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## Old Testament – Prophets

### The Nature of Old Testament Prophetic Literature

Major Prophets include: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor Prophets include: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*What is the majority of the Old Testament prophecy about?*

“Less than 2 percent of Old Testament prophecy is messianic. Less than 5 percent specifically describes the new-covenant age. Less than 1 percent concerns events yet to come in our time.”<sup>1</sup>

Like Hebrew poetry, prophetic literature utilizes figures of speech.

- Amos 3:8, “The lion has roared.”
- Isaiah 1:18, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”
- Jeremiah 3:1, “You have lived as a prostitute with many lovers.”

The books are anthologies: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Historical-Cultural and Theological Context

*What was the historical-cultural and theological context of the prophets?*

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<sup>1</sup> Gordan D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 182.

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## The Basic Prophetic Message

Duvall and Hays summarizes the overall message of the prophets as:

1. You have broken the covenant; you had better repent!
2. No repentance? Then judgment!
3. Yet, there is hope beyond the judgment for a glorious, future restoration.<sup>2</sup>

<b>Prophet</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Prophesied To</b>	<b>Approximate Dates</b>
Obadiah	Judah	Edom	840s or 580s BC
Joel	Judah	Judah	835-796 BC
Jonah	Israel	Assyria	780-750 BC
Amos	Israel	Israel	765-750 BC
Hosea	Israel	Israel	758-725 BC
Micah	Judah	Judah	738-698 BC
Isaiah	Judah	Judah	760-673 BC
Nahum	Judah	Assyria	658-615 BC
Zephaniah	Judah	Judah	640-626 BC
Jeremiah	Judah	Judah	625-585 BC
Habakkuk	Judah	Judah	608-598 BC
Daniel	Judah	Exiles in Babylon	620-540 BC
Ezekiel	Judah	Exiles in Babylon	592-570 BC
Haggai	Postexilic	Judah	520 BC
Zechariah	Postexilic	Judah	522-509 BC
Malachi	Postexilic	Judah	465 BC

## Interpretive Journey of Ezekiel 8:5-18

1. Grasp the text in their town. What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

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<sup>2</sup> J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God's Word*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. ((Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012), 403.

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2. Measure the width of the river to cross. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?
  
3. Cross the principlizing bridge. What are the theological principles in this text?
  
4. Consult the biblical map. How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?
  
5. Grasp the text in our town. How should individual Christians today live out this theological principle?

### **Special Challenges for Prophetic Literature**

- The Near View – Far View Problem
  
- Poetic Language: Literal or Figurative Problem

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### **Reflection For the Week:**

Read Micah 6:6-8 and take is through the 5-step interpretive journey.

1. Grasp the text in their town. What did the text mean to the biblical audience?
2. Measure the width of the river to cross. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?
3. Cross the principlizing bridge. What is the theological principle in this text?
4. Consult the biblical map. How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?
5. Grasp the text in our town. How should individual Christians today live out this modified theological principle?

### **Preparation For Next Week:**

Old Testament Poetry – Read: <https://media.thegospelcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/30185015/OT128-081.pdf>

Old Testament Wisdom – Watch: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/wisdom-proverbs/>

### **Resources For Going Further:**

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation To Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There Meaning in This Text?: The Bible, The Reader, and the Morality or Literary Knowledge*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.