

Major Prophets

ANSWER KEY

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Lesson 1

The Keepers of the Light

Review and Discussion Questions

1. What are the three major divisions of Scripture in the Hebrew Bible?
 - A. Torah
 - B. Prophets
 - C. Writing

2. Prophets fall into two categories according to their method of delivery. What are the categories? Name at least two prophets who fit into each category.
 - A. Speaking prophets
 1. Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah
 2. **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel,*** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
 - B. Writing prophets
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel,* Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

1. Who was speaking in Luke 24:44-45?
Jesus

2. What did Jesus call the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings?
Scriptures

3. What are three other names for a prophet?
 1. Man of God: One who spoke for God
 2. Seer: One who saw events beforehand
 3. Visionary: One given extraordinary insight (by dreams and visions)

4. Name some ways God called Old Testament prophets.

(1) I Kings 19:16. Elisha anointed by Elijah; (2) Isaiah 49:5. Isaiah called by God from the womb; (3) Jeremiah 1:4-5. Jeremiah called by God from the womb; (4) Amos 7:15. Amos called by God from keeping the sheep; (5) Ezekiel 2:1-3. Ezekiel called by audible voice of God; (6) Jonah 1:1-2. Jonah called by audible voice of God.

5. What was the difference in the role of a priest and a prophet?

Prophets - God called these men (and in a few cases, women) from their day-to-day tasks to proclaim the light of His truth.

Priests inherited their positions because of their family lineage. Their job was to teach God's law (Deuteronomy 24:8) and serve as mediators between God and man.

Lesson 2

The Kings of Israel

Review and Discussion Questions

1. Is it possible for a king to be both good and bad? Godly and wicked?
Student answer
2. Some kings started out right and ended up wrong. Give an example. Why do you think this happened? **Student answer**
3. True or false: As the king goes, so goes the nation. _____ Defend your answer. **Student answer**
4. Is it possible for a nation to progress if the leadership is corrupt? Why or why not? **Student answer**
5. Israel (the ten northern tribes) were conquered by the Assyrian Empire in 722 BC. Over one hundred years later, in 586 BC., Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonian army. Based on this study of the kings, why do you think God delayed His judgment of Judah?
Student answer
6. What did this study reveal to you about the influence of a leader?
Student answer
7. How many tribes were in the Northern Kingdom? What was the name of that kingdom? What was the capital?
A. Ten
B. Israel
C. Samaria
8. How many tribes were in the Southern Kingdom? What was the name of that kingdom? What was the capital?
Two, Judah, Jerusalem

9. Which kingdom continued to be led by the descendants of King David?

Judah

10. Two kings were severely judged by God when they presumed to fill the office of the priesthood. Who were they? What was their punishment?

11. Why did the Northern Kingdom go into captivity before the Southern Kingdom?

Jeroboam, the first king of the Northern Kingdom, set the pattern for their downfall when he built two altars for the people to sacrifice at so they would not return to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship the one true God.

12. Which king reigned the longest time? Which reigned the shortest time?

A. Manassah

B. Shallum

Lesson 3

The Enemies of Israel

Review and Discussion Questions

1. What was the Israelites' biggest mistake when possessing the land of Canaan? **They did not totally drive out the Canaanites and remove their idols.**
2. How did the Canaanites' lifestyle contaminate the Israelites?
The Israelites worshipped Canaanite gods
3. Which empire engaged in mind warfare?
Assyrian
4. What is mind warfare? **skillfully wielding the weapons of propaganda and intimidation.**
5. How does the enemy of our soul use mind warfare? Give a Scripture reference. **Student Answer**
6. What was the Babylonian strategy for treatment of prisoners of war?
Assimilate into Babylonian culture
7. What Israelite kings took gold from the Temple treasury to pay tribute to a foreign oppressor? **Ahaz and Hezekiah**
8. What city was under siege for three years by the Assyrians?
Samaria
9. Why do you think the Assyrian army never entered Jerusalem, although they did overthrow several Judean cities and laid siege to Jerusalem?
Student Answer
10. Give an example of a time God used ungodly people to judge His people.
Student Answer

