

Intro to the Prophetic Books

What is Prophecy?

- How do the examples from the Torah and Historical Books set the pattern for the writing prophets? How are they similar?
- Why were prophets necessary in ancient Israel?
- What function did the prophets serve? How did they do this? What was the typical formula that exemplifies this function?
- How is the prophetic function related to the prophetic call?
- Describe the general activity of the prophets in your own words. What are the two main parts of this activity? What does this teach us about the nature of the prophetic books? How should we respond?
- What are the various ways the prophets communicated their message? What does this tell us about the nature of the prophetic books? What difference does this make?

Typical Themes of Prophets

- What did the prophets say about the covenant? Why did they typically say this? What action did they recommend in reference to the covenant? Why does this matter?
- Explain what it means that the prophets were reformers, not innovators? What does this teach us about their general message? How is this related to earlier revelation?
- What are the two general forms of prophetic oracles? What is the purpose and general message of each form? How should we respond to each?
- How does the promise of salvation go beyond restoration of prosperity to Israelite life? What is the significance of this?

The Times of Prophecy

- What are the three general time periods when the writing prophets were most active? What was happening in each period that was the occasion for God's message? Which prophets worked in each period? What was their general message? What difference does this make?
- What is meant by "400 years of silence"? How did that silence end? What is the significance of this?

God's General Message

- Describe God's message to each period in your own words. Why do you think God spoke those general messages to those periods? What would be the proper response to each message at that time? How should we respond today?

The Prophetic Books

- What books are contained in the Major prophets? What books are contained in the minor prophets?