

THE PROPHETS IIb  
EXILIC AND POST-EXILIC TIMES

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. This Lesson Continues Where Lesson Eleven Left Off. *It Is A Bleak And Desolate Hour For Jerusalem.*
- B. During The Long Period Of Captivity Of Judah By The Babylonian Empire, The Lord Continued To Have His "Men Of The Hour," The Prophets.

II. AIM.

- A. The Aim Of This Lesson Is To Continue To Grasp The Facts From Prophetic Books.
  - 1. Read these books.
  - 2. Remember the pertinent facts of these books.
- B. Using The Same Method Of Study As In The Previous Lessons, We Will Continue Learning, 1) *The Theme*, 2) *The Purpose* And 3) *The Outline* Of The Books Covering This Period Of History.

III. OUTLINE.

- A. THE PROPHETIC WRITINGS OF EXILIC TIMES - THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD.
  - 1. *Ezekiel* (597 B.C.)
    - a. *Theme*: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (18:20-23)
    - b. *Purpose*:
      - 1) To impress the truth upon the Jewish exiles that their enslavement was due to their *own* sinfulness.
      - 2) To destroy the false hopes of an early return to Jerusalem. (cf. *Jer.* 25:11; 28:1-17; 29:10)

c. *Outline.*

I. *Destruction:* Concerning Jerusalem  
And The Surrounding Nations. (1 - 32)

II. *Restoration:* Concerning United  
Israel And Judah And The New Temple.  
(33 - 48)

2. *Obadiah (587 B.C.)*

a. *Theme:* Edom's utter destruction unavoidable.

b. *Purpose:* To show that Edom will be judged  
for its attitude and action concerning:

1) Hatred and a proud spirit. (3)

2) Unbrotherly conduct. (11-13)

c. *Outline.*

I. Edom's Ruin. (1-9)

II. Edom's Sin. (10-14)

III. Edom's Judgment, Israel's Restora-  
tion. (15-21)

3. *Lamentations. (586 B.C.)*

a. *Theme:* Jerusalem's great catastrophe: Des-  
truction realized!

b. *Purpose:*

1) To show the heart of a faithful person  
(Jeremiah) concerning the end of a great  
theocracy.

2) To relieve the heartache of national and  
individual ruin.

c. *Outline.*

I. Jerusalem's Desolation: *The Con-  
dition.* (1)

II. Jehovah's Displeasure: *The Canopy.*  
(2)

III. Justifiable Hope: *The Curse.* (3)

IV. Jerusalem's Past And Present: *The Contrast.* (4)

V. Jerusalem's Appeal: *The Cry.* (5)

4. *Daniel (605-536 B.C.)*

a. *Theme:* God rules the nations. (2:21; 4:17, 32)

b. *Purpose:*

1) The primary purpose is to show the sovereignty of God in dealing with human nations and kingdoms.

2) The predictive purpose was to clearly set forth the setting up of God's kingdom. (2:44; 7:1 - 12:13)

c. *Outline.*

I. Narratives: Six Historical Incidents In The Life Of Daniel During The Exile. (1 - 6)

II. Visions: Five Prophetic Visions Revealed To Daniel. (7 - 12)

B. THE PROPHETIC WRITINGS OF POST-EXILIC TIMES - THE MEDO-PERSIAN PERIOD.

1. *Haggai (520 B.C.)*

a. *Theme:* "Build the Temple!"

b. *Purpose:* To stir up a slack people that they *consider their ways* and consider Jehovah's house.

1) To restore hope and zeal in the people.

2) To build the neglected Temple.

c. *Outline.*

I. Consider Your Selfish And Disrespectful Ways. (1)

II. Consider Jehovah And The Latter Glory Of His House. (2)

## 2. Zechariah (520-516 B.C.)

### a. Theme:

- 1) Immediate - "Return unto me and I will return unto you." (1:3)
- 2) Predictive - Zion will be glorious with its Priest-King. (6:13-14)

### b. Purpose:

- 1) To encourage the people and cheer them on in their divinely given task of building the Temple.
- 2) To predict the greatness and magnitude of the spiritual kingdom of Zion.

### c. Outline.

I. The Night Visions. (1:1 - 6:15)

II. The Question Of Fasting. (7:1 - 8:23)

III. Prophecies Of World Powers And God's Kingdom. (9:1 - 14:21)

## 3. Malachi (445 B.C.)

a. Theme: God's holiness vs. man's unholiness.

### b. Purpose:

- 1) To rebuke the priests and the people of 1) worldliness, 2) covetousness, 3) hypocrisy, 4) indifference, 5) impure marriages and 6) skepticism.
- 2) To present the unchangeableness of God and His undying love: He still judges in condemnations and blessings.

### c. Outline.

I. Jehovah, The Lover Of His People. (1 - 2)

II. Jehovah, The Judge Of His People. (3 - 4)

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. In Order To Have A Better Understanding Of All The Writing Prophets In Their Chronological Order, The Student Is Encouraged To Review This Lesson And Lesson Eleven At The Same Time.
- B. Especially Review The *Theme* And The *Purpose* Of Each Book In Order To Retain The Main Points Of The Writings.