

III. The Old Testament – Key Events in the History of Israel: Exile to Return

A. Introduction to the Prophets

1. As Israel and Judah continue to decline in sin, God raises up prophets to rebuke the people for their disobedience. The message of the prophets was one of judgment, but also one of restoration.
2. While prophets existed before the writing prophets, it is in the writing prophets that we receive a detailed picture of God's judgment and restoration of Israel.
3. The words of the prophets are framed in the language of the people so that they could understand what God was doing. The prophets described the judgment and restoration of Israel by recounting the past and using it to point forward to the future.
4. *It is a necessary feature of effective communication, which we have all experienced and understand that when we wish to describe to a friend something that he or she has not yet experienced, we do so by appeals to what our friend has already experienced. In order to communicate to God's people still living under the old covenant, the prophets by the Spirit's inspiration spoke of the blessings of God would pour out under the new covenant in terms of the typological images so familiar to the old covenant saints. - Robert Strimple*
5. The prophets recapitulated the history of Israel as a means to convey the promise of the future. They spoke about a new exodus, a new king, a new covenant, a new kingdom, and a new creation.
6. There are two types of genre in the prophetic literature.
 - a. Prophetic: Prophetic language is used to call the nation to return and remember their origins.
 - b. Apocalyptic: Apocalyptic language is used to describe the promises of restoration.
7. God's work for Israel in the future would be the fulfillment of his promises to their forefathers.