



Prophetic Books

THE EXPECTATION FOR CHRIST

A survey through the Bible 8 Week Study

- ▶ Purpose:

- ▶ An 8-week survey through the eight major sections of Scripture, revealing God's salvific plan in Christ as the central theme. Luke 24:26-27 Jesus explains how He can be revealed in the OT.

- ▶ Goals:

- ▶ Reveal God's plan through each section of Scripture
- ▶ Encourage a habit of Bible reading, as the continuity and chronology come into focus
- ▶ Allow personal understanding of the Word result in sharing His gospel

Prophetic Books (Isaiah – Malachi)

- ▶ Timeline of writing: Major: 700BC – 535BC | Minor: 835BC - 430BC
- ▶ Timeline of events: Pre-Assyrian invasion to Post-Babylonian captivity return. 740BC - 430BC

Major	Minor	Minor
Isaiah	Hosea	Nahum
Jeremiah	Joel	Habakkuk
Lamentations	Amos	Zephaniah
Ezekiel	Obadiah	Haggai
Daniel	Jonah	Zechariah
	Micah	Malachi

Prophetic Books (Isaiah – Malachi)

► What is the historical context?

Pre/Assyrian Captivity	Pre/Babylonian Captivity	Post Exile
Isaiah	Jeremiah	Haggai
Hosea	Lamentations	Zechariah
Joel	Ezekiel	Malachi
Amos	Daniel	
Obadiah	Nahum	
Jonah	Zephaniah	
Micah	Habakkuk	

Prophetic Books (Isaiah – Malachi)

► Who is the intended audience?

Written to Israel	Written to Judah	Written to exiled
Hosea	Isaiah	Ezekiel
Amos	Joel	Jeremiah
Jonah	Obadiah	Lamentations
	Micah	Daniel
	Nahum	Haggai
	Habakkuk	Zechariah
	Zephaniah	Malachi

Prophetic Books (Isaiah – Malachi)

Theological significance:

- ▶ The prophetic books cover the time period before and during the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions/captivity of Israel and Judah.
- ▶ These books are authored by prophets, God's chosen spokesmen for Him during this time.
- ▶ While the priests were responsible for representing man to God, the prophets presented God to the people.
- ▶ These books were intended to comfort, calm, convert, cleanse, compel, and clarify.

God's salvific plan in Christ revealed through the Prophetic Books:

- ▶ God is sovereign
 - ▶ He alone sets up and takes down kings (Dan 4:17)
 - ▶ Nations are a drop in a bucket (Isa 40:15)
- ▶ God holds ALL nations accountable for their actions
 - ▶ Israel, Judah, Assyria, Babylon, etc.
- ▶ He is gracious and patient with ALL nations
 - ▶ Israel/Judah
 - ▶ Nineveh/Assyria 150 years (Jonah and Nahum)
- ▶ He provides hope when all seems lost (Jer 29:10-11)
 - ▶ A remnant will survive (Micah 7:18)
- ▶ He requires, and gives good reason to have, genuine faith (Hab 3:16-19)
- ▶ He promises a King to rescue (Zechariah) and administer righteous judgment (Malachi)

How to Interpret:

- ▶ Utilize basic interpretive principles (OICA)
 - ▶ Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
 - ▶ These books are a combination of narrative and poetry, interpret by combining interpretive methods
- ▶ Use these books to observe how God interacts with man.
 - ▶ Allow the text & historical context to answer “why would God...” questions
 - ▶ Note the time period, authorial intent, and immediate audience of the book
 - ▶ Why was it written, who is it written to?
 - ▶ Pay attention to the context:
 - ▶ Is Israel being faithful to God/herself?
 - ▶ Conduct of those outside Israel
 - ▶ How is God interacting with Israel?
 - ▶ How is God interacting with those outside of Israel?

How to Interpret:

- ▶ Recognize the existence of POETRY within these books
 - ▶ Figurative language is IMPLICIT when the literal meaning would be absurd, impossible, immoral, etc.
 - ▶ Parallelism is used heavily in Hebrew Poetry, not so much in English
- ▶ Figurative language expresses literal reality in a memorable, thought provoking, or attention-grabbing way.
 - ▶ Understand what literal reality the figurative language is expressing.
- ▶ Allow the text to answer questions for itself, do not invent interpretations
 - ▶ Daniel 2
 - ▶ Use parallel passages, cross references
 - ▶ Allow the New testament to aid in interpreting the Old Testament
 - ▶ What has been, and what is yet to be, fulfilled? (Isa 61:1-2; Luke 4:18)

Analyze and apply a passage:

- ▶ Daniel 7
 - ▶ What happened?
 - ▶ What figurative language needs further clarification?
 - ▶ Does the passage provide this clarification? If not, are there parallel passages to help?
 - ▶ Have the events already happened or are they yet to occur?
 - ▶ What is known 100% from Scripture, what is speculative?
 - ▶ How is the interpretation pointing to Christ?
 - ▶ What comfort or clarity is received?



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