

Prophets

1. A prophet is a man who speaks to men on behalf of God with the message he has received from God.
2. Prophecy is the declaration and illustration of the principles of the divine government, whether in the present, or the future.
3. Prophets were God's specially called and inspired messengers.
4. They were "holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1: 19 - 21).

Prophets

- 1. The role of a prophet** - Deuteronomy 18: 18 - 20
- 2. God speaks to us through the prophets.** Hosea 12: 10
- 3. God reveals His plans to the prophets.** Amos 3: 7
- 4. It's to our benefit to listen to God's prophets.**
2 Chronicles 20: 20
- 5. How does God speak to His prophets?**
Numbers 12: 4 - 6
- 6. Why did God send prophets?** To guide his people in the right way. 2 Chronicles 24: 17 - 19

Prophets

1. Man of God {Messenger, one who spoke for God} (2 Sam 2: 27)
2. Servant of Jehovah (LORD) [Deut. 34: 5]
3. Seer (1 Ch. 29: 29)
4. Dreamer of Dreams (Deut. 13: 3, 5)

Types of Prophets

True Prophets or False Prophets

Old Testament Prophets and New Testament Prophets

Oral Prophets

Writing Prophets

A. Major

B. Minor

Prophetesses

Types of Prophets

Major Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Daniel

Types of Prophets

Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

ISAIAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
700 - 681 BC	Isaiah 66 Chapters	Salvation is of the Lord	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Israel warned of judgment.2. Israel was given a promise of salvation and the coming of Messiah.	God Himself will bring salvation.	He is the Suffering Servant

ISAIAH

Ch 1-35 - show God's dealings in a general way with Judah, Israel, and the nations, in allowing no coverup or excuse for sin, but exposing it in pure truth.

Ch 36-39 - are occupied with history, illustrating both the faithfulness of God in the preservation of His people, and the failure of the people to rightly value the marvels of His grace.

ISAIAH

Ch 40 – focuses on God's grace as the remedy for Israel's present condition.

Ch 40-48 – Israel is seen as the faithful servant and the unfaithful servant.

Ch 49-60 – Christ is the Perfect Servant and carries the sinful load of man.

Ch 61-66 – The remnant of Israel are seen and accepted as servants.

ISAIAH

Chapters 1-12 - Isaiah's prophecies regarding Judah and Jerusalem.

Chapters 13-23 - Isaiah's prophecies against the enemies of Judah.

Chapters 24-27 - Isaiah's prophecies concerning establishing the kingdom.

Chapters 28-35 - Isaiah's prophecies regarding Judah.

Chapters 36-39 - Isaiah's prophecies regarding Assyria.

Chapter 40 - Isaiah's prophecies concerning God's redemption.

Chapter 41 - Isaiah's prophecies concerning God's vindication.

ISAIAH

Chapter 42 - Isaiah's prophecies concerning the servant of the Lord.

Chapters 43-45 - Isaiah's prophecies concerning the restoration of Judah.

Chapters 46-48 - Isaiah's prophecies concerning idolatry.

Chapters 49-57 - Isaiah's prophecies concerning the Messiah.

Chapters 58-66 - Isaiah's prophecies about the future glory of Israel.

ISAIAH

The book of Isaiah provides us with a comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.

It includes the full scope of His life:

Christ proclaiming the good news (Isa. 6: 1)

The announcement of His coming (Isa.40: 3-5)

His virgin birth (Isa. 7: 14)

His proclamation of the good news (Isa. 61: 1)

His sacrificial death (Isa. 52: 13–53: 12)

His return to claim His own (Isa. 60: 2–3).

Isaiah stands as a testament of hope in the Lord, the One who saves His people from themselves.

ISAIAH

Isa. 7: 14

14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isa. 9: 6

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH

Isaiah, meaning "Save Thou, Jehovah," or "salvation of Yahweh".

Like the Epistle to the Romans, it begins with the stern and faithful exposure of man's guilt (Israel's guilt, in the case of Isaiah), and uses conditions then present to typify its prophecies of future conditions and judgments.

ISAIAH

Isaiah was married to a prophetess who bore him two sons (Isaiah 7: 3; 8: 3).

He prophesied under the reign of four Judean kings—Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Isa. 1: 1)—and he likely met his death under a fifth, the evil King Manasseh.

