



# Old Testament: Lesson 6

## The Prophetic Books:

### Christ My Hope

St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, London  
Preservants Course

# The Old Testament

- The focus of the Old and New Testaments is Christ.
- The OT and NT are one book.
- The OT **reveals** God's plan and the NT is the **fulfillment** of that plan.
- *The NT is hidden in the OT, and the OT is revealed in the NT. (St Augustine)*

**LAW - 5**

<b>GENESIS</b>
<b>EXODUS</b>
<b>LEVITICUS</b>
<b>NUMBERS</b>
<b>DEUTERONOMY</b>

**POETRY - 5**

<b>JOB</b>
<b>PSALMS</b>
<b>PROVERBS</b>
<b>ECCLESIASTES</b>
<b>SONG OF SOLOMON</b>

**MAJOR PROPHETS - 5**

<b>ISAIAH</b>
<b>JEREMIAH</b>
<b>LAMENTATIONS</b>
<b>EZEKIEL</b>
<b>DANIEL</b>

**HISTORY - 12**

<b>JOSHUA</b>
<b>JUDGES</b>
<b>RUTH</b>
<b>1 SAMUEL</b>
<b>2 SAMUEL</b>
<b>1 KINGS</b>
<b>2 KINGS</b>
<b>1 CHRONICLES</b>
<b>2 CHRONICLES</b>
<b>EZRA</b>
<b>NEHEMIAH</b>
<b>ESTHER</b>

**MINOR PROPHETS - 12**

<b>HOSEA</b>
<b>JOEL</b>
<b>AMOS</b>
<b>OBADIAH</b>
<b>JONAH</b>
<b>MICAH</b>
<b>NAHUM</b>
<b>HABAKKUK</b>
<b>ZEPHANIAH</b>
<b>HAGGAI</b>
<b>ZECHARIAH</b>
<b>MALACHI</b>

# The Law: Christ my Saviour

Genesis	God Created Me
Exodus	God Saved Me
Leviticus	God Sanctified Me
Numbers	God guides me into his kingdom
Deuteronomy	God gives me His commandments

