

Prophets

Isaiah

Preached to Judah during reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah. He was contemporary to Hosea and Micah.

He was an educated member of the nobility.



Preached justice and obedience.

Saw visions of heaven.

Predicted the nature of the Messiah, a sufferer, but also Prince of Heaven.

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Amos

Shepherd and vinekeeper.

Born in Judah but preached to Israel during the reign of Jeroboam II. Contemporary of Isaiah, Micah, and Hosea.

Denounced the rich who oppressed the poor.

Taught that ritual sacrifices were not as fruitful as obedience

Amos 4:12
"Prepare to meet thy God, oh Israel."



Micah

Preached to Judah during the reign of Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah.

Denounced the injustice and the suffering of the people by misuse of power.

Micah 6:8 "He has showed you what is good; and what does the Lords require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"



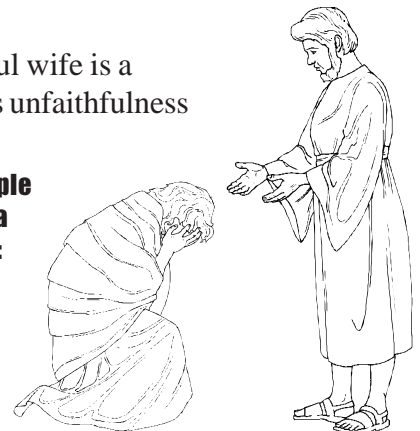
Hosea

Preached to Israel during reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah and from Jeroboam II to the last kings of Israel. Contemporary of Amos, Isaiah & Micah.

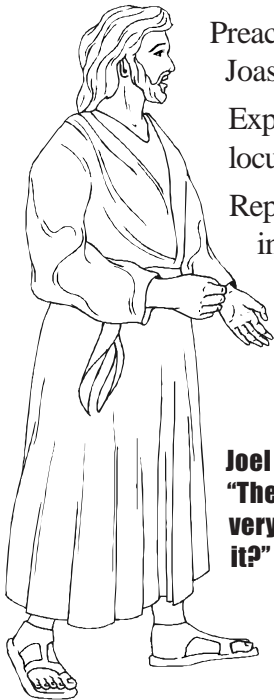
Lying, stealing and adultery were common.

His own unfaithful wife is a symbol of Israel's unfaithfulness to God.

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you."



Joel



Preached to Judah during reign of Joash.

Explains the meaning of a horrific locust plague.

Repent from trusting in wealth instead of trusting in God.

Prophesied of Acts, when the spirit would be upon the people.

Joel 2:11
"The day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?"

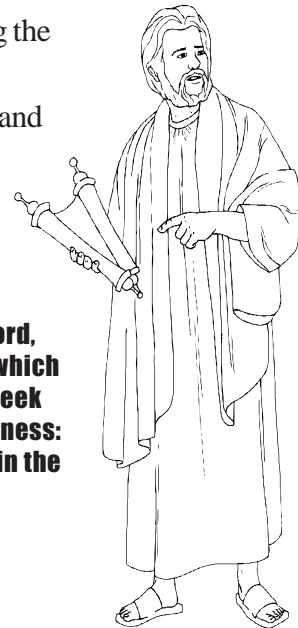
Zephaniah

Preached to Judah during the reign of Josiah.

Condemned the idolatry and sins of previous kings.

Prepared the country for Josiah's reforms.

Zephaniah 2:3 "Seek the Lord, all the meek of the earth, which have done his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be you shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger."



Jeremiah

Preached to Judah during the reign of Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah, and was contemporary to Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

Known as the weeping prophet, Jeremiah sorrowed over the harsh judgement Judah had brought upon itself.

Warned the kings not to rebel against Babylon, or they would lose the land.

Warned against false prophets that predicted success.

Wrote the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations.

Jeremiah 7:23 "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people: and walk in the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you."



Nahum

Predicts the downfall of Ninevah because they did not continue in their repentance from Jonah's time.

Preached during reign of Josiah.

Nahum 1:7-8 "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows them that trust in him. But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place, and darkness shall pursue his enemies."

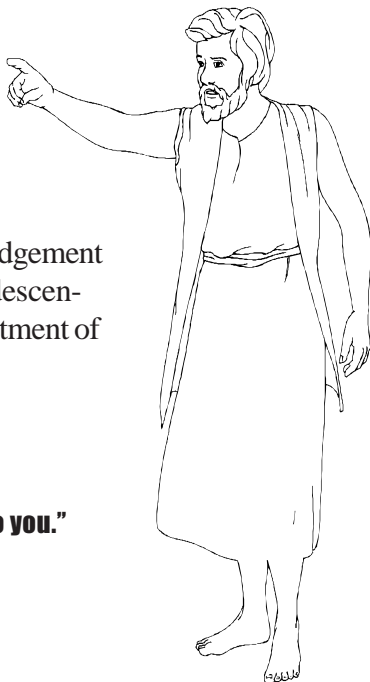


Obadiah

Preached to Judah during reign of Jehoram and contemporary with Elisha.

Delivered God's judgement on Edom (Esau's descendants) for their treatment of Judah.

Obadiah 15b "As you have done, it shall be done unto you."



Habakkuk

Preached to Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim.

The Babylonians will come to punish Judah for its sins.

When the wicked thrive, remember God is in control.

Habakkuk 2:4 "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by faith."



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What is a Prophet?

Definition

Prophet: spokesman or messenger for God.

Deut. 18:18-22

I will raise up from among them a Prophet, a Hebrew like you. **I will tell him what to say, and he shall be my spokesman to the people.** I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to him and heed his messages from me. But any prophet who falsely claims that his message is from me, shall die. And any prophet who claims to give a message from other gods must die.' If you wonder, 'How shall we know whether the prophecy is from the Lord or not?' this is the way to know: If the thing he prophesies doesn't happen, it is not the Lord who has given him the message; he has made it up himself. You have nothing to fear from him.



What Prophets Do

Reveal God's messages to man.

Warn and advise the leaders and people to follow God.

Explain the judgments of God.

Give hope, by explaining the benefits of repentance.

Foretell the blessings and judgments of God in the future.

False Prophets

Told lies for money, power or popularity.

Were always defeated by true prophets.

Misled and deceived the people.

Why study the prophets today?

They reveal God's feelings and thoughts to us.

The sins they condemned are still wrong.

Fulfilled prophecies provide confidence in God's word.

They teach us how God uses nations to do his will.