

Approaching The Prophets

Some Scripture Citations

1 The Prophetic Call

Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; his train filled the sanctuary.

² Above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings: two to cover its face, two to cover its feet and two for flying;

³ and they were shouting these words to each other: Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh Sabaoth. His glory fills the whole earth.

⁴ The door-posts shook at the sound of their shouting, and the Temple was full of smoke.

⁵ Then I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh Sabaoth.'

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in its hand a live coal which it had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

⁷ With this it touched my mouth and said: 'Look, this has touched your lips, your guilt has been removed and your sin forgiven.'

⁸ I then heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I, send me.'

Jeremiah 1:4 The word of Yahweh came to me, saying:

⁵ 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I appointed you as prophet to the nations.'

⁶ I then said, 'Ah, ah, ah, Lord Yahweh; you see, I do not know how to speak: I am only a child!'

⁷ But Yahweh replied, 'Do not say, "I am only a child," for you must go to all to whom I send you and say whatever I command you.'

⁸ Do not be afraid of confronting them, for I am with you to rescue you, Yahweh declares.'

⁹ Then Yahweh stretched out his hand and touched my mouth, and Yahweh said to me: 'There! I have put my words into your mouth.'

¹⁰ Look, today I have set you over the nations and kingdoms, to uproot and to knock down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

Ezekiel 2:1 He said, 'Son of man, get to your feet; I will speak to you.'

² As he said these words the spirit came into me and put me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

³ He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have been in revolt against me up to the present day.'

⁴ Because they are stubborn and obstinate children, I am sending you to them, to say, "Lord Yahweh says this."

⁵ Whether they listen or not, this tribe of rebels will know there is a prophet among them.

⁶ And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or of what they say, though you find yourself surrounded with brambles and sitting on scorpions. Do not be afraid of their words or alarmed by their looks, for they are a tribe of rebels.

⁷ You are to deliver my words to them whether they listen or not, for they are a tribe of rebels.

⁸ But you, son of man, are to listen to what I say to you; do not be a rebel like that rebellious tribe. Open your mouth and eat what I am about to give you.'

⁹ When I looked, there was a hand stretching out to me, holding a scroll.

¹⁰ He unrolled it in front of me; it was written on, front and back; on it was written 'Lamentations, dirges and cries of grief'.

^{NJB} **Ezekiel 3:1** He then said, 'Son of man, eat what you see; eat this scroll, then go and speak to the House of Israel.'

² I opened my mouth; he gave me the scroll to eat

³ and then said, 'Son of man, feed on this scroll which I am giving you and eat your fill.' So I ate it, and it tasted sweet as honey.

⁴ He then said, 'Son of man, go to the House of Israel and tell them what I have said.

⁵ You are not being sent to a nation that speaks a difficult foreign language; you are being sent to the House of Israel.

⁶ Not to big nations that speak difficult foreign languages, and whose words you would not understand -- if I sent you to them, they would listen to you;

⁷ but the House of Israel will not listen to you because it will not listen to me. The whole House of Israel is defiant and obstinate.

⁸ But now, I am making you as defiant as they are, and as obstinate as they are;

⁹ I am making your resolution as hard as a diamond, harder than flint. So do not be afraid of them, do not be overawed by them, for they are a tribe of rebels.'

¹⁰ Then he said, 'Son of man, take to heart everything I say to you, listen carefully,

¹¹ then go to your exiled countrymen and talk to them. Say to them, "Lord Yahweh says this," whether they listen or not.'

2 The Trials of the Prophet

Jeremiah 2 ⁷ You have seduced me, Yahweh, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a laughing-stock all day long, they all make fun of me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I have to howl and proclaim, 'Violence and ruin!' For me, Yahweh's word has been the cause of insult and derision all day long.

⁹ I would say to myself, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more,' but then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not do it.

¹⁰ I heard so many disparaging me, 'Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All those who were on good terms with me watched for my downfall, 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we shall get the better of him and take our revenge!'

¹¹ But Yahweh is at my side like a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, vanquished, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

Ezekiel 20 - 23 Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest these chapters, in which the prophet expresses his revulsion at the state of the people he has to address.

3 The Symbolic Prophetic Act

Jeremiah 19 The Broken Vessel **27** The Yoke

Ezekiel 12 The Mime of Exile

4 The Prophet's Life as a Sign (Incarnation) of the Word

Jeremiah 16; Hosea 1; Jeremiah 26

This theme will receive its ulterior development in the Deuteroisaianic figure of the Suffering Servant, who will supply our themes for the next study day.