

RELEVANCE

How is Jesus superior to the Prophets?

Which of these statements are true?

- a) The OT prophets are just as relevant for today as they were for Israel. Many of their prophecies are still unfulfilled.
- b) The OT prophets are not relevant anymore because Jesus has superseded them.
- c) Most of the OT prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is the one the prophecies are pointing to.
- d) none of the above
- e) all of the above

SUMMARY

There are many Christians who claim to be God's prophets with a message from God. How do we tell if they are really from God? (See also Gal 1:6-9.)

PRAY IN PAIRS.

TALK: THE PROPHETS: A MESSAGE OF JUDGEMENT AND HOPE

1. You have broken the covenant law. Repent or face judgement!

↕ **Idolatry (Love God) Vertical Relationship**

↔ **Social Justice (Love Others) Horizontal Relationship**

2. No repentance, then judgement! For both Israel and the nations.

3. Beyond judgement there is hope. For both Israel and the nations.



FOCUS BIBLE STUDY

STUDY 7 — THE PROPHETS

THE STORY SO FAR

Together as a group, try to summarise what has happened so far. Perhaps you can make it into a game. (eg Each person writes a sentence on a piece of paper and then passes it on the next person who continues the story with another sentence. Fold the paper every time you pass it such that the next person can see what the previous person wrote but not what person before that wrote.) When you think the story is finished unfold the paper and read the entire thing.

WHAT WE MISSED ALONG THE WAY

So far in the story of the Old Testament, we've read about God's patience with his people and we've seen how God has given his people the Temple system to deal with their sin and make them acceptable to God. He also allowed them to have kings even though the request wasn't good (the people wanted to be like the other nations). They were rejecting God as King.

One thing which we haven't looked at in much detail are the Prophets. The prophets play an important role but who are these people and what do they do?

This study we will look at the role of the prophets. The timeline for this study is slightly different from the previous studies. We are looking at the prophets over the entire timeline.

DISCUSS

Which of these are true about prophets?

- a) They tell the future.
- b) They speak on behalf of God.
- c) They warn people about judgement.
- d) They usually have a very hard life.
- e) They are more important than the king.

Which sentence, below, would you choose to sum up the main role of a prophet?

- a) They know what God is thinking and are the advisor for the king.
- b) They tell people what will happen in the future.
- c) They teach God's word to the people and warn them if the people are being disobedient to God.
- d) They are someone who is specially chosen by God to lead his people.

READ DEUTERONOMY 4:1–8; 6:1–3.

Moses was probably the first true prophet although many people regard Noah and Abraham as prophets too. However Moses was the first prophet who had a proper job description.

From the passages you read, what was Moses' role as prophet?

- 4:1-2,5

- 6:1,2

How does this compare with your answer to the discussion questions at the beginning of the study? Was there anything that surprised you?

READ DEUTERONOMY 34.

How did Joshua become a prophet?

- v9

What was so special about Moses?

- v10-12

PROPHETS AND PLACES

There are many prophets in the Old Testament. There are two main kinds of prophets in the Bible: Prophets who did not write anything themselves and Prophets who wrote down their own prophecies. Prophets also speak to the situation of their time so knowing the historical background of the prophet's own times help us understand what the prophet is speaking about.

ACTIVITY

As a group together (with your leaders' help), try naming as many prophets as you can and also place them along a timeline. This activity helps you remember where the prophets appear in Israel's history.

READ EZEKIEL 3:16–21.

What is a watchman and how is Ezekiel's role as a prophet similar to it?

- v16-17
- v18-19
- v20-21

Do prophets (like the Old Testament) still exist today?

WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY?

Read Hebrews 1:1-2; 3:1-6.

According to these passages, how has Jesus replaced the OT prophets (like Moses)?