Lesson 4

Isaiah Commissioned

Review and Discussion Questions

1. What excuses given in the skit, “Answering the Call,” have you used (or perhaps are still using) to avoid getting involved in the work of the Kingdom? **Student Answer**
2. Were you surprised that when the call came it was for (*B’s name*)? Why or why not? **Student Answer**
3. What is the significance of the seraph touching Isaiah’s lips with the coal of fire and not his hands or feet?
Sanctification of his lips
4. What did Isaiah’s vision of the Lord compel him to do?
He repented for himself and for his nation.
5. What are the two purposes of a prophet’s mission?
A. To tell forth—to testify against the sins of their time
B. To foretell the future.
6. What is the law of double reference? Give a biblical example.
The law of double reference applies to prophecies that relate to two or more of these historical times. Double reference prophecies refer to (1) the near future in the light of the present, and (2) the distant future in the light of the near future. These prophecies have both an ancient and a modern fulfillment. An example is Isaiah 7:14–17, which refers to King Ahaz’s time and the coming of the Messiah.

7. What is the gap theory? Give a biblical example.

The **gap theory** treats events as if they were continuous and successive when thousands of years may be in between. An example is Isaiah 28:11 and I Corinthians 14:21, which refer to the invasion of Judah by the Assyrians, whose language the Jews did not understand, and the gift of tongues, which ministers to the church.

8. Define the principles of progressive revelation and analogous fulfillment.

The principle of **progressive revelation** indicates that divine revelation unfolds across the story of Scripture with ever-increasing detail and dimension; later revelation always and only adds to prior revelation and never detracts from or overturns it.

The principle of **analogous fulfillment** argues that many biblical prophecies are given in such a way that may describe multiple events

9. Name the four historical eras covered in Isaiah's prophecies.

- A. Assyrian Empire
- B. Babylonian Empire
- C. Coming of the Messiah
- D. Millennium

10. What is the difference in "mission" and "commission"?

Mission is the basic goal of an organization or a person. The most basic meaning of *commission* is "the act of passing a responsibility to someone else."

Lesson 5

The Book of Isaiah

Review and Discussion Questions

1. Parallel Judah's relationship with Assyria to that of a child of God who turns to the world for support.

Student Answer

2. Something about King Ahaz's refusal to ask for a sign from God angered Isaiah (Isaiah 7:10-14). Demonstrate with body language how you think Ahaz responded to Isaiah's prophecy that he had nothing to fear from Israel and Syria. Student Answer

3. What did King Ahaz's response to Isaiah's prophecy reveal about his heart?

The seeds of rebellion and idolatry were so deeply rooted in the soil of the king's heart

4. Relate specific times God revealed both His goodness and severity in His relationship with Judah.

Severity - "But, if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it" (1:20).

Goodness - Isaiah had a message from Jehovah for Ahaz extending the goodness of God to Judah. The prophet assured Ahaz that God had everything under control. The figure of speech picturing Syria and Israel as "smoking firebrands" assured Ahaz that these enemy nations would soon die out. The man of God prophesied that in sixty-five years Samaria would fall.

Student Answer

5. Explain how Isaiah's sons' names reminded Judah of both God's goodness and severity.

Mahershalalhashbaz ("quick to the plunder; swift to the spoil"), Shearjashub ("a remnant shall return"). Both of his sons were given names relative to his prophecies as signs to the Jews (Isaiah 7:3; 8:3). Thus, the boys were constant reminders of both the goodness and severity of God.

6. Share a time when you witnessed both the severity and goodness of God in your life. **Student Answer**

7. How can the severity of God be the fruit of His goodness?

God's purpose is to save from eternal judgment.

Lesson 6

Isaiah's Prophecies of Judgment

Review and Discussion Questions

1. The Moabites and Ammonites were the Israelites' extended family. Why do you think so much animosity existed between them?

