



Themes and Threads of the Holy Bible: The Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi)

Major Prophets:

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah

Date: 700-681 BC

To: Judah

Confrontation (1:1-39:8)

Hope (40:1-66:24)

Promise (40:1-48:22)

Suffering Servant (49:1-55:13)

Exaltation (56:1-66:24)

Key Verse:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Are you trying to pay for your sin against a Holy God? Maybe you are pursuing good works in order to compensate for your indebtedness to Him. Is it time for you to receive His payment in Christ by grace, through faith, committing your life to Him?

Jeremiah

Author: Jeremiah

Date: 627-586 BC

To: Judah

Appointment (1:1-19)
Messages (2:1-45:5)
Judgment (46:1-51:64)
Pain (52:1-34)

Key Verses:

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

“If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it” (Jeremiah 18:7-10).

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Are you partially surrendering to God, withholding something where you maintain control of your own life? Perhaps, it is lustful thoughts, an illicit relationship, the repeated abuse of alcohol, clicking where you shouldn't, texting in an unhealthy manner, arguing continually with your spouse or children, or misusing any gift God designed for good. Jeremiah defined anything less than full surrender as pretending. Make an authentic commitment of full surrender to Christ, today, by letting go of any holdbacks from God.

Lamentations

Author: Believed to be Jeremiah

Date: 586 BC

To: Jerusalem

Grief (1:1-3:66)
Expressed (1:1-22)
Consequences (2:1-22)

Consolation (3:1-66)
Perspective of the Past and Present (4:1-22)
Prayer for Forgiveness (5:1-22)

Key Verses:

“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Ezekiel

Author: Ezekiel

Date: 571 BC

To: Jews in Babylonian captivity

Condemnation (1:1-24:27)
 Glory of God (1:1-3:27)
 Gloom of Israel (4:1-24:27)
Consolation (25:1-48:35)
 Judgment (25:1-32:32)
 Hope (33:1-39:29)
 Temple: New Jerusalem (40:1-48:35)

Key Verses:

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Do you need a new heart and a new spirit? Are you willing to surrender your rigid heart of stone for a soft heart of clay that is malleable in the hands of the Potter? If so, pray to God, “I can’t. You can. I can’t restore myself. God, in Christ, only You can.” He will give you His Holy Spirit and make you new, again.

Daniel

Author: Daniel

Date: 535 BC

To: Captives in Babylon

Capture (1:1-21)

Humility (2:1-7:28)

Hope (8:1-12:4)

Answers (12:5-13)

Key Verse:

“He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Time on this side is a microcosm of eternity. God’s kingdom will last forever. Therefore, each of us must ask, “*Do I prioritize the eternal over the temporal?*” Examine your calendar, your bank statement, and your to do list. Do they reflect valuing eternity? Relationships and the Word of God will last forever. How much are you investing in both?

Minor Prophets:

Hosea

Author: Hosea

Date: 715 BC

To: Israel

Marriage (1:1-3:5)

Dysfunctional Family (1:1-2:1)

Unfaithful Wife and Mother (2:2-13)

Reconciliation (2:14-23)

Restoration (3:1-5)

Message (4:1-14:9)

God’s Complaints (4:1-19)

Israel’s Refusal (5:1-8:14)

God’s Love (9:1-9)

Rejection (9:10-13:16)

Reconciliation (14:1-9)

Key Verse:

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. ‘Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children’” (Hosea 4:6).

Joel

Author: Joel

Date: 835-796 BC

To: Judah

Plague (1:1-2:27)

Locusts (1:1-14)

Judgment (1:15-2:11)

Mercy (2:12-27)

Choice of Life or Death (2:28-3:21)

Spirit (2:28-29)

Terror (2:30-31)

Judgment (2:32-3:15)

God’s Kingdom (3:16-21)

Key Verse:

“And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls” (Joel 2:32).

Amos

Author: Amos

Date: 760-750 BC

To: Israel

Offenses (1:1-2:16)

Warnings (3:1-6:14)

Punishment (7:1-9:15)

Key Verse:

“Surely the eyes of the Sovereign LORD are on the sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from the face of the earth. Yet I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob” (Amos 9:8).

