

THE PROPHETS IIa - PRE-EXILIC TIMES

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The True Prophets Of God Ministered To The People Throughout Various Times Of Bible History. This Lesson Is Concerned With The Writing Prophets During The Time When Assyria Was The Ruling Power Of The World.
- B. To Study The Prophets And Their Messages Will Enrich One's Life And Clearly Open His Eyes To "The Goodness And Severity Of God."

II. AIM.

- A. The Primary Goal Of This Lesson Is To Become Familiar With This Period Of History As It Is Viewed Through The Eyes Of God's Inspired Prophets.
 - 1. *Read these books.*
 - 2. *Remember the pertinent facts of these books.*
- B. This May Be Accomplished By Chronologically Surveying This Period Of History By Learning, 1) *The Theme*, 2) *The Purpose*, 3) *The Outline* Of Each Book Of These Men Who Preached And Prophesied During These Times.

III. OUTLINE.

- A. THE PROPHETIC WRITINGS OF PRE-EXILIC TIMES - THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD.
 - 1. *Joel (830 B.C.)*
 - a. *Theme: "The Day of Jehovah." (1:15ff)*
 - b. *Purpose:*
 - 1) To warn the nation to humble themselves and repent.
 - 2) To emphasize the blessing of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked.

c. *Outline.*

- I. The Day Of Jehovah - Devastation.
(1:1 - 2:11)
- II. The Day Of Penitence - Supplication.
(2:12-17)
- III. The Day Of Blessings - Restoration.
(2:18 - 3:21)

2. *Jonah (800 B.C.)*

a. *Theme:* The universality of God: He loves ALL. (4:10-11)

b. *Purpose:*

- 1) *Primary:* To foreshadow One who was "greater than Jonah," typifying the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 12:40-41)
- 2) *Secondary:* To present to a selfish, patriotic, Jewish prophet that God loves All and desires All to repent.

c. *Outline.*

- I. Running From God: *Jonah's Disobedience.* (1)
- II. Running To God: *Jonah's Prayer.* (2)
- III. Running With God: *Jonah's Preaching.* (3)
- IV. Running Before God: *Jonah's Arrogance.* (4)

3. *Amos (755 B.C.)*

a. *Theme:* Jehovah is a God of righteousness and justice.

b. *Purpose:*

- 1) To warn (and call to repentance) a rich, smug, at-ease, selfish, immoral people of coming destruction - *captivity is certain!*

- 2) To promise deliverance to the faithful remnant in Messiah's kingdom.

c. *Outline.*

- I. Doom Disclosed - Eight Judgments Pronounced. (1 - 2)
- II. Doom Discussed - Three Sermons Proclaimed. (3 - 6)
- III. Doom Decided - Five Visions Prophe-
sied. (7 - 9)

4. *Hosea (750 B.C.)*

- a. *Theme:* Adultery is sin - both physical and spiritual - but God will forgive the penitent.

b. *Purpose:*

- 1) To re-establish the fellowship of a sinful people to the life and love of Jehovah.
- 2) To cause a sinful and adulterous people to repent due to the great, perpetual love of God.

c. *Outline.*

- I. The Prophet And His Unfaithful Wife. (1 - 3)
- II. The Lord And His Unfaithful People. (4 - 14)

5. *Isaiah (740 B.C.)*

- a. *Theme:* "Zion shall be redeemed with justice and righteousness." (1:27)

- b. *Purpose:* To show that redemption is of the majestic and holy Jehovah, not man.

c. *Outline.*

- I. Prophecies Concerning Judah And The Nations. (1 - 35)
- II. History Concerning The Assyrian Invasion, Hezekiah, And The Coming Conquest By Babylon. (36 - 39)

III. Prophecies Concerning Restoration.
(40 - 66)

6. Micah (735 B.C.)

a. *Theme:* The holiness and righteousness of Jehovah's government.

b. *Purpose:*

1) To set forth the nature of God's complaint against His people.

2) To call the people to repentance.

c. *Outline.*

I. Israel And Judah Judged For Sins.
(1)

II. Israel And Judah Will Go Into Captivity. (2 - 3)

III. Israel And Judah As A Faithful Remnant Restored In Messiah's Kingdom.
(4 - 5)

IV. Israel And Judah And Jehovah's Controversy. (6 - 7)

7. Zephaniah (630 B.C.)

a. *Theme:* In the awful and terrible day of Jehovah His faithful people will be hidden.
(1:2, 14-18; 2:3)

b. *Purpose:*

1) To warn the nation(s) of approaching destruction.

2) To call Judah to repentance and to comfort the righteous.

c. *Outline.*

I. The Day Of Jehovah Upon Judah And Jerusalem. (1:1-18)

II. The Day Of Jehovah Upon The Nations.
(2:1 - 3:8)

III. The Day Of Jehovah Is A Day Of
Redemption For The Righteous Rem-
nant. (3:9-20)

8. Jeremiah (626-586 B.C.)

a. Theme: God's voice of judgment.

- 1) Jehovah's voice of judgment is Jeremiah the prophet.
- 2) Jehovah's judgments are against national and individual sin.

b. Purpose: (See 1:4-10)

- 1) To call the idolatrous people to repentance.
- 2) To cry aloud concerning *imminent* judgment and also to comfort concerning post-captivity restoration: *The Messiah and The New Covenant.*

c. Outline.

- I. Call Of Jeremiah. (1)
- II. Prophecies Of Destruction. (2 - 20)
- III. Concerning Nebuchadnezzar. (21 - 29)
- IV. The New Covenant. (30 - 33)
- V. Seige And Fall Of Jerusalem. (34 - 39)
- VI. Jeremiah After The Fall Of Jerusalem. (40 - 45)
- VII. Oracles Concerning The Nation. (46 - 51)
- VIII. Historical Summary. (52)

9. Nahum (625 B.C.)

a. Theme: Vengeance belongs to God - Nineveh will fall! (3:1)

b. Purpose:

- 1) To pronounce ruin and destruction over cruel Assyria for their vicious tyranny.
- 2) To comfort the harassed people who were treated shamefully and cruelly by this blood-thirsty empire.

c. *Outline.*

- I. Nineveh's Judgment Declared. (1)
- II. Nineveh's Judgment Described. (2)
- III. Nineveh's Judgment Desired. (3)

10. *Habakkuk (607 B.C.)*

a. *Theme:* "I am working a work..." (1:5)

b. *Purpose:*

- 1) To inquire of God concerning some difficult questions. (1:2-3, 13-15; 2:1)
- 2) To give answer from God to the prophet's complaint. (2:1)

c. *Outline.*

- I. The Perplexed Prophet - *Faith Troubled.* (1)
- II. The Pronounced Prophet - *Faith Tried.* (2)
- III. The Pleased Prophet - *Faith Triumphant.* (3)

B. THESE ARE THE PROPHETS OF THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD. THE NEXT LESSON WILL DEAL WITH THE PROPHETS OF THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD.

IV. *CONCLUSION.*

- A. The Student Is Encouraged To Spend Some Time Reviewing This Lesson During The Week That The Subject Matter May Become Fixed In The Mind.
- B. The Material In This Lesson And The Lesson To Follow May Be Used As A Ready Reference For Teacher And Student Alike.