

## The Prophets – Isaiah to Malachi

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# ***SEEING WHAT GOD SEES:*** **the Revelation of God’s Judgment and** **Comfort [i.e. Salvation]**

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<b>Major Prophets:</b> <b>Isaiah, Jeremiah,</b> <b>Ezekiel, Daniel</b>	<b>A Synthesis of the Four Major Prophets –</b> The One True God (Isaiah) longs to (Jeremiah) give His Spirit to the Remnant (Ezekiel) and they will serve Him faithfully (Daniel)
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### **The worldview of the prophets in a nutshell: Psalm 2**

#### **A Summary of the Four Major Prophets:**

[Parts of the following summary are taken from the introductions in the Spirit Filled Life Bible.]

**Isaiah** declared God’s judgment on sin in Judah, Israel, and the surrounding nations. The exposition on people’s depravity was extensive and specific; it always traced sin’s source to idolatry. The central sin issue arose out of the worship of a nation’s culture. It is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Wherever you find immorality, corruption, and degeneracy, you will find the deprivation of worship of the one true God; this is sin.

However, Isaiah’s greatest purpose was not only to pronounce the guilt associated with sin but rather, lay a glorious foundation of hope and promise for the faithful remnant. The promises of restoration and redemption are magnificently proclaimed throughout the book and most especially towards the ending chapters.

The climactic theme is Isaiah’s prophecies of the certain advent of the Messiah, the Suffering Servant who would identify with God’s people in order to make atonement by receiving the wrathful punishment that God’s people deserved. “And by His stripes, we are healed.” Isaiah has been called the prophet of the Son.

- I. God’s Judgment chs. 1-39
- II. God’s Comfort chs. 40-66

**Jeremiah** had a compassionate heart for his people. He had their best interest at heart. He condemned corrupt rulers both in the political and religious realms of Judah. He attacked the people for their idolatry and proclaimed severe judgment. He encouraged his fellow countrymen to go to Babylon, settle there, and raise their families. For this he was branded and imprisoned as a traitor. He knew that unless God’s covenant was honored without compromise, the nation would be destroyed. Judah was way beyond remedy. Jerusalem, the capital, fell into the hands of the Babylonians in 586 BC.

Jeremiah stressed individual responsibility for sin. He prophesied that after proper chastisement and repentance, God would bring a remnant back and fulfill a new covenant where His law would be written on their hearts. Through this, David’s throne would truly be established and faithful priests would serve God’s people.

Jeremiah did not see a single convert during his ministry. Rather he witnessed the captivity of his people and the plundering and burning of the city and the temple. However, the book does end on an up note. The captive king (Jehoiachin) was released from prison and treated kindly by the king of Babylon. For the rest of Jehoiachin’s life, he received rations until the day of his death. This served as a contrast to the fate of Zedekiah, king of Judah, who attempted to rebel against the king of Babylon; precisely what Jeremiah told the people not to do. Jeremiah

was vindicated by the fate of these two kings; they were indicators of what happened to those who listened to God's word and those who rejected it. Jeremiah has been called the prophet of the Father.

- I. Jeremiah's Call and Discourses of Judgment chs.1-33
- II. Historical appendix chs.34-35
- III. Trials and Sufferings of Jeremiah chs.36-45
- IV. Oracles against foreign nations chs. 46-51
- V. Historical appendix ch.52

**Ezekiel** was the charismatic (enigmatic) prophet. His visions were powerful. He emphasized individual responsibility for sin and explained that it was the cumulative weight that sent the nation into captivity. Judah had degenerated to the point where corporate responsibility could no longer be a shield for the individual.

As comfort for this judgment, Ezekiel revealed the divine grace in the rebirth of the nation. Repentance of the faithful remnant among the exiles would result in the re-creation of Israel from the dry bones. The divine Spirit would quicken the bones to a new life. This new life is one of true worship in a restored temple in a restored land. Ezekiel has been called the prophet of the Spirit.

- I. The opening vision and call of Ezekiel chs.1-3:21
- II. Prophecies and visions of Jerusalem's destruction chs. 3:22-24:27
- III. Oracles of doom against foreign nations chs. 25-32
- IV. Prophecies of restoration chs. 33-48

In the book of **Daniel**, we see what a faithful man looks like who sees as God sees. Daniel was taken into captivity when he was a youth. He became a great leader that served under both Babylonian and Persian rule. He was shown great and mighty things that would glorify the God who sovereignly reigns over nations and would eventually bring all things to a climactic and apocalyptic end. In Daniel, we catch a glimpse of what is possible when we begin to see as God sees.

