

Old Testament Survey Lesson Eighteen

Review:

- Taking a surface-level approach to unpacking and understanding the Old Testament.
- Tracing the story of God and His plan of salvation and the redemption of creation.
- Old Testament divisions: Law, History, Poetry, Major and Minor Prophets
- Covered the beginning of God's story, the Patriarchs, the development of a people, the law and covenant, conquest, period of Judges, Monarchy, and divided Monarchy

NOTE: Man's attempt to wipe out God's promise of a seed is ALWAYS met with God's faithful character protecting His promise.

THE SEED:

- The Promise

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15 NKJV

And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. Genesis 15:4-6 NKJV

- The Promise Protected
 - Abram and Sarai (Genesis 15)
 - Abram and Isaac (Genesis 22)
 - Jacob, family, and famine
 - Pharaoh, Israel, Moses (Exodus 1)
 - Ruth and Boaz
 - David and Saul
 - Joash

When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. 2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. 3 So he was hidden with her in the house of the Lord for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land. 2 Kings 11:1-3 NKJV

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV

LAST WEEK: Focus was southern kingdom of Judah—Kings both good and bad

TODAY: Prophetic ministry of the south—Joel, Isaiah, and Micah

NOTE: In various forms, God spoke through the prophets to call His people to repentance and wholehearted service to Yahweh or face judgment.

I. Prophet Joel

A. Authorship

1. Name Joel means “the Lord is God”
2. Common Old Testament name (12 men)
3. Family connection notes which Joel (Father)

B. Date uncertain

1. Silence provides some context
 - a. No reference to a King
 - b. No reference to historical event or invading army
 - c. No mention of Northern Kingdom, only Judah
2. Possible dates
 - a. 312 BC—post-exile (mention of priests)
 - b. 835 BC—King Joash of Judah (more favorable possibility)
 - c. Second of twelve in Jewish tradition favors 8th Century BC date
3. Setting is in the Land of Judah
 - a. Temple—worship in full swing
 - b. Dependence on other prophetic writings may indicate older work

C. Prophet of Pentecost

"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls. Joel 2:28-32 NKJV

***But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'* Acts 2:16-21 NKJV**

- Last days began at Pentecost
- Partial fulfillment of Joel's prophecy

D. The structure of Joel

1. Judah's present judgment (Joel 1:1-20)

For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion. 7 He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white. Joel 1:6-7 NKJV

2. Judah's coming severe judgment (Joel 2:1-11)

Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: 2 A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. Joel 2:1-2 NKJV

3. Judah's call to repentance (Joel 2:12-17)

"Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." Joel 2:12 NKJV

4. God's promise of restoration and salvation (Joel 2:18-3:21)

Judgment → Repentance → Salvation

E. The Message of Joel

1. Divine judgment

- a. Plague of locusts

- Considered most severe
- Darkened sky
- Consumed all things in path
- Causes severe famine

What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten. Joel 1:4 NKJV

He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white. 8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the husband of her youth. 9 The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of the Lord; The priests mourn, who minister to the Lord. 10 The field is wasted, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails. Joel 1:7-10 NKJV

- Livestock died because of lack of food

- b. Actual plague vs. metaphor for invading army

NOTE: Either way, whether literal or metaphorical, this represented God's divine judgment upon Judah.

- 2. National repentance

NOTE: God urges the nation of Judah to repent not just an outward expression, but a heart turning to Yahweh.

READ: Joel 2:12-17

- God is longing for authentic repentance today

- 3. Promise of restoration and salvation
 - a. Relief from foreign enemies
 - b. Restored land and living
 - c. Day of the Lord—final victory over enemies

NOTE: Joel reminds us of the complex character of God—judgment and compassion

II. Prophet Isaiah

A. Authorship

- 1. Isaiah son of Amoz

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz. Isaiah 1:1a NKJV

2. Scholarly debate over authorship
 - a. Isaiah only author
 - b. Isaiah (1-39) and someone (s) else 40-66
 - c. Jewish statements in the second century B.C. attribute entire book to Isaiah
 - d. Most recent findings of the Dead Sea Scrolls, dating back to the same time period, verify that the book was considered one unit