The people of Judah turned their backs on God and alienated themselves from Him, which created the need for Isaiah's pronouncements of judgment—declarations made in the hope that God's chosen people would return to Him.

ISAIAH

Isaiah's overall theme receives its clearest statement in chapter 12: "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid" (Isaiah 12: 2).

Isaiah shows **God's faithfulness to His promise**. **He will preserve a small remnant of faithful believers**, those who will continue on into the glorious renewed world He has prepared for His children in the end times (Isaiah 65: 17–66: 24).

Isaiah contains one of the clearest expressions of the gospel in all the Old Testament. Even from the first chapter, it is clear that the people have turned away from God and failed in their responsibilities as His children (Isaiah 1: 2–17).

Yet God miraculously holds out hope to this unrepentant people, offering cleansing of sins and the blessing that comes with faith and obedience in Him (Isaiah 1:18–20). Salvation lies only in God—the only question is whether or not we will accept His offer.

ISAIAH

The book of Isaiah reveals God's judgment and salvation. God is "holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6: 3), and therefore He cannot allow sin to go unpunished (Isaiah 1: 2; 2: 11-20; 5: 30; 34: 1-2; 42: 25). Isaiah portrays God's oncoming judgment as a "consuming fire" (Isaiah 1: 31; 30: 33).

Isaiah understands that **God** is a **God of mercy, grace**, and **compassion** (Isaiah 5: 25; 11: 16; 14: 1-2; 32: 2; 40: 3; 41: 14-16).

The nation of Israel (both Judah and Israel) is blind and deaf to God's commands (Isaiah 6: 9-10; 42: 7). Judah is compared to a vineyard that should be, and will be, trampled on (Isaiah 5: 1-7). Only because of His mercy and His promises to Israel, will God not allow Israel or Judah to be completely destroyed. He will bring restoration, forgiveness, and healing (Isaiah 43: 2; 43: 16-19; 52: 10-12).

ISAIAH

Isaiah focuses on the salvation that will come through the Messiah.

1. The Messiah will one day rule in justice and righteousness (Isaiah 9: 7; 32: 1).

2. The reign of the Messiah will bring peace and safety to Israel (Isaiah 11: 6-9).

3. Through the Messiah, Israel will be a light to all the nations (Isaiah 42: 6; 55: 4-5).

The Messiah's kingdom on earth (Isaiah chapters 65-66) is the goal toward which all of the book of Isaiah points. It is during the reign of the Messiah that God's righteousness will be fully revealed to the world.

ISAIAH

Chapter 53 of Isaiah describes the coming Messiah and the suffering He would endure in order to pay for our sins.

In His sovereignty, God orchestrated every detail of the crucifixion to fulfill every prophecy of this chapter, as well as all other messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.

ISAIAH

The imagery of chapter 53 is prophetic and contains a complete picture of the Gospel.

A. Jesus was despised and rejected.

Isa. 53: 3

3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Lk. 13: 34

34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *the city* that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen *gathers* her brood under her wings, and you would not *have it!*

John 1: 10-11

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

ISAIAH

The imagery of chapter 53 is prophetic and contains a complete picture of the Gospel.

B. Jesus was stricken by God.

Isa. 53: 4

4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

Matt. 27: 46

46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

ISAIAH

The imagery of chapter 53 is prophetic and contains a complete picture of the Gospel.

C. Jesus was pierced for our transgressions.

Isa. 53: 5

5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

Jn. 19: 34

34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

1 Peter. 2: 24

24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

ISAIAH

The imagery of chapter 53 is prophetic and contains a complete picture of the Gospel.

D. Jesus suffered and died on the cross , He paid the punishment we deserved and became for us the ultimate and perfect sacrifice.

Isa. 53: 5

5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

Heb. 10: 10

10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

ISAIAH

Jesus was sinless. God laid on Him our sins, and we became God's righteousness in Him.

2 Cor. 5: 21

21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

He is the only way to heaven, the only means of obtaining the grace of God, the only Way, the only Truth, and the only Life.

Jn. 14: 6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Acts 4: 12

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

ISAIAH

A. The Coming of the Messiah

A major theme of Isaiah is the prophesying of the coming of the Davidic King and Messiah.

