

### DAILY SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER

Monday:	Tuesday:	Wednesday:	Thursday:	Friday:
Exodus 19:4-8	Genesis 15:12-21	1 Chronicles 17:11-14	2 Chronicles 7:14-22	Ezekiel 37:1-14

### SUMMARY

When trying to understand the lay of the land when it comes to the Bible's prophets, it's vital first to understand the role of the prophet. The word most frequently used to describe the prophet in the Bible is "spokesman." So a prophet is a spokesman with the distinct call to be the ambassador of God. The prophet spoke on behalf of God, and their words were to be received as God's words, nothing less.

Next, it's essential to understand that the Bible's prophets spoke oracles of judgment *and* salvation. The prophet spoke words of judgment to God's people for not adhering to the Mosaic covenant—their promise to obey God and all his commandments, and in so doing, they would receive the blessing of God. But on the other hand, the prophets spoke oracles of salvation because of God's covenant to Abraham that he would make a great nation (ultimately the Church) from his family and bless all the families of the earth through him.

Finally, in considering the message of the Bible's prophets, it's essential to understand how their message fits into the greater narrative of the Bible. The greater narrative of the Bible is the story of Jesus, and in the Old Testament, the prophets whispered the story of Jesus. God called Israel his "firstborn son" (Exodus 4:22). So when Israel divided in 931 BC, it was as if God's firstborn son had died. His people were defeated and even carried away from their land—exiled out of the city as if they were crucified (God's judgment). And eventually, the Lord's people were able to return to their land and rebuild it as if they were resurrected (God's salvation). These events are what the prophets spoke of—certainly meaningful in the moment—but ultimately whispering and foretelling the story of Jesus and his redeemed Church.

### QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

We often use the word prophet to mean someone who simply predicts the future. What is a biblical definition of the word prophet, and how might it be different than merely predicting the future?

The prophets deliver messages of judgment and messages of salvation. What does this tell us about God's character?

Most often, the words of the prophets were immediately directed at God's people about the land of Israel. How does their message tell the greater story of Jesus and his Church? What modern-day applications can we make from their words?

What are some things that surprised you or troubled you in this lesson? Is there something you learned for the very first time?