

# The Decline of the Kingdom / The Prophets pt. 2

## Understanding the Old Testament: Part 9

JUDAH  
(southern kingdom)  
20 KINGS  
Some unrighteous  
Some righteous

Judah falls in 586 B.C.

ISRAEL  
(northern kingdom)  
20 KINGS  
All unrighteous

Israel falls in 722 B.C.

### The Prophets

God raised up prophets who spoke his words of judgement and mercy & future hope to the people.

**Isaiah**: a prophet to Judah

- Spoke for God for over 4 decades and the rule of 4 kings (Uzziah, Ahaz, Hezekiah. . .)
- Warned Judah not to trust in idols or other nations but the Lord.
- Pointed to the coming savior, the suffering servant.

**Jeremiah**: the “weeping prophet” to Judah

- Presented God’s word of judgement against Judah
- Jeremiah’s story of rejection by Judah was a picture of their rebellion against God.
- Jeremiah shared God’s message of future restoration, forgiveness and a new covenant.

**Lamentations**: a “funeral dirge” written by Jeremiah

- Acknowledged Judah’s sin.
- Brutally honest with God about spiritual and emotional pain.
- Found hope in God’s faithfulness.

**Micah**: a prophet to Judah

- God has found His people guilty, but there is forgiveness for those who return to the Lord.

**Nahum**: a prophet to Ninevah (the capital of Assyria)

- 100 years after Ninevah repented, God declares coming judgement.

**Habakkuk**: a prophet to Israel

- Habakkuk asks why evil is not punished and God does not answer.
- God reveals that He will use Babylon to punish Judah, but they will also later be punished.

**Zephaniah**: a prophet to Israel

- The “Day of the Lord” will be a terrible day of judgement, but there is a future hope.