1. He will be born of a virgin (Isa. 7: 14).
2. He will be fully divine and fully human, bringing peace and ruling justly (Isa. 9: 6).
3. He will be from the line of Jesse and be full of God's Spirit, bringing perfect justice (Isa. 11: 1-4).
4. He will endure God's wrath, humbly dying for the sins of the people (Isa. 52: 13-53: 12)

ISAIAH

B. Comfort

God is a God of comfort (Isa. 57: 18, 61: 2, 66: 13).

He wants people to look to Him and find forgiveness and hope (Isa. 40: 1-2). He invites people to turn to Him. If they do, they will be blessed, if they don't they will be "devoured by the sword" (Isa. 1: 18-20).

Even though God's people will be in captivity in Babylon, the Lord will bring eventual comfort by making the "wilderness like Eden" and the "desert like the garden of the Lord" (Isa. 51: 3).

ISAIAH

C. Judgment

1. For those who do not turn to the Lord, a bleak future awaits. God loves them (Isa. 5: 1), but will judge them for their actions (Isa. 5: 5-30, 9: 8-21).
2. Much of the responsibility for the condition of the people is placed on the shoulders of the leaders (Isa. 9: 13-17).
3. Beyond Israel, the Lord will also judge all who have sinned (Isa. 14: 3-25: 12).
4. Isaiah also looks forward to the final eternal judgment due to all who have rebelled against the Lord (Isa. 66: 14-24).

ISAIAH

D. Israel Returning to the Land

Scattered throughout Isaiah's prophecy are hints of Israel's returning to their land.

Some of these words refer to their exit from Babylon (Isa. 44: 28), but others are of an eternal nature pointing toward the Kingdom (Isa. 55), where Jerusalem will be the place where the "Lord's house will be established" (Isa. 2: 1-3).

Motivated by His compassion, God will "settle them on their own land" (Isa. 14: 1).

ISAIAH

E. The New Kingdom

God promises that He will create a “new heaven and a new earth” (Isa. 65: 17).

This will be a place filled with joy and gladness (Isa. 65: 18-19), long life (Isa. 65: 20), economic satisfaction (Isa. 55: 1-3) and peace even in the animal kingdom (Isa. 65: 25).

It will be eternal and will be a place of worship (Isa. 66: 22-23).

ISAIAH

The book of Isaiah is extremely significant for those of us who live in modern times.

First, it tells of the coming of the Messiah.

Secondly, it confirms the identity of Jesus as God's Messiah by predicting His virgin birth, deity, and eternal kingdom.

ISAIAH

Thirdly, we learn, as we do in other prophetic books, that God punishes sin—all sin.

Finally, Isaiah gives us reason to hope!

There is a new existence coming. Eventually, those who trust in the Lord will be in a place of perfection where there will be no more sadness, crying, or pain.

It will be a place of perfect joy, peace, and justice. The Lord will rule, the guilty will be punished, and God's people will worship Him forever.

JEREMIAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
586 - 570 BC	Jeremiah 52 Chapters	God is patient but Holy	Israel warned to repent before judgment comes, deportation to Babylon and restoration of Israel.	Turn to God before His Judgment falls.	Jesus is the weeping Messiah

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah was prophesying to a nation that was sinning against God. They feared the Babylonians (God's enforcer against the Israelites).

Jeremiah makes references to the New Covenant in Christ. This will restore God's relationship with mankind.

JEREMIAH

Jer. 1 - The call of Jeremiah.

Jer. 2-6 -The depravity of Judah and the inevitability of destruction from the north.

Jer. 7-10 - The illusions of temple security. In this section Jeremiah weeps over the attitude of the people that their formal observance of the temple services will save them from destruction. He warns them that genuine repentance is their only hope.

Jer. 11-12 - Jeremiah's complaint over his own miserable estate and the infidelity of the Jews of the covenant.

Jer. 13-25 - Further preaching and signs of the impending doom. In Jeremiah 25, Jeremiah predicted that the length of the captivity would be 70 years.

JEREMIAH

Jer. 26-39 - Prophecies and events during the reigns of the last kings of Judah.

Jer. 40-41 - Prophecies and events in Judah after the captivity.

Jer. 42- 51 - Jeremiah's activity after he is forced to flee to Egypt . After a final exhortation to abandon idolatry (Jeremiah 44), the bulk of this section consists of prophecies against foreign nations, including a prediction of the eventual fall and desolation of Babylon.

