

Lesson 6: God's Special Spokesmen: The Prophets

God sent many men to his people to remind them about the covenant which they were bound to God. These special people were prophets.

A **prophet** is a person chosen by God to speak a message from him to the people which concern their spiritual well being. They spoke with authority/permission/power from God. At times they even predicted future events.

Mission of the Prophets in Israel

1. They were sent to remind the Jews about the covenant by which they were bound to God. The prophets told the people to be faithful to the Law and to refuse to worship false gods as their pagan neighbors did.
2. The prophets encouraged the people to trust in God, not in the powerful nations of the earth, for peace and protection.
3. The prophets were preparing the Jews for the coming of the Messiah, a name which means "the Anointed One." In Greek the word for "Anointed One" is Christos, from which we get "Christ". "Anointed" means someone chosen by God for a special role; in this case, the Anointed One is the Redeemer whom God promised to send to the human race, Jesus Christ.

The prophets delivered the Lord's messages in many ways. They spoke the words, put them into poetry, and sometimes even acted them out in little skits!

Different Kinds of Prophets:

God's spokesmen in the OT are classified as Major prophets and Minor Prophets

Major Prophets: So called as much of their writings are recorded. – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets: Their writings are not as abundant. – Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

There are two very great prophets who are not included in the above lists because they did not leave us any of their writings. But their lives are recorded in the Bible and they are very important in salvation history. Their names are **Elijah** and **Elisha**. Elijah, who was always considered the greatest prophet of them all, was very devoted to God. Elisha lived with the holy prophet Elijah and saw him taken up into Heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11). Elisha continued serving God with the same love and devotion that had filled the heart of his master, Elijah.

John The Baptist – Last prophet of the Old Testament is often referred to as:

- The bridge between two parts of Salvation History.
- The forerunner(one who goes before someone to prepare the way for his coming)
- The Herald to the Messiah (announces the coming of a royal person)
- Prophet of the Most High (Lk 1: 76-77)