

her Messiah from the time Daniel to the establishment of Messiah's kingdom on earth.

4. Key People
 - a. Daniel
 - b. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, (their former and Jewish names were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah).
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon in 605 B.C.
 - d. Darius who succeeded Belshazzar as king,
 - e. Cyrus, the Persian monarch
 - f. Michael, the archangel
5. Christ seen in Daniel
 - a. Coming Messiah who will be cut off (cross) (9:25-26)
 - b. Great stone who will crush the kingdoms of this world (2:34, 45)
 - c. The son of man (7:13)
 - d. The Ancient of days (7:22)
 - e. Vision in 10:5-9 is most likely an appearance of Christ (cf. Rev. 1:12-16).

Major Prophets Lecture Notes

I. INTRODUCTION—THE MAJOR PROPHETS

- A. Their Designation
 1. Hebrew Bible - the Latter Prophets.
 2. Term speaks primarily of their place in the canon
 3. Not the time of writing
- B. Sometimes called the writing prophets
 1. Oral prophets left no written records
 - a. Elijah
 - b. Elisha
 - c. Nathan
- C. Latter Prophets divided into two groups
 1. Major Prophets
 - a. Isaiah
 - b. Jeremiah
 - c. Ezekiel
 2. Minor Prophets
 - a. Writings could all be included in one large scroll
 - b. Came to be known in Greek as the Dodecapropheton—"the Twelve-Prophet Book"
- D. Uncertainty about exact meaning "prophet."
 1. From the Hebrew - Nabi
 2. Idea is an authorized spokesman
 3. So *the* LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. .
- Exodus 7:1
see also Numbers 12:1-8 Deuteronomy 18:9-22
- E. Their Directive or Message
 1. Primary duty was to speak God's message to God's people
 - a. Broadest meaning is that of forthtelling
 - (1) Insight into the will of God
 - (2) Challenged men to obey
 - a. Narrower meaning is that of foretelling
 - b. Only a small part of the prophets' message was predictive
 2. Message had three-fold function
 - a. First, they functioned as preachers—expounded and interpreted law
 - b. Second, they functioned as predictors—announced coming



judgment and deliverance and coming Kingdom

- c. Finally, they functioned as watchmen—gave a warning against religious apostasy

II. ISAIAH - THE SALVATION OF YAHWEH

- A. Author—Isaiah, the son of Amoz,
 - 1. Part of influential Jewish family
 - a. Appears to have been on familiar terms with royal court
 - b. Evidently a well-educated
 - c. Spent most of his time in Jerusalem
 - 2. Vigorously opposed any foreign alliances
 - a. This cause was doomed to failure
 - b. Government and people chose to put their trust in the political alliances of man
 - c. Rather than in the sure person and promises of God.
 - 3. Tradition that he was martyred during reign of Manasseh possibly by being sawed in two inside a hollow log (d. Heb. 11:37)
 - 4. Some hold that there were two Isaiah's
 - a. “Deutero-Isaiah” wrote chapters 40-66 after the Babylonian captivity.
 - b. Attempt to eliminate God's ability to predict future
 - c. To claim two or more authors for this book is contradicts the evidence of the New Testament
 - d. Dead Sea scrolls also support one author for Isaiah
 - 5. Isaiah had a very long ministry 740–680 B.C.
 - 1. Began near the end of the reign of Uzziah (790-739 B.C.)
 - 2. Continued through the reigns of
 - (1) Jotham (739-731 B.C.)
 - (2) Ahaz (731-715 B.C.)
 - (3) Hezekiah (715-686 B.C.)
- B. Title of the Book
 - 1. Title taken from the name of human author
 - 2. Hebrew name of Isaiah means Yahweh is salvation
- C. Theme of the book, “salvation is of Yahweh.”
 - 1. Salvation
 - a. Occurs some twenty-six times in Isaiah
 - b. Only seven time in all the other prophets combined
 - 2. Called “the evangelical prophet”
 - a. Speaks so often about salvation / redemptive work of Messiah
 - b. More is said about the person and work of Messiah than in any other OT book
- A. Keys to the Book
 - 1. Key Word Again in keeping with the theme and Isaiah's name,

- c. Daniel was taken as a captive to Babylon as youth in 605 B.C.
- d. He became a statesman in the court of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius.
- e. Did not occupy the office of a prophet
- f. Christ identified him as a prophet (Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14)

B. Date

- 1. 537 B.C.
- 2. If Daniel is the author then it written after the Babylonian captivity
- 3. Date has been disputed by critics
 - a. Argue Daniel is a fraudulent book
 - b. Written in the time of the Maccabees (160 BC)
 - c. Daniel could not have made these predictions since they were accurately fulfilled
 - d. Certain alleged historical inaccuracies

C. Title of the Book

- 1. Named after its author
- 2. Hebrew word for Daniel means either
 - a. “God is Judge”
 - b. “God is my Judge.”