Jer. 52 - A summary chapter on the captivity of Judah.

JEREMIAH

Jer. 13: 23

23 “Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? *Then* you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.

Jer. 29: 11-12

11 For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

12 ‘Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Jer. 33: 3

3 Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah ("Jehovah will cast forth") has been called the weeping prophet.

Called of God evidently at a young age, he prophesied during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, and following the capture of Judah and Jerusalem apparently altogether about forty years.

He was of the priestly family, but like John the Baptist was more a prophet than a priest. The deep sorrow of his soul over the condition of the kingdom of Judah is evident, but he faithfully delivers the stern message of God to the effect that the Chaldeans would take Judah captive.

JEREMIAH

The book centers on the rebellion of Israel and the coming judgment.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on the fact that Israel has violated the covenant of God.

God continues to call for repentance.

God has enough, and the destruction falls.

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah's prophecies consisted of these primary messages:

1. The impending destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon;
2. The possibility of averting this destruction by repentance;
3. The submitting to Babylonian rule after it becomes apparent that domination is inevitable;
4. Babylon herself will be destroyed, never to rise again;
5. Judah will return from captivity and eventually achieve an unsurpassed glory.

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah's called to be a prophet by God when he's just a boy.

From there, he goes onto a long and illustrious career, prophesying total destruction and angering the kings of Judah, who definitely aren't interested in hearing about their imminent and gruesome demise.

JEREMIAH

The central message of all Jeremiah's prophesying is Judah's inevitable destruction and exile by the Babylonians at the hands of a very wrathful God.

While he's making these terrifying predictions, Jeremiah has to deal with kings who want to imprison him or execute him.

JEREMIAH

King Jehoiakim tosses a copy of Jeremiah's prophecies into the fireplace.

King Zedekiah gives people permission to kill him (latter he saves Jeremiah).

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah warns the people of the destruction that they were about to face and urges Judah to return and submit to God.

Jeremiah identifies their sins and treachery, as he wants them to realize the serious condition of their sinful ways.

He then gives prophecies of the coming king and the New Covenant that would be made.

JEREMIAH

The prophecies of Jeremiah offer us a unique insight into the mind and heart of one of God's faithful servants.

The book includes numerous personal statements of emotional engagement, painting Jeremiah not merely as a prophet brought on the scene to deliver God's message but also as human being who felt compassion for his people, desired judgment for evildoers, and was concerned about his own safety as well.

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah prophesied in the final years of Judah before God's people were exiled to Babylon, it makes sense that the book's overarching theme is judgment.

The first forty-five chapters focus primarily on the judgment coming to Judah because of its disbelief and disobedience. God's grace is also present in these events.

The fall of Jerusalem comes nearly nine hundred years after the original covenant between God and the Israelites in the Sinai desert (Exodus 24:1–18). Such an extended period of time witnesses to **God's great patience and mercy**, allowing His people the opportunity to turn from their sinful ways—a lifestyle they began not long after they struck the original covenant with God (Jer. 32:1–35).

JEREMIAH

God's patience with His people in the Old Testament reminds us that God has always been and continues to be merciful.

His chosen people routinely ignored the covenant they made with Him for the better part of a millennia without immediate death and destruction should give us hope in our own struggles with living well for God.

Though we fail Him, He is patient with us, working in us to bring about the best for our lives.

The book of Jeremiah also reminds us that an end will certainly come, a truth that should spur us to follow after God wholeheartedly.

JEREMIAH

The book of Jeremiah provides us the clearest glimpse of the new covenant God intended to make with His people once Christ came to earth.

This new covenant would be the means of restoration for God's people, as He would put His law within them, writing it on hearts of flesh rather than on tablets of stone.

JEREMIAH

Rather than fostering our relationship with God through a fixed location like a temple, He promised through Jeremiah that His people would know Him directly, a knowledge that comes through the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

JEREMIAH

Jer. 31: 31-34

31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Heb. 8: 6

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

JEREMIAH

Jer. 23: 5-6

5 “Behold, *the* days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“When I will raise up for David a righteous
Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land.”

6 “In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel
will dwell securely; And this is His name by which
He will be called, ‘The Lord our righteousness.’”

JEREMIAH

Matt.1: 1

1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Rev.11: 15

15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ**; and He will reign forever and ever."

