

An Introduction to the
Old Testament
Prophets
and
a Study of the
Major Prophets

ANSWER KEY

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Introduction

Study Questions

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

*From An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets: The Prophets as Preachers, [PAP]
by Gary V. Smith, and the Class Notes [CN] compiled by Terry R. Baughman*

1. What are the three major divisions of Scripture in the Hebrew Bible? (CN)
The Torah (Law), The Prophets (Former and Latter Prophets), and The Writings (Hagiographia)
2. What four terms applied to individuals who demonstrated prophetic traits in the Old Testament? (CN)
**Man of God
Seer
Visionary
Prophet**
3. What are the two major divisions commonly observed among the prophetic books? What is a better division of the prophetic books? (CN)
**Common divisions: Major Prophets and Minor Prophets
Better divisions: Former Prophets and Latter Prophets**
4. What is the first explicit reference to a Prophet in Scripture and where is it found? (CN)
The LORD your God will raise up for you a **Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a **Prophet** like you from among their brethren, **and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.** And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, **which He speaks in My name**, I will require *it* of him (**Deuteronomy 18:15-19**).**
5. Who quoted this passage in the New Testament and where is it found? (CN)
Peter in Acts 3:22-23
6. What was the absence of prophecy among the people a sign of? (CN)
A sign of God’s judgment and his absence from the affairs of his people.

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7. There are two references in Scripture relative to "taking away from" or "diminishing" the Word of God. What are they? (one OT and the other NT) (CN)

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” (Deuteronomy 4:2).

“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18-19).

8. How did God vindicate his messengers as true prophets? (CN)

God vindicated His true prophets by fulfilling His own word by them.

9. The gifts of the prophets were in their commission to do what two things? (CN)

To proclaim God's purpose and to predict God's plan.

10. What four things were prophets divinely moved to do? (CN)

- (1) To call the nation back to repentance and to seek the Lord anew.
- (2) To speak to the heart and conscience of Israel
- (3) To challenge the people to renew their covenant with *Yahweh* and serve Him completely.
- (4) To proclaim the consequences of disobedience to the message they proclaimed

11. Primarily, as patriots and revivalists, the prophets dealt with what conditions among God's people? (CN)

The prophets dealt with moral depravity and a declining religious commitment among God's people. The people had embraced idolatry, forsaken the covenant, and worshipped *Yahweh* only with ritualistic insincerity

12. What is always true of the condition of people when there was a prophet sent?

The arrival of the prophet indicated that things were not well and God was calling His people back to obedience.

13. What are four great themes of the predictions of the Prophets? (CN)

1. The captivity and exile of Israel and Judah (and future dispersion)
2. The restoration of Israel (both imminent and future)
3. The advent of the Messiah (details of his birth, ministry, and sacrifice)
4. The Kingdom of Messiah (reign of righteousness) over Israel and then over the whole earth.

14. What does the New Testament say about these writing prophets? (CN)

In the New Testament, Peter referred to the prophets as “holy men of God” who spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). The writer of Hebrews said that God “at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets” (Hebrews 1:1).

15. What are some of the ways God spoke to the Prophets? (CN)

- Through dreams and visions (Numbers 12:6; Ezekiel 1:1; Daniel 8:2; 10:8, 16, 17; I Kings 3:5; Jeremiah 23:28; Daniel 7:1).
- By angels (Daniel 8:15-26; 10:18, etc.; Revelation 22:8, 9).
- In an audible voice (Numbers 12:8; I Samuel 3:4-14).



The Book of Isaiah

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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1. What does the name "Isaiah" mean in Hebrew? (CN)
Salvation of Yahweh
2. What do we know about Isaiah's family? (CN)
He is the son of Amoz. He was married with kids. Isaiah's wife was identified as a prophetess (8:3) and they had at least two sons (7:3, 8:3).
3. What is the meaning of his son's names? (CN)
Shear-jashub, meaning "A remnant shall return", and Maher-halal-shash-baz, meaning "quick, spoil, hasten, plunder" or "hasting to the spoil, hurrying to the prey."
4. Who was reigning in Judah when Isaiah was called to the prophetic office? (CN)
King Uzziah
5. How many years did Isaiah fulfill the prophetic ministry according to Hottel?
62 years
6. What happened to King Uzziah toward the end of his reign as a result of his pride?
He was smitten with leprosy
7. How is King Ahaz (grandson of Uzziah) characterized? (CN)
He was a wicked and idolatrous prince. He burnt incense in the valley of Hinnom and his children in the fire, after the abomination of the heathen.
8. Isaiah was a contemporary of what prophets? (CN)
Hosea, Amos, Jonah, and Micah
9. What alliance did Ahaz form to fight against his northern neighbor, Israel? (CN)
Ahaz invited an alliance with Assyria against their northern neighbor.
10. What would be the result of this alliance to the future of Judah? (CN)
Sennacherib, the Assyrian king, invaded the land during the reign of the next king Hezekiah.

