

The Prophets- "Having a Moment"

The Ministry of the Prophets

August 24, 2025

Isaiah 1 ...(selections)

INTRO ...to "The Prophets"

- The Genres of Scripture [IMAGE]
- The timeline & section of "The Prophets" [IMAGE]
- "Major & Minor Prophets" [IMAGE]

A TEMPLATE for Receiving from the Prophets

"Though the authors wrote in different times and under different circumstances, their messages are in theological harmony with one another and with other types of biblical books. Several interrelated ideas unify the prophetic message," [includes 5 interrelated ideas] (**ESV Study Bible Notes**)

"Because prophets spoke words from God, their messages reflect the concerns of God for his people. These include: ..." [includes 6 concerns] (**NIV Zondervan Study Bible - Notes**)

...Our Template

- 1) A Particular Moment ["Having a Moment"] ...a context, setting, issues, beliefs, and activities that 'characterize' the time/season under heaven that the prophet is called to speak into.
- 2) An Historic/Existing Life Obligation – "COVENANT"
- 3) Repentance ...If there's one simple and observable emphasis of every prophetic writing, it is a call to repentance/return.
- 4) An Engagement with the Human Heart ...a theology of IDOLATRY
- 5) Judgment
- 6) Redemption/Restoration ...This is ultimately about The CHRIST
- 7) Hope

INTRO ...to "Having a Moment"

"The ministry of the biblical prophets tended to be clustered around times of crisis. ...God used the prophets to offer guidance to his people in troubled times." **Andrew Hill & John Walton**, "A Survey of the Old Testament", p. 503

"It is important to recognize that the prophets were not the regular teachers of God's word—that was the priests' calling (Deut. 33:10). Rather, God raised up prophets for particular times in the OT story (which is why their "calls" were so important, as in Isaiah 6)." (**ESV Study Bible Notes**)

...Prophets have a ministry because "Stuff Happens" with God's People. ...The prophets are a particular element of "steering" with a particular curriculum that is attached to the type of "moment" God's people are having.

-- When Genesis is written, it's a different moment & presentation ...when the Psalms are being written it's a variety of moments and human experiences; the Proverbs are much more of a "one-size-fits-all" writing for human beings doing L.U.T.S.;

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

-- Understanding Their Moment and Their Particular Need for the Ministry of the Word might be very helpful to me/us in one/some of MY MOMENTS and My Particular Need for the Word of God!

WARNING: "Moment-Interpretation Zone": You/I May be Having a Moment ...but "their moment" may not be exactly our moment! Careful how you self-correct. One judgement size does not fit all!

"As always, in biblical interpretation, we need to go back to the original writer, hearers and their context – 'them and then' – before we can move with confidence and integrity to our own very different situation – 'us and now'. **David Jackman**, "Teaching Isaiah"

...There's a Wrong Way to Apply the Prophets!

We relate to the original context in at least two basic ways. Firstly, because the biggest picture of the Bible is that God is preaching himself to us, we recognise that everything the unchanging Lord reveals of his nature and character in the Old Testament text is still true for us as its twenty-first century readers. Secondly, because human nature does not change, we can only too easily see ourselves reflected in the deceitful hearts of the people of Judah and learn from their mistakes how our own divided hearts may equally lead us astray. All of this stems from careful reading of the text and sensitive immersion of ourselves in the circumstances and world-view of Isaiah's original hearers.

But we are not in the same position as they were. Our second reference point must be the great divide of human history, in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, to bring about God's great rescue plan. It was Christ himself who told his disciples, 'Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms' (Luke 24:44)." **David Jackman**, "Teaching Isaiah"

The Creation of a Moment

...The Writing Prophets begin addressing Their Moment in 700's BC (Isaiah = 740BC)

Isaiah 6:1, 8-9 ¹ In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ...⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." ⁹ And he said, "Go, and say to this people:

...But Isaiah's Moment doesn't begin in 740!! ...It is critical to see that "Their Moments" developed in their lives—"Little by Little"!

...A Documentary on DRIFT!

- *The Garden* .
- *The Nation of Israel*

Judges 2:7, 10 "And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. ...¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after the who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel."