Christ who will finally be recognized by Israel as her true Messiah as He provides salvation for His chosen ones.

Rom. 11: 26-27

26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."

27 "This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

JEREMIAH

This Book of Jeremiah explores what caused him (and God) so much grief.

There are many things we can learn even today from the prophecies of Jeremiah. The insights we can gain about God through the study of Jeremiah are timeless and applicable to people of all time periods.

In the case of Jeremiah, he provided the Word of God to the people chosen by God - the Israelites. God does not (and never will) change, we can learn from their experience and example.

The prophet Jeremiah not only began his time in Judah during a time of political and military unrest, but ended it that way as well. The entire region was at the mercy of the superpowers of the day.

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah's message anticipates Christ primarily with respect to the prophet's certainty of restoration after the exile.

The prophet made it clear both that the exile was coming and that afterward the people of God would enter a new covenant period complete with blessings from God.

Jesus is the Lord of the New Covenant, the son of David and the priest who ushered in the wonders of the last days through his earthly ministry.

He continues this restoration work today and will complete it when he returns in glory.

JEREMIAH

The Prophet Jeremiah had a most difficult message to deliver. Jeremiah loved Judah, however, he loved God much more.

As painful as it was for Jeremiah to deliver a consistent message of judgment to his own people, Jeremiah was obedient to what God told him to do and say.

Jeremiah hoped and prayed for mercy from God for Judah, but also trusted that God was good, just, and righteous.

JEREMIAH

Christians must obey God, even when it is difficult.

We must recognize God's will as more important than our own desires, and trust that God, in His infinite wisdom and perfect plan, will bring about the best for His children.

Rom. 8: 28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

LAMENTATIONS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
586 BC	Lamentations 5 Chapters	Mourning judgement	Mourning over the destruction of Jerusalem.	The miserable end of sin.	Jesus assumes God's wrath for us

LAMENTATIONS

The book is a series of five laments centered on the fall of Jerusalem.

Lamentations is a visual and spiritual look at the horror that had become of Judah just after the Babylonian invasion and exile.

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations was to express despair and teach God's people that disobedience to the Lord results in immense suffering and distress.

Jeremiah pours out his emotions in compassion, and empathy for God's nation, as he watches them inhabit a foreign land.

Lamentations is intended to help Christians deepen their understanding of God's holy Word.

LAMENTATIONS

1. The book presents the justice and holiness of God in dealing with sin.
2. The compassion of God in dealing with us (3:22, 32).
3. The faithfulness of God (3:23).
4. The goodness of God to those who wait on Him (3:25).

LAMENTATIONS

Chapter 1: The Departure of Judah. Zion's great sins. Judah has gone into exile. Zion rejected by God. O God, I am despised. Is any sorrow like mine? There is no one to comfort me.

SORROWS WITHOUT COMFORT

Jerusalem lies devastated without no one to comfort— 5 cries of despair:
(organized around the repetition of the same refrain)

Chapter 2: The Devastation of Jehovah. Jehovah's anger against Jerusalem. The God has not pitied Jacob. The Prophet Describes Jerusalem's Destruction. The Lord has left his sanctuary. Young and old both got slaughtered in the streets. Zion Speaks Out: The Lord Destroyed Me.

GOD'S ALL-CONSUMING ANGER POURED OUT UPON JERUSALEM

Mourning and moaning – The day of the Lord's anger consumes Jerusalem with total destruction.

LAMENTATIONS

Chapter 3: Jeremiah expresses his feelings and hope. The Discernment of Jeremiah. He has driven me into darkness. The steadfast love of the God never ceases. Let us return to the God! You will repay my enemies. The Prophet, A Man Of Hope.

REKINDLING OF HOPE

The journey from despair to hope hinges on the character of God– His Lovingkindness, Compassion and Faithfulness

Chapter 4: Zion Is Punished. The Discipline of Jehovah. The holy stones lie scattered. The children beg for food. Women boil their own children. The God has poured out his fierce anger. O Zion, your punishment will end.

THE ANGER OF THE LORD HAS PUNISHED HIS PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN

Their former glory transformed into devastation and this wrath will fall upon their enemies as well.

LAMENTATIONS

Chapter 5: The Deterrent for Judah. Look, O God, and see our disgrace! People's prayer for restoration. A Request For Mercy. We have become orphans. Slaves rule over us. God, reign us forever. Restore us as of old!

