

Major Messages of the Old Testament Prophets

Introduction:

- A. From approximately 760-460 BC, 16 men served God and his people as O.T. prophets.
- B. Though times and circumstances were different, several major messages can be seen throughout.

I. The prophets asserted that God was speaking _____ them (2 Pet 1:21).

- A. Repeatedly identifying their source — “Thus says the LORD” (350) + “declares the LORD” (343).
- B. They declared God’s will in two basic ways:
 - 1. _____ — in oral (*Jer 7:1-11*) and written (*Jer 36:1-10*) forms.
 - 2. _____ — performing acts that demonstrated God’s purposes (*Isa 20:1-6; Hos 1-3*).

II. The prophets affirmed that God had chosen _____ for covenant relationship.

- A. *Genesis* records God’s choosing of Abraham as an avenue of blessing for all nations (*12:1-3*).
- B. Through Moses in *Exodus-Deuteronomy*, God instituted and defined his covenant with Israel.
- C. The prophets addressed Israel’s special responsibilities based on this relationship (*Ezek 16:1-14*).

III. The prophets repeatedly reported that the majority of Israel had _____ their relationship.

- A. They failed to trust God. They broke the Ten Commandments. They worshiped other gods. They mistreated one another and failed to preserve justice. They refused to repent (*Jer 6:9-15*).
- B. *Ezekiel 16:15-34* provides graphic insight into how God felt about Israel’s unfaithfulness.

IV. The prophets warned that _____ was coming.

- A. In various contexts, they reference “the ____ of the LORD” (*Isa 2:12-22; Joel 2:1-11; Zeph 1:7-18*).
- B. The LORD’s _____ and _____ were “poured out” on these “days” (*Jer 42:18*).

V. The prophets promised that _____ lies beyond the day of punishment.

- A. Some of their promises would be fulfilled in a matter of years or decades (*Jer 29:10-14*).
- B. The most glorious promises revolved around a coming _____ (*Isa 9:2-7; 11:1-16; 52:13-53:12; Dan 7:9-14; Jer 31:31-40; Ezek 34:25-31; 36:22-32; Isa 65:17-25; 66:18-24; Zeph 3:8-20*).

Conclusion: You will “*do well to pay attention*” to the prophetic word (*2 Pet 1:16-21; 3:1-15*).