

Survey of the Old Testament Prophecy

1. A prophet was a spokesman for God (2 Pet. 1:20-21; Jer. 1:6-9). Prophecy involved far more than prediction (Neh. 9:26; 2 Chr. 36:14-16; Jer. 6:10, 13-17). Prophets also wrote historical records (1 Chr. 29:29; 2 Chr. 9:29).
2. A prophetic message is sometimes called an “oracle.” The prophetic books in the Old Testament are collections of the prophets’ oracles. They are not typically historical narrative (although there are some narrative segments). The oracles are not typically collected in chronological order.
4. Common elements in the prophetic oracles include: a call to repent and obey God, a threat of punishment for disobedience, a promise of restoration after the punishment is over, and a prediction of the ultimate restoration to come with Jesus.
5. Be careful about how you interpret the prophetic literature in the Bible. One must not apply predictions about their circumstances to our future. One must not misread and misapply kingdom predictions.
6. The prophets used a variety of formats to present their messages.
 - a. Object lessons (Jer. 13; Eze. 4)
 - b. Lawsuit (Hos. 4:1; Mic. 6:2)
 - c. Dialogue (Hab. 1)
 - d. Apocalyptic (Daniel 7-10)
 - e. Visions; dreams, various figures of speech; poetic style and language
7. Approximate dates for the prophets:
 - a. Joel – 840 BC (?) Some say 425 BC.
 - b. Jonah – 790-750 BC
 - c. Amos – 760 BC
 - d. Hosea – 750 BC
 - e. Isaiah – 740-690 BC
 - f. Micah – 735-701 BC
 - g. Zephaniah – 625 BC
 - h. Jeremiah – 626-586 BC
 - i. Nahum – 625 BC
 - j. Habakkuk – 610 BC
 - k. Daniel – 606-536 BC
 - l. Ezekiel – 593-571 BC
 - m. Obadiah – 585 BC
 - n. Haggai – 520 BC
 - o. Zechariah – 520 BC
 - p. Joel – 425 BC (?) Some say 840 BC
 - q. Malachi – 400 BC
8. Approximate dates for earlier prophets:
 - a. Moses – 1450-1400 BC
 - b. Samuel – 1050 BC
 - c. Elijah – 870 BC
 - d. Elisha 850 BC