**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”**

- Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine. (1:8)
- “There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him.” (5:11)
- “you who are highly esteemed” - 3X

12:1-3 During the Great Tribulation, God will deliver everyone who's name is in the Book [whose identity and character is found in the Book of Life, God's Holy Word]. God will raise up all who are in the graves, some to glory, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

12:12 Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1335 days.

**Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. (c.f. 1 Cor.2:6-16)**

- I. The religious convictions of Daniel ch.1
- II. Nebuchadnezzar's first dream ch.2
- III. Deliverance from the fiery furnace ch.3
- IV. Nebuchadnezzar's second dream ch.4
- V. The Handwriting on the wall ch.5
- VI. Daniel in the lion's den ch.6
- VII. Daniel's visions chs.7-12

**Reflection:**

What can we conclude when the themes of all 4 of the Major Prophets are woven together?

- Isaiah – the Voice of Salvation; the Voice of the Son
- Jeremiah – the Voice of the Brokenhearted; the Voice of the Father
- Ezekiel – the Voice of Resurrection; the Voice of the Spirit
- Daniel – the Voice of Sovereignty; the Vision of the Faithful

What should we see if we could see as God sees? What did the prophets see? There's is so much to see!

# **Christ Jesus**

**– King of kings and Lord of lords!!!**

**Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. Psalm 2:12**

**What do the major prophets reveal about the love of the Father, the work of the Son, and the perspective of the Spirit?**

**What are the implications and applications for parenting?**

Minor Prophets	<b>The Voice of Truth: 12 Foundational Stones of  <i>the Spiritual Dwelling of God,          [Jesus Christ and His Church]</i></b>	
<b>Objective:</b> Identifying the 12 elements of the identity of God’s Messiah, ie. God’s Perspective, His Word which would become flesh.		
The Prophet	The Prophet’s Message	Selected Verses and topics that summatively express the Message
<i>Hosea</i>	<b>Voice of Grace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Gomer and her children – Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, and Lo-Ammi</li> <li>✦ Bring charges against your mother, bring charges.</li> <li>✦ I will not have mercy on her children, for they are the children of harlotry.</li> <li>✦ Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and wall her in, so that she cannot find her paths.</li> <li>✦ Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall deliver her from My hand.</li> <li>✦ Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her.</li> <li>✦ I will betroth you to Me forever...in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy...in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.</li> <li>✦ Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the Lord for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.</li> <li>✦ I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death.</li> <li>✦ I will heal their backslidings, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him.</li> </ul>
<i>Joel</i>	<b>Voice of Final Judgment – the Day of the Lord</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Locusts</li> <li>✦ I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.</li> <li>✦ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.</li> <li>✦ I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there...</li> </ul>
<i>Amos</i>	<b>Voice of Social Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ For three transgressions of ...and for four,...</li> <li>✦ For they do not know to do right...who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.</li> <li>✦ I will destroy the winter house along with the summer house; the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end.</li> <li>✦ ...Yet you have not returned to Me.</li> <li>✦ Prepare to meet your God, o Israel!</li> <li>✦ Seek Me and live.</li> <li>✦ He who forms...declares...makes...treads...The Lord God of Hosts is His name.</li> <li>✦ But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.</li> </ul>
<i>Obadiah</i>	<b>Voice against the flesh / sinful</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ ...concerning Edom...the pride of your heart has deceived you.</li> <li>✦ You who say ... ‘Who will bring me down to the ground?’</li> <li>✦ For violence against your brother Jacob...As you have done, it shall be done to you;</li> <li>✦ No survivor shall remain of the house of Esau.</li> <li>✦ Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s.</li> </ul>

