

KEY PROPHETIC MESSAGES

Let's lock in to our covenant with God, so we will experience His restoration and salvation.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ In Amos 3:7 God, said something very interesting: "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."
- ❖ There are things God wants us to know, and it is through prophecy that He tells us those things.
- ❖ A prophet is someone who conveys God's messages to people, telling us what God knows we need to hear, to think about, and act on.
- ❖ Sometimes God uses a prophet to *foretell*—to talk about something that will happen in the future. That's how He used Noah; to tell people there was going to be a flood and to also point out the way to survive it.
- ❖ Prophecies that foretell something help us to develop faith in the Word and power of God. Because when we see these prophecies being fulfilled, we realize who the ruler of the universe truly is. This builds our determination to stick with the Word of God and to live in obedience to it.
- ❖ Another aspect of a prophet's role is "forth-telling"—telling forth something from God's point of view. In this case, the prophet declares what God wants His people to understand.
- ❖ Expressing things from God's point of view is a really important function of a prophet. Without that, our minds could easily drown in a sea of merely human opinions.
- ❖ Let's take a quick snapshot of the ministry of four Old Testament prophets and some of their key messages:
 - Amos was the earliest prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel (all the tribes but Judah). In his ministry (760-755 BC), he condemned the people's immorality (6:1), warned them of coming judgment (9:8), and appealed for them to turn back to God.
 - Around the year 835 BC, Judah had experienced a massive plague of locusts. Joel used this as an analogy for the coming Day of the Lord, when disaster would descend on the nation for its sins. Yet Joel showed another aspect to that great day—a time that would bring new, abundant blessings to those who reach out to God.
 - Another prophet, Hosea (whose name means "salvation"), had a ministry that was mainly lived out in the pain and heartache of his personal life. God told Hosea to marry a prostitute who continued her ways within the marriage before leaving her husband—and their three children—in order to return to prostitution. Years later, Hosea bought her back from her master, living out God's unbelievable love for us.
 - The prophet Isaiah, whose name means "Yahweh is salvation", operated in the years 740-680 BC. More than any other prophet Isaiah proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and was a major voice of the message of salvation. Isaiah brought us visions of

KEY SCRIPTURE: Revelation 22:6-7, 10, 12-20

God's glory and holiness and majesty as the One, true, living God, Creator of all things.

- ❖ There are three big overarching themes in the messages the prophets brought to God's people. The first big theme was showing the people how they were living in terms of their covenant with God.
- ❖ The prophets described with detail and emotion how the covenant was being transgressed, which usually took place in three ways: 1) People were straight out disobeying the commandments of God; 2) They were committing spiritual adultery, and 3) They were exploiting those without power, thereby neglecting the social justice God requires.
- ❖ And yet, in spite of the way they were living, God's people thought that if they just went through the motions of religious rituals at the Temple, they would be okay. Through His prophets, God said "No Way."
- ❖ Which brings us to the second big theme of the prophets: Repent! Turn around, or you are going to experience the judgement of God.
- ❖ But if you repent, you can experience His mercy. That message is still coming to us today.
- ❖ The third big theme of the prophets is that of Restoration and Salvation. This message is that the Kingdom of Heaven truly is at hand, if we would reach out and receive it. If we would finally turn to Him, humble ourselves, pray and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways... Then God will hear. He will forgive. He will heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- ❖ God has sent us prophecy to alert us and to light our way. Now it's up to us to listen. We can't be passive about prophecy, because it is God speaking to us.
- ❖ So, let us both hear and take heed. Let us lock in to our covenant with God. And we will experience His restoration and salvation.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have there been prophetic messages spoken in your life or in the life of someone close to you? If comfortable, share what that was. Has it come to pass or are you still waiting?
2. Are there scriptures that you take as key prophetic messages in your life? What are these scriptures and what made you choose them?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, You are still speaking to and through Your people. Help us, Lord, to hear. Help us to take heed. Help us to repent, so that we may experience Your restoration. Amen.

Start-up: Have you ever pretended to "go through the motions"? What happened when someone called you out on it?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- 🌀 (Think about)
- ⚡ (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD