

Unleashing the Old Testament

with Alan Gilman
Bible Teacher

Session 14



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1 & 2 Chronicles/ The Persian Era



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1 & 2 Kings

Summary

- ❖ God is the true king
- ❖ The seriousness of sin
- ❖ Life is not straightforward (ambiguity)
- ❖ God's faithfulness
- ❖ Faith (trusting God) in the midst of dysfunction



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1 & 2 Chronicles

Items of note

- ❖ Part of the “Writings” / Final books of the Tenach
- ❖ May or may not have drawn from Samuel & Kings
- ❖ Genealogies
- ❖ Stresses the David Covenant
- ❖ Strong Temple theme
- ❖ Focus on Kingdom of Judah
- ❖ Stresses future hope



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1 & 2 Chronicles

Return

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.’” (2 Chronicles 36:22-23)



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Chronology of the Persian era

Ezra 1-6 (537 – 515): Initial return under Cyrus’s decree / Rebuilding of Temple under Zerubbabel

Esther (483 – 473): Annihilation threat

Ezra 7-10 (458 – 457): Ezra’s reforms

Nehemiah (445 – 432): Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem



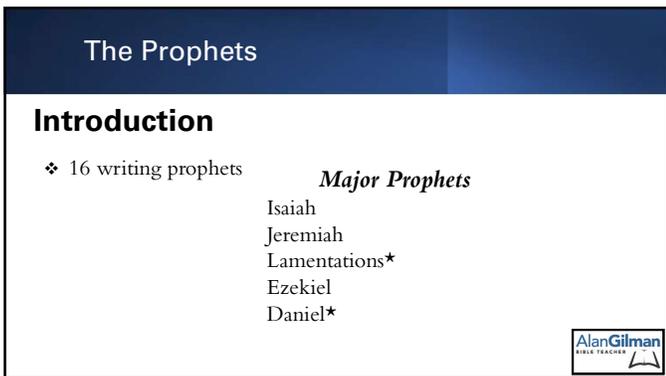
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The Prophets

Introduction

- ❖ 16 writing prophets

The Twelve

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi



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The Prophets

Introduction

- ❖ 16 writing prophets
- ❖ Not all prophets were writing prophets

Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “See, the place where we dwell under your charge is too small for us.” (2 Kings 6:1)



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The Prophets

Introduction

- ❖ 16 writing prophets
- ❖ Not all prophets were writing prophets
- ❖ Prophets emerged as condition of nation declined
- ❖ Called by God / Unique individuals (personalities)
- ❖ Often addressed to the common people in public
- ❖ Majority of their writings are poetical



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The Prophets

Introduction

- ❖ Majority of their writings are addressed to specific situations
- ❖ Filled with political and geographical references
- ❖ Importance of Torah assumed (Blessing & Cursing)
- ❖ Forthtelling & Foretelling
- ❖ Not just a cocoon for messianic prophesy



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Key Themes

The uniqueness of the God of Israel

There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might.

(Jeremiah 10:6)



19

Key Themes

The LORD of Hosts / הַיְהוָה צְבָאוֹת

And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" (Isaiah 6:3-5)



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Key Themes

The uselessness of idols

What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! (Habakkuk 2:18)



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Key Themes

Sin

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. (Isaiah 1:2-4)



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Key Themes

Call to engagement

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (Isaiah 1:18-20)



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Key Themes

Righteousness צְדָקָה (Ts'dakah)

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.
(Zephaniah 2:3)



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Key Themes

Righteousness צְדָקָה (Ts'dakah)

Isaiah	37
Jeremiah	8
Ezekiel	23
Daniel	4
Hosea	1
Joel	1
Amos	3
Micah	3
Zechariah	1
Malachi	2
Total	83 out of 167



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Key Themes

Justice / מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. (Amos 5:15)



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Key Themes

Justice / מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Isaiah	42
Jeremiah	32
Ezekiel	42
Daniel	1
Hosea	6
Amos	4
Micah	5
Habakkuk	4
Zephaniah	4
Zechariah	2
Malachi	3
Total	145 out of 421



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Key Themes

Justice & righteousness

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)



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Key Themes

Warning of judgment

Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, the LORD from his holy temple. For behold, the LORD is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. (Micah 1:2-4)



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Key Themes

Centrality of Israel

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:2-4)



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Key Themes

God's faithfulness to Israel

"But fear not, O Jacob my servant, nor be dismayed, O Israel, for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid. Fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, for I am with you. I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished." (Jeremiah 46:27-28)



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Key Themes

Restoration of Israel

In that day the LORD will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (Isaiah 11:11-12)



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Key Themes

Judgment on the nations

“Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed.”
(Zephaniah 3:8)



33

Key Themes

Renewal of the creation

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit...”



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Key Themes

Renewal of the creation

“...They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.
(Isaiah 65:17-25)



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Key Themes

Renewal and messianic hope

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD...



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Key Themes

Renewal and messianic hope

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them...



37

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Key Themes

Renewal and messianic hope

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:1-10)



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