Obadiah

Author: Obadiah

Date: Either 853-841 BC or 627-586 BC

To: Judah and Edomites

God’s Principle of Justice (1-9)

God’s View of Injustice (10-14)

God’s Just Plan (15-21)

Key Verse:

“The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head (Obadiah 15).

Jonah

Author: Jonah

Date: 785-760 BC

To: Israel

Jonah’s Rejection of God’s Call (1:1-17)

Prayer and Deliverance (2:1-10)

Nineveh Spared (3:1-10)

Jonah’s Debate (4:1-10)

Key Verses:

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD” (Jonah 2:8-9).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

When God called Jonah, he ran in the opposite direction. Only after experiencing the consequences of resisting Him, did Jonah humble his heart to his

heavenly Father. What about you? Are you running toward God or away from Him? He has called you to be His messenger of restoration. Are you yielding to His invitation? If not, would you make today the day you humble your heart to Christ and accept the call of His Holy Spirit? He will use you to make others new, again.

Micah

Author: Micah

Date: 742-687 BC

To: Israel and Judah

Downfall (1:1-2:13)

Judgment of Haughtiness (1:1-2:11)

Hope (2:12-13)

Deliverance (3:1-5:15)

Judgment of Self-Serving Interests (3:1-12)

Hope of Those with Servant Hearts (4:1-5:15)

Defeat (6:1-7:20)

Judgment and Misery (6:1-7:13)

Meaning of Hope (7:14-20)

Key Verse:

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Do you ever ask yourself what God requires of you? It’s interesting Scripture answers that exact question. He desires that you act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. Memorize Micah 6:8, making it your daily prayer to God.

Nahum

Author: Nahum

Date: 663 BC

To: Nineveh and Judah

Judah's Comfort (1:1-15)
Justice (1:1-3)
God's Sovereignty (1:4-6)
God's Mercy (1:7)
Judgment of Enemies (1:8)
Restoration (1:9-15)
Assyria's Judgment (2:1-3:19)

Key Verse:

“The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him” (Nahum 1:7).

Habakkuk

Author: Habakkuk
Date: 612-588 BC
To: Judah

Doubt (1:1-17)
Purpose (2:1-20)
Praise (3:1-19)

Key Verse:

“See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous will live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4).

Zephaniah

Author: Zephaniah
Date: 640-621 BC
To: Judah and all nations

Prophecies of Judgment (1:1-3:8)
Judah (1:1-2:3)
Jerusalem (3:1-8)
Promises of Blessings (3:9-20)

Key Verse:

“The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing” (Zephaniah 3:17).

Haggai

Author: Haggai

Date: 520 BC

To: Jerusalem and those who had returned from exile

Rebuke (1:1-15)

 Challenge of Rebuilding the Temple (1:2-11)

 Action (1:12-15)

Renewal (2:1-9)

Restoration (2:10-19)

Reassurance (2:20-23)

Key verse:

““On that day,’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you’ declares the LORD Almighty” (Haggai 2:23).

Zechariah

Author: Zechariah

Date: 520-518 BC and 480 BC

To: Jews in Jerusalem returning from captivity

Introduction (1:1-6)

Visions (1:7-6:15)

Conflict Between Religion and Relationship (7:1-8:23)

 Religion (7:1-14)

 Relationship (8:1-23)

Failure or Deliverance (9:1-14:21)

 Failure from Rejecting the Savior (9:1-11:17)

 Deliverance from Receiving the Savior (12:1-14:21)

Key Verse:

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9).

Malachi

Author: Malachi

Date: 430 BC

To: Jews in Jerusalem

Failure (1:1-2:17)

Hope (3:1-18)

Judgment – God’s Promised Intervention (4:1-6)

Key Verses:

“‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it’” (Malachi 3:10).

“‘But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,’ says the LORD Almighty” (Malachi 4:2-3).

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

Are you experiencing God’s resistance? Is it time to repent, to turn to Him, seeing life differently, from His perspective. God will honor your heart of contrition, when you fully surrender to Him.