

VIA EMMAUS:

A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

The Prophets: Hearing the Spirit of Christ in the Days of Elijah (25)

NEW TESTAMENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROPHETS

- Luke 24:44** *All the law and the prophets speak of Jesus (cf. Matthew 17:3)*
Acts 28:23
- 1 Peter 1:10-12** (1) *The prophets carried a message of grace (v. 10)*
 (2) *The prophets spoke of the Christ – his sufferings and glories (v. 11)*
 (3) *The prophets serve the church (v. 12)*
 (4) *The Holy Spirit always speaks of Christ (cf. John 16:13-15)*
- John 12:41** *Isaiah said these things [cf. Isa 6] because he saw his glory and spoke of him.*

THE PROPHETIC OFFICE

- Definition** *A prophet was “an appointed regular speaker for a divine superior, whose speech carries the authority of the latter.” (Geerhardus Vos, Biblical Theology, p. 192)*
- Origin** **Exodus 7:1-2** – *Aaron is Moses prophets, just like Moses is God’s prophet (cf. 4:15)*
 Jeremiah 1:9 – *“I have put my words in your mouth” (cf. Num 23:5, 16; Isa 6:1-8)*
 Deuteronomy 18:15-22 – *God gives his prophets oracles & he establishes the office*
- Office** (1) *Stood in the place of God, proclaiming his words*
 (2) *Authenticity is based on the office and the call, not birthright (contra priests & kings)*
 (3) *Message does not primarily relate to prediction, but to covenant application*
 (4) *Primary function was to serve as covenant mediator (cf. Ex 20:18-21; Deut 5:22-27)*
- Message** (1) *Spokesmen of the Covenant for the purpose of blessing (cf Gen 20:7)*
 (2) *Condemn Idolatry (Deuteronomy 4:15-18; Isaiah 6:9-13)*
 (3) *Salvation and Judgment to the Covenant People of God*

THE PROPHETS AND HISTORY

There are five stages of prophecy in the Bible

- (1) *Moses – Introduces the Covenant; Prophetism came into being with the Law*
- (2) *Elijah & Elisha – Calls the Kings of Israel to Keep the Covenant*
- (3) *Pre-Exilic – Calls the People of Israel and Judah to Keep the Covenant*
- (4) *Exilic – Explains why the people are in Exile*
- (5) *Post-Exilic – Calls the people to renew covenant*

Progress of Revelation – Earlier prophets sought reform; Later prophets sought total regeneration
Over time, the shadow of the Old Covenant grows longer and the Messianic Hope grows brighter

THE PROPHETS AND THE COVENANT

Adam	<i>“Covenant with Adam” (Hos 6:7); “Covenant with the day...night” (Jer 33:20); “thorns and thistles” (Hos 10:8; cf. Isa 5:6; 7:24-25; 32:13); Paradise Imagery (Isa 32:15-20)</i>
Noah	<i>“Days of Noah” (Isa 54:9-10); Apocalyptic language reminiscent of the flood (Isa 24:18-20) God’s covenantal commitment includes all the earth—beasts, birds, and fields (Hos 2:16-23)</i>
Abraham	<i>God’s commitment is to Abraham and his offspring (Jer 31:36-37; Isa 53:10; 54:3; Mic 7:20) Judgment expressed in Abrahamic terms (Jer 34:18-22)</i>
Israel	<i>The Law of Moses is intimately related to God’s Covenants (Jer 11:3-5)</i>
David	<i>The most significant covenant: It provides Messianic Hope (people) & Promise for Zion (place).</i>
<i>Messiah</i>	<i>Isa 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Jer 23:5-6; Ezek 34:23-24; Hos 3:5; Amos 9:11-12; Mic 5:2; Zech 6:9-15</i>
<i>Zion</i>	<i>Isa 2:2-3; Jer 33:6-9; Mic 4:1-5; Zeph 3:14-17; Zech 2:1-13; 4:1-14; 12:1-9; 13:1; 14:1-21</i>
New	<i>Spiritual, Eschatological—Jer 31:31-34; Hos 2:18-23; Isa 54:5-10; Ez 36:24-38; 37:12, 18-28</i>

THE PROPHETS AND THE LAW

(1) General Uses – *The Law is the Standard by which the prophets judged and preached*

Isaiah 33:13-16 – *Blessing (v. 16) are dependent on law-keeping*

Jeremiah 9:12-16 – *Forsaking the law (v. 13) leads to judgment and scattering*

Ezekiel 22:1-12 – *Israel has broken all the commands*

Daniel 9:5-6, 10-11, 13 – *The Exile was a result of law-breaking (cf. Ezra 9:10; Neh 9:10-11, 26)*

(2) Specific Uses of the Decalogue (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

I. No other gods before me – Jeremiah 2:10-11, 13; Hosea

II. No carved images – Isaiah 40-48 (esp. 44:6-20); Isaiah 6:9-13 (cf Ps 115); Hosea 8:4, 6; 9:10

III. No blasphemy – Jeremiah 5:12; Amos 5:21, 23-24; Zephaniah 1:12;

IV. Rest on the Sabbath – Isaiah 58:13-14; Jeremiah 17:19-27; Amos 8:15

V. Honor Mother and Father – Ezekiel 22:7; Micah 7:5-6; Malachi 1:6

VI. You shall not murder – Amos 8:4; Micah 6:12; Habakkuk 1:2-4

VII. You shall not commit adultery – Jeremiah 5:7-8; Amos 2:7; Ezekiel 16 & 23 (esp. 23:47-48)

VIII. You shall not steal – Isaiah 1:23; 10:1-2; Habakkuk 2:6-7; Malachi 3:6-9

IX. You shall not bear false witness – Hosea 10:4; Jeremiah 5:12; 9:3-6, 8-9, 11

X. You shall not covet – Amos 2:6; 3:12, 15; 4:1; 5:11; 6:4-7; 8:4-7

(3) Ethical Uses of the Law

Israel Love God / man – *Prophets condemn Israel for their wandering lusts and wicked loves*
Orphans, widows, & strangers – *Failure to care for the poor = failure to grasp grace*

The Nations Condemning pride, idolatry, and violence – *All humanity is culpable for sin*
Mistreatment of God’s people – *Greatest offense is cursing God’s “seed” (cf. Gen 12:3)*

WHAT DO THE PROPHETS TEACH US?

- (1) God is a covenant keeping God: Blessing and curse go according to His secure word.
- (2) We are judged according to our works: God’s people are never able to keep the law for blessing.
- (3) Our hope is grace: Look for a perfect messiah who will rule w/ loving justice (cf. Isa 9:6-7; 11:1-10)
- (4) *The Whole Old Testament Points Us to Christ! (1 Peter 1:10-12)*