# Historical books: Christ my King

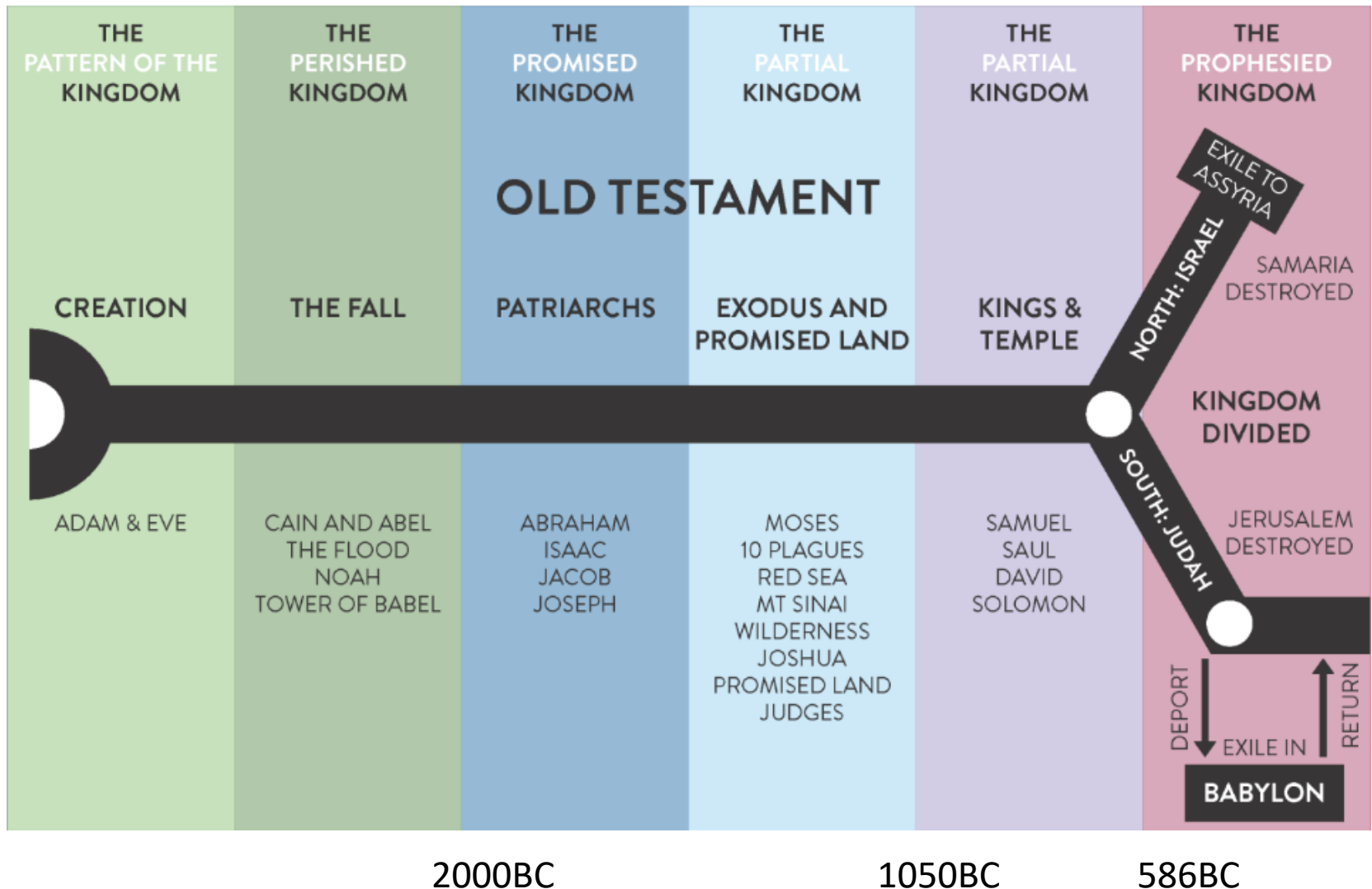
- Since the beginning, the people have rejected the kingship of God.
- God chose David to be king, and promised him that His dynasty would be everlasting.
- God has restored his kingship over humanity through Jesus Christ, the Son of David.
- The Kingdom of God is the Church. It is a spiritual kingdom, which is over all the earth.

# The Prophetic Books

## Christ My Hope



# Timeline of Old Testament



# The Deportations



# Contents

- What is the role of a prophet
- Who are the prophets
- The Prophetic books
- The message of the prophets

# The role of a prophet

- The Prophet is God's spokesperson
- God spoke to the people through the prophets.
- e.g. And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, "Go and tell ....."
- Why can't he speak directly to us?
- Sin distorted our image, and was a barrier between us and God, e.g. David the Prophet

- In the OT God revealed himself to humanity through:
  - Creation
  - The Law
  - The Prophets

# Who are the prophets?

- Oral prophets
  - E.g. Elijah, Elisha
  - The earliest prophet mentioned in the Bible?
    - Abel
      - *that the blood of all the **prophets** which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of **Abel** to the blood of Zechariah (Luke 11:50-51)*
    - Enoch
      - *Now **Enoch**, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied** about these men (Jude 14)*
    - Noah
      - *“and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a **preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;” (2 Peter 2:5)*

# The written Prophets

- Have books in their name
- 16 prophets
- Major prophets – larger books
  - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor prophets – 12 in total
  - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

# Message of the Prophets

1. Repentance
2. Chastisement
3. Restoration



# Repentance

- Many of the prophecies of repentance were directed to Israel
- Israel were the covenant people of God. God chose them to reveal himself to the world through them.
- But they walked like all the other nations

# Repentance: hypocrisy

- They had an outward display of piety. But their hearts were not with God.
  - *“Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, (Isaiah 29:13)*

# Repentance: Social injustice

1. Judges used to take bribes (Jeremiah 2:9-11)
2. Priests used to take payment for teaching (Jeremiah 2:9-11)
3. Neglect the cause of widows and orphans:
4. Withheld the righteous wages from labourers
  - *“Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness  
And his chambers by injustice,  
Who uses his neighbor’s service without wages  
And gives him nothing for his work, (Jeremiah 22:13)*

# Repentance: Depending on foreign powers

- They depended on foreign powers to save them from mighty empires
  - *“Woe to the rebellious children,” says the Lord, “Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;*
  - *Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have not asked My advice, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt! (Isaiah 30:1-2)*

# Relevance to us

- We are the new Israel.
  - *“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you shall come a Ruler  
Who will shepherd **My people Israel.**” (Micah 5:2)*
- So when we read the prophets, we read it as applying to ourselves.
- We have many graces which the Jews did not have, so more is expected of us.