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11. Who was Ahaz' son, that succeeded him on the throne of Judah, and what do we know about his character? (CN)

Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz followed in the throne. His character was the reverse of that of his father. He was one of the most Godly kings who ever occupied the throne of David.

12. After a successful war with the Philistines, what bad decision did Hezekiah make about Assyria? (CN)

Hezekiah decided to throw off the yoke of Assyria by not paying the tribute which his father Ahaz had agreed to pay. Then he sent ambassadors to the Assyrian, suing for peace. Sennacherib demanded a large sum of money, which Hezekiah gave him, stripping even the Temple of its treasures to pay the vast sum

13. What did Hezekiah do with the insulting letter sent by Sennacherib of Assyria, that changed the course of events? (CN)

Hezekiah went into the House of Jehovah and spread Sennacherib's insulting letter before Jehovah, receiving the answer that he was safe.

14. In what year of the reign of Hezekiah did Israel get overthrown by Assyria, and what year was it? (CN)

The sixth year of Hezekiah, about 721 BC

15. Isaiah is one of three popular books during the time of Christ. What are the other two? (CN)

Deuteronomy and Psalms

16. Why is the book of Isaiah referred to as a miniature Bible? (CN)

It has two major sections, chapters 1-39 and 40-66, compared to the 66 books of the Bible (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament). The first section is of Condemnation, comparing to the Judgment and Law of the OT, where the last section is of Consolation, relating to the message of hope (grace) of the New Testament.

17. Who is the most quoted prophet in the NT? How many times is he referenced by name? (CN)

Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. There are no less than twenty-one references by name.

18. How often is Isaiah 53 quoted or alluded to in the New Testament? (CN)

85 times

19. Who is the great enemy in chapters 1-35? (CN)

The great enemy is Assyria

20. The chapters in Isaiah, 36-39, are referred to as what?

Historical interlude

21. What section of Isaiah comprises the promises of God? (CN)

Chapters 40-66

22. Who is the great enemy in the last section of Isaiah? (CN)

Babylon

23. What does "Deutero-Isaiah" mean? What does "Trito-Isaiah" mean? (CN)

Deutero-Isaiah means a second Isaiah and is sometimes used to refer to Chapters 40-55 of the book of Isaiah. Trito-Isaiah means a third Isaiah and is sometimes used to refer to Chapters 56-66 of the book of Isaiah.

24. What are several facts that support the traditional view that one Isaiah wrote the entire book of Isaiah? (CN)

- Jesus refers to the book of Isaiah *as Isaiah* and not the *writers* of Isaiah. He quotes from the later writings of the prophet (61:1-2) with no distinction or reference to multiple authors (Luke 4:16-17).
- In all the Gospels (or the entire New Testament) there is no acknowledgment of any other author or any separation of the sections of Isaiah.
- John attributes both sections to Isaiah. He quotes from Isaiah 6:9-10 and 53:1 with no distinction (John 12:37-41).
- Paul also credits early and later quotations to the same prophet.
- Further the unity of the book of Isaiah is supported in the Septuagint (LXX), the Talmud, and the book of Ecclesiasticus
- The Dead Sea Scrolls support the unity of the book. The manuscripts from Qumran demonstrate they understood authorship to be one person.

25. What chapter from the book of Isaiah reveals the events and vision associated with his call? (CN)

Chapter 6

26. What is the large theme of the book of Isaiah and how many times is it mentioned in the book? (CN)

A large theme evidenced in the book of Isaiah is "Salvation". Reference to salvation is mentioned 26 times in Isaiah.

