

## “Encountering God Through the Word of the Prophets”

Summer Bible Jam (Pt. 4)

July 2, 2017

### INTRO... *The Prophetic Writings*

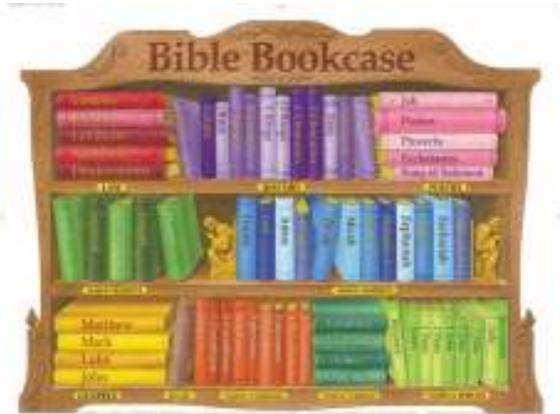
...16 books (Isaiah to Malachi) written between 760BC and 460BC

...Make up 21% of all Bible Verses

... Setting: During a Period of Religious and Moral Decline that leads to judgement and exile ...Then covering the Exile and Return to the Promised Land.

#### **Major Memory Milestones in O.T.**

...Abraham (~2000BC) ...Moses/Mt. Sinai (~1500 BC) ...King David & Solomon (~1000BC) ...Exile (~600BC)



*"Traditionally, one describes the content of prophecy under the terms forthtelling or foretelling. ...however, very little of OT prophecy is predictive prophecy. ...Most of it involves forthtelling—messages for a prophet's own audience about their own day or the near future. ...The fact that most prophecy spoke about the present or immediate future rather than the distant future should encourage Bible students today. No one should avoid studying prophecy out of fear of its obscurity. That the prophets spoke about life in their own day makes it easier for us to understand their message for our day." Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard, "Introduction to Biblical Interpretation", p. 303*

*"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." Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, "How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth", p. 182*

*"Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to read any of the longer prophetic books through in one sitting? Why do you suppose this is? Primarily, we think, because they were probably not intended to be read that way. For most part these longer books are collections of spoken oracles not always presented in their original chronological sequence, often without hints as to their historical setting. And most of the oracles were spoken in poetry!" Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, "How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth", p. 183*

"Encounter Reading" (Meditation on Scripture) involves: (1) **SEEING** (Reading the Passage; Understanding the Original Intent) ...(2) **SAVORING** (Tasting; Bringing the Passage 'Near to Your Life'; Letting the Passage Read You) ...(3) **ENCOUNTERING** (Responding to the Holy Spirit's Prompting)

## SEEING ...What the Prophets Were Saying

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“Genre Informed Seeing” ... Note that each Genre makes its own unique and needed contribution to our walk of faith existence:

**What does the "Prophetic Genre" contribute to our walk of faith existence?**

Make Room for Correction! It feels a certain way and will require some decent theology to receive and engage it.

2Tim 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

***There is Ministry Content that Typifies the Word of the Prophet—and Answers the Question of 'Why Do I Need to Read and Receive from the Prophets?'***

**Jeremiah 1-2** ...Observe the Passage under 2 components:

- (1) "Pedagogy Through Biography Oracle" - Jeremiah's personal story and call. (Jer 1)
- (2) "The Lawsuit Oracle" - God's case against the people. (Jer 2:1-13)

### **(1) Teaching Through Biography**

.... Common to interacting with the prophets is that we will at times interact with Their Personal Story— ...Moses ...Hosea ...Ezekiel

## ***"SEEING" God Call a man...***

### **v. 4-5, 9-10 ...The Calling of Jeremiah**

- **Observation:** God gets specific with this individual... God has a future plan and purpose for his life ...AND... God has been at work in his life Before He was Aware!

'SEE' the "Sovereign Implications" echoing from this verse (v. 5) ...

- God is the initiator of a man's purpose & calling
- God is in charge of the environmental conditions that contribute to shaping and forming him for his calling...
- Jeremiah's humanity—with all its limitations and issues—has been under God's Sovereign Superintending

### **v. 9-10 ...Jeremiah's Assignment (Pondering the Agenda & Purpose of God)**

... “plucking up” ... “breaking down” ... “destroying” ... “overthrowing” ... “building”  
... “planting”

### **v. 6-8 ...The Doubt of the One Called**

*...Doubt & Human Limitation are the common features that battle with a sense of calling*

- Moses at the burning bush (Ex 3, 4)... Moses Doubt & God's Response

**Ex 4:10-12** But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." 11 Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

## **(2) God's Case Against the People (The Lawsuit Oracle)**

### **Jer 2:1-13**

**v. 1-3 ...A remembrance of what was—but is no longer**

**v. 4-13 ...The Shock of Man Forsaking God!!**

- v. 4-8 ...The Indictment of Living an "OTHER-CENTERED LIFE" (vs. a God-Centered Life)
  - "They did not say, 'Where is the Lord?' (v. 6, 8)
  - God's Evaluation of their Value System— "they went after worthlessness" (v. 5). ... "they exchanged their glory for that which does not profit" (v. 11)
- This is Shocking & Unprecedented!! ...v. 10-12

The Call to Covenant Faithfulness

*"It is because there was something in Israel called the covenant. That covenant was exclusive, like a marriage covenant, with Yahweh as the husband and Israel as his bride. It was to be an exclusive relationship. Any time, of course, that there is a breach in an exclusive relationship it ought to drive the one who is wronged into a fury. There is a proper kind of jealousy in love, and if it is not there, there is something wrong with the love. If the wife or the husband is being unfaithful, the other does not just say, 'Well, you win some, you lose some.' No, it should make you angry. It should infuriate you. It should stir up the proper jealousy of love. That is what you have in the fury of Yahweh, when he says, 'They have forsaken me; they have burned incense to other gods; they have bowed down to the works of their hands.' There ought to be a fire in love. And there is with Yahweh." Dale Ralph Davis, "True Word for Tough Times", Kindle loc 248*

- The "Summary Indictment" ...v. 13—They Have Committed 2 Evils:
  - (1) *They have forsaken Me (their life source).*
  - (2) *They have hewed out cisterns for themselves*
    - \* "SEEING" needs some Cultural Understanding— *What is a Cistern?*

**SAVORING – Tasting ...Personally Drawing Near ...Letting These Verses 'Read You'**

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Tasting—MY Sense of Life Calling from God

Letting the passage read me—What am I Pursuing and Forsaking? ... Is God Forgotten and Unlooked for in my life? ...Am I building my own 'Cisterns'?

ENCOUNTERING – Receiving from & Responding to this passage as the  
Holy Spirit has led me to encounter it

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