

PROPHETIC THEMES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

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INTRODUCTION:

In this lesson we will discuss both spiritual and practical themes of the writing prophets.

A. The Divine definition of a prophet is seen in Ex. 4:16, 7:1; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21.

B. Though times and customs change, men do not; therefore, the message of the prophets is relevant to any day.

BODY:

I. The Theme of Redemption.

A. The proper use of prophecy is learned by looking at the New Testament use of it.

1. Jesus claimed that he fulfilled prophecy (Lk. 24:24-27, 44-47).

2. Peter affirmed that Jesus died in fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 3:18, 19, 24-26, 1 Pet. 1:10-12).

3. Paul preached only what the prophets had predicted (Acts 26:22, 23).

B. Several themes could be developed that pertain to redemption.

1. The King of redemption (Isa. 7:14; 9:6, 7; Jer. 23:5, 6; 22:28-30; Zech. 6:12, 13; Ezek. 37:22-28).

2. The Kingdom of redemption (Dan. 2, 7, 8; Micah 4; Isa. 11).
3. The Law of redemption (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-13).
4. One passage will show these to be fulfilled (Heb. 12:22-28).

II. The Day of the Lord.

- A. The “day of Jehovah” is mentioned in thirteen of the prophets. It is the theme of Joel (see 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14).
- B. Amos announced the same “day” to Israel (5:18-24).
- C. Other prophets: Isa. 13:6-9; Jer. 46:10; Obadiah 15.
- D. The judgments were brought through natural calamity (Joel 1, 2) or through invasion of enemies (Isa. 13:6-13).
- E. New Testament applications:
 1. Peter quoted Joel 2, which was fulfilled in the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. (Acts 2). Jesus used similar language in talking about the same thing. (Matt. 24:29-31).
 2. The second coming will also be a day of deliverance for the righteous and destruction for the wicked (2 Pet. 3:8-13; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

III. The Theme of Authority.

- A. The prophets did not reveal new laws, but tried to restore the ancient order (Isa. 1:10; 5:24; Jer. 6:16, 19; 11:1–4; Hos. 4:6; Zeph. 3:1–4; Mal. 2:8, 9).
- B. They also predicted a “new covenant” (Isa. 2:3; Jer. 31:31–34; Heb. 7:22; 8:8–13; 9:15–18).

IV. The God of Love.

- A. Men have contended that the God of the Old Testament was not a God of love.
- B. Isaiah used figures to show God’s love: husbandman (5:3), shepherd (40:11), husband (54:5–10), mother (66:13), father (63:16; 64:8).
- C. Hosea’s experience demonstrated God’s love for Israel.
- D. Jonah’s experience showed God’s love for the heathen.

V. Acceptable Worship.

- A. Outward ceremony without righteousness of life is an insult to God (Isa. 1:11–17; Amos 5:21–24; Mal. 1:6–13).
- B. Such hypocrisy did not die with the Law.¹

¹ Jamerson, F. J. (1978). [Prophetic Themes of the Old Testament](#). In Bible Faculty of the Florida College (Ed.), *Things Written Aforetime* (pp. 163–164). Temple Terrace, FL: Florida College Bookstore.