

# BAC Podcast Notes

## Episode 7: “The Prophets”

This week’s episode covers the 17 prophetic books of Scripture (Isaiah–Malachi).

- The prophets are God’s spokespersons
- These books don’t advance the story of Scripture but provide God’s commentary on the story
- The prophets can be categorized based on whether they wrote before, during, or after the exile:
  - **Pre-Exile:** Obadiah, Joel, Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Micah, Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah
  - **During Exile:** Daniel, Ezekiel, Lamentations
  - **Post-Exile:** Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

While the prophets contain a diversity of material, their basic message can be summarized with three points:

- **Repentance**
  - You (Israel and/or Judah) have sinned and broken the covenant. You must repent!
  - Prophets act like prosecuting attorneys, listing specific ways God’s people have broken the covenant, including:
    - Idolatry—worshiping gods of foreign nations
    - Social injustice—not caring for the poor, widows, orphans, and foreigners
    - Religious ritualism—going through the motions while their hearts are far from God
  - The prophets use poetic language and analogies to call out God’s people for their sin—they compare the people to an unfaithful spouse
  - The prophets contain repeated calls to repent and turn back to the Lord
- **Judgment**
  - If you don’t repent, judgment is coming!
  - The judgment usually threatened is exile (removal from the Promised Land)
  - Some prophets write during the exile, so we see both predictions and fulfillment of judgment
    - Both Israel and Judah are taken into exile
    - God’s presence leaves the Temple (Ezekiel 8–10)
  - The prophets contain repeated references to the “Day of the LORD”
    - Refers to when God will bring justice—he will judge the wicked who have defied him and bring salvation to those who trust him
    - There are “days” of the LORD when this is fulfilled in part (e.g., when Israel and Judah are taken into exile)
    - There will also be a singular “Day of the LORD” in the future when Christ will return, and final justice will be served for all eternity
- **Hope**
  - The exile is not permanent; God has not abandoned his people
  - There will be a New Exodus
  - There will be a New Covenant that will be written on the people’s hearts (Jeremiah 31), and God’s Spirit will dwell inside his people (Joel 2)
  - There will be a New Creation—a New Heaven and New Earth (Isaiah 65)
  - All of this will be brought about by a coming King, the Messiah, who will not only restore Israel but will gather the Gentiles (non-Israelites) to himself and rule over all creation

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## Quarter 1, Episode 11: "The Prophets"

- **"Nonstandard" Prophets**
  - **Daniel:**
    - Shows how God's people can be faithful even during exile
    - Shows that God is sovereign over all the empires of the world, not just Israel
  - **Obadiah** and **Nahum:** preach judgment against two of Israel's enemies (Edom and Nineveh), showing that God will bring justice to all the wicked
  - **Jonah:**
    - Preaches to the Assyrians in the city of Nineveh
    - The Ninevites do what Israel and Judah fail to do: repent
    - Shows that God is working to bring a blessing to all nations, not just Israel
    - Also meant to encourage Israel to repent
  - **Lamentations:** written by the prophet Jeremiah (the "weeping" prophet) after witnessing the fall of Jerusalem
  - **Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi:**
    - Written after the exile
    - Encourage God's people to finish building the Temple in Jerusalem in the midst of persecution
    - Encourage God's people to restore right conduct and worship before God
- **Applications of the Prophets**
  - Sin has real consequences
  - God wants a *relationship* with us, not *ritualism*
  - Law and Grace
    - God condemned Israel for their failure to keep the Law
    - Yet, by his grace, he still fulfills his promises to Abraham and David
    - Will see Law and Grace in the New Testament as well (all people fail to keep God's Law; yet, they can still be saved by God's grace)
  - God is sovereign and has a plan, even when all seems lost