“Conservative scholarship contends that a view of ‘divided authorship undermines both the supernatural character and authority of Scripture’” (Israel and Fette 2003, 749)

3. Name — The Lord is salvation (uses salvation 3x as much as all other OT prophets combined)
4. Educated man with a unique poetic writing style
5. Evangelical prophet focusing on God’s grace and love — “The Gospel of the Old Testament”

B. Date

1. Written around 700 B.C.
2. Isaiah was most likely active during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
3. Isaiah’s call came at the end of Uzziah’s reign

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Isaiah 6:1 NKJV

4. Isaiah’s main activity took place during the reigns of Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (735-687 B.C.)
5. One of three books (Deuteronomy and Psalms) most quoted in the New Testament

C. Historical Context of Isaiah’s Ministry

1. In 733 B.C., the Assyrian army marched west into Aram (Syria) and Canaan because of an alliance that was formed between King Pekah of Israel and King Rezin of Syria
2. King Pekah and King Rezin attacked King Ahaz of Judah forcing him into fighting against Assyria
3. King Ahaz and his army were able to defend Jerusalem, but this alliance between Israel and Aram caused a great amount of fear

Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but could not prevail against it. Isaiah 7:1 NKJV

Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him. 2 Kings 16:5 NKJV

4. Isaiah's counsel — trust God, don't seek Assyrian's help (Isaiah 7)
5. Ahaz's refusal — requested Tiglath-Pileser's help to conquer Damascus (Aram)
6. 722 B.C. — Assyria will conquer Israel
7. Consequence of Judah's alliance with Assyria

Also Tiglath-Pileser^{al} king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him. ²¹ For Ahaz took part of the treasures from the house of the LORD, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him. 2 Chronicles 28:20-21 NKJV

8. 701 B.C. — King Sennacherib of Assyria marched toward Jerusalem, Hezekiah interceded on behalf of the city, and Isaiah prophesied that the Assyrians would be forced to leave
9. Isaiah prophesied of Babylonian captivity as well as return from exile

D. Purpose of Isaiah

1. Warn Judah and other nations that God's judgment was coming on their sins
2. Prophecy that a group of Jews (remnant) would return after the captivity and would be a light to the nations
3. Prophecy that God would send the Messiah to be the Savior of all nations

E. The Structure and Message of Isaiah

NOTE: In the midst of judgment, God often displays hope, deliverance, mercy, and love

1. Prophecies of Judgment (Isaiah 1-35)
 - a. Isaiah 1 — Picture of Judah's rebellion, insincere worship, and injustice

“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” Says the LORD. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats.¹² “When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts?¹³ Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies— I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.¹⁴ Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.¹⁶ “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil,¹⁷ Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:11-17

NOTE: God is not interested in external expression, but instead internal devotion

- b. Isaiah 2-5 — Woe oracles against Jerusalem, Judah, Israel, and other nations

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20 NKJV

- c. Isaiah 6 — Call

READ ISAIAH 6

- d. Isaiah 7-12 — Early prophecies of the Messiah

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 NKJV

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot — yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. Isaiah 11:1 NLT

- e. Isaiah 13-23 — Judgment on other nations (Babylon, Assyria, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Israel, Egypt, Ethiopia, Edom, Arabia, Jerusalem, Tyre, Shebna)
- f. Isaiah 24-27 — Restoration

And it shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will thresh, From the channel of the River^[a] to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. ¹³ So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem. Isaiah 27:12-13 NKJV

g. Isaiah 28-35 — Additional prophecies of woes and hope

2. Hezekiah and Isaiah Narrative (Isaiah 36-39)
3. Prophecies of Salvation and Hope (Isaiah 40-66)

a. Isaiah 40-48 — God's deliverance

READ: Isaiah 40:21-31

b. Isaiah 49-57 — God's deliverer (Messiah, Servant of the Lord)

