

A LIVING FAITH CLASSROOM LESSON about The PROPHET

This school year we have concentrated on stories from books in the **Old Testament** of the Bible. There are 39 books in the Old Testament, and so far, we have discussed the books of: [Genesis](#), [Exodus](#), [Joshua](#), [1 Samuel](#), [2 Samuel](#), and [Kings](#).

Today, our lesson will focus on a group of 5 books in the Old Testament known as the **MAJOR PROPHETS**. (Simply put, the difference between the major prophets and the minor prophets is the length of their books. The major prophets have long books, while the **minor prophets** have shorter ones.) The prophet is traditionally regarded as the author of the respective book. The books of the **Prophets**, in order of their occurrence in the Old Testament, are:

1. Book of Isaiah
2. Book of Jeremiah
3. Book of Lamentations
4. Book of Ezekiel
5. Book of Daniel

A prophet is someone who declares a message for God. Some of the prophets of the Bible revealed things that would happen in the future but it's important to understand those prophets did not predict the future, they simply shared what God had revealed to them about the days to come. Other prophets reminded God's people of his instructions for living or offered them hope for the future. God's messengers shared many messages but their words always pointed to God and His love.

The Bible describes the biblical prophet as:

- **A Man of God** - Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Did I not indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in bondage to Pharaoh's house?'" (1Samuel 2:27)
- **A Servant and Messenger of the Lord** - Who is blind but my servant, Or so deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with me, or so blind as the servant of the Lord? (Isaiah 42:19)
- **A Seer** - Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions;" and to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, speak to us pleasant words, prophesy illusions" (Isaiah 30:10)
- **A Man of the Spirit** - The days of punishment are coming the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac (Hosea 9:7)
- **A Watchman for the People** - Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me (Ezekiel 3:17)

Each of the Old Testament Prophets tells stories that are important and useful:

1. **Book of Isaiah** - Isaiah makes prophecies about Jesus and had visions of God.
2. **Book of Jeremiah** - We learn from Jeremiah to trust and pursue God even when everyone else is against you.
3. **Book of Lamentations** - Consists of 5 poems, which tell of overcoming misery, hope for the people of God, sin, repentance, and recovery of people. It teaches God's people that disobedience to the Lord results in immense suffering and distress.
4. **Book of Ezekiel** - A "Man of Visions." God reveals His future plans for Israel and the world by sending Ezekiel a vision of returning the Jews to their own land. A message of hope from God.
5. **Book of Daniel** - Life, Hope, and Truth; God will continue to work His plans when all seems lost.

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Genesis (8 Sundays)
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. Kings
12. Kings
13. Chronicles
14. Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah - **PROPHET**
24. Jeremiah - **PROPHET**
25. Lamentations - **PROPHET**
26. Ezekiel - **PROPHET**
27. Daniel - **PROPHET**
28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi
40. Tobit
41. Judith
42. 1 Esdras
43. Wisdom of Solomon
44. Wisdom of Sirach
45. Baruch
46. 1 Maccabees
47. 2 Maccabees
48. 3 Maccabees