

The Prophets

How do you feel about the Old Testament prophets?



They have a queer way of talking, like people who, instead of proceeding in an orderly manner, ramble off from one thing to the next so that you cannot make heads or tails of them or see what they are getting at.



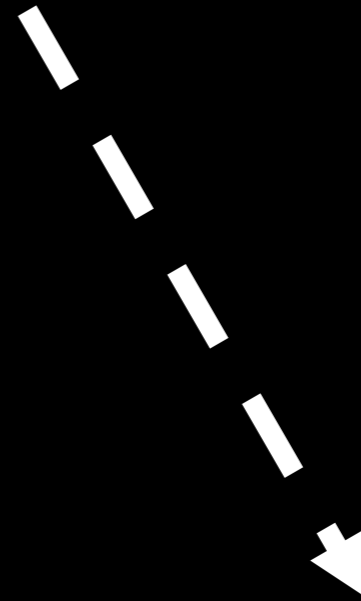
Martin Luther

GOD



us

GOD



them



us

Language

Geography

Religion

Culture

History

**path to
understanding**

Whether he is discussing the past, present or future, the prophet is seeking to make God the most genuine reality that men can know and experience.

A.B. Mickelson
Interpreting the Bible, p. 287

not **fore**telling

forthtelling

conditional future?

Prophecy is essentially a ministry of disclosure, a stripping bare. Israel's great prophets do not merely lift the veil of the future in order to destroy false expectations; at the same time, they expose the conduct of their contemporaries. . . .

Prophets tear the masks away and show the true face of the people behind them.

Hans Walter Wolff, *Confrontations*

The Word of
the LORD

Calcium channel
blockers
medications
(Fee and Stuart)



Warning of
judgment



Promising
restoration



Identification of
Israel's sin



Announcement of
judgment

Declaration of
God's love for Israel



Announcement of
blessing

The 'prophet in scripture takes on the role of gracious mediator. He stands between God and the people to deliver the word of the Lord....The person of the prophet substitutes for the presence of Almighty God himself.'

O.P. Robertson,
The Christ of the Prophets, p. 10

Applying the Prophets

key themes

1

God is the ruler of all of
history and every nation

2

Humanity's most
fundamental need is
to be right with God

3

Religion, politics and
society must all be on
a firm moral base

4

God offers us the choice
of judgment or hope

The [Latter Prophets] did not call for reform, for they knew it was too late; the end of the present order was near and could not be averted.

Donald Gowan
Reclaiming the OT p. 125–6

5

The future kingdom of God

Old
Testament

New
Testament

Promise

Fulfilment

two horizons



deep focus



6

The glory of God

God's ultimate concern