prophets

In a time of great darkness

His message of light

shines forth.

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The *Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course* is a journey through God's love story the Bible. Through this course, each one is empowered to understand God's intended meaning of the scriptures. Copyright and royalty free 2025.

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Prophets Part 1

Welcome to the Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course session on understanding the books of the bible, which are written by or about a Prophet.

To get the most out of these sessions, as you watch each video, follow the 00:00 [TIMECODES] in this workbook and ⏸ [PAUSE] the video to write your answers.

The books of the bible that are categorised as prophets are:

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

What was the main role of the prophet (specifically in God's relationship with the Ancient Israelites)? ⏸ [01:50]

Who did God choose to deliver the Ancient Israelites from the oppression of slavery in Ancient Egypt? ⏸ [02:17]

Even though the Ancient Israelites didn't want to hear from God directly, what did God continue to do? ⏸ [02:33]

What time period and topic did God's chosen prophets usually speak about? ⏸ [02:46]

What sort of words (messages) did God through His prophets bring to the Ancient Israelites? ⏸ [02:53]

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

What did God's chosen prophets reveal about God's heart? ⏸ [03:11]

_____

_____

Practical

Reading the whole book of Isaiah, we learn that the Ancient Israelites as a people group had turned their back on God and were worshipping foreign gods. In addition, they were actively oppressing the poor and downtrodden. In the midst of this, God continued to pursue in love and brought revelation and the promise of eternal salvation.

Read **Isaiah 49:1-13**

What is one of the challenges in understanding God's intended meaning in books written by or about a prophet? ⏸ [07:15]

_____

Let us now ask the six questions that we learnt from the Behind the Meaning videos: Who? How? Where? When? What? Why?

Who are the characters? ⏸ [07:33 - 08:13]

1. _____ 5. _____

2. _____ 6. _____

3. _____ 7. _____

4. _____ 8. _____

Who is speaking on behalf of the LORD? ⏸ [08:40]

Who are they speaking to? ⏸ [08:47]

Who are they speaking about? ⏸ [08:55]

1. _____ 2. _____

How do the characters interact? ⏸ [09:00 - 10:07]

To discover more about God's promises to the descendants of Abraham, let's read **Isaiah 41:8-10**.

According to this scripture, **who** had God chosen to be His servant? ⏸ [11:12]

In these verses, **what** is God bestowing upon His servant? ⏸ [11:54]

To discover more about the special relationship of being God's servant to the nations and the promise God gave to Abraham and His descendants, let's read **Genesis 12:1-3**.

What is the main promise that God gave to Abraham and his descendants? ⏸ [13:04]

What does the word blessed mean in this context? ⏸ [13:11]

Let's go back to Isaiah and read **Isaiah 42:1-9**.

Who is the blessing to all people of the earth? ⏸ [14:59]

What will this servant give to humanity? ⏸ [15:00 - 15:16]

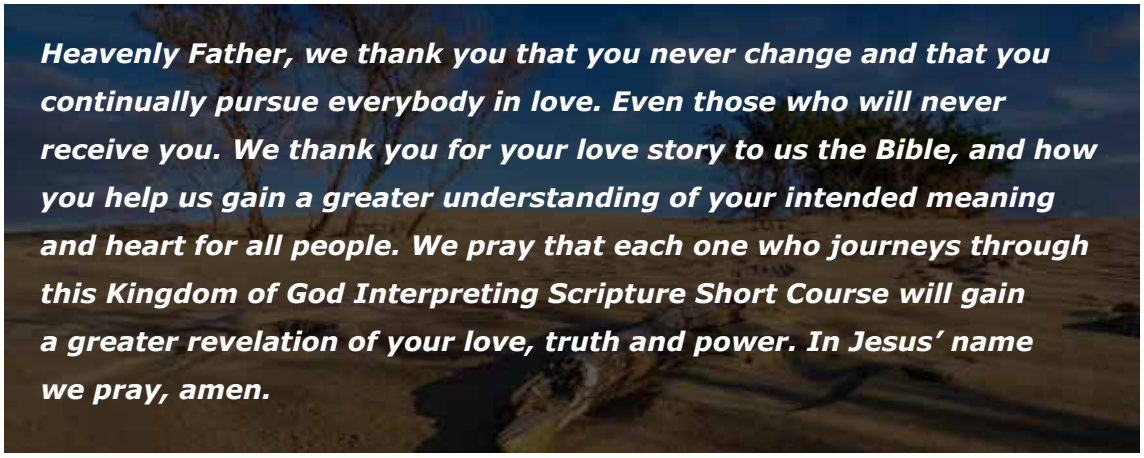
What will be upon this servant? ⏸ [15:20]

As we learnt from Isaiah 41, God called Israel His servant, however, as we read in Isaiah 42 the Servant is the one who will set humanity free. In video 2 we will continue on this journey and discover how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and his descendants by bringing the Servant Messiah from their people group.

Personal reflection

From Prophets Part 1, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?



Prophets Part 2

Recapping from Part 1, the role of the prophet in the Old Testament was to speak for God regarding His covenant relationship with the Ancient Israelites and His will for all people.