27. In which other book of the Old Testament is the word *salvation* used more frequently than in Isaiah? (CN)

Psalms

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28. Isaiah can see what two events concerning the Messiah in his prophecies? (CN)
He sees the first coming of the Messiah and the details of His life, death, resurrection and ascension. But he also sees His Second Coming in power and great glory; he sees the kingship of Messiah as He reigns over both Jew and Gentile in righteousness and peace.
29. What was the sign Isaiah said would come and to whom was it first promised?
The virgin birth of Immanuel. The sign was first promised to King Ahaz.
30. What event may be viewed as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of a virgin birth? (CN)
The birth of Jesus to a virgin.
31. What verse prophesies the virgin birth of the coming messiah as a sign?
Isaiah 7:14
32. What other verse of Isaiah is seen as a prophecy of the birth of Messiah, bringing light to those who walked in darkness? (CN)
Isaiah 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
33. How does God demonstrate his omniscience through the prophet Isaiah by predicting things to come? (CN)
Isaiah shows that God will deliver Judah from captivity and will by the hand of a great Persian king who would be raised up "from the north" to be conqueror of Babylon (41:25).
34. What was the king's name that would be the conqueror of Babylon and how many years was this before he was born? (CN)
The name of this king was Cyrus. Now this prediction was made one hundred and fifty years before Cyrus was born
35. This king was to be God's instrument for the deliverance of Judah.
36. What is at the center of the chiasmus in the last section of the book of Isaiah?
The "substitution" of Isaiah 53
37. What verse of Isaiah 53 states that the servant will be given as a sin offering (or guilt offering)? (CN)
Verses 7 - 9
38. What New Testament passage says that the "Law, prophets, and the Psalms" are concerning Jesus? (CN)
"These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me" (Luke 24:44)

39. What is the central theme of all the Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation? (CN)

The Lord Jesus Christ

40. In Isaiah's prophecy of the coming one, who will be manifest on the earth in the midst of His people? (CN)

Jehovah himself

41. Give at least ten references from Isaiah, to the Lord being "the Holy One of Israel"? (CN)

Is. 1:4; 5:19, 24; 10:20; 12:6; 17:7; 29:19; 30:11, 12, 15; 31:1; 37:23; 41:14, 16, 20; 43:3, 14; 45:11; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7; 54:5; 55:5; 60:9, 14

The Book of Jeremiah

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH and LAMENTATIONS

From *An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets: The Prophets as Preachers, [PAP]* by Gary V. Smith, and the *Class Notes [CN]* compiled by Terry R. Baughman

1. What transition does the book of Jeremiah contain? (CN)

The transition from *pre-Exilic* to *Exilic* prophets

2. What does the name of Jeremiah mean in Hebrew? (CN)

Established by Yahweh

3. What was the occupation of Jeremiah's family and where is he from? (CN)

Jeremiah is the son of Hilkiah the priest and comes from the priest-city of Anathoth, approximately four miles north of Jerusalem.

4. When was Jeremiah ordained to be a prophet? (CN)

Before birth when Jeremiah was in the womb.

5. Did the Lord give any instruction concerning Jeremiah's personal life? In what way? (CN)

Yes, he was called to an austere ministry with a lack of celebration or joy and was not allowed to marry

6. What Biblical prophets were contemporaries of Jeremiah for at least a part of his ministry? (CN)

Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel and Ezekiel

7. What nation was to be the "instrument of Judgment", and how many times is this nation mentioned? (CN)

Babylon. Mentioned 164 times

8. How is Jeremiah's message received? (CN)

In his own hometown Jeremiah was not accepted. His family and townsmen conspired against him causing him to claim to be "a man of contention to the whole earth." Jeremiah endured opposition, beatings, isolation, and imprisonment.

9. Jeremiah has been called "*the weeping prophet*". Why? (CN)

For his intense burden and knowledge of what would soon to come to pass in the city of Jerusalem

10. Although Jeremiah's prophecies are not recorded in chronological order what are the two broad divisions of the book? (CN)

- Prophecies to Judah (chap 2-45)
- Prophecies to the Gentiles (chap 46-51)

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11. What is the conclusion of his prophecy? Is it solely to Judah? (CN)

He concludes with the hope of restoration, not just for Judah but for everybody.

12. What well known object lesson in Jeremiah teaches God's desire to bring restoration to the house of Israel? (CN)

Jeremiah's visit to the potter's house in chapter 18.

13. Who was the last of the unbroken lineage of kings from Solomon in Judah? (both names) (CN)

Jehoiachin (Coniah)

14. How is Christ considered to be the "*son of David*" without being a son of the lineage of Solomon?

Christ's lineage is traced through Mary to Nathan, another son of David (Lu. 3:23-38).

15. What do the prophets reveal concerning the coming of Messiah that was a shock to the Jews?

Yahweh will be revealed in flesh; and he will come not for Israel alone, but for all Nations

16. What prophecy illustrates the foreknowledge of God in the life of Jeremiah? (CN)

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

17. What choice faced Jeremiah in response to his call? (CN)

Jeremiah's choice was to fear God *or* fear people.

18. Jeremiah's message would include what two elements? (CN)

1. His message would be one of Judgment.

2. His message would include repentance.

19. What is the response to Jeremiah's message and what results? (CN)

The people of Judah responded with unbelief. They did not believe God would act. Their wickedness abounds. There is no repentance, no change of attitude in response to Jeremiah's message.