Student Answer

2. Which of Noah's sons was the forefather of both the Aramaic/Syrians and Israelites? **Shem**

3. What is another name for Syria?

Aram

4. What in Israel and Syria's history affects their relationship in current times? Note their location on the map.

Although the Aramaic people and the Israelites were from the same lineage, war was constant between them and continues to this present time.

5. What is believed to be the oldest continually inhabited city in the world? Find it on the map. **Damascus**

6. What nation was home to the desert Bedouins? Locate this nation on the map. **Arabia**

7. What nation is related to the "sea people?" Find this nation on the map. What is the connection between this nation and the sea?

Philistia. They inhabited the land on the southeast coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

8. What city did Isaiah foretell would become as desolate as Sodom and Gomorrah? Local it on the map.

Babylon

9. If you were asked to defend how a loving God could annihilate these nations, what would your argument be?

Student Answer

Lesson 7

Isaiah's Prophecies Fulfilled

Review and Discussion Questions

1. What is the focus of the first half of the Book of Isaiah?
Isaiah 1–33 “projects a scenario of judgment,” and focuses on the arrival of such judgment, first on Judah and Jerusalem, and then on the entire world.
2. What is the focus of the second half?
The second half of the book, however, “no longer projects judgment, but instead presupposes that the judgment . . . against Babylon, Assyria, and the other nations has now taken place and that the time of Jerusalem’s restoration is at hand.”
3. Name two parallels between the first half of Isaiah and the second half.
A. Isaiah 1 opens with a call to the heavens and earth to witness God’s judgment (Isaiah 1:2); Isaiah 34 calls the nations to witness His deliverance of Judah (Isaiah 34:1, 35:1ff).
B. Isaiah 7 dramatically showcases Ahaz’s lack of faith and trust in God’s care and deliverance, while the story of Hezekiah’s response to the Assyrian invasion in Isaiah 36–39 makes a pointed contrast between Hezekiah’s astounding faith and Ahaz’s craven disbelief.
4. Isaiah 34–39 transition the readers from judgement to restoration.
5. What chapter is an anthem of victory? 35
6. Why did God turn the sundial backward ten degrees rather than forward?
Student Answer
7. What was the cure for Hezekiah’s illness?
“Take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil, that he may recover.”

8. Relate two of Isaiah's prophecies that were fulfilled in his lifetime.

References	Prophecies fulfilled during Isaiah's lifetime
1. Isaiah 7:1	Rezin/Syria and Pekah/Israel could not prevail against Judah.
2. Isaiah 17:1–3	The city of Damascus was left a ruinous heap.
3. Isaiah 14:31	The nation of Palestina was dissolved.
4. Isaiah 8:7–8	The army of the king of Assyria overflowed Judah.
5. Isaiah 15:1	The nation of Moab was laid waste.
6. Isaiah 20:3–5	Isaiah walked naked and barefoot for three years as a prophecy of the time when God stripped Egypt and Ethiopia bare.
7. Isaiah 21:17	The mighty men of Kedar (Arabia) were diminished.
8. Isaiah 23:1	Tyre was laid waste.
9. Isaiah 37:33–37	God defended Jerusalem for his servant David's sake.
10. Isaiah 38:5	God added fifteen years to King Hezekiah's life.

9. Relate two of Isaiah's prophecies that were fulfilled after his death.

References	Prophecies fulfilled after Isaiah's lifetime
1. Isaiah 39:5–7	Hezekiah's sons and possession were carried into Babylon.
2. Isaiah 46:11	God's judgment was executed on Babylon by a man from the east.
3. Isaiah 13:17	God stirred up the Medes against Babylon.
4. Isaiah 13:19	Babylon was left as desolate as Sodom and Gomorrah.
5. Isaiah 44:28	The Jewish captives in Babylon were released by Cyrus to return and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.
6. Isaiah 27:12–13	The children of Israel returned to worship in the holy mount at Jerusalem.
7. Isaiah 19:19	An altar was built in Egypt to worship the God of Israel.
8. Isaiah 27:6	Israel's religion spread over the face of the whole world.
9. Isaiah 23:13–18	Tyre was destroyed and rebuilt after seventy years.
10. Isaiah 34:5–17	A great slaughter in the land of Edom (Idumea) and desolation that lasts from generation to generation.