D. Theme and Purpose

- 1. God's sovereign power as the one true God
- 2. Judges and destroys the rebellious world powers
- 3. Faithfully delivers His covenant people according to their steadfast faith in Him
- 4. Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews
- 5. Revealing God's sovereign plan for Israel

E. Keys to the Book

- 1. Key Word
 - a. “King” and “kingdom” occur over and over again,
 - b. Key concept is God's plan for Israel ends in the establishment of Messiah as ruler on the earth
- 2. Key Verses
 - a. 2:20-22
 - b. 2:44
 - c. 7:14
- 3. Key Chapter
 - a. One of the greatest prophetic chapters in the Bible is Daniel 9
 - b. Prophecy of the ‘seventy weeks’ determined for Israel (9:24-27)
 - c. Give us the chronological frame for the nation of Israel and

- 2. Book contains many dates
 - a. Prophecies can be dated with considerable precision
 - b. 12 of the 13 dates in the book specify the times when Ezekiel received his message from the Lord.
 - c. Other date is of the arrival of the messenger who reported the fall of Jerusalem
- C. Title of the Book
 - 1. Ezekiel gets its name from its author Ezekiel
 - 2. Ezekiel means
 - a. “God strengthens”
 - b. “Strengthened by God.”
- D. Theme and Purpose—Ezekiel’s twofold focus
 - 1. Condemnation (1-32) for Israel’s sin
 - 2. Consolation (33-48) in view of what God will do in the future
- E. Keys to the Book
 - 1. Key Word
 - a. “shall know that I am the Lord” occurs some 63 times.
 - b. “the word of the Lord came” (50 times),
 - c. “glory of the Lord” (10 times).
 - d. Key concept - “restoration,”
 - 2. Key Verses
 - a. 36:24-30
 - b. 36:33-35
 - 3. Key Chapters
 - a. Chapters 36-37 -
 - (1) vision of the valley of dry bones
 - (2) outlines the clear process of restoration of Israel’s future.
 - a. Chapters 38-39 –
 - (1) anticipate the great global conflict that will occur on the mountains of Israel
 - (2) Israel’s enemies defeated by God
 - 4. Christ seen in Ezekiel
 - a. Christ, the Messiah, is pictured as a
 - b. Tender sprig that will be planted on a high and lofty mountain (17:23-24)
 - c. Messiah as the King who has the right to rule (21:26-27)
 - d. Messiah who will minister as the true Shepherd (34:11-31)

VI. DANIEL - ISRAEL’S ULTIMATE DESTINY

- A. Author
 - 1. Daniel
 - a. Claims to be author (12:4)
 - b. Author uses first person from chapter 7:2 onward

the key word is salvation

- 2. Key Verses
 - a. 7:14
 - b. 9:6-7
 - c. 53:4-7
- 3. Key Chapter—Chapter 53
- 4. Christ seen in Isaiah
 - a. His sovereignty above (6:1f)
 - b. birth and humanity (7:14; 9:6; 11: 1)
 - c. His ministry by the Spirit (11:2f)
 - d. His divine nature (7:14; 9:6)
 - e. His Davidic descent (11:1)
 - f. His work of redemption as our substitute (53)
 - g. His ministry as the Servant Savior (49ff)

