

1.17,18 – Understanding the Bible: Old Testament Prophets

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1. THE PROPHETS

'Covenant-enforcement mediators' – Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to read the Bible for All its Worth*

'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*

'The situation of a person immersed in the prophets' words is one of being exposed to a ceaseless shattering of indifference, and one needs a skull of stone to remain callous to such blows.' – Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Prophets*

2. FOUR KEY ASPECTS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

a. Genre

a. Judgement oracles

b. Salvation oracles

b. Context

a. Historical context

b. Biblical context

c. Structure

Track 1: God's Story

Understanding and communicating the mission of God

d. 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?

3. APPLICATION

Two key questions of Bible study

- a. What was God's original intention in this passage?
- b. What's the relevance to my world? Useful resources

RESOURCES

tonywatkins.co.uk/prophets-resources

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)

Lundbom, Jack R.: *The Hebrew Prophets: An Introduction*. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010)

McConville, Gordon: *Exploring the Old Testament Volume 4: A Guide to the Prophets*. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003)

Robertson, O. Palmer: *The Christ of the Prophets*. abridged ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2004)

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)

Stulman, Louis, and Kim, Hyun Chul Paul: *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2010).