

Lecture 15 – The Role of the Prophets

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Hosea 14:1

Key Terms

Covenant, day of the Lord

Objective

To evaluate the role of the prophets in God's covenant relationship with His wayward people

The Role of the Prophets

I. Introductory Comments

A. Prophets: Spokesmen for God

1. Varied means of reception
2. Varied means of communication

B. Prophets: Agents called to serve in Yahweh's kingdom

1. To Israel, Judah
2. To foreign nations

C. Prophets: Covenant mediators

1. Recall: Covenant – a bond; an administrative means
2. Proclamation regarding bond
3. Stood between Yahweh and kings; Yahweh and kingdom (people)

II. Pre-Eighth Century Prophets

A. Recall Samuel, David, Nathan, and Solomon (Some of them wrote but were not "preaching/writing" prophets)

B. Elijah, Elisha (1 Kings 17:1 – 2 Kings 13:20)

1. Elijah

- a. The powerful influence of the parasite kingdom
 - i. Baalism
 - ii. Apostate kings
 - iii. Prophetic power
- b. His complaint
 - i. Zeal for Yahweh (1 Kings 19:10a, 14)
 - ii. Israel's breaking of covenant (1 Kings 19:10b)
 - iii. Killed prophets (1 Kings 19:10a)

2. Elisha

- a. Miracle worker
- b. Displayed sovereignty of Yahweh

III. Joel

A. Sets agenda for canonical prophets

B. Proclaims basic covenantal realities

1. Judgment, repentance
2. Blessings (Joel 1:1-2:17)
 - a. Yahweh's love and compassion (Joel 2:18)
 - b. Natural gifts (Joel 2:19-27)
 - c. Spirit's presence and work (Joel 2:28-31)
 - d. Day of the Lord
 - i. Salvation (Joel 2:32)
 - ii. Gathering of nations (Joel 3:2)

iii. Universal peace (Joel 3:10)

IV. Prophets to Israel

A. Amos (760-750 B.C.)

1. Israel's election (Amos 3:2)
2. Israel's judgment
3. David's future reign (Amos 9:11-15; Acts 15:16-18)

B. Hosea (750 – 725 B.C.)

1. Covenant as marriage (Hosea 1-3)
2. Covenant lawsuit (Hosea 4:1-6); covenant broken (Hosea 8:1)
3. Covenant curse (Hosea 5:1-15; 9:1-10, 15; 13:1-15)
4. Covenant grace (Hosea 6:1-3; 7:1-13; 11:1-11)
5. Covenant community (Hosea 14:1-9)