amos 5:18-20](#); [Zeph. 1:14-15, 18](#)).

According to the Old Testament, pagan nations and God's people are both to experience the divine judgment, for this Tribulation is worldwide. As Jeremiah said:

"Look! Disaster is spreading from nation to nation; a mighty storm is rising from the ends of the earth." At that time those slain by the Lord will be everywhere—from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned or gathered up or buried.

[Jeremiah 25:32-33](#)

Yet, with all the stunning terror of the Tribulation time, it is clear that it is intended to lead to deliverance.

How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

[Jeremiah 30:7](#)

I will take note of you as you pass under My staff, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I will purge you from those who revolt and rebel against Me.

[Ezekiel 20:37-38](#)

"In the whole land," declares the Lord, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.' "

[Zech. 13:8-9](#)

The time of trouble leads to this consummation. It is intended for cleansing (see also [Rev. 7:9](#); [Rev. 14:4](#)) and intended as preparation for national conversion of Israel (cf. [Ezekiel 20:37-38](#); [Zech. 13:1, 8-9](#)).

So worldwide Tribulation does lie ahead. But even this most terrible of times is intended by God for good, and will move history toward His intended end.

The dark threads of prophetic warning about events associated with the time of the end can best be appreciated simply by reading. So prepare a "responsive reading" from the following passages:

Day of the Lord: [Isaiah 2:12](#); [Isaiah 13:6](#); [Ezekiel 13:5](#); [Ezekiel 30:3](#); [Joel 1:15](#); [Joel 2:1, 11, 31](#); [Amos 5:18-20](#); [Obadiah 1:15](#); [Zeph. 1:7, 14](#); [Zech. 14:1](#); [Malachi 4:5](#).

Tribulation: [Deut. 4:30-31](#); [Isaiah 2:19](#); [Isaiah 24:1, 3, 6, 19-21](#); [Isaiah 26:20-21](#); [Jeremiah 30:7](#); [Daniel 9:27](#); [Daniel 12:1](#); [Joel 1:15](#); [Joel 2:1-2](#); [Amos 5:18-20](#); [Zeph. 1:14-15, 18](#).

The Cast of Characters

When the prophets spoke of history's end there are certain characters or powers which have leading roles.

Political powers. The Old Testament suggests that several power blocks will exist as the end time approaches. These include:

**The West.* This power block is seen in [Daniel 2:41-42](#); [Daniel 7:7](#); and [Daniel 8:9-26](#). It seems to be a coalition of 10 states, some weak and some strong, who come under the influence of a political leader who will counterfeit the Messiah. These states occupy territory roughly that of the Roman Empire of Jesus' day.

**The North.* This represents a second great confederacy. It is described in [Isaiah 30:31-33](#); [Ezekiel 38:1-39:25](#); [Daniel 11:40](#); [Joel 2:1-17](#); and other passages. Nations called in the Old Testament Gog, Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal have been identified as territory currently including Russia, Iran, certain Arab states, East Germany, and some Asian peoples.

**The East.* This power is mentioned in [Rev. 16:12](#), and indicates a coalition of Asian powers.

**The South.* This is the final area, mentioned in [Daniel 11:40](#). This is Egyptian or North African territory, and is the first power block to be confronted by the West and destroyed by it.

Teachers of prophecy make much of the fact, that for the first time in some 19 centuries of the Christian era, the political shape of our world fits the distribution of powers described in the Old Testament.

The personalities. The dominant personality associated with the end time is a person known as the Antichrist. He is described in great detail, and will be the leader of the Western power block. His character and his activities are presented in [Ezekiel 28:1-10](#) and [Daniel 7:7-8, 20-26](#); [Daniel 8:23-25](#); [Daniel 9:26-27](#); [Daniel 11:36-45](#) as well as in the New Testament passages such as [2 Thes. 2:3-10](#) and [Rev. 13:1-10](#).

While the Antichrist will at first appear to be a friend of Israel, he will quickly turn against her and set himself up as god ([Daniel 9:27](#); [Daniel 11:36-37](#)). Israel itself will become a battleground.

Patterns. While exact details and sequences are difficult to follow, an extended passage in Ezekiel has been understood by many to give a general sequence of the events that lead to the intense persecution and culminating judgments of history's end. In brief, the passage ([Ezekiel 38-39](#)) suggests the following scenario.

*[Ezekiel 38:1-6](#): The invaders are identified as Russia and her confederates, coming from the "far north" ([Ezekiel 38:6](#)) with many peoples.

*[Ezekiel 38:7-9](#): Israel's people, having returned from "many nations," will finally be dwelling securely (possibly because of the treaty with the West).

