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**VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:**

**BIBLE FOR  
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

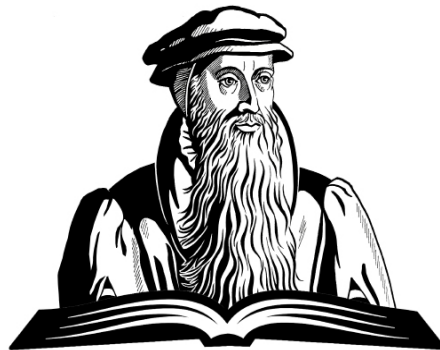
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**Old Testament**

**Lesson 78:**

**Introduction to the Prophets**

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

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# Module

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## BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

### Old Testament

#### 113 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

**77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge**

**36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman**

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God             | 26. Joseph and His Brethren                     |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God  | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph                       |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry                         |
| 04. A Gracious Promise                     | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush                  |
| 05. Cain and Abel                          | 30. Let My People God                           |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace                  | 31. Deliverance                                 |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape   | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People    |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant                    | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel                     | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People            |
| 10. Abram: Called by God                   | 35. A Priest for the People                     |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot               | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People    |
| 12. Melchizadek                            | 37. Worshiping God Rightly                      |
| 13. Righteous by Faith                     | 38. Walk Not According to the World             |
| 14. Two Sons                               | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude                       |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life                | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming                      |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God       | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up              |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision       | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath           |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah                      | 43. Cities of Refuge                            |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau       | 44. A New Generation                            |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver                     | 45. Moses' Last Days                            |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob                    | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled              |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el               | 47. A Promise to Rahab                          |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated            | 48. The Rise of Judges                          |
| 24. An Eye upon God                        | 49. Gideon—God with Him                         |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison            | 50. Samson                                      |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah

## **78. Introduction to the Prophets**

79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies of Christ
81. Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel Called to Startle Believers
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lion's Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

# Lesson 78

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## Introduction to the Prophets

### Memory Verse

*“When you beget children and grandchildren, and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly, and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke him to anger,” Moses says this: “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess... The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you.” —Deuteronomy 4:25 and 27*

### Historical Summary

It is time for us to look at all those books in the middle of the Bible that were written by the prophets. There are larger books, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, and there are the smaller books like Hosea, Amos, and Malachi. What were they all about? Why did God give them to us? Let's find out.

First we must answer the question, What is a prophet? The word means “to bubble up” like a natural water spring bubbles up out of the earth. God would speak to his prophet, and then the prophet had to deliver God's word to the people. The prophet represented God, and spoke to the people. A true prophet had to be called by God, and had to be faithful to God. Some prophets only spoke out loud to the people, and other prophets spoke God's word out loud, and then wrote that word down in books. We have those books collected in the Bible.

But to understand the prophets better, we need to briefly review the history of Israel, going back to the time of Abraham. As you might remember from previous Old Testament Bible lessons, God promised to make Abraham a great nation, and to give his people a promised land in Canaan. God renewed that covenant promise with Abraham's son, Isaac, and again with Isaac's son, Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, and he had twelve sons. Israel took his family of about 70 people into Egypt where they eventually became slaves to the Egyptians. They stayed there for about 400 years, and they multiplied. The Bible tells us that after 430 years in Egypt, the people of Israel were 600,000 men, plus women and children, so there were probably over a million of God's people oppressed in slavery in Egypt.

Then God raised up the Moses to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt, out of bondage, and to bring them to the promised land. God told Moses what to say, and Moses taught the people everything that God said. He gave them the law of God, and instructed them on how to live. He also told them that one day they would come into the promised land, but they would fall into sin, worshipping idols and doing wickedness, which would provoke God to anger. He said that God would destroy them out of that land: “The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you.” This did come to pass many years later.

After Moses, God raised up Joshua to bring the children of Israel into Canaan. After they took possession of the promised land, God gave them judges to teach and guide them. But they wanted a king like the heathen nations around them. First God gave them King Saul, and after him was King David, and then David’s son, Solomon. By that time, the kingdom of Israel was strong and prosperous, but just as Moses had prophesied many years before, the people rebelled against God and they were punished for it.

