

The FORMER PROPHETS

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The Former Prophets refer to the books of 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Samuel, Judges, and Joshua.¹ The six books narrate how God guided the children of Israel, from the acquisition of the Promised Land to the destruction of Jerusalem.² Christians in the 21st century can learn a lot from both good and bad examples of people in these books.³ Former Prophets provide a vision for the people of God faithfully living out the holy love of God. The books include examples of what should and should not be done. That being the case, this proposed research paper analyzes the *Neviim (Prophets)* of the Jewish cannon, and particularly pays more attention to the Former Prophets and their significance to the world in the 21st century.

The Former Prophets adhere to the theological theme set in Deuteronomy.⁴ The six books use the Israel's past to warn people against disobedience.⁵ At the same time, Former Prophets invite the 21st century world to a faithful obedience world to enjoy life with God. The children of Israel were liberated from Egypt by the Lord. God wanted them to be free and holy to serve Him. Therefore, Former Prophets provide theological and commentary interpretations of history to the generation in the 21st century. The six books offer a prophetic analysis about the history of

11. Unger Merrill, *The New Unger's Bible Handbook* (Chicago, Illinois: Moody Publishers, 2005), 4.

22. *Ibid.*, 5

3Blackaby, Henry T., Richard Blackaby, and Claude V. King. *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* (Nashville, Tenn. B&H Publishing Group, 2008).

4 Auld, A. Graeme. "The Deuteronomists and the Former Prophets, or What Makes the Former Prophets Deuteronomistic?" *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series* (1999): 116-126.

5 Mann, Thomas W. *The Book of the Former Prophets* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011), 5.

Judah and Israel.⁶ From the theological theme throughout the Former Prophets, it is evident that people in the 21st century would be successful if they only worship God.⁷ If people serve and worship other gods, God will either withdraw his presence from them or punish them for forsaking Him.⁸

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Research Outline

The final research paper will be organized in accordance with the following outline.

1. Introduction

- i. The general area being studied is described.
- ii. Explanation of why the area under this study is important to the world in the 21st century.
- iii. Purpose statement.

2. Background Information

- i. Background information on former prophets is summarized.
- ii. Additional information regarding the body of work will be retrieved from websites, textbooks, the Bible, and class.
- iii. The purpose statement being pursued in the research proposal will be specified.

3. Rationale

- i. Specific questions being explored will be listed.
- ii. There will be an explanation of how those research questions relate to the purpose statement stipulated in the introduction.
- iii. Describe all the books associated with Former Prophets.

⁶ Christoffersen, Lisbet. *Religion in the 21st Century: Challenges and Transformations* (Farnham: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2010), 89.

⁷ Amurawaiye, Emmanuel. *In Search of Evidence: Why We Need to Rethink God and Religion in the 21st Century* (Friesen Press, 2013), 12.

⁸ Anthony, Michael J., and Warren S. Benson. *Exploring the History and Philosophy of Christian Education: Principles for the 21st Century* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011), 15.

5. Significance and Conclusion

A general discussion of how the proposed research topic is important to the world in the 21st century. I will also discuss how my research proposal would improve the initial studies done in the field of *Neviim* (Prophets), particularly on Former Prophets.

6. Bibliography

All the references will be included in Turabian style (8th Edition). I will have at least 7 sources.

Bibliography

- Amurawaiye, Emmanuel. *In Search of Evidence: Why We Need to Rethink God and Religion in the 21st Century*. Friesen Press, 2013.
- Anthony, Michael J., and Warren S. Benson. *Exploring the History and Philosophy of Christian Education: Principles for the 21st Century*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011.
- Auld, A. Graeme. "The Deuteronomists and the Former Prophets, or What Makes the Former Prophets Deuteronomistic?." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series* (1999): 116-126.
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- Unger, Merrill F. *The New Unger's Bible Handbook*. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Publishers, 2005.