

17-18 Bible Study #1

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Introduction to 2017 – 2018 Bible Study (OT Prophets)

9/12/17

Administrative Information

- The Bible Study Class will be presented in the parish hall every Tuesday morning from **9:30 A.M. until 11 A.M.** beginning **September 12, 2017** and ending **May 15, 2018** except for the following Tuesdays related to a holiday:
 - Nov 21, 2017 – Thanksgiving Week
 - Dec 26, 2017 – Christmas Week
 - Jan 2, 2018 - New Year's Week
 - Mar 27, 2018 – Holy Week
- The same class will be given every Tuesday evening from **7:30 until 9:00 P.M.** in the parish hall
- Contact info (703) 644-5873; email rew6710@gmail.com
- Inclement weather decision will be **based on Fairfax County Public School announcements**

Administrative Information (Cont)

- Please sign in with your name, telephone number and e-mail
- I will automatically forward you a copy of the class charts via e-mail every week
- I will forward prayer requests from the group upon receipt
- Anyone who wishes may record the presentation
- Any version of the bible is acceptable – I will use the *RSV Catholic Edition*
- Although we will not follow a specific text, it will be centered around Jeff Cavin's Bible Timeline

Administrative Information (Cont)

- Please feel free to ask questions during or after the presentation
- Brief review of my background:
 - MA Christendom College Graduate School 1999
 - Audited classes since graduating
 - Presenting Bible Study for over 15 years
- Overview of this course:
 - We will begin with a brief overview of the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, and the pre-Exilic prophets
 - Then we will concentrate on the Exilic and Post Exilic Prophets

Overview of the study of the OT Prophets in 2016-2017

- **Last year we studied the following Old Testament Prophets within the historical setting of 1st Kings:11 through 2nd Kings: 25**

- Elijah
- Elisha
- Jonah
- Amos
- Hosea

- Isaiah
- Micah
- Zephaniah
- Nahum
- Jeremiah

Review of the Prophets

- **Prophet**

- In Hebrew *Nabi*: a spokesman, speaker, prophet
- In Greek *Prophétés*: an interpreter or forth-teller of the divine will

- **What is a prophet?**

- A man or woman anointed by God and ultimately recognized by the people to announce God's word to his or her generation
 - **Someone who is the mouthpiece, spokesman for God**
 - He is **not a fortune teller!**
- Upon receipt of His message the people (the king, the society, the people in general) who hear it must decide what they are going to do with what the prophet said

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- There are **different meanings** for a Prophet/“Man of God”
 - One who came and spoke for God
 - A mediator between God and man
 - A mouthpiece for God
- Some were called “Seer” – one who could see or perceive things that others could not

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- The difference between **major (6)** and **minor prophets (12)** is the **length of his book**
- The prophetic books appear in the Bible from the longest to the shortest (**Isaiah to Malachi**)
- In most cases a historical setting is presented at the beginning of each prophetic book to provide the historical context

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- Prophets received their **divine messages in various ways:**
 - Visions
 - Hearing
 - Internal interpretation
 - Sometimes unexpected and occasionally by extraordinary events
- The historical dates for the prophets vary widely

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- Two aspects of most prophecies:
 - A **threat** (bad news)
 - Judgment
 - Breaking of the Covenant
 - Curses of Deuteronomy
 - A **consolation** (good news)
 - Restoration

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- Most prophets taught **orally** and often added **symbolic acts** to catch the attention of their hearers
- Repeated prophetic pronouncements included
 - The Day of Yahweh
 - The saved
 - Messianism
 - Eschatology

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- Judgment is often presented as a **lawsuit** from the king's court called the "*rib*"
 - The prophets serve to accuse the people of formally violating the Law (Covenant) or their part of the contract
 - The language is very formal "God promised this, you did that, now judge what should happen next"
- The exile is the ultimate price paid for breaking God's covenant