*[Ezekiel 38:10-14](#): In spite of a Western protest the invaders will sweep down on defenseless Israel to plunder her.

*[Ezekiel 38:15-16](#): The invading army will be successful, covering the land like a cloud. Like other earlier invaders, these too are called to a ministry of judgment, purging Israel.

*[Ezekiel 38:17-23](#): In a great cataclysm, God will act to destroy the invading army. The destruction will be so startling and its supernatural origins will be recognized by all: "And so I will show My greatness and My holiness, and I will make Myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord" ([Ezekiel 38:23](#)).

*[Ezekiel 39:9-11](#): The remaining war materials will become a resource for Jewish rebuilding. The battle will be followed by cleansing and forgiveness of Israel.

According to this interpretation, the destruction of Russia leaves a power vacuum and the West, led by Antichrist, is free to occupy Palestine and the adjacent oil fields of the OPEC nations.

If we sum up the events linked with these major characters in Old Testament prophecy, we come up with the following general outline of the time of the end.

1. Israel makes a treaty with the Antichrist and occupies her land in false security.
2. Russia invades Palestine.
3. Russia and her allies are destroyed.
4. The Antichrist breaks his treaty with Israel and the West occupies the land.
5. A world government is formed under the Antichrist.
6. All nations gather to battle around Jerusalem.
7. Jesus returns to destroy the Gentile world powers and to rule.

The Glorious Kingdom

The last event on the list above is perhaps the most significant theme of the prophets. They speak powerfully of a coming kingdom, governed by a ruler who is to come from David's line.

The coming king. The titles of this coming king make it very clear that the One of whom the prophets speak is Jesus, God Himself come in human form.

Here are some of those titles:

Jehovah ([Isaiah 2:2-4](#))

Mighty God ([Isaiah 9:6](#))

The Judge ([Isaiah 11:3-4](#))

Lord Almighty ([Isaiah 24:23](#))

The King ([Isaiah 33:17](#))

Our Lawgiver ([Isaiah 33:22](#))

Your God ([Isaiah 52:7](#))

The Redeemer ([Isaiah 59:20](#))

The Lord our Righteousness ([Jeremiah 23:6](#))

Ancient of Days ([Daniel 7:13](#))

The Most High ([Daniel 7:22](#))

Prince of princes ([Daniel 8:25](#))

The Anointed One ([Daniel 9:25-26](#))

The Lord ([Micah 4:7](#))

In the earliest days, the promised throne was said to be the Lord's own ([1 Chron. 28:5](#); [2 Chron. 9:8](#); [2 Chron. 13:8](#)). The King is "God with us" ([Isaiah 7:14](#)), to be born of a virgin in Bethlehem ([Isaiah 7:14](#); [Micah 5:2](#)). This Ruler's authority will extend to the entire earth ([Psalm 2:8](#); [Isaiah 11:9](#); [Isaiah 42:4](#); [Jeremiah 23:5](#); [Zech. 14:9](#)), even though it will be centered in Jerusalem ([Isaiah 2:1-3](#); [Isaiah 62:1-7](#); [Zech. 8:20-23](#)). Ruling over a converted Israel ([Isaiah 11:11-12](#); [Isaiah 14:1-2](#); [Jeremiah 23:6-8](#); [Jeremiah 32:37-38](#); [Jeremiah 33:7-9](#); [Ezekiel 37:21-25](#); [Micah 4:6-8](#)), the King will bring peace to Gentiles as well as to Israel ([Psalm 72:11, 17](#); [Psalm 86:9](#); [Isaiah 55:5](#); [Daniel 7:13-14](#); [Micah 4:2](#); [Zech. 8:22](#)).

This prophetic theme makes it increasingly clear that the King must be God Himself, a truth made especially plain in [Isaiah 9:6-7](#).

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

[Isaiah 9:6-7](#)

His wonderful rule. What will the restoration, of which the Old Testament speaks, be like, and how does it describe the earthly kingdom of the Messiah? The most famous description is found in [Isaiah 11:1-9](#).

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse [the father of David], from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord—and He will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be His belt, and faithfulness the sash around His waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into

the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

[Isaiah 11:1-9](#)

In this lengthy passage we see images repeated again and again. The supernaturally endowed ruler brings peace. The poor and the oppressed are cared for at last, while the wicked are judged. In many ways, the Messiah's rule has a wonderful impact on human experience.