10. How did God defeat the Assyrian army?

The angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians.

Lesson 8

The Messianic Prophet

Review and Discussion Questions

1. Why was Isaiah called the “Messianic Prophet”?

Since his prophecies of judgment and deliverance point toward the advent of the Messiah.

2. Why is Isaiah sometimes referred to as a poetic prophet?

Because of the fusion of simplicity and complexity presented in the Book of Isaiah and poetic words and passages that add color and harmony to Isaiah’s writing.

3. Approximately how many years before Christ’s birth did Isaiah prophecy about Him? 700 years

4. Give three Scripture references from Isaiah proving there is one God.

Student Answer

5. Recall one of Isaiah’s prophecies foretelling the coming of the Messiah and a New Testament reference where that prophecy was fulfilled.

Clues to Messiah’s Identity	Isaiah’s Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment
His Forerunner	Isaiah 40:3–5	Student Answer
His Conception	Isaiah 7:14	Student Answer
His Birth	Isaiah 9:6	Student Answer
His Lineage	Isaiah 11:1	Student Answer
Location of His Ministry	Isaiah 9:1	Student Answer
His Ministry to the Gentiles	Isaiah 49:6	Student Answer
His Miracles	Isaiah 61:1	Student Answer
His Spirit	Isaiah 11:2	Student Answer
His Rejection	Isaiah 53:3	Student Answer
His Suffering	Isaiah 53:5	Student Answer
His Death	Isaiah 53:12	Student Answer
His Burial	Isaiah 53:9	Student Answer
His Resurrection	Isaiah 25:8	Student Answer

6. What was the name of the king that Isaiah prophesied would allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple?

Cyrus

7. Why did the Jews reject Jesus as their Messiah?

Their ears were heavy, and their eyes shut. (See Isaiah 6:10.) Their preconceived beliefs about the Messiah locked their hearts to His identity. They were looking for a king to deliver them from the oppression of their enemies and bring in an age of peace and prosperity.

8. Explain the “gap theory.”

Isaiah prophesied of both the first and second advent of Christ, the suffering and reigning of Christ. Often the way his prophecies are recorded in Scripture makes them seem simultaneous, but the New Testament reveals the “gap” between the first and second coming. In this church age, Christ rules in the hearts of His people, but during the Millennium, He will sit on the throne of David and rule His earthly kingdom.

9. What is a key word found in Isaiah? Salvation

10. Quote a key verse from Isaiah that has ministered to you.

Student Answer

11. What about Isaiah’s ministry spoke to you the loudest?

Student Answer

Lesson 9

Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet (Part 1)

Review and Discussion Questions

1. What three nations were battling to become the leading world power in the time of the major prophets?

Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon

2. Describe the spiritual condition of Judah in Jeremiah's day.

Society was deteriorating economically, politically, and spiritually. The idolatrous ways of the heathen had permeated Judah. False prophets were lauded, and the true men of God were persecuted. Nations were rising against nations. Immorality, war, and slavery were the norm.

3. Name the five kings to whom Jeremiah prophesied.

- A. Josiah
- B. Jehoahaz (Shallum)
- C. Eliakim (Jehoiakim)
- D. Jehoiachin (Coniah)
- E. Mattaniah (Zedekiah)

4. How many years was Babylon the leading world power?

70 years

5. What is the balm of Gilead?

The balm of Gilead, a medicinal salve, was produced from the resinous juices of the balsam poplar trees found east of the Jordan River. This balm was used to reduce inflammation, soothe the skin, protect the immune system, eliminate pain, speed healing, soothe the stomach, and detoxify the body.

6. Why is it important that we study the Book of Jeremiah?

Student Answer

7. What was Jeremiah's argument why he could not speak to the nation of Judah? I am only a youth.

8. Which king led Judah into revival?

Josiah

9. Who was king of Judah when Jerusalem was destroyed?

Mattaniah (Zedekiah)

10. Why did Jeremiah weep?

Because the people refused to repent, and he foresaw the judgment they were about to suffer.

