

How to Study the Bible Session 4: Prophets and Writings

Nevi'im (Prophets)

1. Ask when reading the prophets:
 - a. Where? (Israel or Judah?)
 - b. When? (Before, during, or after exile?)
 - c. Message? (Judgment or consolation? Why?)
 - d. Techniques?

2. Northern writing prophets
 - a. Amos and Hosea
 - b. Before 8th-century Assyrian conquest
 - c. Judgment for idolatry and social injustice
 - d. Hosea's enacted prophecy
 - e. Amos 2:6-16**

3. Southern prophets
 - a. Before the rise of Babylon: Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah
 - b. Impending exile to Babylon: Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations

- c. Exile: Ezekiel, Obadiah
 - d. Post-exile: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel
 - e. Ezekiel: 12:1-16**
4. Isaiah
- a. "Fifth Gospel"
 - b. First Isaiah (chapters 1-39): Before the exile
 - c. Second Isaiah (chapters 40-55): End of exile
 - d. Third Isaiah? (chapters 56-66): After the exile
 - e. Isaiah 60:1-22**

Ketuvim (Writings)

5. Wisdom literature
- a. Psalms, Song of Songs, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach
 - b. Practical wisdom (Proverbs)
 - c. Speculative wisdom (Ecclesiastes)

d. Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

6. Short stories (novellas)

- a. Ruth, Esther, Jonah, Tobit, Judith
- b. Historical details often problematic
- c. Themes:
 - i. God's faithfulness and mercy
 - ii. Interaction with foreigners

7. Apocalyptic literature

- a. Daniel, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees
- b. Eschatological visions
- c. People under persecution
- d. Daniel 12:1-13**