

6TH GRADE

FOUNDATIONS

Old Testament: Isaiah – Malachi

OVERVIEW

The final genre, or group of books, compiled in the Old Testament is the prophets. There are two sections, the major prophets and the minor prophets. This is not in reference to how important they are, rather by the length of their written book. “The prophets address both future and present issues, with present issues often being the overwhelming concern of their messages. They did announce future events, such as the Messiah’s coming and the final day of judgement, but typically they declared how God’s people should live in light of their covenant with God” (ESV Study Bible, p. 1229). These major and minor prophets cover the time from the decline of the nation of Israel into two kingdoms (Israel and Judah), through the fall of the kingdoms (722 B.C. and 586 B.C.), through the exile and the rebuilding of the Temple and Jerusalem (Ezra and Nehemiah). Prophets were sent by God to share a specific message, in a specific place, at a specific time.

ON YOUR OWN

Why do you think God used prophets? Read Hebrews 1:1-2, explain what this means.

Find 2 Peter 1:21 and rewrite this verse in the box below.

LARGE GROUP

I. Prophets PURPOSE

- **Communicate** God's message to His people
- **Affirm** God's covenant relationship with Israel
- **Warn** of judgement
- **Promise** God's restoration

Activity of the Writing Prophets during the Reigns of the Kings of Israel and Judah

Timeline	King of Judah // Event	Prophet to Judah	Prophet to Israel	King of Israel // Event
780 s.c.				Jeroboam II (781–753)
770				
760	Uzziah (Azariah) (767–740)		(c. 760) Amos (c. 760) Jonah (c. 755) Hosea	Zechariah (753–752)
750	Jotham (750–735)	Micah (c. 742)		Shallum (752)
740		Isaiah (c. 740)		Menahem (752–742)
730	Ahaz (735–715)			Pekahiah (742–740)
720				Pekah (740–732)
710	Hezekiah (715–686)			Hoshea (732–722)
700				Fall of Samaria (722)
680	Manasseh (686–642)	Nahum (c. 660–630)		
660	Amon (642–640)	Zephaniah (c. 640–609)		
640	Josiah (640–609)	Habakkuk (c. 640–609) (c. 627) Jeremiah		
620	Jehoahaz (609)			
600	Jehoiakim (609–597)			
	Jehoiachin (597)	(c. 605) Daniel		
	Zedekiah (597–586)			
	Fall of Jerusalem (586)	Obadiah (after 586)	(c. 597) Ezekiel	
580				
560				
540				
520	1st return of exiles (538)	Haggai (c. 520)		
	Temple rebuilt (516/515)	Zechariah (c. 520)		
500				
480				
460	2nd return of exiles (458)	Malachi (c. 460)		
440	3rd return of exiles (445)			

Major prophets
 Minor prophets

Joel is not displayed as the dates are uncertain and estimates range from the 9th to the 4th centuries B.C.

Micah's prophecy was likely directed toward both Judah and Israel.

II. Tracking Messianic Prophecies

- Virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14 // Luke 1:35)
- Messiah will go to Egypt (Hosea 11:1 // Mat. 2:14-15)
- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 // Mat. 2:4-6)
- Parables would fall on deaf ears (Isaiah 6:9-10 // Mat. 13:13-15)

- Ministry begin in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1-2 // Mat. 4:12-17)
- Everlasting Throne (Daniel 7:13-14 // Luke 1:31-33)
- Messiah comes to Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9 // Mat. 21:8-10)
- Christ's "forerunner" (John the Baptist) would come in the spirit of Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6 // Mat. 11:10-15).
- Mocked and abused (Isaiah 50:3-6 // Mat. 27:27-31)

Check out more at <https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/old-testament-prophecies.html>

III. Lamentations

- Between Jeremiah and Ezekiel
- Describes the results of the Fall of Jerusalem and Judah (Southern Kingdom) in 586 B.C.
- Key passage: *Lam. 3:19-24*
- Poetic literature – “a collection of laments, or melancholy dirges” (ESV Study Bible, p 1476)
- Acrostic, using each letter of the Hebrew alphabet to provide structure
- **Purpose:** provide an appropriate personal and corporate response of seeking God's forgiveness and restoration for the nation of Israel.

SMALL GROUPS

Why are the prophets so important to God's plan and purposes?

Imagine you were asked to communicate something like this to people, read Amos 1:3-5, how would you feel?

Read Matthew 5:11-12, how are we called to be like the prophets? Why is this hard?