

Reading the Prophets in the 21st Century

Understanding and Applying
the Message of the Prophets

Reading the Prophets

- ◉ The Prophet's Job Description
- ◉ Understanding and Applying the Message of the Prophets
- ◉ The Prophet's Core Message

Job Description of a Prophet

- ◉ What a Prophet is NOT
 - Does not lead people away from God
 - Is not defined essentially by ability to do signs and wonders
 - Does not seek to manipulate events, people, or God
 - Does not go around God by seeking guidance or revelation some other way
 - Is not defined essentially by ability to predict future

Job Description of a Prophet

- ◉ What a Prophet IS
 - Seer and Prophet
 - Called by God
 - Faithfully represents God to the people
 - Declaring his message
 - Living in obedience to the covenant
 - Faithfully represents the people to God
 - Interceding on their behalf
 - Repenting of the nations' sins
 - Praying for God's mercy and restoration

Understanding and Applying the Prophets

- Bridging the Gaps
- Building a Bridge
 - Understanding the Message
- Crossing the Bridge
 - Applying the Message

Bridging the Gaps

- ◉ Historical Gap
- ◉ Cultural Gap
- ◉ Geographical Gap
- ◉ Language Gap
- ◉ Literary Gap

Building a Bridge

- ◉ Remember the Role of the Prophet
 - Representative of God
 - Covenant Mediator and Enforcer
 - Forthtelling and Foretelling

Building a Bridge

- ◉ Pay Attention to Genre and Subgenres
 - Announcements of Judgment
 - Salvation Oracles
 - Instructional Accounts
 - Miscellaneous

Building a Bridge

- Understand the Nature of Predictive Prophecy
 - Telescoping
 - Two Eras of Fulfillment
 - Conditional Fulfillment
 - Dual or Typological Fulfillment

Crossing the Bridge

- Mistakes to Avoid in Application
- Four Steps to Proper Application
 - Determine Original Application
 - Evaluate Specificity or Limitations on Original Application
 - Identify Cross-cultural Principles
 - Find Appropriate Modern Applications that Embody those Principles.

The Prophet's Core Message

- ◉ Varies by Time, Circumstance, and Audience
- ◉ Essentially, exhorting the people to remain faithful to the LORD and his covenant
 - Call to Repentance
 - Warning of Judgment
 - Messages of Hope and Restoration in the midst of Judgment

The Prophet's Core Message

- ◉ Common Covenant Violations
 - Idolatry/False Worship
 - Social Injustice
 - Religious Ritualism