APPEAL FOR RESTORATION

The Lord's unchanging dominion and promise of restoration should give hope in the midst of desolation as Israel continues to appeal to God's mercy and grace.

LAMENTATIONS

Jerusalem was the city on whom God had set His favor.

It was where Abraham had offered Isaac and God intervened with a promise of a future sacrifice.

It was David's royal city.

It was the city of Solomon's temple, and God's promise to listen to those who prayed towards the city.

The temple had stood for 300+ years, in its splendor and glory.

It was the city of the sacrifices to God.

It was where God dwelt. It was unthinkable to the Jews, and even to those around, that it would be destroyed. In the minds of the Jews, God would never let His temple be destroyed (Jeremiah 7:4-15). Jeremiah had prophesied it would happen.

LAMENTATIONS

1. Lamentations is the longest lament in the Bible.

The book of Lamentations demonstrates the purpose and power of turning to God, laying out our complaints, asking him for help, and choosing to trust. It not only serves as a memorial to the destruction of Jerusalem, but it also shows us how to pray when the dark clouds of suffering roll in.

2. Lamentations displays the severity of sin and the holiness of God.

The book is a poetic memorial—a recounting and a warning. It rehearses the suffering and the grief connected to the sacking of the City of David.

It identifies the depravity of God's people as the cause of divine judgment. It elevates the right of a holy God to discipline his people—even using a pagan nation as his instrument.

LAMENTATIONS

3. Lamentations gives the church a voice in suffering.

Lamentations provides a model for how God's people can process moments when we sin.

Jeremiah was a faithful prophet. He warned the people about coming judgment.

When the brokenness of humanity was on full display, lament was an appropriate response.

Lamentations shows us how to pray during suffering.

LAMENTATIONS

4. Lamentations provides hope.

Lamentations shows us the connection between engaging in God's truth and the hope we have in God's Lovingkindness, Compassion and Faithfulness.

Lam. 3: 22-23

22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah was known as the “weeping prophet” for his deep and abiding passion for his people and their city.

Lam. 3: 48-50

48 My eyes run down with streams of water Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.
49 My eyes pour down unceasingly, Without stopping,
50 Until the Lord looks down And sees from heaven.

Jesus expressed the same sorrow over the sins of the people and their rejection of God as He approached Jerusalem and looked ahead to her destruction at the hands of the Romans.

Luke 19: 41-44

41 When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it,
42 saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.
43 “For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,
44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

LAMENTATIONS

A. God is a God of hope.

Lam. 3: 24-25

24 “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.”

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

B. No matter how far we have gone from Him, we have the hope that we can return to Him and find Him compassionate and forgiving.

1 John 1: 9-10

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

LAMENTATIONS

C. Our God is a loving God.

Lam. 3: 22

22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

D. In His great love and compassion for us, God sent His Son so that we would not perish in our sins, but can live eternally with Him.

Jn. 3: 16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah describes the desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem with the following:

1. Children begged food from their mothers.

Lam. 2: 12

12 They say to their mothers, "Where is grain and wine?" As they faint like a wounded man In the streets of the city, As their life is poured out On their mothers' bosom

2. Young men and women were cut down by swords.

Lam. 2: 21

21 On the ground in the streets Lie young and old; My virgins and my young men Have fallen by the sword. You have slain *them* in the day of Your anger, You have slaughtered, not sparing.

3. Compassionate mothers used their children for food.

Lam. 4: 10

10 The hands of compassionate women Boiled their own children; They became food for them Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah describes the desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem with the following:

4. Even the city's roads mourned over its condition.

Jeremiah could not help but acknowledge the condition of Jerusalem, piled with rubble.

Lam. 1: 4

4 The roads of Zion are in mourning Because no one comes to the appointed feasts. All her gates are desolate; Her priests are groaning, Her virgins are afflicted, And she herself is bitter.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah pictured himself captured in a besieged city, without anyone to hear his prayers, and as a target for the arrows of the enemy.

Lam. 3: 7-8

7 He has walled me in so that I cannot go out; He has made my chain heavy.

8 Even when I cry out and call for help, He shuts out my prayer.

Lam. 3: 12

12 He bent His bow And set me as a target for the arrow.

Jeremiah found hope in the Lord.

