
UNDERSTANDING AND TEACHING THE BIBLE: AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

'Covenant-enforcement mediators' (Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart)

*It is the task of the prophet to bring to expression the new realities
against the more visible ones of the old order.*

Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*

FOUR BUILDING BLOCKS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

1. CONTEXT

a. Historical context

b. Biblical context

2. GENRES

a. Judgement oracles

b. Salvation oracles

3. STRUCTURE

4. CONTENT

a. How is the prophet's message presented? (poetry, figures of speech, imagery, etc.)

b. What main problems does the prophet diagnose?

c. What are the remedies?

APPLICATION

TWO KEY QUESTIONS OF BIBLE STUDY

What was God's original intention in this passage?

What's the relevance to my world?

RESOURCES

tonywatkins.co.uk/prophets-resources

Alter, Robert: *The Art of Biblical Poetry* 2nd edition (Basic Books, 2011)

Chalmers, Aaron: *Interpreting the Prophets: Reading, Understanding and Preaching from the Worlds of the Prophets* (Downers Grove, IL., IVP Academic, 2015)

Fee, Gordon and Stuart, Douglas: *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*, 3rd edition (Grand Rapids, MI., Zondervan, 2003)

Longman, Tremper, III: *How to Read the Psalms* (Downers Grove IL., IVP, 1988)

Ryken, Leland and Longman, Tremper, III (eds.): *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI., Zondervan, 1993)

Sandy, D. Brent: *Plowshares and Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic* (Downers Grove, IL., IVP, 2002)