

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Putting the Prophets in their Place (Part 2): Before, During, and After the Exile (27)

THE PROPHETS, THE BIBLE, AND TIME

Pre-Exilic Prophets

760-755 BC	Israel	Amos / Jonah / Hosea
722 BC	Israel is sent into exile by Assyria (2 Kings 17)	
742-740 BC	Judah	Micah / Isaiah
660-609 BC	Judah	Nahum / Zephaniah / Habbakkuk
???	Judah	<i>Obadiah & Joel</i>

Exilic Prophets

609, 597, 586 BC	Judah is sent into exile by Babylon (609: Neco of Egypt; 597, 586: Nebuchadnezzar)	
605-586 BC	Judah	Jeremiah / Daniel / Ezekiel
516 BC	Captives return to Jerusalem (Ezra, Nehemiah, cf Psalm 126)	

Post-Exilic Prophets

520 BC	Judah	Haggai / Zechariah
460 BC	Judah	Malachi

PRE-EXILIC PROPHETS: SEVENTH CENTURY

NAHUM (Nineveh)	Format Problem Judgment/ Mercy	Three chapters foretelling the destruction of Nineveh, Assyria The nation who destroyed Israel was haughty and ungodly (cf. Isa 10) Judgment against Nineveh/Assyria; Imagery of warfare fills Nahum (2:1-13) God will vindicate his people & restore them (2:2) ; He is worth trusting (1:7, 15) Message of comfort (<i>nhm</i>) to Israel; God's patience is not infinite (cf. Jonah)
ZEPHANIAH (Judah)	Problem Judgment/ Mercy	Idolatry (1:4-6) ; Trust in money (1:18) ; Stubborn people, corrupt leaders (3:1-4) Warning of imminent and total destruction (1:2- 4) ; economic ruin (1:10-18) Judgment against the nations (2:4-3:8) Calls people to repent (2:1-3) ; Shows how his grace exceeds judgment (3:14-20) Conversion of the nations (3:9-10) AND Judah (3:11-13)
HABAKKUK (Judah)	Format Problem Judgment/ Mercy	Running dialogue (a lament) between Habakkuk and YHWH The wickedness of Judah had become pervasive (1:2-4) God is raising up the Chaldeans (1:5-11) . Habakkuk wonders why? (1:12-17) God <i>uses</i> evil to complete his higher purposes (cf Isa 45:7; Lam 3:38; Amos 3:6) God will do right & destroy the wicked (2:6-20) who oppress the just (2:4) ; Habakkuk accepts the impending invasion (3:16) & gives praise to God (3:17-19)

EXILIC PROPHETS

JEREMIAH	The Call	Jeremiah is called to carry a message of judgment (1:9-10)
	Problem	This would provoke him to great emotions (15:10ff) and threaten his life (26:1ff) Idolatry (2:10-13; 10:1f), Spiritual adultery (2:20-25); Lying prophets (14:13-16) Covenant-breaking (11:9-17); A Deceitful Heart (17:9-10); Endless Sin (64:6)
	Judgment/ Hints of grace	Exile via Northern destroyers (4:5-7; 5:14-17); plucking up and destroying “I will not make a full end of you: (5:18); The promise of a New David (23:5)
	Mercy	God’s response to repentance (18:1ff); Salvation via exile (24:4-7; 29:1-14) God will destroy the nations’ idols (10:15); The New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34)
DANIEL	Genre	<i>Technically not a prophet, but one of the writings</i> Narrative + Apocalyptic: Dominion & authority in history (1-6) & future (7-12)
	Problem	The covenant people of God are under foreign rule – <i>people, place, rule</i>
	Judgment/ Mercy	Judgment on the nations = Comfort to the people of God Protection in Babylon (1-6); Son of Man (7:13-14); Resurrection (12:1-2)
EZEKIEL	Provenance	<i>Whereas Jeremiah writes from Jerusalem and Egypt, Ezekiel writes from Babylon</i> First seen is at the banks of the Chebar Canal, he sees the glory of the Lord (1:4ff)
	Problem	Glory left the temple (10:1ff); False prophets/shepherds condemned (13, 33); Idolatrous elders condemned (14)
	Judgment/ Mercy	Ezekiel commissioned to make odd/hard judgments (4:1-4; 4:5-17; 12; 24:15ff) Graphic language—useless vine (15), adulteress (16, 23), eagle and 2 vines (17) On Jerusalem (33:21-33) and on the Nations (25-32)
	Mercy	The Promise of a New Heart (11, 36) – <i>This mirrors the New Covenant (Jer 31)</i> New David to Shepherd Israel (34); Resurrection (37); and a New Temple (40-48)

POST-EXILIC PROPHETS

HAGGAI	Problem	People have failed to rebuild the temple (1:2-9)
	Judgment/ Mercy	God’s favor is withheld and the land suffers (1:10-11); Latter judgment (2:20-23) God stirred up the spirits of Zerubbabel and the people to lead and build (1:14) God is with the people (2:4-5), God promises a great future (2:6-9; cf Heb 12:26) <i>Obedience is always empowered by God’s grace in the form of his Spirit!</i>
	Genre	Futuristic Prophecies and Visions of the Night (8x); Collection of individual units
ZECHARIAH	Problem	World of oppression with a people who fight to keep covenant with God
	Judgment/ Mercy	1 st Half: 8 visions culminating in the coronation of Joshua (6:9-15) 2 nd Half: The rise of the king – <i>picturesque of Jesus Christ (9:9-17; 12:7-13:1)</i>
	Problem	Corrupted the covenant via polluted offerings (1:8-16); false priests (2:6-10); Divorce (2:13-16); stealing from God (3:8-11);
MALACHI	Judgment/ Mercy	God will curse those who worship falsely (2:1-3); The Day of the Lord (4:1-3), Before it arrives God will send Elijah the prophet to prepare the way (4:5-6)

SUMMARY

- (1) **God** is Merciful and Gracious, Holy and Wrathful (cf. **Exodus 34:6-7**)
- (2) **Sin and Covenant Breaking** demands YHWH’s Holy Judgment
- (3) **Judgment:** The Day of the Lord is coming! Exile is Imminent!
- (4) **Restoration / Redemption** is Promised through a New Exodus with a Divine/Davidic Messiah
- (5) **Repent** from your sins! **Return** to the Lord! You will be forgiven! (**Isa 1:18; cf. Hab 2:4**)

This is the Gospel, which makes the Prophets incredibly practical for our daily lives.