

He Gave Us Prophets

Essay Questions

LESSON
ONE

ESSENTIAL
HERMENEUTICAL
PERSPECTIVES



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

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3. What was the true mental state of the Old Testament prophets?
4. Contrast the two outlooks on prophetic inspiration mentioned in the lesson.

5. Describe the level of understanding that prophets had regarding their own prophecies.
6. Contrast the two approaches to exegesis mentioned in the lesson.

7. What are the two characteristics of proper exegesis?
8. How does popular exegesis hinder us as we seek to understand the original meaning of prophecy? How does proper exegesis help us?

9. How did Jesus and the apostles affirm the authority of Old Testament prophets?

10. How did Jesus and his followers apply Old Testament prophecies to events happening in their day?

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LESSON
TWO

A PROPHET'S JOB



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3. What were the characteristics of the prophet's job before the monarchy?

4. What were the characteristics of the prophet's job during the monarchy?

5. What were the characteristics of the prophet's job during the exile?

6. What were the characteristics of the prophet's job after the exile?

7. In what ways did prophecy become more or less prominent and formal as the institution of the monarchy rose and fell?
8. Describe two popular ways that interpreters of the Bible have thought about the job of the prophet. How have these ways of thinking impacted their understanding of prophecy?

9. What is the “covenant model” for understanding a prophet’s job? Why is this model more helpful than others?

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LESSON
THREE

THE PEOPLE OF THE
COVENANT



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3. Describe the central concerns and the prophets' dependence upon the covenant with Abraham.

4. Describe the central concerns and the prophets' dependence upon the covenant with Moses.

5. Describe the central concerns and the prophets' dependence upon the covenant with David.
6. How were the Old Testament prophets influenced by the new covenant?

7. Describe the category of those who were outside the covenant community.

8. Describe the category of those who were within the visible covenant community.

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LESSON
FOUR

DYNAMICS OF THE
COVENANT



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3. Summarize the common types of covenant judgment.

4. Describe the three step-process of judgment.

5. What role did the prophets play in this system of judgment?

6. Describe the two main types of covenant blessing.

7. Explain the three-step process of blessing.

8. What role did the prophets play in this system of blessing?

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LESSON
FIVE

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF PROPHECY



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3. Describe the major events of the Assyrian judgment.

4. What characterized the prophetic ministry during the Assyrian judgment?

5. Describe the major events of the Babylonian judgment.

6. What characterized the prophetic ministry during the Babylonian judgment?

7. Describe the major events that took place during the restoration period.
8. What characterized the prophetic ministries during the restoration period?

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LESSON
SIX

LITERARY ANALYSIS OF THE PROPHETS



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3. How are historical narratives used within Old Testament prophetic writings?

4. What do prayers of lament look like, and how did the prophets use them?

5. What do prayers of praise look like, and how did the prophets use them?

6. What do speeches of judgment look like, and how did the prophets use them?

7. What do speeches of blessing look like, and how did the prophets use them?

8. What are mixed speeches, and how did the prophets use them?

9. In general, why did prophets prophesy?

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LESSON
SEVEN

THE PURPOSE OF PREDICTIONS



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3. How are God's immutability and providence compatible expressions of God's sovereignty?

4. How are predictions affected by historical contingencies?

9. What reactions did Old Testament prophets hope to inspire in their original audiences?

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LESSON
EIGHT

UNFOLDING
ESCHATOLOGY



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3. In what ways was the early prophets' eschatology similar to Moses' eschatology?

4. In what ways did the early prophets add to Moses' eschatology?

5. What was Jeremiah's expectation regarding the length of the exile, and how was this fulfilled?

6. What prophetic insight did Daniel give regarding the exile and restoration?

11. How does the New Testament handle the theme of restoration in the three stages of the kingdom?