After the death of Solomon, the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms in 975 BC. The northern kingdom, with ten of the tribes, was known as “Israel”. The southern kingdom, with the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin, included the city of Jerusalem, and was known as “Judah”. Both kingdoms, Israel in the north, and Judah in the south, fell into idolatry and wickedness. God sent prophets to both kingdoms to call them to repent and turn from their idolatry and disobedience. If they didn’t repent, God’s prophets told them they would be defeated by their enemies and destroyed; but if they would turn from their sin, he would forgive them and restore them. Over a period of about 400 years, God sent 16 prophets to Israel and Judah to warn them of the coming destruction, and also to comfort his faithful people who were still hoping for and trusting in the coming Messiah.

Here is a list of the prophets of God who wrote their prophecies in the books which we have in the Bible. (BC means “Before Christ.”)

<u>PROPHETS</u>	<u>WHEN THEY LIVED</u>	
<b><i>9th century BC, the Early Assyrian Period.</i></b>		
Obadiah	845 BC	
Joel	830 BC	
<b><i>8th century BC, the Assyrian Period.</i></b>		
Jonah	790–750 BC	In 722 BC, Assyria invaded the northern kingdom of Israel. Many were killed, many were carried off to be placed in distant Assyrian lands, not to return. Only a few of the children of Israel were left in the land.
Amos	755 BC	
Hosea	750–725 BC	
Isaiah	740–700 BC	
Micah	735–700 BC	
<b><i>7th century BC, the Chaldean period (Babylonian Empire).</i></b>		
Jeremiah	626–586 BC	The Babylonian Empire conquered Assyria in 626 BC.
Zephaniah	630–625 BC	Babylon then conquered Judah in 609 BC. Judah rebelled, and Babylon began carrying off many of the people of God to captivity in Babylon.
Nahum	625–612 BC	
Habakkuk	625–605 BC	
Ezekiel	593–570 BC	These two prophets were taken to Babylon, where they prophesied to the people of God from there.
Daniel	605–536 BC	
<b><i>6th and 5th centuries, the Post-exilic Period (after the exile).</i></b>		
Haggai	520 BC	The Jews in Babylon were allowed to return to the land of Israel in 538 BC. God used Haggai and Zechariah to rebuild the temple. Later, Malachi was used by God to re-form the priesthood during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.
Zechariah	520–518 BC	
Malachi	440 BC	

### *Four Things to Keep in Mind as We Read and Study the Prophets*

1. What is the religious context and the social context of the time?
2. How did God deal with the heathen nations?
3. What is told us about the coming of the Messiah and his kingdom?
4. What themes do we see about God and how he works?

### *The Gospel in the Old Testament*

God's prophets warned the children of Israel about coming judgment for their sin. But they also assured the people that if they would repent of their sin, turn from their wickedness, and turn back to God, he would have mercy on them, forgive them, and restore them. The prophets told many things about the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ and his kingdom, and they called the people to repent of their sins and obey God's law. The Lord Jesus Christ was also sent by God, to reveal God's Word to us, calling us to repent of our sin and believe the gospel. He is the final Prophet, the last Priest and the King of all kings. "If you love me, keep my commandments," he said—the same message God sent through the Old Testament prophets.



### *Review Questions*

1. What is a true prophet of God?
  - a. The person who built the temple.
  - b. Levites were the prophets
  - c. A man called by God to faithfully deliver God's message.
  - d. Anyone who thinks they know what's best.
2. Which verse from Deuteronomy 4 tells us what God would do to the people of Israel if they didn't repent and obey?
  - a. Verse 13 – And he declared unto you his covenant...
  - b. Verse 27 – The Lord will scatter you among the peoples...
  - c. Verse 40 – Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes...
  - d. Verse 22 – But I must die in this land; I must not go over Jordan...
3. Circle the statement that is false.
  - a. God promised Abraham that he would make him a great nation.
  - b. God promised Moses that he would make him a king.
  - c. God promised the people he would forgive them if they repented and obeyed.
  - d. God promised Isaac and Jacob they would also inherit the promised land.

4. Which of the following statements are true?
- a. Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land.
  - b. The people wanted a king like the heathen nations around them.
  - c. David was the first king of Israel.
  - d. There was great prosperity during the reign of King Solomon.

**Discussion**

1. After Solomon died, the kingdom was split. What were the names of the two kingdoms and how many tribes were in each kingdom?

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2. God prophesied through Moses that the people of Israel would fall into idolatry and wickedness, but what did he say would happen to them if they did not repent?

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3. Name the prophets that God raised up in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah during the 8th century.

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4. What happened to the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel?

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5. What special things did God use Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi for? \_\_\_\_\_

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