**Lesson 7- Major Prophets**

**Introduction:** Major prophets are major in that they provide more material. Isaiah, Jeremiah (who also wrote Lamentations), Ezekiel, and Daniel.

**I. Isaiah**

1. Context
2. Message of condemnation and message of salvation. The first 39 chapters- Primarily a message of condemnation. Last 27 chapters- Primarily a message of salvation.
3. Many pinpoint predictions, especially of Christ. Sometimes referred to as “The Gospel According to Isaiah” because of how many quotations you can take out of it to thoroughly examine the life of Christ.
4. The beginning of the book, and at least 13 other places in the book claim Isaiah as the writer, Jewish and Christian tradition attributes this as one book written by one man. Jesus Himself read from Isaiah 61 in the Synagogue and attributed it solely to Isaiah. There are repeated passages quoted in the New Testament attributed strictly to Isaiah.
5. Isaiah’s name means “The LORD is salvation.” Which many people say is the main theme of the book.
6. Chapters 1-35 are concerned with the two invasions of Judah (1) by Syria and Ephraim in 734 BC which ended up coming to nothing, and (2) The invasion of the Assyrians. People see chapters 36-39 as a historical link between the two divisions in the theme of Isaiah. 36-37 show the invasion of King Sennacherib in 701 BC and how Jerusalem was saved by God intervening when the people and the king humbled themselves and cried out to Him for salvation. Chapter 38-39 are filled with warning of the future captivity in Babylon. Chapters 40-66 speak comfort to the Jews regarding the Babylonian captivity.
7. Where is Christ?
8. 7:14- “God with us.”
9. 9:6- The child is born, but the Son is given. The Son is eternal, but put on flesh as a child born.
10. 11:1- Christ is the stem of Jesse or the Branch. Christ does come from the royal line of David. But by the time Christ shows up, David’s kingly line is hardly noticeable. He was a root out of dry ground.
11. 42:1- God’s suffering servant. One who brings salvation even to the Gentiles.
12. 50:6- Christ on trial.
13. Isaiah 6. John 12:41 says Isaiah said this because He saw Jesus and spoke of Him.
14. **Jeremiah and Lamentations**
15. Context
16. “The weeping prophet” or “the martyr prophet.”
17. Priest before he was called to be a prophet.
18. Jeremiah writes during the time of three kings. Josiah (640-609 BC), Jehoahaz (609 BC), and Jehoiakim (609-598 BC).
19. Jeremiah repeatedly pleaded with Zedekiah to surrender to Babylon because the doom was sure. For this reason, many people saw Jeremiah as a traitor to Judah until in 586 BC Babylon destroyed Jerusalem just as Jeremiah foretold.
20. Major themes of Jeremiah
21. Jeremiah shows us the power or preaching and the word of the Lord (Jeremiah 1:9-10)
22. Props in prophecies
23. Prayers of intercession
24. Preaching was a fire in his bones
25. Lamentation was written after the Babylonian exile. Describes the agony and misery of the people in the land after the judgment of the Lord. Lam 3:22-23 still offers great hope based on God’s compassion.
26. Where is Christ?
27. Jeremiah 23:5-6- Christ as the Branch.
28. **Jeremiah 31:15** – Fulfilled in Matthew 2:18
29. **Jeremiah 31:31**- New covenant
30. **Ezekiel**
31. Context
32. Acted many prophecies out with powerful imagery.
33. Several visions.
34. Born in 621 BC, the very year Josiah began his reforms.
35. First invasion of Babylon when king Jehoiakim and 10,000 leading citizens were taken captive, Ezekiel was one of those men. He started preaching in 593 BC and ministered to the Jewish captives in Babylon.
36. Themes
37. The first part of Ezekiel’s prophecies was to warn that Jerusalem would indeed be destroyed. The second part was to give them the promise that God would restore them with true repentance.
38. Vision of the dry bones. God Himself, by His Spirit, will raise the dead back to life.
39. Ezekiel 36:25-27- A picture of a reform no king like Josiah can create, one where people are born again of water and the Spirit (John 3:5)
40. Where is Christ?
41. 34:23-24= One good shepherd.
42. Ezekiel 36:25-27= John 3:5. The new birth.
43. Ezekiel 34:15-16= A God who seeks and saves that which is lost.

1. **Daniel**
2. **Context**
3. Written during the time of the Babylonian exile. Daniel was one of the many Jews who were now in Babylon.
4. **Themes**
5. Major theme: God’s sovereignty over all creation, even the strongest of kings
6. Daniel 8 and 11 Daniel stunning predictions of the future kingdoms.
7. Babylon 🡪 Medo-Persia 🡪 Greece (divided into four) 🡪 Different empire at the time of Christ who will be killed.
8. **Where is Christ?**
9. Daniel 2:44- Christ is depicted as a kingdom that destroys all the other kingdoms.
10. Daniel 7:13-14- A Son of Man coming on clouds to reign.
11. Daniel 9:25-26= The exact number of days before Christ would come as well as when He would be killed.
12. Daniel 12 testifies of the resurrection of the dead when Christ returns.

**Bible Study Discussion Questions**

* + - 1. Explore the significance of Isaiah 9:6 in understanding the divine nature of Christ and His role as the eternal Son who took on human flesh for the salvation of humanity. (**Key is: Child is born, Son is given. The Son had already existed before being born. He is the eternal Son of God. But He came in human flesh through being born of a woman)**
      2. Read John 12:37-41 and then Isaiah 6 and discuss what this tells us about the nature of Christ. **(John tells us that Isaiah was receiving a vision of Jesus)**
      3. Consider Isaiah 11:1 and its portrayal of the Messiah as the "Branch" or "Stem of Jesse." How does this verse establish Christ's lineage from the royal line of David and His role as the promised Savior? (**By the time Christ showed up, born in the family line of David, nobody knew this family to be royal. Thus, He is a branch. He is a stem of Jesse. He shoots out from dry ground and exalts the kingdom of David)**
      4. In Isaiah 42:1, how does the depiction of the suffering servant foreshadow the ministry of Christ, particularly His mission to bring salvation not only to Israel but also to the Gentiles?
      5. Explore the parallels between Ezekiel 36:25-27 and Jesus' teaching on being "born again" in John 3. (**Note the similarity of water and spirit. God is the one doing the washing, and it is done here spiritually, not with literal water. Thus, Jesus is not saying in John 3 that baptism itself removes any sin. God is the one who removes sin and washes us. How? By giving us a new heart)**
      6. Reflect on the portrayal of Christ as the good shepherd in Ezekiel 34:23-24. How does this imagery affirm Christ's role as the compassionate and faithful shepherd who cares for His flock?
      7. Discuss the significance of Daniel 2:44 in understanding Christ's kingdom as the ultimate and eternal reign that will supersede all earthly kingdoms. How does this verse affirm Christ's sovereignty and authority? How does this help us understand verses like Mark 1:15?
      8. Explore the theme of God's sovereignty in the book of Daniel, particularly in the context of Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2. How does this theme affirm Christ's supreme authority over all earthly powers?