

Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

Session 26: The Major Prophets (Part I)

Remember Acts 17:11

The Major Prophets:

Isaiah

Jeremiah

- **Lamentations**

Ezekiel

Daniel

The Prophet of the Messiah

The Prophet of Judgement

The Cries of Judah

“Major” Prophets:

- NOT a Rank of Importance
- Term Denotes the Size of the Book
 - o Major = Big
- Each Book Requires at Least a Single Scroll
- Minor Prophets Could be Compiled on a Single Scroll

Isaiah (Written between 740-686BC):

- “Yahweh is Salvation”
- Prophet to Judah (Southern Kingdom)
 - o Career Estimated at 64 Years
- Tribe of Judah
 - o Son of Amoz & Nephew of King Amaziah
- Prophecies are Considered the Most Well Constructed Writings in Biblical Literature
 - o Complete Ancient Copy Found in Qumran (1947)
 - o Dating to Circa 200 BC, Identical to the Masoretic Text
- Place in History
 - o Called in the Year of King Uzziah’s Death
 - Commission in 6:8
 - o Jotham (Good King)
 - o Ahaz (Bad King)
 - o Hezekiah (Good King)
 - o Manasseh* (Very Bad King)
- Family (Married with 2 Sons)
 - o Wife (“The Prophetess”)
 - o Shear-Jashub: “A Remnant Shall Return”
 - o Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz: “Plunder Quickly”

Themes in Writing:

- Judgement for Disobedience, Oppression, & Disloyalty
- Coming Restoration Through the Messianic Kingdom
- Messiah's Arrival as a Descendant of David

Outline:

Oracles of Judgement & Hope for Jerusalem 1-12

- Accusation of Rebellion, Injustice, Idolatry
- Pagan Nations Will Be Instruments of Judgement
- Old Jerusalem Destroyed So That a New Can Rise

Oracles of Judgement & Hope for the Nations 13-27

- All Pagan Nations Will Fall
- The Tale of Two Cities (Pride & Humility)

The New Enemy & Jerusalem's Fall 28-39

- The Fall of Assyria
- The Healing of Hezekiah
- The Sin & Judgement of Hezekiah

The Post Exile Hope & Return 40-48

- Israel's Lost Faith in God (Post Exile)
- God's Response to Lost Hope (God on Trial)

The Servant 49-55

- Proclaimer of the Kingdom
- Sacrifice of Atonement
- Resurrection & New Covenant ("Seed" vs. "Wicked")

The New Kingdom 56-66

- The Rise of a New Jerusalem Under the Servant(s)
- Example to the Nations
- National Confession & Repentance
- The Justice & Judgement of God
- The Gentiles Welcomed Into the Kingdom

Highlights:

- Throne Room of the Universe 6
- Messianic Incarnation 7, 9
- Final Judgement of Babylon 13, 14
- Fall of Lucifer 14
- Letter to Cyrus the Great 45
- Substitutionary Atonement of the Messiah 53
- Messianic Mandate* 61:1-2
- The Second Coming 63
- Millennial Kingdom 65, 66

Jeremiah (Writing – Circa 585BC):

- Lived Circa 650-570BC
- “God Shall Raise”
 - o “The Weeping Prophet”
- Son of the Priest Hilkiah (Land of Benjamin)
- Authorship
 - o The Book of Jeremiah
 - o Contributor: Books of the Kings
 - o Lamentations
(Scribe & Disciple Baruch ben Neriah Ref. Ch. 36)
- 40 Year Prophetic Ministry (No Positive Response)
 - o Disciple of the Prophet Zephaniah
- Place in History
 - o Commissioned During the 13th Year of Josiah*
 - o Jehoahaz
 - o Jehoiakim
 - o Jehoiachin
 - o Zedekiah (Fall of Jerusalem)
- Commissioned in c. 626 to Prophecy Jerusalem’s Fall
 - o Judah Had Forsaken God in Favor of Baal
 - o Burned Children as Sacrifices
 - o Judah Would be Captive to an Invader from the North

Themes in Writing:

- God’s Judgement Upon His People’s Rejection
- God Remains Forever Sovereign
- Jerusalem Will Be Punished & Restored

Outline:

The Sins & Warning for Judah	1-24
Jeremiah’s Call to Judah & the Nations	
Judah’s Idolatry (Adultery)	
The Temple Sermon (Ch. 7)	
The Judgement & Future Hope for Judah	26-45
The Rejection & Persecution of the Prophet	
The Fall of Jerusalem	
The Prophet Kidnapped to Egypt	
God’s Rescue of Israel (30-33)	
All Nations Will Bow Before God	
The Judgement & Future Hope of the Nations	46-51
The Judgement Upon the Nations	
The Judgement of Babylon	
The Exile & Future Hope of the Line of David	

Highlights:

- Curse Upon Jeconiah* 22:30
- The 70 Year Captivity 25
- The New Covenant 31
- The Fall of Babylon 50, 51

Lamentations (Circa 586-575BC):

- Unsigned (Attributed to Jeremiah)
- Reflecting on the Fall of Jerusalem & Bondage of Israel
 - o Ref. 2 Kings 24-25
- Prophetic Collection of 5 Poems of Lament
 - o Cries to God
 - o Venting of Anger, Confusion, Dismay, & Suffering
 - o Poems of Grief Addressed to God

Outline:

- Grief of Widow Zion (Acrostic) 1**
Grief & Shame
- God’s Wrath Upon Jerusalem (Acrostic) 2**
Confession - Rededication
- The Suffering One (3 Verse Acrostic) 3**
Ref. Job 3, Psalms 22; 69, Is. 53
Confession – Rejoicing at God’s Faithfulness
- The Horror of the Battle for Jerusalem (Acrostic) 4**
Contrasts the Security of the Past with the Shock of Judah’s Suffering
- Prayer for God’s Mercy (No Acrostic) 5**
Do Not Ignore Your People
Do Not Abandon Us
God Reigns Forever (5:19)
Have You Forgotten Us (5:20-22)

For Discussion:

- Share Reading and Journal Highlights.

Consider Along with the Bible:

- Have You Ever Felt Abandoned by God?
- What Was Your Comfort in Times of Grief?