In Isaiah 49, we read that God refers to Israel as His servant in whom He will be glorified. And how God chose Israel, that is the descendants of Abraham as part of fulfilling His eternal plan. In reading Isaiah 42, we discovered that the promise to Abraham and his descendants was that they would be a blessing to all people. This promise is fulfilled in the Servant who is the Messiah and saviour of the world.

We will now continue our journey to discover how the servant Messiah fulfils the calling and promise given to Abraham and his descendants. Let's discover who the Messiah, the saviour of the world is, the one who fulfils these promises. We'll read several passages of scripture from the Gospel of Jesus according to Luke.

Read **Luke 1:54-55**

Who is the fulfilment of God's promise given to Abraham and the mission of Israel as God's servant? ⏸ [03:07]

Read **Luke 2:27-32**

Who is a light unto the Gentiles and the glory of Israel? ⏸ [04:16]

Who is the fulfilment of the prophecy given to Isaiah and fulfils Israel's servant role? ⏸ [05:00]

Read **Luke 4:16-21**

When did Jesus declare His mission was fulfilled? ⏸ [06:47]

Let us go back to **Isaiah 49:1-13** and complete the practical on this scripture.

Why was it written? ⏸ [06:58 - 07:20]

Where and **when** did it happen? Read **Isaiah 1:1** ⏸ [07:58]

What is the context of this scripture (**Isaiah 49:1-13**) in God's whole story? ⏸ [08:08 - 08:37]

What are some of the things that are the same today? ⏸ [09:04 - 09:38]

Personal reflection

From Prophets Part 2, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you never change and that you continually pursue in love. And that you have given Jesus to fulfil Israel's role and destiny, to reveal your glory and salvation to the world. Thank you that each one of us are blessed with the gift of eternal life and salvation through Jesus. Thank you that we can learn so much about you through your prophets in the Old Testament. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Prophets Further Study

Frequently asked question

Given that the main role of the prophet in the Old Testament was to speak to the Ancient Israelites on behalf of God, can we take the promises given to them and apply them to our lives? For example, Jeremiah 29:11 says, For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

To answer the question about whether this is a verse we can apply directly to our lives, let us do a practical together. We will read Jeremiah 29:10-14 to understand God's intended meaning of what He is saying in verse 11.

Read **Jeremiah 29:10-14**

Aside from the prophet Jeremiah, **who** are the characters? Read **verse 10**

1. _____ 2. _____

Who is speaking? Read **verse 10**

_____

Who are they speaking to? Read **Jeremiah 29:4**

_____

Who is the LORD speaking about? Read **verse 10**

_____

How do the characters interact?

1. The LORD's interactions with the Ancient Israelites who are in captivity

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. The Ancient Israelites (who are in captivity) interactions' with the LORD

When did it happen? Read **verse 3**

Where did it happen? Read **verse 4**

What is the style of writing?

What is the context of this scripture (**Jeremiah 29:10-14**) in God's whole story? Read **Jeremiah 1:4-5**, **16**. Refer to timeline illustration on page 8.

Why was it written?

As we discovered in the Behind the Meaning video part 2, it is only when certain things are the same that we can apply a scripture directly to our lives. So let us ask, **what** are some of the things that are the same for us today?

Even though God is the creator who is the future and hope of all people, this is a very specific word of encouragement to a people in a very specific situation. While Jeremiah 29:11 reveals God's character, that He has thoughts of peace and not of evil, God is prophesying directly to those of Jewish lineage in captivity in Babylon. He reveals that whilst they are in captivity, there will come a day when they will seek Him, find Him and be gathered together back to the land from which they were taken.

However, when the prophecies concern the Messiah, the saviour of the world, both those of Jewish and non-Jewish lineage have the opportunity to receive His deliverance, freedom and righteousness or rightness. Each one, regardless of ethnicity, has the right to receive Jesus. That is, all of who He is, all He has done and will do.

For further study on this, read Galatians 3:8-9, 16, 26-29.

In Galatians chapter 3, the Apostle Paul is speaking to those of Jewish lineage about their need to receive Jesus and His right to rule and reign in order to be part of the promise given to Abraham. He is also explaining that those of non-Jewish lineage who believe God, that is receive Jesus just as Abraham did, inherit the righteousness or rightness of God. The promise given to Abraham that all of the nations of the earth will be blessed through his seed is fulfilled in all who receive Jesus, receive God. For through the seed of Abraham came the Christ, the saviour of the world. And through receiving Jesus and His right to rule and reign, we are blessed with every spiritual blessing.

Back to Jeremiah 29:11. This verse is from a specific prophecy to those who had been taken captive to Babylon. It is referring to the LORD bringing them back to the land from which they were taken. Therefore, we cannot take this verse and change it or reinterpret it another way to apply it to our lives. However, we can know and understand God's character through this verse and the book of Jeremiah. The Ancient Israelites who were in captivity had turned their back on God and did not want to hear from Him. Yet God still loved, pursued and desired for them to be truly free.

For us today, God's love story the Bible still speaks to us intimately and personally. However, God will never contradict Himself. For us to apply any verse or promise to our lives, it needs to align with God's intended meaning. As we learnt in the Behind the Meaning videos, there are five key areas that affect meaning. We need to go on the journey of discovering them to understand God's intended meaning and whether we can apply a scripture directly to our lives.

Personal reflection

From this practical, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?