- **In place of *war* there will be *peace*** ([Isaiah 9:4-7](#); [Isaiah 32:17-18](#); [Ezekiel 34:25](#), [28](#); [Micah 4:2-3](#)).
- **In place of *sin* there will be *holiness*** ([Isaiah 29:18-23](#); [Isaiah 35:8-9](#); [Zeph. 3:11](#); [Zech. 14:20-21](#)).
- **In place of *misery* there will be *comfort*** ([Isaiah 29:22-23](#); [Isaiah 61:3-7](#); [Isaiah 66:13](#); [Jeremiah 31:23-25](#); [Zech. 9:11-12](#)).
- **In place of *injustice* there will be *justice*** ([Isaiah 42:1-4](#); [Isaiah 65:21-23](#); [Jeremiah 31:23](#), [29-30](#)).
- **In place of *sickness* there will be *healing*** ([Isaiah 29:17-19](#); [Isaiah 35:3-6](#); [Isaiah 61:1-2](#); [Jeremiah 31:8](#); [Micah 4:6-7](#)).
- **In place of *ignorance* will be *knowledge of the Lord*** ([Isaiah 11:1-2](#), [9](#); [Isaiah 41:19-20](#); [Isaiah 54:13](#); [Habakkuk 2:14](#)).
- **Instead of *early death* there will be *preservation*** ([Isaiah 41:8-14](#); [Isaiah 62:8-9](#); [Jeremiah 23:6](#); [Jeremiah 32:27](#); [Ezekiel 34:27](#); [Joel 3:16-17](#); [Zech. 8:14-15](#); [Zech. 9:17](#); [Zech. 14:10-11](#)).
- **Instead of *poverty* there will be *prosperity*** ([Isaiah 4:1](#); [Isaiah 65:21-22](#); [Ezekiel 34:26](#); [Joel 2:21-27](#); [Amos 9:13-14](#); [Zech. 8:11-22](#); [Zech. 9:16-17](#)).

All these and other blessings are promised by the Old Testament prophets—when the King finally reigns.

Link to Life 2: Youth / Adult

Give group members large sheets of paper and crayons. Ask each person to select three passages or verses from the following list. After reading the selected passages, each is to draw a picture of the Old Testament's promised kingdom. Each will incorporate images drawn from the passages he or she selected.

When the pictures have been completed, go around the circle and ask each person to share what he or she has drawn and what the features represent.

This simple approach should help your group develop a comprehensive view of the Old Testament kingdom in prophecy.

Passages from which to select:

<u>Isaiah 2:1-4</u>	<u>Daniel 2:31-45</u>
<u>Isaiah 4:2-6</u>	<u>Daniel 7:1-28</u>
<u>Isaiah 9:6-7</u>	<u>Daniel 9:1-3, 20-27</u>
<u>Isaiah 11:1-13</u>	<u>Daniel 12:1-4</u>
<u>Isaiah 24:1-13</u>	<u>Hosea 3:4-5</u>
<u>Isaiah 32:1-5, 14-20</u>	<u>Joel 2:18-3:2</u>
<u>Isaiah 33:17-24</u>	<u>Joel 3:9-21</u>
<u>Isaiah 35:1-10</u>	<u>Amos 9:9-15</u>
<u>Isaiah 52:7-10</u>	<u>Obadiah 1:9-15</u>
<u>Isaiah 60:1-61:6</u>	<u>Micah 4:1-5</u>
<u>Isaiah 66:15-23</u>	<u>Zeph. 3:8-20</u>
<u>Jeremiah 22:1-8</u>	<u>Haggai 2:1-13</u>
<u>Jeremiah 31:1-27</u>	<u>Zech. 2:1-13</u>
<u>Jeremiah 33:14-26</u>	<u>Zech 6:11-13</u>
<u>Ezekiel 20:33-42</u>	<u>Zech 8:1-8</u>
<u>Ezekiel 34:20-21</u>	<u>Zech 9:9-10</u>
<u>Ezekiel 36:22-36</u>	<u>Zech 12:1-10</u>
<u>Ezekiel 37:1-28</u>	<u>Zech 14:1-21</u>
<u>Ezekiel 39:21-29</u>	<u>Malachi 3:1-5</u>
	<u>Malachi 4:1-6</u>

There are then a number of themes common to the Old Testament prophets, which look forward to a time which is still future to us today.

We read in the prophets of a terrible time of judgment, marked by trials and tribulation for the entire earth. We read of wars that ravage the earth, and power blocks of nations that seem to match the great powers of our own time. We read of the Antichrist, and of God's appointed and coming King. And we read of a glorious kingdom which that King will establish on earth.

Surely, while many elements of these Old Testament prophecies have at least partial fulfillment in history, at no time have they combined to constitute fulfillment of God's covenant promises.

