

The Prophets

Nabí - Nabíim -Nabism

IK22 A scene of prophetic activity which includes many of its features.

The divine vocation of prophets (Is 6, Jer 1, Ezk 2-3, Am 7) is a condition for their trustworthiness. You should compare the accounts, and try to imagine the motivation of their presentation.

Prophets and the miraculous: a way of emphasising the supernatural nature of their vocation and their lives (false prophets are almost as frequent in the Bible as the real thing). The presence of the miraculous in their story is an implication of veracity, since it displays their true ambience as the presence of God, rather than their involvement in the mundane reality which surrounds them. In the earliest manifestation prophets also display ecstatic behaviour, which is a sign of their openness to the supernatural world.

Morality and social justice: all true prophets call to higher morality. Amos is particularly aware of luxury and excess in the Israel of his day. Ezekiel probably has the most powerful horror of evil.

Prophetic signs: many prophets, in their own biography, become the sign of their own message through dramatic actions and situations. Examples abound: eg Hosea's marriage, the naming of the prophet's children (Ho and Is give symbolic names), Jeremiah's yoke, underwear, and pot-breaking, the slaughter of Elisha's oxen, etc., etc.. The violent fate of the prophet is a human judgment which redounds upon those who pass it, and the martyr is a prophet who suffers for his message. Jeremiah is the clearest OT example, John the Baptist and Jesus the clearest in the NT.

The image of the prophet as watchman is very frequent. It is a prophet's job to watch what happens, and to interpret the signs of the times. This can extend from the reading of small household happenings to the judging of national policies and historic happenings.

Prophets and Jewish religion: the closeness of the prophets to the cult, however much they may deride it; many prophets belong to priestly families. Isaiah is called within the Temple.

Essay Question:

Examine the life of Jesus for its prophetic features, and explain how they relate to the OT prophets.0

Please complete this by the end of January.