

PROPHETS

Listen to God ...



Tell the people ...

and show a new way.

While prophets are different, they share common characteristics:

✓ CALLED

God calls people to be prophets, often overcoming a challenge that would otherwise limit them. For example, Moses had a speech impediment.

✓ PARTICULAR TIME AND PLACE

Prophets respond to particular events and a particular moment in history. Many of the Hebrew prophets were tied to major events like the Assyrian invasion or the Babylonian exile.

✓ MESSAGE

Prophets have a unique message to share with the people. The message can be about:

- Expectations: People failing to uphold the law or meet God's standards
- Exile or Destruction: A warning of the coming exile or catastrophe
- Hope: The promise of return or a vision of God's ultimate plan for reconciliation

✓ ETERNAL

Prophets' words both speak to a particular context and act as a guide for readers today.

Hebrew Prophets

The First Prophet Abraham

God referred to Abraham as a prophet.

"For he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live." Genesis 20:7



A Prophet like No Other Moses

Moses is understood to be the greatest prophet in Hebrew Scriptures. His story exemplifies the prophet's work and journey.



"Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face." Deuteronomy 34:10

Miriam
Moses' sister was also considered a prophet.



Prophets in the Story

There are many prophets named in the Hebrew Scriptures. Some held multiple roles and were both judges and prophets. Throughout the reign of the kings, prophets arose to call them and the people back to faithfulness.



Major and Minor Prophets "Thus says the LORD"

These prophets are not "major" and "minor" regarding their importance but because of the size of the book named for them and their prophetic tradition.

Look for the phrase "Thus says the LORD," introducing God's message. These prophets not only spoke but also acted, such as buying land to sleeping with lions. The prophetic books include both speeches and recorded actions.

Major Prophets	Isaiah	Jeremiah	Lamentations	Ezekiel	Daniel
Minor Prophets	Hosea	Obadiah	Nahum	Haggai	
	Josiah	Jonah	Habakkuk	Zachariah	
	Amos	Micah	Zephaniah	Malachi	

- Northern
- Southern
- Babylonian Exile and Return

Prophets in the New Testament



Jesus

Jesus was called a prophet (as well as priest and king).



Paul



Anna



Philip's daughters



Silas

Early church leaders
Some had the gift of prophecy.

Prophets Today

The prophetic work continues when we ...



listen to and for God



model a more faithful way to live



remember and share God's promises



challenge unjust actions, behaviors, and institutions