II. JEREMIAH—WARNINGS AGAINST SIN AND JUDGMENT

- A. Author
 - 1. Clearly identifies the human author
 - a. Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah
 - b. From city of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin (1:1)
 - c. Dictated his prophecies to Baruch, his secretary
 - d. Only chapter 52 was not written by Jeremiah
 - 2. Other names
 - a. Often called the “weeping prophet” (9:1; 13:17)
 - b. “Prophet of loneliness” commanded not to marry (16:2)
 - c. The reluctant prophet (1:6)
 - 3. Faithfully proclaimed God’s judgments on an apostate Judah
 - 4. Experienced Opposition, beatings and imprisonment
- B. Date
 - 1. Contemporaries
 - a. Zephaniah
 - b. Habakkuk
 - c. Daniel
 - d. Ezekiel.
 - 2. Ministry began in 626 B.C
 - 3. Ended sometime after 586
 - 4. Jeremiah's death is unknown
 - 5. Jewish tradition says he was put to death while living in Egypt
- C. Title of the Book
 - 1. The book takes its name from its author, Jeremiah.
 - 2. Meaning of his name is uncertain
 - 3. Jeremiah probably means ‘Jehovah establishes’
 - 4. Other suggestions
 - a. “The LORD exalts” “The LORD establishes,”

- b. "The LORD throws"
- D. Theme and Purpose
 1. Two prominent themes
 - a. Warnings of God's judgment against sin
 - b. Message of hope and restoration if the nation would genuinely repent
 - c. Jeremiah spoke out against sins of his countrymen
 - (1) Idolatry
 - (2) Sometimes involved sacrificing their children to foreign gods
 2. Loved the people of Judah in spite of their sins
 3. Prayed for them even when the Lord told him not to
- E. Keys to the Book
 1. Key Concept
 - a. Judah's last hour in view of backsliding and unfaithfulness
 - b. More references to Babylon in Jeremiah (164) than in all the rest of the Bible together
 2. Key Verses
 - a. 1:4-10
 - b. 7:23-24
 - c. 8:11-12
 3. Key Chapters
 - a. Chapter 1 - call of the prophet
 - b. Chapter 23 - prophecy of the Messiah
 - c. Chapter 24 - the 70 year Babylonian captivity
 - d. Chapters 31-32 - restoration and the New Covenant
 4. Christ seen in Jeremiah
 - a. Fountain of living waters (2:13; cf. John 4:14)
 - b. Balm of Gilead (8:22)
 - c. Good Shepherd (23:4)
 - d. Righteous Branch (23:5)
 - e. Lord our Righteousness (23:6).
 - f. One who brings in the New Covenant (31:31-34)

IV. LAMENTATIONS - A RIVER OF TEARS

- A. Author
 1. Author unnamed in the book
 2. External Evidence - Jewish tradition attribute the book to Jeremiah
 3. Internal Evidence:
 - a. Author is an eyewitness of Jerusalem's siege and fall
 - b. Number of similarities between the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations
 - c. Phrase "daughter of" occurs about 20 times in each book

- d. Jeremiah is connected with this type of literature in 2 Chronicles 35:25
- B. Date
 1. 586 or 585 B.C.
 2. Book was written soon after Jerusalem's destruction in 586
 3. Graphic immediacy of Lamentations argues for a date shortly after fall
- C. Theme and Purpose
 1. Primary theme of the book
 - a. Lament or mourning over the woes that had fallen on sinful Judah
 - b. Pitiably destruction of the holy city and the temple
 - c. God's promised judgment for Judah's sin has come
 2. Second theme - judgment for sin
 - a. Prophet pleads with God's people
 - b. Recognize God's justice in deal with them
 - c. Cast themselves upon His mercy in a spirit of repentance
- D. Keys to the Book
 1. Key Word: Mourning or lamentations
 2. Key Verses
 - a. 2:5-6
 - b. 3:21-24
 3. Key Chapter— Chapter 3 – Jeremiah expresses his faith and hope in God's mercy who will not reject His people forever
 4. Christ seen in Lamentations
 - a. Lamentations includes two elements that portray the Savior
 - (1) Man of Sorrows who was acquainted with grief
 - (2) Afflicted
 - (3) Despised
 - (4) Scorned by His enemies
 - b. Jeremiah's weeping over the destruction of Jerusalem is picture of Christ who wept over Jerusalem

V. EZEKIEL - THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM YAHWEH

- A. Author
 1. Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi,
 - a. Received call while in exile in Babylon (1:1-3).
 - b. Ministry demonstrates a priestly focus
 2. Concern for . . .
 - a. The temple
 - b. Priesthood
 - c. Sacrifices
 - d. Shekinah glory of God
- B. Date
 1. 593-571 B.C.