11. Fill in the blanks. Isaiah was prophet to the Jews in Judah. Jeremiah was prophet to the nations. Ezekiel was prophet to the Jewish captives in Babylon.

Lesson 10

Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet (Part 2)

Review and Discussion Questions

1. Name three high points in Jeremiah's life.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

2. Name five ways to identify false prophets.

- a. They pretend to come from God (Jeremiah 23).
- b. They were used of Jehovah to prove Israel (Deuteronomy 13).
- c. They were led by evil spirits (I Kings 22:23).
- d. They prophesied falsely (Jeremiah 23:16).
- e. They prophesied out of their own heart (Jeremiah 23:16).
- f. They prophesied in the name of idols (Jeremiah 2:8).
- g. They prophesied peace, when there was no peace (Jeremiah 6:14; 23:17; Ezekiel 13:10; Micah 3:5).
- h. They were pointedly and earnestly denounced by Jehovah (Isaiah 9:15; Jeremiah 6:13; 14:14; 23:30-32; 29:31-32; Ezekiel 13:3; 14:9).
- i. They were sorely punished by Jehovah (Jeremiah 28:15-17, 29:22-23; Micah 3:5, 7, 11-12).

3. What do you think was the hardest part of Jeremiah's calling?

Student Answer

4. Of what was Jeremiah falsely accused?

He was accused of deserting to the Babylonian camp

5. Who was Jeremiah's scribe? Baruch

6. Who delivered Jeremiah from the dungeon? How did he do it?
Ebed-melech the Ethiopian who interceded with King Zedekiah and saved the prophet from the dungeon.
7. How many times did Nebuchadnezzar's army invade Jerusalem?
3
8. Who set Jeremiah free when he was being exiled to Babylon with the Jews?
Nebuchadrezzar, captain of Nebuchadnezzar's guards
9. What did Johanan ask Jeremiah to ask God?
Whether they should go to Egypt
10. What did God tell Johanan about going to Egypt?
Don't go to Egypt. Stay here. God will build you up, not pull you down. He will plant you and not pluck you up. Do not be afraid. God is with you. If you go to Egypt, you shall die."
11. Name Jeremiah's loyal supporters that God remembered.
Baruch and Ebed-melech
12. If you could choose one of Jeremiah's characteristics to emulate, which would it be?
Student Answer

Lesson 11

Lamentations, a Sad Song

Review and Discussion Questions

1. Why is Lamentations called “the saddest book in the Bible”?
Lamentations is filled with anguish but has no happy ending.
2. Why is one of the caves in the face of Golgotha called “Jeremiah’s Grotto”?
Tradition says that Jeremiah sat there weeping over Jerusalem as he wrote Lamentations.
3. What does *’ekah*, the name of Lamentations in the Hebrew Bible, mean?
How
4. Why did the Jews assume that Jerusalem could never fall?
They reasoned that surely God would never let Jerusalem be destroyed because surrounding nations would boast that their gods were more powerful than Israel’s.
5. Why is Lamentations sometimes called “an elegy written in a graveyard”?
Each chapter of Lamentations is a funeral dirge, a lament for the dead, which Jews still sing. The book is a painful lament for the destruction of Jerusalem.
6. Describe the poetic structure of Lamentations.
Alphabetic acrostic. Each verse (stanza) begins with a consecutive letter of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet (*aleph, beths*).
7. Which chapter in Lamentation is a triple acrostic? Chapter 3

8. Where in Lamentations can the reader find a glimmer of hope?

The only place the author of Lamentations found a glimmer of hope was in his memory bank. When things are the darkest, we need to remember the Lord's mercy.

9. What are the two main reasons God judged Edom?

- A. Punish their sin
- B. Expose their wickedness

10. What motivated Thomas Chisholm to write "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"?

He wrote "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" after thirty years of experiencing God's faithfulness day after day.