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- Many of the prophets present both good and bad news as reflected by the **blessings and curses of Du 28**
 - Good News:
 - Restoration
 - Blessings
 - Bad News :
 - Judgment
 - Breaking the Covenant
 - Curses

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- The **different categories** of Prophets:
 - Nameless prophet
 - Professional prophets
 - **False prophets**
 - **Non-Canonical** prophets (one without his own book)
 - **Canonical** prophets (named book in the Bible)
 - Major prophets
 - Minor prophets
 - Prophets oriented toward Israel
 - Prophets oriented toward Judah

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- A **false prophet** is one:
 - Whose message does not come true
 - Who calls the people to follow “other gods” and speaks rebellion against the “Lord God” who brought *Israel* out of the land of Egypt

Review of the Prophets (Cont)

- When you read a Book of the Bible you need to know three bits of very important information:
 - Who is **the author**
 - Who is the **intended audience**
 - What is the **purpose of the author's writing**
- It is **also important** to understand the **historical context**
 - The Old Testament Prophets were prophesying during a certain period in the history of Israel known as the “age of the prophets”
 - They were not prophesying to modern day Christians
 - Let us now **look at the historical context** leading up to the Prophets

12 Periods of Bible History

- Early World (Pre-history)
- Patriarchs
- Egypt & Exodus
- Desert
- Conquest & Judges
- Royal Kingdom
- Divided Kingdom
- Exile
- Return
- Maccabean Revolt
- Messianic Fulfilment
- The Church

Development of the Bible

- The books of both the Old Testament and New Testament came about in the following manner:
 - Passed on orally
 - Written down in scrolls that were copied and distributed to synagogues and churches
 - These scrolls were eventually collected into what became the Bible
 - Greek Septuagint
 - Hebrew Bible

The 14 Historical Books of the Bible

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Numbers
- Joshua
- Judges
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1st Kings
- 2nd Kings
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- 1 Maccabees
- Luke
- Acts

Overview of first Historical Books

- **Genesis**

- Prehistory

- Creation
 - Adam & Eve and the fall
 - Flood
 - Tower of Babel

- Patriarchs

- Abraham

- Covenant
 - 3 Promises
 - Descendants -12 sons of Jacob (Israel)
 - Move to Egypt

Overview of first Historical Books (Cont)

- **Exodus**

- Moses vs. Pharaoh
- Passover
- The Law on Mt Sinai
- The golden calf incident
- Wandering in the desert

- *Leviticus*

- *Rules governing worship*

Overview of first Historical Books (Cont)

- **Numbers**

- 40 years in the desert

- *Deuteronomy*

- *Moses' final discourse prior to entry into the Promised Land*

Overview of first Historical Books (Cont)

- **Joshua**

- Entry and occupation of Promised land

- **Judges**

- 12 Judges of Israel

- *Ruth*

Overview of first Historical Books (Cont)

- **1st Samuel**

- The people requested Samuel to ask God for a king
- First Kings of Israel
 - Saul
 - David

- **2nd Samuel**

- Jerusalem becomes city of David and capital
- Rebellions of David's son Absalom

Overview of first Historical Books (Cont)

- **1st Kings**

- Death of David
- Solomon
- Beginning of the Civil war
 - Israel – 10 tribes in North
 - Judah (Benjamin) 2 tribes in South

- **2nd Kings**

- Final destruction of Israel by Assyria
- Fall of Judah and the Babylonian captivity

- *1st and 2nd Chronicles*

- *Similar to 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings*

Timeline (Cont)

- **Royal Kingdom: 1050-930 BC = 120 yrs.**
 - Saul
 - David
 - Solomon

Timeline

- **Divided Kingdom: 930–540 = 390 yrs.**
 - Israel 930 – 722 = 208 yrs.
 - Judah 930-540 = 390 yrs.
- **Pre-exilic prophets 870-605 = 265 yrs.**
- **Exilic prophets 600 – 571 = 29 yrs.**
- **Post-exilic prophets – 520 – 424 = 96 yrs.**