

The Prophets

Last week we discussed the poetry found in the book of Psalms.

This week we will focus on how we should read and interpret the prophets.

Video/Lecture Notes:

- The prophets mostly discuss covenant. They accuse Israel of violating the covenant, they call Israel to repentance, and they announce the consequences of breaking the covenant.
- The Day of the Lord in the prophets refers to any time when the judgements of God occur. These are often described in cosmic terms to point towards God's future work.
- The prophets often strike a balance between warnings against sin and messages of hope to the faithful people of God.
- Prophecies usually find multiple fulfillments, as the prophets interpret Israel's history and current events to point towards cosmic realities of God's work.

Discussion

Read **Zephaniah 1:7-18**. How can you see the themes of the Day of the Lord and multiple fulfillment of prophecy in this passage?

Read **Micah 6**. Where does this passage contain the accusation against Israel, the call to repentance, the annunciation of consequences?

Read **Isaiah 65:8-16**. How does this passage demonstrate the balance between hope and warning characteristic of much of the prophetic writings?