

- I read for two hours
- I read 100% of the assigned reading carefully and took notes from it
- I watched all of the videos

The message of the prophetic books is set within the context of God's covenant with the nation of Israel. More than simple future-telling, the prophets spoke to their contemporaries. The prophetic message covered a range of themes including: indictment, judgement, instruction, and hope.

The book of Isaiah demonstrates the trustworthiness of Yahweh to his covenant promises, teased out through the polar-opposite reigns of king Ahaz (rejection) and king Hezekiah (trust). Jeremiah, recorded for the post-exilic community, vindicates God's judgement while also looking forward to a new covenant community. The grief-filled poems of Lamentations uphold God's divine justice and call the exiled community to repentance. The message of Ezekiel records the prophet's three phases of ministry which present a unified defense of God's divine rule. Daniel establishes God's sovereignty over the exiled remnant in Babylon and on more cosmic scale. Hosea dramatically calls for covenant faithfulness, holding in tension the ideas of judgement and mercy. Joel brings a challenge to repentance centered around the fearful "day of the Lord".

An important takeaway from this week's study was the two-fold nature of prophecy. Prophecy contains both a word for the immediate audience and future fulfillment(s). The Old Testament authors kept the former meaning in view, the New Testament authors the latter.

Two questions for future study: first, Isaiah 6:1. Each prophetic message was given first to the immediate audience. I would like to explore the significance of King Uzziah's death and why the author thought it important to include. Second, Isaiah 45. Cyrus is referred to as God's

anointed—a messianic title. How would the New Testament authors have received this reference? Is it possible to find future fulfillment?