

God's Big Picture

An overview of the Bible in eight week

Part 5: The Prophesied Kingdom

Q. What is a prophet?

1. God's Mouthpiece: Exodus 4:16, 2 Peter 1:21, Jeremiah 1:4
2. Covenant Enforcers: Moses: the model, Elijah and Elisha, The writing prophets

Northern Kingdom- 8 th . Century BC	Amos and Hosea
Southern Kingdom- 8 th Century	Isaiah and Micah
7 th Century	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
6 th Century	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

2 Key Themes of the Prophets based on God's covenants

Judgment

Forthtellers as well as foretellers- prophets warn of promised judgement

<i>The example of Amos</i>	
Judgment on the nations	1:2-2:3
Judgment on Judah	2:4-5
Judgment on Israel	2:6ff

Hope

God's covenant promises were *both* conditional- the promised blessing and threatened judgement based on obedience to the covenant commands- *and* unconditional. Despite the reality of sin God promised never to forsake his people but to save them, unconditionally, even in the face of their sin.

Genesis 12:1-3 –

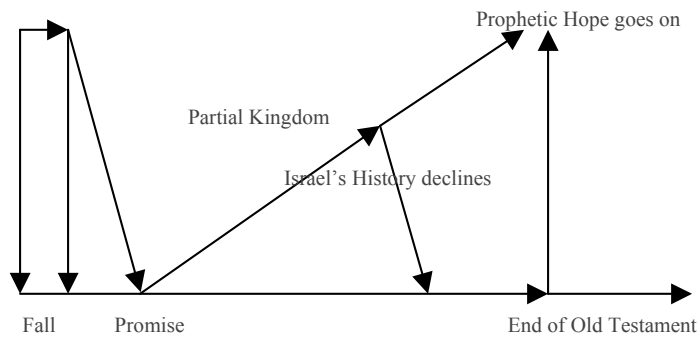
The prophets therefore proclaim judgment on sin, and yet they also declare the confident hope of a new exodus to come, a new covenant, a new Jerusalem, a new Temple, a new King, a new High Priest, even eventually a new creation.

Hope for:

God's People	Remnant of Israel(Isa.10:20-21), Inclusion of nations (Isa. 49:6)
God's Place	New Temple (Ezek. 40-48), New Creation (65:17-18)
God's Rule and Blessing	New Covenant (Jer. 31:31) New King (Isa. 9:6-7; Dan 7:13-14; Ps 110;

In 538 BC the exiles return, the prophesies about a future return after Judgement were fulfilled. Ezra and Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem and restored Israel. But the promises were only partially fulfilled. The King did not come. The New Covenant did not arrive. The new Creation did not dawn. The later prophets- Haggai, Zexhariah and Malachi continued to warn and promise hope for God's people.

How the Old Testament ends



Read Hosea 1-3

What are the different stages in the relationship between Hosea and Gomer?

How does their marriage mirror the relationship between God and his people?

What does this teach us about the people's sin?

How will God judge them? What hope is there?

What echoes are there, in this hope, of the promises to Abraham and David?

What do we learn about God, and what do we learn about ourselves from this passage?

How should our lives change in the light of what we have learned?

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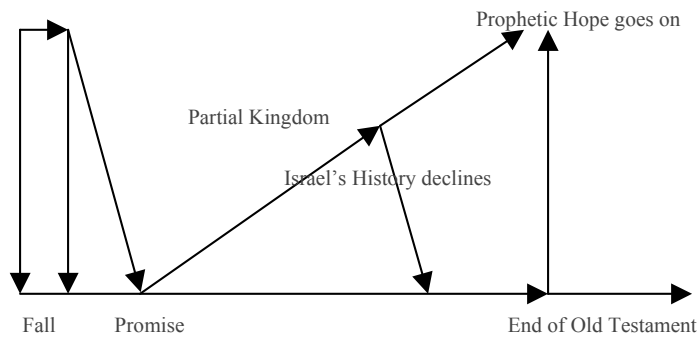
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