	<b>nature</b>	
<i>Jonah</i>	<b>Voice of the Gospel</b>	<p>† I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, and He answered me.</p> <p>† I went down to the moorings of the mountains;... Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God.</p> <p>† And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than 120,000 persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left – and much livestock?</p>
<i>Micah</i>	<b>Voice of the Good Shepherd</b>	<p>† What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what are the high places of Judah? Are they not Jerusalem?</p> <p>† Hear now, O heads of Jacob, and you rulers of the house of Israel: Is it not for you to know justice?</p> <p>† But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.</p> <p>† He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?</p> <p>† Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?</p> <p>† You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.</p>
<i>Nahum</i>	<b>Voice Against the Proudful Doomed – those who have gone beyond the point of no return</b>	<p>† God is jealous, and the Lord avenges...and is furious...He reserves wrath for His enemies; the Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.</p> <p>† But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.</p> <p>† Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs.</p> <p>† Your shepherds slumber...your nobles rest in the dust...your people are scattered...and no one gathers them.</p> <p>† Your injury has no healing, your wound is severe. All who hear news of you will clap their hands over you, for upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?</p>
<i>Habakkuk</i>	<b>Voice of Faith</b>	<p>† O Lord, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear?</p> <p>† Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he?</p> <p>† I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected.</p> <p>† Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.</p> <p>† Though the fig tree may not blossom...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.</p> <p>† The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.</p>
<i>Zephaniah</i>	<b>Voice of Purity</b>	<p>† I will utterly consume everything from the face of the land.</p> <p>† Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand...</p> <p>† ...a day of wrath...trouble and distress...devastation and desolation...darkness and gloominess...clouds and thick darkness...trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.</p> <p>† Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice... It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger.</p> <p>† My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy.</p> <p>† The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.</p>
<i>Haggai</i>	<b>Voice of Future</b>	<p>† This people say, "The time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built."</p> <p>† Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways!"</p> <p>† You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?</p> <p>† So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel...Joshua...and all the</p>

	<b>Glory</b>	<p>remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God.</p> <p>† <b>The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former...and in this place I will give peace.</b></p> <p>† And now, carefully consider...Consider now from this day forward...from the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid – consider it: Is the seed still in the barn?...But from this day I will bless you.</p> <p>† In that day, I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you.</p>
<i>Zechariah</i>	<b>Voice that glorifies Christ</b>	<p>† Return to Me and I will return to you.</p> <p>† ...behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees.</p> <p>† I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal.</p> <p>† <b>My house shall be built in it.</b></p> <p>† Hear, O Joshua, the high priest...I am bringing forth <b>My Servant the BRANCH.</b></p> <p>† 'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of Hosts.</p> <p>† <b>And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"</b></p> <p>† <b>Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the Lord; Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord.</b></p> <p>† I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her.</p> <p>† Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each on with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.</p> <p>† <b>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you;</b> He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.</p> <p>† <b>Then they will look on Me whom they pierced.</b></p> <p>† In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.</p> <p>† <b>Strike the Shepherd,</b> and the sheep will be scattered.</p> <p>† <b>And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.</b></p>
<i>Malachi</i>	<b>the Voice of Distinction [between the truly righteous and the wicked (falsely righteous)]</b>	<p>† Yet Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have hated.</p> <p>† A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence?</p> <p>† If you will not hear, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to My name, I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings.</p> <p>† For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.</p> <p>† Why do we deal treacherously with one another by profaning the covenant of the fathers?</p> <p>† For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce...therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.</p> <p>† For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap...He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.</p> <p>† Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name.</p> <p>† <b>They shall be Mine on the day that I make them My jewels.</b> And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.</p> <p>† <b>Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.</b></p> <p>† But to you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.</p> <p>† Remember the Law of Moses...Behold I will send you Elijah...and <b>he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers,</b> lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.</p>

God's fulfillment of the prophets:

“For **He Himself** is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier... His purpose was to create in Himself **one new man** out of the two, thus making peace, and **in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross**, by which He put to death their hostility... For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of **God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. and in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.**”

Ephesians 2:14-22

Synthesis: What's it good for?

Reflection: What is the foundation of your dwelling? Is it the eternal perspective (eyes/worldview) of God as revealed by His Son and His messengers, the prophets and apostles?

When we keep in mind that the prophets were mouth pieces for [the God whose love endures forever] (God of hesed), what can we learn about divine love and how it interacts with sinful people?

Discuss the house of future glory which is **Christ**, the true Temple. This Temple will be the **Way** of seeing which is the **Truth** and the outcome is **Life**. This Way of seeing (**VISION**) enables distinction between true service / worship and hypocrisy. This worldview also creates a self concept, an identity which can be traced to Abraham, Adam, and even God.

How might the prophetic revelations inform and shape our parenting?