

The Hebrew Prophets

The Big Picture

I. Better to Pay Attention

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: **It will not return to me empty**, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

John 13:18-22 (NIV)

¹⁸ "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. **But this is to fulfill the scripture:** 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' ¹⁹ "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. ²¹ After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." ²² His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

2 Peter 1:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to . . .

Acts 26:27-29 (NIV)

²⁷ **King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.**" ²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?" ²⁹ Paul replied, "Short time or long--I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."

A Timeline

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|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Creation | 5. Monarchy | 9. Second Temple |
| 2. Abraham | 6. Nation Divided | 10. Gospels |
| 3. Exodus | 7. Prophets | 11. The Church |
| 4. Judges | 8. Exile | 12. Jesus' Return |

II. The History Books

12 historical books ----Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel,
I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah

A. Nation Divided (the Divided Monarchy)

1. Israel (Northern Kingdom) ---Samaria
2. Judah (Southern Kingdom) ---Jerusalem

. . . 2 stories told in parallel

1 Kings 15:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, **Asa became king of Judah, ¹⁰ and he reigned in Jerusalem** forty-one years.

1 Kings 15:25-26 (NIV)

²⁵ **Nadab son of Jeroboam became king of Israel** in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. ²⁶ He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, walking in the ways of his father and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

B. Rebellion

1. Ungodly momentum

1 Kings 12:26-30 (NIV)

²⁶ Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. ²⁷ If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam." ²⁸ After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." ²⁹ One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. ³⁰ And this thing became a sin; the people went even as far as Dan to worship the one there.

1 Samuel 15:23 (NIV)

²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

2. Power of God's people (God listens to His people)

Exodus 3:7 (NIV)

⁷ The Lord said, "I have indeed seen **the misery of my people** in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

1 Kings 18:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ **Elijah went before the people** and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." **But the people said nothing.**

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Prayer

Almighty God I need your direction in my life. Grant me an awareness of your Spirit. I choose your truth and turn away from any rebellious attitudes. May your word come alive within my heart. Illumine the path before me that I may be pleasing in your sight. I rejoice in your great love and mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.