

# Bible Study 2022-2023

## Class #14

1/10/23



# The Exodus

From the Land of Egypt

# PROPHETS

Biblical prophets were God's servants especially called to be his witnesses. God sent prophets to his people during times of crisis. Old Testament prophets were intermediaries between God and his people. They brought the word of God to people. As Scriptures says, "Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

PROPHET	PROPHESED	DATE (BC)*	HOME/LOCATION
Samuel	To Israel	1060-1020	Ramah
Elijah	To Israel	870-845	Tishbe
Elisha	To Israel	845-800	Abel Meholah
Jonah	To Nineveh	781	Gath-hepher
Amos	To Israel	765-754	Tekoa
Isaiah	To Judah	760-673	Jerusalem
Hosea	To Israel	758-725	Israel
Micah	To Judah	738-698	Moreseth-gath
Nahum	Concerning Nineveh	658-615	Elkosh
Jeremiah	To Judah	650-582	Anathoth
Zephaniah	To Judah	640-626	Unknown
Ezekiel	To Exiles in Babylonia	620-570	Babylon
Daniel	In Babylon	620-540	Babylon
Habakkuk	To Judah	608-598	Unknown
Obadiah	Concerning Edom	590	Judah
Zechariah	To Judah	522-509	Jerusalem
Haggai	To Judah	520	Jerusalem
Malachi	To Judah	465	Unknown
Joel	To Judah	450	Jerusalem

\* Dates are approximate

# Matthew Overview

- Returning to **Matthew 3**, we find the Baptism of Jesus contains a quote from *Isaiah*, but not one from *Malachi*
- Father said that Matthew and Luke deal with *Malachi* in another way
- As mentioned earlier, we will use Matthew as the primary source for our study on the Synoptics and make comparisons with Mark and Luke as we go along
- Father chose Matthew over the other two because it (like Luke) is much richer than Mark

# Matthew Overview (Cont)

- Also, Matthew maximizes all of the riches of the Old Testament
- Further, it is the oldest and most Jewish gospel
- If one studies the Old Testament first, Matthew's richness will be evident and make it easier to understand Mark and Luke

# Matthew 3

- **Matthew 3:1-2** *“In those days, John the Baptist, preached in the wilderness of Judea. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*
  - John was down at the Jordan River
  - As mentioned earlier Matthew describes this as the “Kingdom of Heaven” (many think of clouds, angels, and harps)
  - But, “heaven” is a “circumlocution” for God (*Theos* or *Elohim*)
  - These were used to avoid saying the Holy Name of God
  - It is a hedge around a hedge of the Law which simply said, “do not profane the name of the Lord”

# Matthew 3 (Cont)

- This simply meant not to use it in a false or even common oath
- The name of the Lord was reserved for religious purposes including prayer and praise as seen in the **Psalms**
- The Jews believed that they had to be careful to avoid using the divine name to ensure they did not get comfortable with it to the point of breaking the Law
- This was applied even when translating the Scriptures from *Hebrew* to *Aramaic*; you would not even see the name *Yahweh* (Lord as its equivalent in *Aramaic*)
- When they translated from *Hebrew* to *Greek*, they used the “circumlocution” of Lord

# Matthew 3 (Cont)

- This prohibition of avoiding the use of the Holy Name in common speech was applied as far back as the time they were writing the Septuagint (3<sup>rd</sup> through 1<sup>st</sup> Century)
  - They could have just used *Elohim* or *Adonai* as the word for God, but did not for fear that it would become synonymous for the Holy Name (*Yahweh*)
  - To avoid this, they started putting hedges around the law by referring to the “Kingdom of God” as the “Kingdom of Heaven”
  - We can see an even earlier example of this hedge in the **Books of Maccabees**
  - On the other hand, if we look at **Mark** or **Luke**, we will find this depicted as the “Kingdom of God”



# Matthew 3 (Cont)

- If we go back to the Old Testament, we will find it the “Kingdom of Heaven,” depicted as the “Kingdom of *Yahweh*”
- This kingdom was seen as the one over which God was the King of Israel
- Father pointed out that this term, “Kingdom of Heaven” has caused problems for Christians, as they often think of it as the “kingdom in the clouds”
- It was further understood as the establishment of the “Kingdom of Israel” from the time of David (not modern Israel)
- Next, Matthew provides a quote from **Isaiah**

# Matthew 3 (Cont)

- **Matthew 3:3-4** *“For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said: ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight’”*
  - It is obvious that this is the voice of John the Baptist, (my messenger) and it fulfills the prophesy in **Malachi 3<sub>1</sub>**
  - John wore a cloak made of camel’s hair and a leather belt (the imagery of *Elijah* as found in **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 1:8**) <sub>2</sub>
  - *Elijah* was the only Old Testament prophet known for his clothes
  - Matthew is showing us the ***Malachi*** image here (unlike Mark, who identified him by his speech)