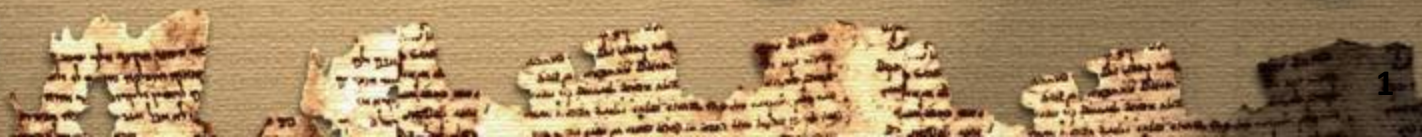


# Studying The Prophets







## ***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.***







## ***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.





## ***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.



**BUT,**  
**WHAT IS A PROPHET ?**  
**IS IT LIKE A PRIEST ?**





## ***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 200000 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 but we can / will discuss that further later.

