

# Introduction to the Prophets

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## ❖ Why Study the Old Testament Prophets?

- Romans 15:4.
- 1Corinthians 10:11.
- A good understanding of the Old Testament helps one to better appreciate the New Testament.
- A study of the prophets will enrich the lives of every open-minded student.
- A study of the prophets will help every person in their personal struggle for righteousness.

## ❖ Seven principles to help us understand the prophets:

- True prophets were men and women who were moved by the Holy Spirit (2Peter 1:20-21).
- True prophets did not introduce strange religions nor new laws but rather only pointed men back to God's law (Deuteronomy 3:1-5).
- True prophet's predictive prophecies came to pass (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).
- True prophet's prophecies were sometimes conditional (Deuteronomy 28; Jeremiah 18:5-11).
- The minor prophets lived before and after the Babylonian exile were concerned with the nations surrounding this event (Zechariah 1:5-6).
- Some of the prophets major themes are the Messiah's second coming and the establishment of His kingdom, the church (Romans 1:1-2; Acts 3:24; 1Peter 1:10-12).
- God's final revelation was made through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

## ❖ The work of the prophets:

- It was proclamation and prediction or forth-telling and foretelling (most of the time the emphasis was on the proclamation or forth-telling).
- They were speakers for God (Deuteronomy 8:18).