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**Preaching The Prophets**

- When you think of the messages you've heard preached, what percentage comes from the Prophets?
  - The 17 books of the Old Testament prophets account for 25% of our 66 Biblical books.
  - By word count (in original languages) they account for 20% of the Bible.



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**Preaching The Prophets**

- The prophets ministered in times of:
  - Political intrigue
  - National uncertainty
  - Unrestrained materialism
  - Rampant selfishness
  - Moral indifference
  - Social injustice



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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Three Reasons To Preach The Prophets:**

- Their message reverberates with our own society.
- The fulfilled prophecies give us assurance of God's Sovereignty and Jesus as Messiah.
- Their unfulfilled prophecies proclaim the future glory of Messiah Jesus.




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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Three Specific Terms For Prophets:**

**נביא NABIY**

The vast majority of times (over 300), this Hebrew word is used for these men. The primary meaning of the word is to speak, especially as a spokesman on behalf of another.




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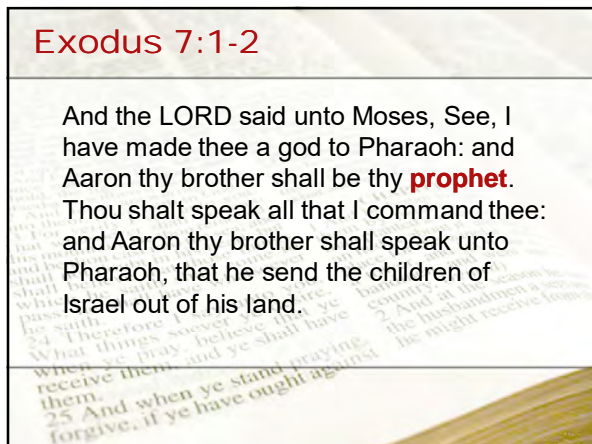
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**Exodus 7:1-2**

And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy **prophet**. Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.




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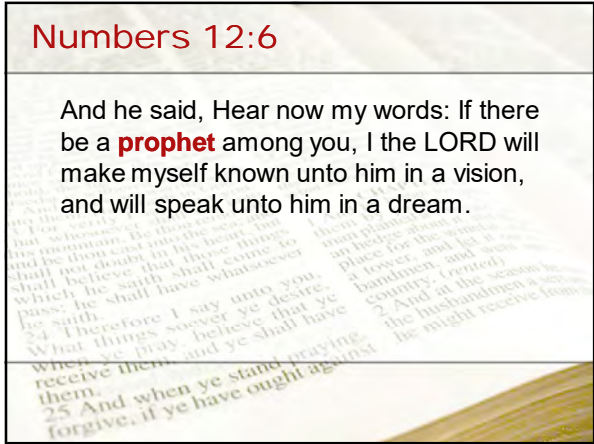
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**Numbers 12:6**

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a **prophet** among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.




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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Three Specific Terms For Prophets:**

**ראה RA'AH**

is a common word for sight, the meaning of which leans toward the idea of inspecting or considering.




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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Three Specific Terms For Prophets:**

**חזה CHOZEH**

is a less common word used to describe sight, with the idea of perception and/or understanding.




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**1 Samuel 9:9**

Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the **SEER** (RA'AH): for he that is now called a **PROPHET** (NABIY) was beforetime called a Seer.

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**1 Chronicles 29:29**

Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the **SEER** (RA'AH), and in the book of Nathan the **PROPHET** (NABIY), and in the book of Gad the **SEER** (CHOZEH).