Lesson 12

Ezekiel, the Watchman in Babylon

Review and Discussion Questions

1. The adage says, “You never appreciate water until the well runs dry.” Apply this proverb to the Jews in Babylon.

Student Answer

2. Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord and heard God’s word before he became God’s man. How does what you see and hear affect what you become?

Student Answer

3. How do you think Ezekiel’s childhood affected his later years in Babylon?

Student Answer

4. Which of Ezekiel’s visions impacted you most forcefully? Why and how?

Student Answer

5. Which of Ezekiel’s sign-acts do you think was the hardest to fulfill? Defend your answer.

Student Answer

6. Ezekiel’s sermons seem to be a mix of reprimands, warnings, and encouragement. Compare this to a sermon or lesson you recently preached/taught or heard. Share your thoughts with the class.

Student Answer

7. Name some positive results of the exile.

After seventy years of captivity, they, as a nation, never again worshiped false gods.

Without access to the Temple, in the Jewish settlements small groups began to gather for prayer and study of the writings. Such assemblies

were known as *synagogues* – they would later replace the Temple as the center of Jewish worship.

8. For what is Ezekiel best known?

His mysterious visions and weird sign-acts.

9. Name three ways in which the Jews in Babylon parallel with the church in the world.

- a. Ezekiel, as the watchman on the wall, typifies the ministry.
- b. God did not forsake His people. He continued to send prophets to speak His word, reminding the people that the foundation of their faith was not the Temple; it was Jehovah.
- c. Despite the idolatry that surrounded them in Babylon, they were expected to obey God's laws.

10. What has a watchman on the wall spoken into your life, via sermon or personal message? If you can do so comfortably, share the impact of that message with the class.

Student Answer

11. What steps did the glory of the Lord take in departing the Temple? What is the significance of the glory departing little by little?

First from above the Ark, to the threshold of the Temple, to the hills outside the city. Student Answer

Lesson 13

Ezekiel, the Restoration Prophet

Review and Discussion Questions

1. How do you see Ezekiel 37:12, 14 being fulfilled in world current events and in your church?

Student Answer

2. What is a parable?

A parable is a truth wrapped in a memorable story or word picture. Several of the Old Testament prophets and Jesus used parables to explain spiritual truths using a natural application.

3. What is a metaphor?

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. For example, calling pastors shepherds.

4. What king's fate is foretold in the parable of the eagle and the cedar?

King Zedekiah

5. What is significant about the day that Ezekiel's wife died?

It was the same day that Jerusalem was under siege by Babylon

6. What charges did God tell Ezekiel to bring against the shepherds of Israel? (See Ezekiel 34.)

Not taking care of the flock. Not helping the weak, sick, or injured. Not bringing back the strays or lost sheep. Ruling the flock harshly.

7. Give the reference for at least two of Ezekiel's messianic prophecies.

- a. Ezekiel 21:27 Messiah is the rightful heir to the throne of Israel.
- b. Ezekiel 34:23-24 God will establish Messiah's kingdom.
- c. Ezekiel 37:22 Messiah will reign over a united Israel.

- d. Ezekiel 37:24-25 Messiah will reign over a restored, obedient Israel that has been returned to the land first promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

8. How many times are Ezekiel's saying alluded to in the New Testament?

60 times

9. What was God's motive for judging His people and then restoring them?

The Exile was a dramatic measure God took to break the sin-cycle that Israel had perpetrated for generations—prosperity, idolatry, judgment, repentance.

10. Relate the vision of the valley of dry bones to the Jews' saying, "Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off from our parts" (37:11).

Student Answer

11. How do you see the vision of the valley of dry bones being fulfilled?

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a poignant picture of their spiritual condition and in contrast a promise of the coming restoration—the rising up of a mighty army.

12. Give an instance where the Israelites were caught up in the sin-cycle—prosperity, idolatry, judgment, repentance.

Student Answer

13. Compare Ezekiel's vision of the water flowing out of the Temple to your relationship with God. Check yourself. Where in the river of the Spirit are you?

Student Answer

