

- **Prophet:** A human being who speaks for God, usually as a result of a divine call and sometimes (not always) exhibiting extravagant behavior (Isaiah 20:1-6) or abnormal psychological states (ecstasy)
- How to know a message is from God? How to recognize the genuine Prophet?
 1. Deut. 18: 21-22 If the prophecy does not happen, the prophet is false...
 2. Deut. 13: 1-4 If the prophecy does not conform to the Bible's message, the prophet is false, even if the things prophesied do happen.
- **Prophet:**
 1. has an immediate experience of God
 2. has had the holiness and will of God revealed to him or her
 3. contemplates the present and the future through the eyes of God
 4. sent (by God) to remind men of their duty to God and to bring them back to obedience and love
 - => a providential instrument of God for guidance of His people
 - => Moses, the Father of Prophets; spoke to God face-to-face and delivered the Law (Deut 34:10-12)
 5. Prophets intervene in times of crisis preceding or accompanying major turning points of the nation's history—message not for the king but for the people and since the message is of general interest, it was written down and disseminated; it survives.
- Major messages of Prophets:
 1. **Monotheism** => Besides Jehovah, Lord of the Universe, there is no room for other Gods
 - => God is transcendent...Holy...wrapped in mystery...and yet near
 2. **Morality** => God is pure holiness; human beings are unclean
 - => Sin is what divides humanity from God
 - => As sin is national and collective, so too must be punishment
 - => One who is to escape punishment for sins must seek God, which means observing God's Law, pursuing what is right, practicing humility...religion must be of the heart
 3. **Future Salvation** => punishment is not the end
 - => in the future, God's people (the remnant) will enjoy happiness unlike any they have ever known
 - => the future will be characterized by the kingship of God—virtue & holiness; new mode of life & forgiveness; true knowledge of God; peace & joy

- => God's "Anointed One" (the Messiah) will establish the kingdom and govern—God's earthly representative; his adopted son and loyal servant; the ideal earthly ruler = "God With Us" = Emmanuel (Is 7:14)... "The Lord Is Our Saving Justice" (Jer 23:6)
- => but God's Messiah will also be humble and pacific (peaceable)—God's instrument for liberating His people; servant of God; teacher of people; light of the nations; preaching in humility; despised and rejected by his own, but winning their salvation at the price of his own life

•Prophetic Books:

1. => Prophetic sayings—God's word or the Prophet's word in God's name
 - => Narratives—first person: Prophet's experience told in the Prophet's words
 - => Narratives—third person: The Prophet's experience told by others
 2. => Major Prophets (longer books, 5 total: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel)
 - => Minor Prophets (shorter books, 12 total: Hosea to Malachi)
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