

HISTORICAL EVENTS RELATED TO THE PROPHETS

- 1050** **United Kingdom established**
- 931** **Kingdom divided**
- 722** **Destruction of Israel
(Northern Kingdom)- Assyrian Captivity**
- 612 Fall of Assyria
- 609 Battle of Megiddo (Death of Josiah)
- 605 Battle of Carchemish- *1st deportation*
- 70 YEAR CAPTIVITY** from 605-536 B.C.
- 598 *2nd deportation*
 -Daniel, Ezekiel and others taken captive
- 586** **Destruction of Jerusalem- *3rd deportation***
- 539** **Fall of Babylonian Empire**
- 539-331** **Persian Empire**
- 536 *1st return- Zerubbabel*
- 457 *2nd return- Ezra*
- 444 *3rd return- Nehemiah*
- 331-143** **Greek Empire and its descendants**
- 331-323 Alexander the Great
- 323-198 Ptolemies (Egypt) control Palestine
- 198-143 Seleucids (Syria) control Palestine
- Dec. 16, 167 Desecration of the temple
 Dec. 14, 164 Rededication of the temple
 163 Religious liberty attained
 143-142 Political liberty attained
- 142-63** **Maccabean Period**
- 63 and after** **Roman Empire**

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

Use of the word

English– "A person who foretells or predicts future events"

This is the most common idea, especially if you speak of "prophecy"

But the word isn't English; it's Greek.

What is the biblical idea of a prophet?

Old Testament– (verb–*naba'*; substantive–*nabi'*)

"Announce" "Inform"

The prophet was a messenger–

Deut. 18:18–What would the prophet do?

Ex. 7:1-2 –Who is it?
–What would he do?

Moses and the other prophets announced God's will to the people.

They were His messengers.

New Testament– (*prophetes; propheteuo*)

This was a well known and commonly used word among the Greeks.

It referred to those who interpreted the will of the gods to the people or who spoke for one or more of the gods.

Literally, the root meant "to announce publicly"

The prophet was someone who announced God's message to the people.

Some English dictionaries show this idea as the primary meaning:
"One who speaks for God"

BASIC FUNCTION OF THE PROPHET

The main idea of his message was related to his own day.

He used predictions to warn or to comfort, but the focus was related to current events.

He was to reveal God's will to His people.

How did it get the modern idea?

PROOF OF A TRUE PROPHET

Deut. 18:21-22–Why is this proof important?

Apologetic value–demonstrated the truth and inspiration of the word.

Revelatory value–

Man's uncertainty concerning the truth–the way in which he should go.

Gave them security that God had spoken.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PROPHET

1. **Explain and interpret the Law**–emphasis on the present.

2. **Watch out for the spiritual condition of Israel**

3. **Motivate them to trust Yahweh alone**

–not to trust other gods

–not to depend on the other nations around them

4. **Call them to live a holy life**

They were to remind Israel that the blessings of the Mosaic Covenant depended on their response to these conditions:

–Doctrine–serve only Yahweh and His Word

–Submission and obedience to the Lord

–Faith (trust)–true faith produces works.

5. **Serve as a go-between, between the king and God**

Reveal God's will to the king

Serve as his counselor.

Take the king's questions and requests before the Lord.

6. **Encourage them with promises concerning the future.**

Generally these were already given in the Law.

The promises were intended to produce purity (1 Jn. 3)

They were to encourage the faithful remnant to hang in there and stay faithful.

7. **Verify their message with specific fulfilled prophecies regarding immediate future events.**

Deut. 18

Those who are shown to be false were to be killed because of presumption.

Compare Ezekiel: *"They will know that I am Yahweh"*