

"God's Messengers"

Wednesday Evening Adult Class by Ray Reynolds (November 20, 2013)

Introduction: In **The Story** we have noticed how God divided the kingdom. God is trying to reach his people with a message. The question is: Will they respond to God or put God through to voicemail? The message that God desires to be heard is delivered by special servants called prophets. We pick up **The Story** in II Kings. Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. The Lord Divided the Nation Because His People Were Sending the Wrong Message

- A. God wanted His people to be blessed (instead they were a burden).
- B. God wanted His people to be devoted (instead they were apathetic).
- C. God wanted His people to be faithful (instead they were disobedient).

II. The Lord Divided the Nation Because His People Needed a Pure Message

- A. God divided the nation to preserve His promise.
- B. God divided the nation to preserve His character.
- C. God divided the nation to preserve His people.

III. The Lord Divided the Nation Because His People Needed Faithful Messengers

- A. The Prophets of Judah (Southern Kingdom)
 - Before the Exile of Israel & Judah
Shemaiah, Iddo, Azariah, Hanani, Jehu, Jahaziel, Eliezer, **Obadiah** (Edom), Elijah,
Joel, Isaiah, Zechariah
 - Before the Exile of Judah
Micah, Nahum (Assyria), **Zephaniah**, Huldah, **Jeremiah, Habakkuk**
 - During the Exile
Daniel, Urijah, Ezekiel
- B. The Prophets of Israel (Northern Kingdom)
 - Before the Exile of Israel & Judah
Ahijah, Iddo, Jehu, Elijah, Micaiah, Elisha, **Jonah** (Assyria), **Amos, Hosea, Oded**
- C. The Prophets to the Returning Jews
Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Conclusion: The teachings of the prophets take up the majority of the rest of our study. They reveal how God wants to work with His people. One thing we know about the New Testament is that God speaks today through His word and by His Spirit. *Who is on the phone?* It's God and He wants to talk to you. *Will you take the call or will you put God through to voicemail?* We need some time for reflection. We need some time to listen to God's Word. What will you do with the message of God? Will you forward the message on to those who need it? Will you help to keep it pure? Will you be a faithful messenger of the good news?

DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Hebrew Bible - 22	Greek Bible - 51 (some divide into 46)	English Bible - 39
Torah (Law)	Pentateuch	Law
Genesis	Genesis	Genesis
Exodus	Exodus	Exodus
Leviticus	Leviticus	Leviticus
Numbers	Numbers	Numbers
Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy
Prophets	History	History
Joshua	Joshua	Joshua
Judges	Judges	Judges
Samuel (single book)	Ruth	Ruth
Kings (single book)	1 Samuel	1 Samuel
Isaiah	2 Samuel	2 Samuel
Jeremiah	1 Kings	1 Kings
Ezekiel	2 Kings	2 Kings
Minor Prophets (single book)	1 Chronicles	1 Chronicles
	2 Chronicles	2 Chronicles
	<i>1 Esdras</i>	Ezra
	Ezra	Nehemiah
	Nehemiah	Esther
	Esther (<i>with additions</i>)	
	<i>Judith</i>	
	<i>Tobit</i>	
	<i>1-4 Maccabees</i>	
Writings	Wisdom	Wisdom Literature (Poetry)
Psalms	Psalms	Job
Job	Proverbs	Psalms
Proverbs	Ecclesiastes	Proverbs
Ruth	Song of Songs	Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs	Job	Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)
Ecclesiastes	<i>Wisdom of Solomon</i>	
Lamentations	<i>Ecclesiasticus</i>	
Esther	Prophets	The Prophets
Daniel	Minor prophets (12 books)	Major Prophets (5 books)
Ezra-Nehemiah (together)	Isaiah	<i>Isaiah, Jeremiah,</i>
Chronicles (single book)	Jeremiah	<i>Lamentations,</i>
	<i>Baruch</i>	<i>Ezekiel, Daniel</i>
	Lamentations	
	<i>Letter of Jeremiah</i>	Minor prophets (12 books)
	Ezekiel	<i>Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah,</i>
	<i>Susannah</i>	<i>Jonah, Micah, Nahum,</i>
	Daniel (<i>with additions</i>)	<i>Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai,</i>
		<i>Zechariah, Malachi</i>