

Ideas for preaching and teaching the prophets (draft copy)

The primary challenge addressed here is many parishioners lack of adequate framework to apprehend the significance of and contextualize prophetic messages. The basic idea of the following suggestions is to do preaching/teaching/Bible study sets across multiple weeks with both contextualizing narratives and prophetic preaching. Any of the following can be broken into smaller units to fit into more limited preaching/teaching/Bible study opportunities.

[northern rebellions and Assyrian crisis]

2 Kgs 14:23-29; 15:8-31; 17:1-41 (Jeroboam II through postexilic Ephraim remnant); Hosea; Amos

[Ahaz rebellions and Assyrian crisis]

2 Kgs 16; 2 Chron 28; Isa 1-12; Micah 1-7

[Hezekiah's worship reforms and declension]

2 Chron 29-32; Isa 28-37

[Isaiah narratives and collections of associated messages]

• Isa 6 (call to condemn); Isa 1-5 (initial messages of condemnation); • Isa 7 (sign against Ahaz in political/military crisis); 2 Kgs 16 (narrative of Ahaz's political scheming); Isa 8-12 (judgment by and upon Assyrians and hope for renewal); • Isa 36-37 (Hezekiah's last minute faithful response to crisis of siege of Jerusalem); Isa 28-35 (prophetic preaching to Hezekiah and his court); • Isa 38-39 (Hezekiah's extra years and pride); Isa 40-55, 56-66 (promise of return from Babylon and a new temple and Jerusalem)¹

[last days and fall of Jerusalem]

2 Kgs 21-25; Jer 1-24; Ezek 1-24; Hab 1-3; Zeph 1-3

[Jeremiah narratives and messages]

• Jer 26 (narrative temple sermon); Jer 7 (temple sermon); • Jer 19-21 (20:1 Pashhur responds to Jeremiah's message in Jer 19; 21:1 the word comes to Jeremiah when Pashhur tries to persuade Zedekiah to rebel against Babylon [Jer 21:2 likely refers to events of 2 Kgs 18:13-19:37])

[judgment upon Edomites]

Jer 52 (narrative fall of Jerusalem); Ezek 25:12-14; Jer 49:7-22; Obad; Mal 1:2-5

[early return and establishing second temple]

Ezra 1-6; Hag 1-2; Zech 1-8

[ups and downs of commitment to worship]

Ezra 7-8; Neh 9-10; 13:4-22; Mal 1:6-2:9; 3:6-12

[personal and social immorality]

Ezra 9-10; Neh 10:28-30; 13:23-41; Mal 2:10-16

¹ For more on related narratives and messages of Isa see <http://scriptureworkshop.com/hb/prophets/isaiah.html>