**INTRODUCTION**

1. There are 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel) and 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_prophets (the last 12 books of the OT).
   1. Major simply means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and minor simply means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. In ancient Judaism, the 12 “minor” prophets were actually grouped into one large book called “The Book of the Twelve” or simply “The Twelve.”
   1. Its size was in between that of Isaiah & Jeremiah and Ezekiel & Daniel.

**THE NATURE OF PROPHECY**

1. Prophecy has a modern meaning leading us to believe these books are about foretelling the coming of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and/or the features of the coming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. This leads to much misunderstanding about the prophetic literature of the OT.
2. Less than 2% of OT prophecy is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, less than 5% specifically describes the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and less than 1% concerns events yet to come in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The prophets did announce the future, but it was usually the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_future of Israel, Judah, and the surrounding nations.
4. So, the key to understanding much of the prophets is to see the prophecies fulfilled in their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_but in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. But, the primary function of the prophets was not to predict future events. Their primary function was to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to their own contemporaries.
   1. This “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” nature of prophecy causes many of our difficulties.
6. Of the hundreds of prophets in ancient Israel, only 16 would have their messages from God collected and written up into books.
   1. E.g., prophets like Elijah and Elisha played a very influential role, but we know more about their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_than what they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. So, in the narratives we read much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the prophets but very little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the prophets, and in the prophetic books, we hear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_God *via* the prophets but very little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the prophets themselves.
   1. This difference accounts for most problems we have in reading the prophets.
8. Another problem occurs in the longer prophetic books because they are largely collections of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. These oracles are not always presented in their original \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_sequence without much hint as to where one oracle ends and the next begins.
   2. Further, they were often spoken in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
9. The last difficulty that we obviously have is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_one.
   1. We are far removed from the religious, historical, and cultural life of ancient Israel and, thus, have a hard time putting prophecies in their proper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**FUNCTION OF PROPHECY IN ISRAEL**

1. The prophets were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. God announced his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the law (positive or negative) through the prophets.
      1. E.g., Lev. 26:1-13 (blessings) & Lev. 26:14-39 (curses)
   2. These categories of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_are found in Lev. 26, Deut. 4, and Deut. 28-32.
   3. As you read, look for this pattern: (1) identification of Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*or* God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for his people; (2) prediction of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in accordance with (1).
      1. E.g., Deut. 4:25-31
2. The prophet’s message was not their own, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. God is the one who raised each of the prophets up to speak.
      1. The Hebrew word for prophet comes from the Semitic verb “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
   2. Oracles are often prefaced or concluded with “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the Lord.”
3. The prophets were God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_representatives.
   1. The prophets did not act or speak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of God.
   2. Never read prophecy as the prophet’s interpretation of God’s word but as the Word of God as God wished the prophet to present it.
4. The prophet’s message is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. The prophets’ essential messages were already contained in the books of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. Their words are not new in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, though they may be new in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   3. E.g., Hosea 4:2
   4. This is true of both prophecy dealing with the Law and with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_prophecies.
      1. Luke 24:44, John 1:45

**THE EXEGETICAL TASK**

1. Parts of the Bible are obvious on the surface, but other parts are not. (Like much prophecy.)
   1. Reading prophecy will take some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_help. Get a good study bible, commentaries, and other resources to give you the context of the prophetic book you are reading.
2. The historical context of the prophets can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (their era) and/or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the context of a single oracle).
3. The Larger Context
   1. The 16 prophetic books are from a narrow band of Israelite history: from about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_B.C.
   2. This era especially called for “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” and God obviously desired for his Word to his people to be recorded during these pivotal years.
   3. These years are characterized by 3 things:
      1. Unprecedented political, military, economic, and social \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      2. An enormous level of religious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and disregard for the Mosaic covenant
      3. Shifts in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and national boundaries
4. The Specific Context
   1. Each prophetic oracle was delivered in a specific historical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., God spoke to people in a given time/place and under given circumstances).
   2. Knowledge of the specific \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date, audience, situation) contributes greatly to our understanding of an oracle.
   3. E.g., Hosea 5:8-10
   4. We must learn to “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” when reading prophecy.
      1. Outside help will assist in discerning where one oracle begins and another ends.

FORMS OF PROPHECY

1. Prophecy comes in different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. God is imagined as prosecutor and judge.
   2. Contains a summons, charge, evidence, and verdict.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. Contain an announcement of distress, reason for the distress, and a prediction of doom
4. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. Also known as a “salvation oracle.”
   2. Contains reference to the future, mention of radical change, and mention of blessing.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Prophecy
   1. God sometimes told his prophets not merely to speak his word but also to enact it symbolically to reinforce his words.
   2. E.g., Isaiah 20
6. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Speech
   1. The most common form in the prophetic books and often occurs alongside one of the other prophetic forms
   2. Signaled by: “This is what the Lord says,” or “…says the Lord.”
   3. This reminded the hearers that they are receiving the Word of God.
7. The Prophets as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. In ancient times, poetry was often used in learning because it could more easily be committed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. The prophetic books contain a substantial amount of poetry.
      1. This helped the hearers remember the Word of God the prophet would speak to them.
   3. Remember the devices we learned last week (especially the three types of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).

**HERMENEUTICAL SUGGESTIONS**

1. One overall thing to remember is that the prophecies always concerned the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_relationship of God and Israel.
   1. Many of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the old-covenant still hold up in the new-covenant.
   2. Thus, we should be aware of what sorts of thing God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and seek those things (above all God himself).
2. Remember that prophecies were most often spoken of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_future events of the people they were spoken to.
   1. Too great a zeal for identifying NT events in OT prophetic oracles can give strange (and incorrect) results.
3. Some prophecies of the near future were set against the background of the greater \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and sometimes they seem to blend.
   1. The Bible often sees God’s acts in temporal history in light of his overall plan for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Eschatological language is, by nature, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. These metaphors express poetic language of final events but are not necessarily intended to be predictions of those events per se.
5. Sometimes, NT references to OT prophecies seem to use these prophecies in a way that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the original meaning and setting.
   1. E.g., 1 Cor. 10:4
   2. Paul uses this as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, saying “that rock was to them as Christ is to us – a source of sustenance..”
   3. Remember, Paul was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by the Holy Spirit to use this passage in this we. Be cautious about doing this.
   4. E.g., Matt. 2:15 & Hosea 11:1
      1. This is an analogical “fulfillment” by Jesus. The Messiah, God’s true Son, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Israel’s own history.
6. Orthodoxy: correct \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Orthopraxy: correct \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. Through the prophets, God called Israel to a balance of right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. This call remains in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (E.g., James 1:27, 2:18, Eph. 2:8-10.)
9. The prophets stand as reminders to us that those of us who obey stipulations of the new-covenant (love God, love people) the final, eternal result will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even though the results in this world are not guaranteed to be so encouraging. For those who disobey, the result can only be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.