

November 1, 2020 Terms

Prophecy – A prediction; A prophecy is a message that is claimed by a prophet to have been communicated to them by God; the ability to predict.

Isaiah – A prophet in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. His name meant “God has saved”. Isaiah became a man of action, fearless and frank (honest), after he received his call from God to be a prophet. He was the first of the major prophets. Isaiah preached a message of social justice, faith in God, rewards for the obedient, and judgment on the unfaithful. His ministry lasted about 40 years.

Book of Isaiah – the 1st book of the major prophets in the OT (Old Testament). The book contains the writings and prophecies of Isaiah (chapters 1-39) and of his followers (chapters 40-66). These are set in poetic form. One of the most important things emphasized in the book is the holiness of God.

November 8, 2020

Proverbs – Book of Proverbs; the 20th book of the OT (Old Testament). It belongs to the division of writing called “wisdom literature”. The book is made up of brief, wise sayings that give advice on how to live a good and happy life. These sayings were probably written and collected during the 4th and 5th centuries BC. King Solomon composed some of the proverbs.

Solomon - Son of David and Israel’s 3rd king (965-931 BC). He was famous far and wide for his wisdom that was given to him by God. Solomon created a strong central government and undertook an extensive building program. He built the Temple in Jerusalem, created a large army, developed a navy, and increased Israel’s trade with foreign countries. He taxed the people to support his luxurious court and used forced labor for his building projects. This eventually led to revolt in Israel. He permitted his many foreign wives to worship other gods in Jerusalem.

November 15 and 22, 2020

Psalms – The Book of Psalms; the 19th book of the OT (Old Testament). It is a collection of poems, prayers, and hymns for use in public and private worship. The 150 psalms were collected over a long period of time. The psalms speak of all the experiences of life: joy and sorrow, sin and suffering, and evil and righteousness. They also relate the story of the Israelite nation. The meanings of all the titles are not clear to us today. They may possibly contain directions for the musical performance of these pieces. Jesus often quoted from the psalms.

November 29, 2020

Jeremiah – One of the major OT (Old Testament) prophets who lived in the last years before the Babylonians defeated Judah and destroyed Jerusalem. Jeremiah spoke to his own people throughout the reigns of five different kings. He denounced the people of Judah for their neglect of the true service of God, for their injustices to one another, and for their worship of idols. He urged the people of Judah to repent and return to God. They would not listen and the prophet was even punished for his efforts. As Jeremiah had foretold, Jerusalem was taken by the Babylonians in 586 BC, and the people were sent into exile. Although Jeremiah is often remembered as a sorrowful and gloomy prophet, he also offered words of hope and comfort to Israel.

Prophet – In the Bible, this term refers to a spokesperson for God, one who was inspired to speak God’s message. The prophet saw God at work in all things, even the misfortunes of Israel, and cited specific events to proclaim God’s will and purpose. Prophecies were often written in poetry, parables, or stories. The books of the minor and major prophets are found in the OT (Old Testament).