

# Bible Prophets

## Introduction to the Prophets

Text: Hebrews 1:1-2

### Introduction:

1. The Old Testament prophets were a remarkable group of people.
2. While less is revealed about their New Testament counterparts, they are shown to be remarkable individuals as well.
3. It is vital to study and to understand Bible prophecy.
4. Yet, it is just as beneficial to study the prophets themselves.
5. This series of lessons will explore the attitudes, characteristics, ethics, and messages of the Bible prophets.

### I. The Meaning

- A. The word “prophet” comes from the Greek word *prophetes* (profhthç).
  1. *Pro* means, “For.”
  2. *Phetes* means, “Speak.”
  3. Thus, a prophet is one who speaks for another (cf. Exodus 7:1).
  4. Bible prophets were spokesmen for God (cf. Deuteronomy 18:18).
- B. Sometimes they were “forth tellers” – speaking instructions from God.
- C. At other times they were foretellers – speaking of future events.
- D. Before being called prophets they were known as “seers” (1 Samuel 9:9; Hebrews 1:1).

### II. The Method

- A. Hebrews 1:1 states that God spoke to His people by the prophets.
- B. It also declares that God spoke at different times and in various ways.
  1. The phrase “at sundry times” means, “In many parts.”
  2. This may refer to partitions of time or to the partitions of revelation.
  3. In other words, God did not reveal His will all at ones, but progressively through time and in varying circumstances.
  4. “The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.”
- C. Consider some of the “diverse manners” that God used to communicate to man:
  1. Direct voice (Exodus 33:11; Deut. 18:16)
  2. Angels (Genesis 18 – 19)
  3. Urim and Thummim (Exo. 28:30; Num. 27:21; Deut. 33:8; 1 Sam. 14:37-42; 23:9-12; 28:6; Ezra 2:63)
    - a. It seems that the Urim and Thummim were “sacred lots” that could be cast by the High Priest to learn God’s will.

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- b. The LXX of 1 Samuel 14:41 reads: “And Saul said, O Lord God of Israel, why hast thou not answered thy servant to day? If the iniquity be in me or in Jonathan my son, O Lord God of Israel, give Urim: and if it be in thy people Israel, give Thummim.”
  - c. As the priesthood became more political and corrupt, God began to speak more through the prophets than the priests.
4. Casting of lots (Lev. 16:8; Josh. 18:10; Prov. 16:33; Johan 1:7-8; Acts 1:23-26)
  5. Prophecies (1 Samuel 10:5-10)
  6. Inspired writings (Jeremiah 36:2-4, 28)
  7. Dreams (Genesis 20:3, 6; 37:1-10; 40 – 41; Daniel 2, 4, 7)
  8. Writing by God’s Finger (Daniel 5; cf. Exo. 31:18; Deut. 9:10)
  9. Trances (Acts 10:10; 11:5; 22:17)
  10. Visions (Ezekiel; Zechariah; Revelation)

### III. The Message

- A. The coming of the Messiah
- B. The repentance of sinners
- C. The judgment of the wicked

### Conclusion:

The things “written aforetime were written for our learning” (Romans 15:4).