Whatever we may think of these promises from the vantage point of the cross, it is clear that God's Old Testament people, like the prophets, looked forward to a real fulfillment in history of the events that they described.

It is also clear, as we read the Old Testament prophets today, that when we meet these repeated themes again and again, we need to know that they are part of a cohesive and consistent view of a future that God's prophets believe the Lord intends for the race He chose to be His own.

The History of Interpretation

Across the centuries of church history there have been various interpretations of Revelation and of prophecy in general.

My Word Bible Handbook (Word) sums up the history succinctly:

The Early Church. The *Didache* was probably written about A.D. 100. It gives this picture of the future as understood in the post-apostolic church: "Watch for your life's sake. Let not your lamps be quenched, nor your loins unloosed; but be ye ready, for ye know not the hour in which our Lord cometh. When lawlessness increaseth, they shall hate and betray and persecute one another, and then shall appear the 'world-deceiver' as Son of God, and shall do signs and wonders, and the earth will be delivered into his hands, and he shall do iniquitous things which have never yet come to pass since the beginning. Then shall the creation of men come into the fire of trial, and many shall be made to stumble and shall perish, but they that endure in their faith shall be saved from under the curse itself. And then shall appear the sign of an opening in heaven, the outspreading of the heaven; (b) then the sign of the sound of the trumpet; and the (c) third, the resurrection of the dead, yet not of all, but as it is said: The Lord shall come and all His saints with Him. Then shall the world see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven" (Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. VII, 382).

In A.D. 140-160 Justin Martyr wrote, "I, and as many as are orthodox Christians, do acknowledge that there shall be a resurrection of the body, and a residence of a thousand years in Jerusalem, adorned and enlarged, as the Prophets Ezekiel, Isaiah, and others do unanimously attest" (Fathers, Vol. 1:239).

Irenaeus, a great missionary and church father, who died in A.D. 202, summed up the picture of the future taught in his day. "When the Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for three years and six months, and sit in the temple at Jerusalem; and then shall the Lord come from heaven in clouds, in the glory of the Father, sending this man, and those who follow him, into the lake of fire; but bringing for the righteous the times of the kingdom, that is, the rest, the hallowed seventh day; and restoring to Abraham the promised inheritance, in which the kingdom of the Lord declared that 'many coming from the east and from the west should sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob' " (Fathers, Vol. 1:560).

It is clear from these early fathers, as well as from the writings of Tertullian, Cyprian, Lactantius and others, that for some 300 years the church did integrate Old Testament and New Testament prophetic pictures and took them in their literal sense. They expected Christ's return to precede a time of blessing, promised in the Old Testament, before the world would end.

To the Reformation. A review of commentaries on the Book of Revelation shows a shift in understanding prophecy occurred after the early centuries. A leader of the African church, Tyconius, wrote a commentary around A.D. 390 in which the events Revelation describes were spiritualized. His allegorical approach was adopted, and later used to justify the development of the papacy as a political power. The allegorical method of interpreting Revelation was followed by Pirimasius (ca. A.D. 550), Alcuin (A.D. 735-804), Maurus (A.D. 775-836), and Strabo (A.D. 807-859).

Joachim of Fiore (ca. A.D. 1130-1202) challenged the dominant allegorical interpretation by introducing a chronological division. He divided all of history into three ages: the Age of the Father (Creation to Christ), the Age of the Son (Christ to his own day), and the Age of the Spirit (his time, until final judgment). When the Reformation came, this chronological approach was fastened on by Luther, Calvin, and others. The Antichrist-beast of [Rev. 13](#) and the harlot of [Rev. 17-18](#) were interpreted as the papacy, and as Rome. Events in the history of western Europe were linked to the various seals and trumpets of the book.

The Catholics responded with a commentary on Revelation in which Francisco Ribera (A.D. 1537-1591) argued that the Antichrist was an individual who would come in some future time, not the pope. Other Catholic writers argued that Revelation applied only to events before the fall of Rome, in A.D. 476.

The medieval scholars, the Reformers, or the later Catholic theologians attempted to relate Revelation to the prophetic picture found in the Old Testament and build a unified picture of the future.

Link to Life 2: Youth / Adult

Give a minilecture summarizing the history of prophetic interpretation through the Reformation. Note especially that in the early church Revelation was interpreted in the light of Old Testament prophecy. Only later were spiritual interpretations (which assumed that prophecy in Old Testament and New Testament was symbolic, speaking in general ways of the blessings of the saved and God's judgments on the sinner). It was later still that Revelation

was interpreted by linking its events with past history—either the history of western Europe or of the Roman Empire.