- If I'm Taking Notes for MY MOMENTS ...I want to be Mindful of this L.U.T.S. potential for ME!!
- I think there's a Lesson in "Drift" that is found in "Generational Baton Passing"! Generations have a tendency to get things "Partially Right" along with "Partial Neglect"!

Haggai 1:4-9 "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵ Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶ You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but

you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

⁷ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. ⁹ You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.

...v.7 “Consider your ways” ...THIS is what Prophetic Ministry “Sounds” Like—a Call to Consider MY ways, the right here and right now of my moment, the practices, patterns, attitudes that have led me to this address!

- **The N.T. Church Age**

- PAUL ...Acts 18 ...Paul establishes this church ...Acts 20 ...Paul gives a detailed description of his 3 years in Ephesus Aquilla & Priscilla ...Apollos ...Timothy
- A Few Drifting Decades Later...

Rev 2:1-7 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

² “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

...v.7 ...The church is supposed to have a “prophetic ear”!! ...an ability to Hear/Receive the Holy Spirit speaking into our “Moments” in this arena of L.U.T.S.!

...v.5 ...There is profitable, corrective “remembering” ... that then leads to “repenting” and “doing the works you did at first”

Philemon 1:23-24 ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

~ 5 Years Later...

2 Tim 4:9-11 Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me.

“DRIFT” is alive and well—even for the N.T. Spirit-Indwelt Believer!! ...Be Ready!!

- **Church History**

- Doctrinal/Theological Drift ...Be Ready!
 - In the early history of the church there were moments where a handful of ideas present themselves that are “off” and begin some “sect”.
 - An Over Attachment to Judaism (1st Cent.)

Gal 5:2-9 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

...Be Ready!! – to discern beliefs that “sever you from Christ” and destroy the concept of “grace”

- Gnosticism - The Problem of Explaining Evil (1st & 2nd Cent.)

“Gnostics came to the conclusion that all matter is evil, or at best unreal. A human being is in reality an eternal spirit that somehow has been imprisoned in a body. The supreme being had no intention of creating a material world, but only a spiritual one.”
Justo Gonzalez, “The Story of Christianity”, p. 59

1 Jn 3:4-7 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you.

- The Protestant Reformation (16th Cent.) – *Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Sola Scriptura*

A growing number of Americans just don't know what basic religious words mean. ...Here's the central point of that article: young people don't know what the word Protestant means anymore, ...As you can clearly see, we have a major problem. Among the youngest adults in the sample, almost none of them selected Protestant. In fact, fewer than 10% did so until you get into respondents in their late 30s. In contrast, large numbers simply said they were Christian ...But there's another dimension to this measurement debate I want to dig into today: the dreaded “Something else” option. ...If someone checks “Something else,” they are directed to a text box where they can type in a description of their religion. Let me tell you: that's a black hole of nonsense that makes me want to microwave my hard drives and live in the woods. **Ryan Burge, “My Religion is Something Else” (from Graphs about Religion)**

Isaiah 1:2-4 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: “Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. ³ The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”
⁴ Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.

...Before the problems of “rebellion”, “iniquity”, “evildoers” and “corruption” show up—the Problem of NOT KNOWING GOD has already been on the Scene!

Drift Does Not Require Difficulty or Desperation!

...The Moment of the Writing Prophets was not the product of a long season of Deep Difficulty! ...Remember the date of Isaiah—"In the year that King Uzziah Died..."

"After his calling in 740 BC, the year that Uzziah died (6:1), Isaiah's early ministry focused on the hidden, unacknowledged sins of Judah at the end of a long reign of peace, prosperity and security." **David Jackman**, "Teaching Isaiah"

2 Chronicles 26 ...Tells the story of Uzziah's Prosperity & Power

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Robert Robison, 1758) –

*3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.*

"...because human nature does not change, we can only too easily see ourselves reflected in the deceitful hearts of the people of Judah and learn from their mistakes how our own divided hearts may equally lead us astray. All of this stems from careful reading of the text and sensitive immersion of ourselves in the circumstances and world-view of Isaiah's original hearers." **David Jackman**, "Teaching Isaiah"

English Old Testament	
Pentateuch	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Historical Books	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
Poetic Books	Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
Prophetic Books	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

