

Lesson #14
How to Read the Bible
Prophets

1. Prophets

- a. These books are difficult to understand but are very important to the overall meta-narrative of the Bible.
- b. Most people think they are fortune tellers.
- c. Israel's prophets were allowed to speak on Israel's behalf.
- d. What they mostly talked about was their mutual partnership with God. Represent God's character to the nations.
- e. They were in a Covenant relationship with God i.e. Partnership.
- f. Prophets reminded rules and the people of their role in the partnership.
 - i. Accusatory towards Israel.
- g. How did Israel disobey i.e. idolatry relationship with other nations.
- h. Told Israel to repent.
- i. Talked a lot about the Day of the Lord.
 - i. When God acts on humans to bring justice.
- j. The talked about a New Jerusalem.
- k. Most didn't take prophets seriously.
- l. When things that were prophesied came true then the people began to listen e.g. Babylonian exile.
- m. 15 books of the prophets.
 - i. Major: Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.
- n. Israel's success would bless the world.

Book of Solomon

1. Solomon

- a. Solomon wrote Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. How do we read them?
- b. Book of S or S – Go back to Eden.
 - i. King and Queens of creation.
 - ii. Adam and Eve listened to Satan to live independent from God.
 - iii. God was going to send a NEW human who lived perfectly.
- c. Proverbs – How to live God’s wisdom i.e. in the fear of the Lord. Prov. 9:10
- d. Wisdom is a woman i.e. Song of Solomon
- e. Ecclesiastes – Eccle. 12:13-14
- f. In S of S, lady wisdom pursues us!
- g. God wants US to view ourselves in the story.

Apocalyptic Literature

1. Does not emphasize the “End of the World”.
 - a. Apocalypse means to uncover or reveal.
 - b. Suddenly see things from its true nature that you didn’t see before.
2. Apocalypse is a revelation.
 - a. God pulls back the curtain so we see things from a divine perspective.
 - b. Gives people heavenly perspective about their earthly situation.
 - c. Gives hope or challenge you to make you change everything.
3. Reading Apocalyptic literature is difficult because of the strange imagery.
 - a. Packed with symbolism.
 - b. All relates back to Genesis etc.

Daniel and Revelations

1. Beasts in Daniel are 4 kings.
2. Revelations is the largest Apocalyptic Book.
 - a. Emphasized the lamp imagery.