



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 34

Old Testament Survey: Introduction to the Prophets

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
As we continue our Old Testament survey, we have reached a point where we need to focus on the prophets. In Kings, the prophets begin to take a central role in the interaction of the Israelites with God and with the world. We will take this lesson to introduce the prophets examining in overview their function in Scripture and the life of Israel and Judah.
- Prayer for God-originated truth.
- Video (40 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ “And the king of Israel went to his house vexed and sullen” (1 Kings 20:43). King Ahab was an idolater as was his wife Jezebel. They chased after false gods, seeking to orient their lives around something other than Yahweh. This led them deep into sin, as chasing after other gods will always do. This idolatry brought the breakdown of their family, their sense of justice and their own ethics. Ahab had cornered the Syrian king Ben-Hadad, and instead of killing him, let him go in return for real estate and business opportunities. A prophet from God explained that this would ultimately cost Ahab his life and that of his family. Ahab’s response was to go home “vexed and sullen.” We may not be worshipping Baal, or some other ancient near eastern idol. Perhaps our idol is something more mundane as Paul had in mind when he wrote of those whose god is their appetite (Phil. 3:19; Rom. 16:18). Our idols are things that captivate us and draw our attention in greater measure than our God. Chasing these idols just as certainly brings destructive results to ourselves, our loved ones, our sense of right and wrong, and our sense of justice. Let us prayerfully and carefully seek by God’s Spirit, to rid ourselves of any ungodliness that trumps our desire for and chasing after God.
- ❖ “The king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred of them” (1 Kings 22:6). False prophets--droves of false prophets--giving a false message that was exactly what Ahab wanted to hear. One solitary prophet from God stood in opposition and proclaimed the truth. What is it about people that drive them to want a special word from the Lord? Is it recognition of our own limited vision? It is because we need to feel a special touch with the divine, perhaps even one that bolsters our faith? Is there something in many people that drives them to find a place of special knowledge that sets them apart as special? It is bad when our satisfaction comes from what we think we need or what we think we need to be. Our specialness needs to be found in the simple truth of God’s love for us, his sacrifice for us, his indwelling in us, and his progressive work to bring us holy and home.
- ❖ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me” (Dt. 18:15). The ultimate declarer of God’s word is God’s Word incarnate, Jesus Christ. As Peter explained to his audience at Pentecost, Jesus is the coming prophet of whom Moses spoke. As prophet Jesus intercedes on our behalf. He brings healing; he speaks into our history of sin, our current status, and a promised future of redemption for the believing and judgment for those without faith. Through Jesus, the final word of God, we have the hope and confidence of our eternity.

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