

## NT 615 - 5-3-1 – Fee & Stuart, Ch 10

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### Questions:

1. What are the four roles or functions of the prophet in Israel?
2. What three resources help one understand prophetic books?
3. What is helpful to understand the specific historical context of a prophetic oracle?
4. What are the prophets' five most common forms of oracles?
5. What is "sensus plenior"?

### Answers:

1. The four roles or functions of the prophet in Israel are (1) the prophets were covenant enforcement mediators, (2) the prophets' message was not their own, but God's, (3) the prophets were God's direct representatives, and (4) the prophets' message is not original.
2. Three resources that are helpful to understand prophecies are the (1) Bible dictionary, (2) commentaries, and (3) Bible handbooks.
3. To comprehend a prophetic oracle, it helps to know the (1) date, (2) audience, and (3) situation.
4. The prophets' five most common forms of oracles are (1) the lawsuit, (2) the woe, (3) the promise, (4) the enactment prophecy, and (5) the messenger speech.
5. "Sensus plenior" is a Latin phrase that means "fuller sense" or "fuller meaning". It is used in Biblical exegesis to describe the supposed deeper meaning intended by God but not by the human author.

### Terms:

1. Illumination: insight to understand what the Scriptures' authors wrote
2. Orthodoxy: correct belief
3. Orthopraxy: correct living

### Summary:

Prophetic books are difficult to interpret due to their function and form. Their functions were to be God's spokespersons, who primarily spoke on the covenant as enforcement mediators. To understand prophetic books, one must understand the larger and specific historical context using Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and Bible handbooks. The prophets used various forms to get their message across, including the lawsuit, woe, promise, enactment prophecy, and messenger speech. Though God inspired the New Testament writers with *sensus plenior* (or secondary meaning), we cannot rewrite or redefine Scripture by our illumination. The prophetic books help to see God's determination to enforce his covenant, which should lead us to good orthodoxy (correct belief) and orthopraxy (correct practice).