In modern times three different views of the future have been expressed in prophetic systems. Each system tends to take a different view of Revelation.

Premillennialism is the view of the early church, revived in the nineteenth century by the Plymouth Brethren.

The premillennialist believes that there is a literal Antichrist who will appear. He will bond Europe into a single power, make a treaty with Israel as foretold by Daniel, and then break that treaty and try to set himself up as god. The Old Testament prophecies of invasion of the Holy Land and destruction of a Northern (Russian) army by God will then be fulfilled. After seven years of intense Tribulation, Jesus will return and crush the Antichrist's forces, and chain Satan. He will establish a redeemed Israel as this world's premier nation, and rule from Jerusalem for a thousand years. Afterward Satan will be released and lead a final rebellion. This universe will then be destroyed, final judgment be pronounced, and God will create a new heaven and earth.

This vision of history ahead, all agree, is one that fits the *literal sense* of the words of both Old and New Testament prophecy.

But not all agree that the literal sense is the intended sense in prophecy.

Postmillennial. This view, which had gained in popularity before the First World War, sees a gradual conversion of humanity through the spread of the Gospel. When the world has been converted, an era of peace will be known, and society purified by the Christian majority. This era of peace is what is foretold in the Old Testament and suggested in the image of the thousand years ("the Millennium"). Some postmillennials do expect an outburst of evil before Jesus returns.

Amillennial. This group rejects the idea of a time of blessing on this earth. The Old Testament prophecies like the images of Revelation are thought to be symbolic, and to symbolize the spiritual blessings Christians experience through relationship with God. Thus this school does not believe prophecy should be taken in its literal sense.

Within these traditions there are currently two major approaches to the interpretation of Revelation. The *futurist* has a premillennial orientation, and tries to understand the events John describes by reference to Old Testament and New Testament prophecy. The modern *historist* sees Revelation as a panorama of history itself, but does not try to link it to specific events in the history of Rome or of western Europe. The modern *historist* generally believes that the seven major visions of Revelation simply look from different perspectives, at all of history between First and Second Comings.

The [chart](#) sums up the interpretations of these two schools of Revelation's major segments.

Chart: Interpretations of Revelation

Chapter	Futurist	Modern historian
Rev. 4	Suggests the Rapture of the church.	Suggests awe-filled worship by church of all ages.
Rev. 5	Relates scroll to Daniel 7:13-14 as deed to the Old Testament's promised Davidic Kingdom.	Scroll speaks of redemption and believer's rule in Christ today.
Rev. 6	Initiates events that Jesus described in Matthew 24:5-8 , leading into the Great Tribulation.	Shows impact of the Gospel on the earth, as Christ conquers through the message of His cross.
Rev. 7	Sees the 144,000 as Jewish missionaries active in Tribulation.	Sees 144,000 as symbolic "perfect number" of the saved.
Rev. 8	Initial judgments of Tribulation.	Natural disasters are a warning to the unsaved.
Rev. 9	Demonic enemies are released to torment man.	An invasion of anti-Christian forces operating in the spiritual realm.
Rev. 10	An interlude.	A message that God will not abandon believers.
Rev. 11	The two witnesses are Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:10-11), who preach for 3-1/2 years in Jerusalem and are killed near end of first half of the Tribulation.	The period of 3-1/2 years is symbolic. Witnesses are the true church speaking against false faith.
Rev. 12	The Jewish people are preserved by God from Satan during Antichrist's rule.	War in heaven is a picture of Jesus' victory on Calvary preserving the church from

		persecution.
Rev. 13	The Antichrist and false prophet appear and form European state.	Symbolic expression of Satan's attack on church by anti-Christian governments and false religion.
Rev. 14	An overview of the final judgment of God on human society, represented by "Babylon."	An image of final judgment.
Rev. 15-16	Literal descriptions of events on earth at the end of the Tribulation.	Symbolic descriptions of final judgment.
Rev. 17	"Mystery Babylon" represents false religion of Antichrist.	The woman is pseudo-religious influences in the world today.
Rev. 18	Civil, secular, and military power of the Antichrist.	Represents all past, present, and future materialistic centers.
Rev. 19	Jesus returns as foretold by Old Testament prophets to battle enemies.	Symbolizes the complete victory of Jesus over all enemies.
Rev. 20	Jesus sets up 1,000-year kingdom, then destroys Satan in last great battle.	Satan was "bound" at birth of Jesus. 1,000 years is symbolic of believer's present exaltation of Christ.
Rev. 21	The vision is of eternity.	The vision is of the triumphant church, not of a literal city or new earth.
Rev. 22	Jesus is coming again, soon!	