Lam. 3: 21-24

21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.

22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

23 *They* are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations teaches us:

- A. To find comfort when experiencing extreme times of sorrow, grief and suffering as we reflect on the character of God.
- B. To understand the workings of the Lord's heavy hand of discipline upon His own people because of their sin.
- C. To motivate us to confess our sins and repent.

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations teaches us:

D. To appreciate the abundant fountain of the Lord's lovingkindness, compassions and faithfulness – no matter how bleak our circumstances might look.

E. To be confronted with how seriously God takes sin and the awful consequences of His anger.

F. To be reminded of God's Sovereignty over all of the nations and His future promises yet remaining for the nation Israel.

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations teaches us:

G. The importance not only of mourning over our sin but of asking the Lord for His forgiveness when we fail Him.

EZEKIEL

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
590 - 570 BC	Ezekiel 48 Chapters	Judgment and restoration	Decline and fall of Judah and eventual restoration of Israel.	Know God	Jesus is the Son of Man

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel means “may God strengthen.”

Ezekiel gave his people hope. He prophesied about the end of times, and prophecies included Israel becoming a nation again after years of captivity (Dry bones came back to life).

Ezekiel sees the wheel of time in the air. 77

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 1: 16

16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship was like sparkling beryl, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship *being* as if one wheel were within another.

Ezekiel 33: 11-12

11 “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’

12 “And you, son of man, say to your fellow citizens, ‘The righteousness of a righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he will not stumble because of it in the day when he turns from his wickedness; whereas a righteous man will not be able to live by his righteousness on the day when he commits sin.’

Ezekiel 37: 4-5

4 Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’

5 “Thus says the Lord God to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.’

EZEKIEL

He prophesied first against both Judah and Israel, depicting their bondage, suffering, and humiliation in various graphic ways.

God makes him a virtual object lesson for Israel: he must himself feel the bitterness of those things of which he prophesies. Here is another priest, therefore, who in an earnestly practical way "eats the sin offering," having to feel, not only the sin of God's people, but the governmental judgments of God against that sin.

EZEKIEL

Yet even this humiliation and anguish fails to touch the hearts of his people. But he has been before warned that they will not hearken to him. And still, he is allowed no alternative but to speak out.

From chapter 24 to 32 he turns to pronounce the judgment of surrounding Gentile nations; then he returns to deal with his own nation again, prophesying however of the grace of God that will eventually restore that afflicted nation through the midst of sore judgments.

Chapters 40 to 48 then give the description of the future temple and the divisions of the land in the millennial kingdom.

Ezekiel is a book most helpful for strengthening the soul to stand firmly for God, even when alone and when faced with continual opposition.

DANIEL

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
536 - 530 BC	Daniel 12 Chapters	Sovereignty of God	Panorama of world history from Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome to the future kingdom.	Man can be pleasing to God.	He is the stranger in the fire with us

DANIEL

Daniel and his friends were hostages in Babylonian. They were selected to serve in the palace. They were faithful to the Lord and refused to worship the Babylonian gods.

Daniel's faithfulness, wisdom and education enabled King Nebuchadnezzar to acknowledge that the God of Israel is God.

DANIEL

Two well-known stories from Daniel:

The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3):

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship a golden idol of King Nebuchadnezzar, they were thrown into a flaming furnace, yet were untouched due to God's deliverance.

The Lion's Den (Daniel 6):

When Daniel prayed to God against King Darius' orders, he was thrown into a den of lions but was untouched. Those who plotted against him were then thrown into the lion's den and were killed.

DANIEL

Dan 2: 44

44 “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

Dan 3: 25

25 He said, “Look! I see four men loosed *and* walking *about* in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the gods!*”

DANIEL

Dan. 6: 22

22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

Dan. 12: 1-2

1 Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

DANIEL

Chapters 1-6 are history and include the stories about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, King Belshazzar sees an invisible hand writing on the wall and Daniel in the lions den.

Starting with chapter 7, Daniel prophesy about the future. The angel, Gabriel, announced that the exile will last 70 years. (Dan. 9: 20-27)

DANIEL

From chapter 7 to the end of the book, the subject matter is that of distinct prophetic visions given to Daniel.

These visions involve the great empires of the world and Israel's connection with them, and the eventual triumph of the Lord of glory over all the nations, on behalf of His own people.