Jeremiah proclaims "Judgment is coming!" Jerusalem is captured and the temple is destroyed.

20. When the people refuse to believe that Jerusalem will be destroyed because of the temple there, Jeremiah reminds them of what other place that had been destroyed? (CN)

Shiloh

21. How was Jeremiah's ministry received in his own town? (CN)

The ministry of Jeremiah was not acceptable even in his own town and among his own people; his own family and townsmen conspired against him to put him out of the way

22. What caused the prophet to call himself, "a man of contention to the whole earth?" (CN)

So completely did every one seem to be against him, he called himself "a man of contention to the whole earth", and cursed the day of his birth

23. What did Jeremiah prophesy to cause the people to proclaim him to be a traitor and demand his death? (CN)

Jeremiah prophesied the success of the Chaldean armies and urged Judah to submit to the Babylonians declaring Nebuchadnezzar to be the servant of Jehovah.

24. Why did Jeremiah wear a yoke on his neck and what happened to it? (CN)

To forecast the Chaldean bondage (27:2). A false prophet destroyed his yoke, at the same time predicting that the Jewish exiles already in Babylon would return in two years.

25. Why was Jeremiah thrown into a dungeon? (CN)

During the final siege of Jerusalem, in seeking to escape from the city, Jeremiah was arrested and accused of deserting to the Chaldeans and thrown into a dungeon.

26. How did Jeremiah end up in Egypt? (CN)

Gedaliah, the governor, was assassinated which threw the colony into confusion and many fearing the wrath of Nebuchadnezzar, urged flight into Egypt. Jeremiah, however, assured them of safety in Judah and destruction in Egypt (Jer. 42:7-22).

The counsel of Jeremiah was spurned as had happened before, and he was forced to emigrate with the others to Egypt

27. How many years did Jeremiah prophesy before the fall of Jerusalem? (CN)

41 years

28. What is the test of a true prophet? (CN)

The test of a true prophet is that his prophecies occur.

29. What does the false prophet "corrupt"? (CN)

His own life and the word

30. What is the source of inspiration for the false prophet? (CN)

Self

31. What are four hallmarks of a true prophet? (CN)

1. The true prophet learns directly from God's counsel
2. The message is faithful delivered
3. The message causes people to turn from evil
4. The true prophet does not avoid the truth of the wrath of God toward sin

The Book of Ezekiel

Study Questions #2

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

From *An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets: The Prophets as Preachers*, [PAP] by Gary V. Smith, and the *Class Notes* [CN] compiled by Terry R. Baughman

1. What does the name Ezekiel mean in Hebrew? (CN)
Strengthened by God
2. What prophets were contemporary with Ezekiel? (CN)
Jeremiah and Daniel
3. How many times is the phrase “son of man” used in Ezekiel and what does it illustrate? (CN)
It is used about 90 times and it illustrates his humanity in contrast to the transcendence of God
4. What is the literal interpretation of the title “Lord God” in the book of Ezekiel? How often is it used in comparison to other OT mentions? (CN)
Literally “Lord Jehovah”. It appears 217 times in Ezekiel where only 103 times in the rest of the entire OT
5. What is the insight theme of the book of Ezekiel? (CN)
Restoration of Israel
6. What New Testament writer (s) refers to the insight verses from the book of Ezekiel? (CN)
2 Corinthians 3:3 and Hebrews 10:16
7. What theme is seen in the first half of Ezekiel? the second half? (CN)
The first half (1-32) is of **condemnation. The second half (33-48) is of **consolation****
8. What event caused the change in the writing of Ezekiel? (CN)
The destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC
9. The message of Ezekiel is contained in: 10 **signs**; 6 **visions**; 6 **parables** or **allegories**; and various apocalyptic passages.
10. What significant persons were part of each of the first and second stages of the exile in Babylon?
Daniel and the three Hebrews were taken to Babylon as hostages in the first stage. Jehoiachin and Ezekiel were taken hostage in the second stage.
11. What year was Jerusalem and the temple destroyed and the third stage of the exile? (CN)
586 BC
12. To whom may we compare Ezekiel’s divine vision and a call to the prophetic ministry? (CN)
Isaiah
13. What is Ezekiel called to pronounce? (CN)
Ezekiel is called upon to pronounce doom on the nation of Judah.
14. Whose sins will Judah be held responsible for? (CN)
The people are being held responsible for their own sins.

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15. How is the “full circle of judgment” illustrated? (CN)

The full circle of judgment is illustrated by Ezekiel when he declares that it is not just Judah who will suffer judgment for unrighteousness, but the Gentile nations all around will be called into account.