- 1) Servant song #1 — Isaiah 42:1-4
- 2) Servant song #2 — Isaiah 49:1-6
- 3) Servant song #3 — Isaiah 50:4-9
- 4) Servant song #4 — Isaiah 52:13-53:12

SUFFERING SERVANT

- Servant's triumph (52:13-15)
- Servant's rejection (53:1-3)
- **Servant's suffering (53:4-6)**
- Servant's death (53:7-9)
- Servant's reward (53:10-12)

NOTE: Isaiah 53 provides an Old Testament picture of the gospel

c. Isaiah 58-66 — God's delivered

NOTE: Hope, deliverance, and salvation often follow God's judgment

Prophecy about Christ	Reference in Isaiah	New Testament Fulfillment
Incarnation and deity	7:14; 9:6-7	Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:32-35
Youth	7:15-16; 11:1	Luke 3:23, 32; Acts 13:22-23
Message and anointing	11:2; 42:1; 61:1	Matthew 12:15-21
Mission	11:2-5; 42:1-41; 60:1-3; 61:1-3	Luke 4:17-19, 21
Miracles	35:5-6	Matthew 11:2-5
Obedience	50:5	Hebrews 5:8
Suffering	50:6; 53:4-5, 11	Matthew 26:67; 27:26, 30; Acts 8:28-33
Shame	52:14	Philippians 2:7-8
Rejection	53:1-3	Luke 23:18; John 1:11; 7:5
Atoning death	53:4-12	Romans 5:6
Ascension	52:13	Philippians 2:9-11
Second Coming	26:20-21; 61:2-3; 65:17-25	Jude 14; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; 2 Peter 3:13

III. Prophet Micah

A. Authorship

1. Micah of Moresheth

The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth ... Micah 1:1a NKJV

¹⁸ “Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah ... Jeremiah 26:18a

2. Contemporary of Isaiah (Jerusalem) and Hosea (Israel)
3. Moresheth Gath — small town in Judah about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem near Gath
4. Country prophet like Amos

B. Date

1. Ministered during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah

The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. Micah 1:1 NKJV

2. 750-686 B.C.

C. The Structure and Message of Micah

“Micah’s message centered on the themes of social injustice, true worship, and false security as well as judgment for sinful practices. However, he also emphasized mercy and deliverance” (Arnold and Beyer, 199, 455)

- Cried out against corruption, greed, and immorality

Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand. ² They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance. Micah 2:1-2 NKJV

- Predicted the fall of Israel and its capital, Samaria

“Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I will uncover her foundations. ⁷ All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, And all her pay as a harlot shall be burned with the fire; All her idols I will lay desolate, For she gathered it from the pay of a harlot, And they shall return to the pay of a harlot.” Micah 1:6-7 NKJV

- Predicted the fall of Judah and its capital, Jerusalem (Micah 1:9-16)
- Promised deliverance after judgment
- Prophesied the birthplace of the Messiah, Israel’s deliverer

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.” Micah 5:2 NKJV

1. Micah 1-3 — Judgment against Israel and Judah
 - a. Destroy Samaria (1:3-7)
 - b. Destroy Judah (1:8-16)
 - c. Sins among God’s people (2:1-11)
 - d. Hope amidst despair (2:12-13)
 - e. Sins among God’s leaders
2. Micah 4-5 — Message of hope (Bethlehem prophecy)
3. Micah 6 — God’s case against Israel

For the statutes of Omri are kept; All the works of Ahab’s house are done; And you walk in their counsels, That I may make you a desolation, And your inhabitants a hissing. Therefore you shall bear the reproach of My people.” Micah 6:16 NKJV

4. Micah 7 — Future hope for God's people

READ: Micah 7:18-20 (God's unfailing love)

Conclusion:

- In the midst of a story of despair, chaos, and extreme wickedness, God is often weaving his plan of redemption that includes both judgment and salvation.
- Christ fulfilled all the prophecies that were made 700 years prior to his birth, which should provide credibility to the authenticity and veracity of Scripture.
- Because of God's unfailing love and merciful compassion, a remnant is spared and the Seed is protected.