

What Is Prophecy?

➤ נָבֵא (Nahvee) - נָבֵא bubble forth from a fountain+

Forthtelling: Announcements by the prophets that God's people had strayed from the covenant and would receive judgment unless they repented.

Foretelling: Predictions of the future made by the prophets concerning: future judgments, future salvation, and Messianic doctrine.

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Literary Forms in O.T. Prophecy

1. **Lawsuit Oracle:** God metaphorically sues Israel for breaking the covenant.

- Summons
- Charge
- Evidence
- Verdict

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Lawsuit Oracle Example: Isaiah 3:13-26

Summons: Isaiah 3:13-14a The Lord arises to contend, and stands to judge the people. The Lord enters into judgment with the elders and princes of His people

Charge: Isaiah 3:14b-15 Who is you who have devoured the vineyard;

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Lawsuit Oracle Example: Isaiah 3:13-26

Evidence: Isaiah 3:14c-16 The plunder of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing My people And grinding the face of the poor?+ Declares the Lord God of hosts. the daughters of Zion are proud and walk with heads held high and seductive eyes, and go along with mincing steps and tinkle the bangles on their feet

Verdict: Isaiah 3:25-26 Your men will fall by the sword And your mighty ones in battle. And her gates will lament and mourn, and deserted she will sit on the ground (cf. Is. 1:2-3; Jer. 2:4-12; Hos. 3:1-12; 4:1-19; Micah 6:1-8).

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Literary Forms in O.T. Prophecy

2. Woe Oracle: Expresses imminent doom because of sinfulness without repentance.

- Announcement of distress
- Reason for distress
- Prediction of doom

Woe Oracle Example: Micah 2:1-5

Announcement of distress: Micah 2:1 **Woe to those who scheme iniquity, Who work out evil on their beds!** When morning comes, they do it, For it is in the power of their hands.

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Woe Oracle Example: Micah 2:1-5

Reason for distress: Micah 2:2 They covet fields and then seize them, And houses, and take them away. They rob a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.

Prediction of doom: Micah 2:3-5 Therefore thus says the Lord, **Behold**, I am planning against this family a calamity and you will not walk haughtily, for it will be an evil time. **On that day** (cf. Is. 5:8-24; Hab. 2:6-8; Zeph. 2:5-7; Amos 5:18-20)

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Literary Forms in O.T. Prophecy

3. Promise Oracle: Provides assurance of future blessing associated with Abrahamic/Davidic Covenant.

- Reference to the future
- Radical change (brought forth by God's mercy)
- Promised blessings (Davidic Covenant Established)

Promise Oracle Example: Amos 9:11-15

Reference to future: Amos 9:11, 13 **Behold, days are coming**

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Promise Oracle Example: Amos 9:11-15

Radical change + Promised blessings: Amos 9:11-12 I will **raise up** the **fallen booth of David**, and wall up its breaches, I will also raise up **its ruins** and rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may **possess the remnant of Edom** and all the nations who are called by My name, + Declares the LORD who does this.

Its ruins = his ruins (3rd person, masc, singular suffix)

Numbers 24:17-18 A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab **Edom shall be a possession**

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How Do N.T. Writers Use O.T. Prophecy?

Proposals on Usage of O.T. Prophecy

1. **Single Meaning:** Messianic prophecy is merely a dogmatic assertion . J.G. Eichhorn (1752-1827).
2. **Sensus Plenior:** The O.T. writer wrote better than he knew+
3. **Jewish Hermeneutic + Historical Progressive:** The N.T. writers used Christological glasses+and used 2nd Temple Hermeneutics+
4. **Epigenetical:** Seminal ideas were placed within specific prophecies

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A Case Study: Matthew's Use of Hosea 11:1

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son

Matthew 2:14-15 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Out of Egypt I called My Son+

It is difficult indeed to view Jesus coming out of Egypt in Matthew 2:15 as an objective reading of Hosea 11:1+(Peter Enns, *Inspiration and Incarnation*, pg. 153).

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A Case Study: Matthew's Use of Hosea 11:1

Hosea 11:1: Israel coming out of Egypt

Matthew 2:15: Jesus going into Egypt

Intersection: My Son!

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.+

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Three Types of Prophecies

1. **Direct prophecies:** Very straight forward - Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity (cf. Gen. 3:15; 9:27; 12:1-3; 49:8-12; Num. 24:15-19; Deut. 18:15, 18; 2 Sam. 7:14-20 etc.).
2. **Typical Prophecies:** The contextual referent differs between the near+and the far,+but they both share at least one common trait (Matt 2:15; 17-18; Rom. 5:14; Heb. 11:19; 1 Pet. 3:20 etc.).

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Three Types of Prophecies

3. **Application of O.T. words:** The language of the O.T. is used, but no specific prediction was intended by the O.T. or N.T. writer (Matt. 2:23; Rev. 6:8 etc.).

Revelation 6:8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with **sword** and with **famine** and with **pestilence** and by the **wild beasts** of the earth (cf. Ezekiel 14:21).

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Principles to Use

1. Read both Old and New Testament passages.
 - The meaning of the O.T. passage must reflect the author's own times and historical circumstances.
 - The meaning must agree with the grammar/syntax of both O.T. and N.T. passages.
 - **What identical theological theme is embedded in both texts? (the %near+and the %far+)**
2. There must be a single meaning to original O.T. text!
3. Remember the %Seed Promise!+(Corporate Solidarity)

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What Theme(s) Are in Common?

Matthew 1:21-23 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Behold, the **virgin** shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**,+which translated means, %God with us.+

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a **virgin** will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name **Immanuel**.

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The Near and the Far

God's Plan

Gen. 3:15 **God's %Seed+Is Here!** Rev. 20-22

<u>Isaiah's Day</u>	<u>Matthew's Day</u>
Syria and Samaria threaten Davidic Line	Herod threatens Davidic Line
Promise Son will be born	Promise Son was born
Immanuel	Immanuel

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