# Chastisement

- If they do not repent they will be chastised by the sword or by famine.
- God is a loving God but He is also a holy God.
- Chastisement by the sword:
  - *If you are willing and obedient,  
You shall eat the good of the land;  
But if you **refuse** and **rebel**,  
You shall be devoured by the sword”;  
For the **mouth of the Lord has spoken**. (Isaiah 1:18-20)*
- Assyria conquered Israel (727 BC). Babylon conquered Judah (606 BC)

- The sword of foreign powers symbolises Satan and his hosts who remove our peace.
  - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.  
(*Ephesians 6*)
- Famine in OT was a physical famine . Famine in NT is a spiritual famine.

# God addressed all nations

- God sent prophets to Jews and Gentiles
  - Jonah sent to the Assyrians
  - Elijah sent to Sidon (a widow in Sidon) in 1 Kings 17
- God desires all men to be saved
- God uses foreign nations to chastise his people
- But those foreign nations will also be chastised for their barbarity.
- God is Pantocrator. He is ruler over nations and times.

# Restoration

- In exile, the people mourned their estrangement from Jerusalem.
- They sang Psalm 137:

<sup>1</sup>By the rivers of Babylon,  
There we sat down, yea, **we wept**  
**When we remembered Zion.**

<sup>2</sup>We hung our harps  
Upon the willows in the midst of it.

<sup>3</sup>For there those who carried us away captive  
asked of us a song,  
And those who plundered us *requested* mirth,  
*Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

<sup>4</sup>**How shall we sing the LORD's song**  
**In a foreign land?**

<sup>5</sup>If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
Let my right hand forget *its skill!*



# Hope of restoration

- *God promises to return the Jews to their land.*
  - *“For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.”* (Jeremiah 29:10)
- This was fulfilled under the reign of Cyrus the emperor of the Persian Empire.

# Restoration of mankind

Symbol	Symbolises
Earthly Jerusalem	Paradise: dwelling with God
Captivity in Babylon	Exile of mankind from God after the Fall
Return to Jerusalem	Restoration of mankind to Paradise: the Church

*"And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him. (Zechariah 8:22)*

# Jerusalem is the Church

*"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, **to the church of the firstborn**, whose names are written in heaven." (Hebrews 12:22-23)*



# This Church is founded by Christ

- The Church is God's kingdom.
- The Prophets include prophecies on every aspect of Christ's identity and mission:
  - His divinity and incarnation.
  - His nativity
  - His passion: Death, burial,
  - His resurrection and ascension
  - His Kingship
  - His sending the Holy Spirit

- The Jews are awaiting the Messiah based on certain prophecies, e.g.:
  - “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
*Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah,  
*Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me  
The One to be Ruler in Israel,  
Whose goings forth *are* from of old,  
From [\[a\]](#)everlasting.” (Micah 5:2)
  - Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. (Isaiah 35:5)
  - “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your King is coming to you;  
He *is* just and having salvation (Zechariah 9:9)

# The heavenly Jerusalem

- *I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
And joy in My people;  
The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard  
in her, nor the voice of crying. (Isaiah 65:19)*



- *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; **there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.** There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Rev. 21:2-4)*

# Our hope is in Christ

- The word hope is in mentioned 83 times in the OT and 68 times in the NT
  - O the **Hope** of Israel (Jeremiah 14:8)
  - There is **hope** in your future, says the LORD, That *your* children shall come back to their own border. (Jeremiah 31:17)
- because of the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel (Col. 1:15)
- “rejoicing in **hope**, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer” (Rom. 12:12)

