

# Lessons from the Prophets

## Honesty

**Text:** Joshua 1

### Introduction:

1. The prophets of God taught many things about the coming of the Messiah.
2. Yet they also had much to teach for the people of their own time.
3. The inspired word of God they preached was to correct and guide men in their faithfulness.
4. The examples they set in their lives demonstrated true obedience to God.
5. Thus, from the prophets many important lessons can be learned.

- I. COURAGEOUS CHAMPIONS (JOSHUA 1:6-9, 18)
  - A. To be courageous is to be “strong, brave, stout, bold, solid, alert, and determined.”
  - B. It is the opposite of being “fearful, timid, or cowardly.”
    1. One who is “discouraged” has lost strength, boldness, and determination.
    2. He needs to be “encouraged” - to have his strong heart restored.
  - C. The prophets demonstrated courage in many aspects of their lives.
    1. Consider Abraham offering Isaac (Genesis 22).
    2. Consider Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18).
    3. Consider Jesus in the Temple (Matthew 16:13-14; 21:12-13).
    4. “Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway” (John Wayne).
  - D. Perhaps the clearest demonstration of courage was in the honesty of the prophets.
- II. TRUTH TELLERS (1 KINGS 18 - 22)
  - A. Elijah told the truth about the false gods of idolatry (1 Kings 18).
  - B. Elijah told the truth about the king’s sinful actions (1 Kings 21:20).
  - C. Elijah told the truth about the queen’s demise (1 Kings 21:27).
  - D. Micaiah told the truth about the will of God (1 Kings 22:8ff).
  - E. The truth must be told in spite of the consequences.
- III. IGNORANCE INDICTORS (HOSEA 4:1-6)
  - A. Ignorance is simply the lack of knowledge. (We are all ignorant in some ways.)
  - B. No one likes to be told that they are ignorant or wrong; yet this was the responsibility of God’s prophets.
  - C. Hosea declared that it was their lack of knowledge that would lead to their destruction.
  - D. Teaching the Truth of God demands that ignorance and error be exposed.
- IV. WARNING WATCHMEN (EZEKIEL 33:1-7)
  - A. The capture of the city of Sardis is a lesson in the importance of watchmen (cf. Revelation 3:1-2).
  - B. Watchmen acknowledge and submit to the authority of God (Ezekiel 1:1).
  - C. Watchmen accept the truth of God’s Word (Ezekiel 2:10).
  - D. Watchmen accurately announce the warning of danger (Ezekiel 3:4, 10).
  - E. Watchmen accept the responsibility of warning others (Ezekiel 3:17-21).