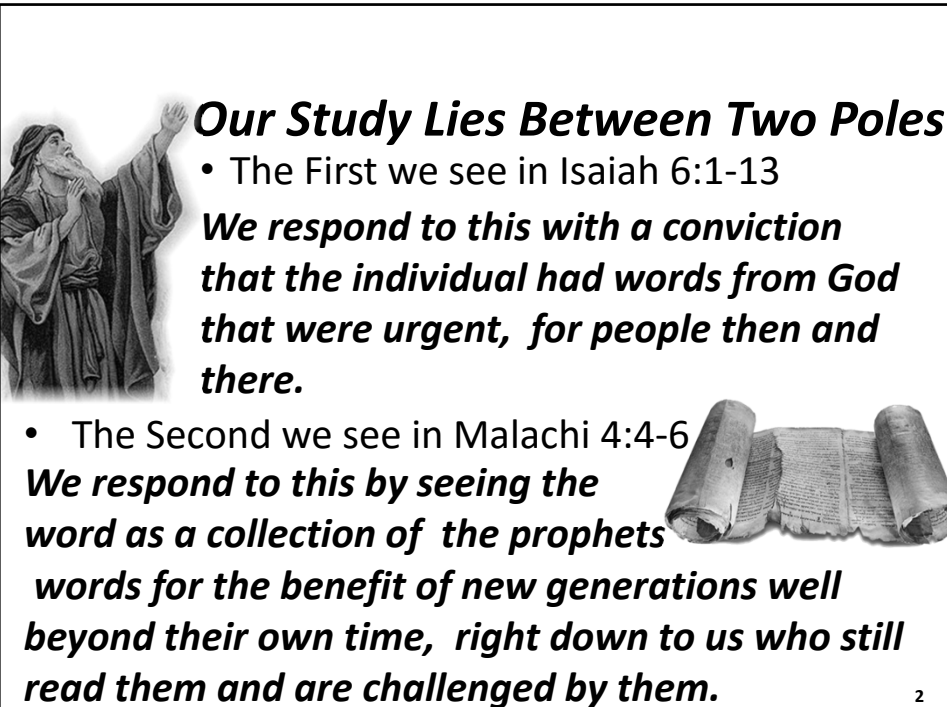


Studying
The Prophets

1



Our Study Lies Between Two Poles

- The First we see in Isaiah 6:1-13
We respond to this with a conviction that the individual had words from God that were urgent, for people then and there.
- The Second we see in Malachi 4:4-6
We respond to this by seeing the word as a collection of the prophets words for the benefit of new generations well beyond their own time, right down to us who still read them and are challenged by them.

2

There is a Dilemma Between These

- Some tease us with the promise of an introduction to the prophets as real people who ultimately elude us.
- Some studies focus so much on the book in the guise of tradition or the final form that we lose the prophet altogether.
- Some regard the prophetic figures as the fictitious creation of the writers or communities who created the books.

3

But maybe that's not a problem

- These are simply an inevitable part of the study.
- Both poles must be respected.
 - The book because it is a part of the canonical literature
 - And the prophet because his God given message is the controlling idea in the book.

4



A Priest ...

- Was an intermediary between man and God.
- Sacrifices were given to and offered with the assistance of the Priest.
- Only the High Priest could go into the Holy of Holies, and make sacrifice for the people – and that could only be done after he has offered for himself.
- Priests were descendants of Aaron.



The Prophet ...

- Was an interface between God and man.
- The prophet was a mouthpiece conveying the message of God to man.
- The prophets could be any occupation, and were both male and female.
- Typically they had a verbal ministry to a small set of people and it is recorded that there were as many as 200,000 at one time.
- The Bible records for us the names of 55 prophets of which 7 were female



The Writing Prophets

- Only a small subset of the prophets ever had their messages written down.
 - There were 3(4) prophets that wrote LONG, or major books.
 - There were 12 prophets that wrote SHORT, or minor books. These books are not less important than the majors, they are just shorter.
- Within our Christian canon, we have grouped an additional author into the major prophets and we will discuss that further later.