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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Two Generic Terms For Prophets:**

“Man of God”  
1 Chronicles 23:14; 1 Kings 12:22; 2 Kings 6-8; et al

“Servant of the Lord”  
1 Kings 14:18; 2 Kings 9:7; et al




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**1 Timothy 6:11**  
But thou, **O man of God**, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

**2 Timothy 2:24**  
And **the servant of the Lord** must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

**2 Timothy 3:17**  
That the **man of God** may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Preach Them Contextually**

- Setting
  - 1) **Pre-exilic Israel:** Jonah, Joel, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah
  - 2) **Pre-exilic Judah:** Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah
  - 3) **Exilic:** Daniel, Obadiah, Ezekiel
  - 4) **Post-exilic:** Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi



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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Preach Them Contextually**

- Each writer is unique:
  - Hebrews 1:1
  - Isaiah walked around naked 3 years as a symbol of humiliation of coming exile
  - Ezekiel in captivity built a little model of Jerusalem and laid siege to it
  - Jonah gets swallowed by a great fish and then goes and preaches to Nineveh smelling like fish
  - Hosea had to marry a prostitute who constantly left him



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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Preach Them Connectively**

- Connected to other prophets
  - Sometimes these prophets are contemporaries of one another and it is especially interesting how God uses different methods for the same message.
  - Example: Haggai and Zechariah



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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Preach Them Connectively**

- Connected to Deuteronomy 28-30
  - These chapters of Moses' final message lay out in clear details the covenant God made with His people Israel.
  - The prophets are continually hearkening back to Deuteronomy 28-30.



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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Preach Them Connectively**

- Connected to the New Testament witness
  - When an inspired New Testament writer quotes a prophet, he has the authority to interpret that passage. The Bible acts as its own commentary.



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### Matthew 2:14-15

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

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### Luke 4:17-19

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written:  
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

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### Isaiah 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, **and the day of vengeance of our God;** to comfort all that mourn;

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**Preaching The Prophets**

**Preach Them Christologically**

- The prophets promise:
  - reuniting of Israel and Judah
  - a new covenant of changed hearts
  - a righteous, healing sunrise
  - light to enlighten the Gentiles
  - a return of social and moral obedience
  - a suffering servant of God who bears our sins
  - a king coming in glory
  - the great and terrible day of the Lord



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**Acts 3:17-26**

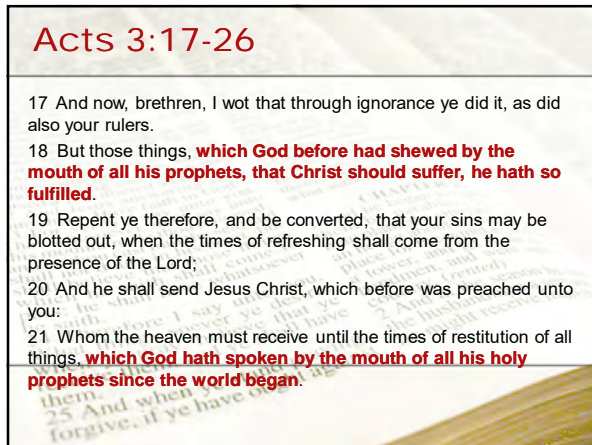
17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

18 But those things, **which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.**

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, **which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.**



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**Acts 3:17-26**

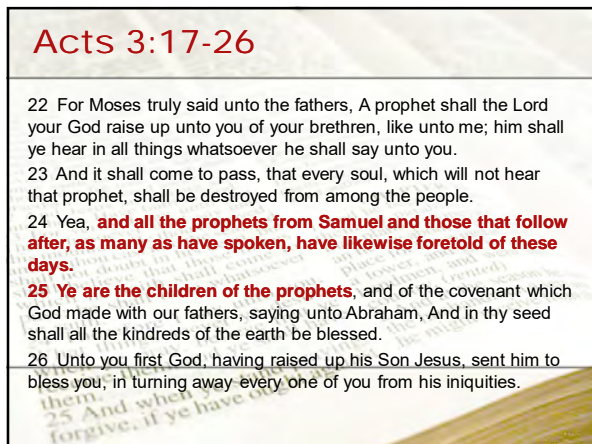
22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

24 Yea, **and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.**

25 **Ye are the children of the prophets,** and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.



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