# Reading the Prophets

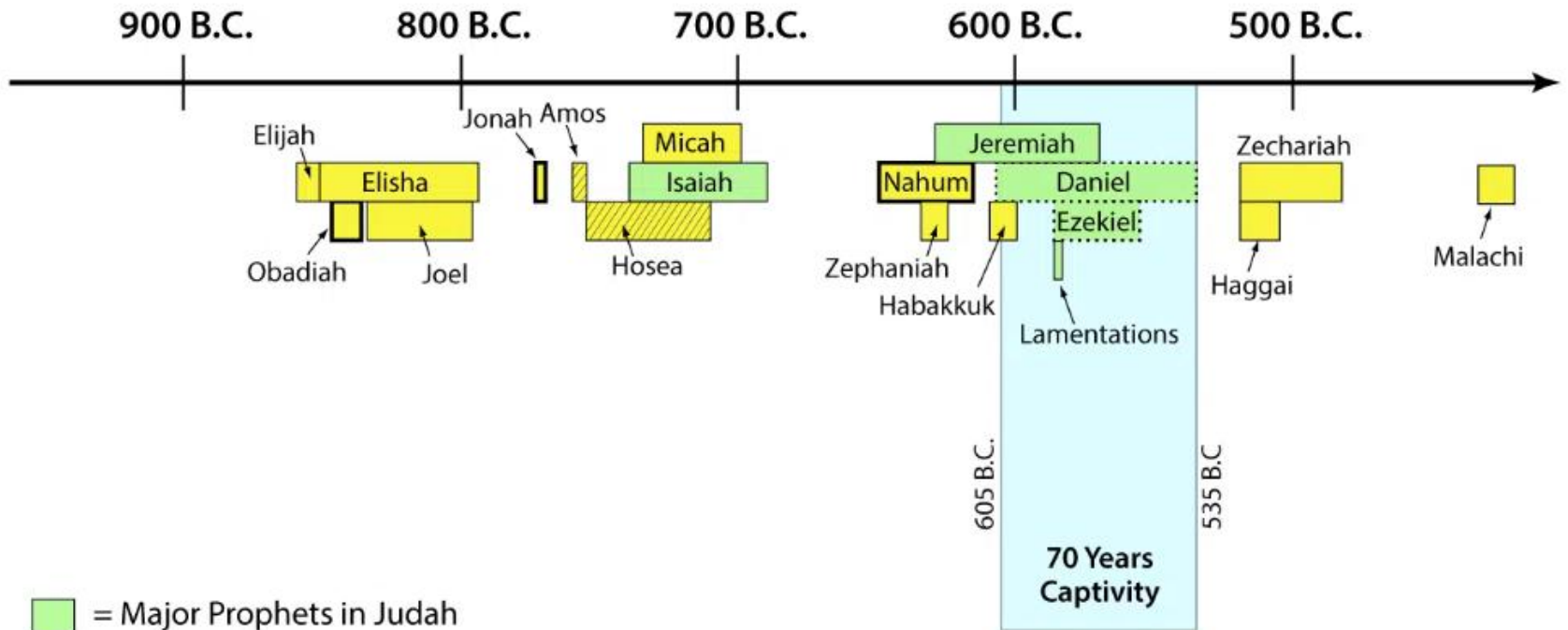
- The Prophetic books are not arranged in the chronological order.

## MAJOR PROPHETS - 5

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

## MINOR PROPHETS - 12

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI



- = Major Prophets in Judah
- = Major Prophets in Babylon
- = Minor Prophets to Judah
- = Minor Prophets to Israel
- = Minor Prophets to other nations

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# Who is the Greatest Prophet

- *The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear (Deut 18:15)*
- *Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” (John 7:40)*
- *For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. (John 12:49)*

- Christ the Prophet:
  - Preached to us repentance.
  - Gave warnings
  - Gave us the hope of eternal life in the Kingdom of God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

# Summary

- The Prophets are God's spokespersons.
- The Prophetic books importance for us:
  - They stir us to repentance
  - They reveal to us God's holiness and that He is Pantocrator control of all nations and times.
  - They give hope to all humanity of deliverance from the exile of this world, to eternal rest with God.