



TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 12 THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

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THEME	PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE: AS DISASTER LOOMS, GOD RAISES UP PROPHETS
HOMEWORK BIBLE READING	ISAIAH 6, JEREMIAH 1 & EZEKIEL 2-3
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OVERVIEW

This chapter particularly focuses on the message of the prophets in relation to the exile of Jerusalem with some relevance to the exile of Israel that was covered in the previous chapter.

Inevitably, there will be some double up with what the students have discovered in their investigation and you will need to make the call on what to leave out if that needs to happen.

The significance of this chapter is the meaning behind the historical events that are unfolding in this period. It is in the message of the prophets that we most clearly find understanding regarding the historical events that are transpiring in the Promised Land.

This chapter provides the students with the opportunity to take a closer look at the false prophets who were prevalent during this time and to consider how difficult it can be to discern the will of God when you have competing and conflicting messages coming from those who claim to be speaking for him.

The chapter also encourages students to take a closer look at the provocative language that the prophets used. Significantly, it is God's language they are recording. It would be a good idea to read through these passages before going through them with the class so you know what you are going to delve into. Particularly the ones where highly sexualised language is used.

OUR TIPS

Page 196-198 The calling of the prophets

It is possible that you have covered some of this information through the student's investigations. If not it is helpful to look at their callings from God as they often reveal a lot about what God wanted them to do and what they were going to face in their ministry. Jeremiah's calling is of particular interest as God tells him that he was chosen and appointed before his birth to be a prophet to his generation.

P202 False prophets infiltrate the ranks & P204 Case study

The theme of false prophets in this period helps us to see how difficult it was for God's spokespeople to cut through with their message. Who would you listen to if one person was telling you God would bless you and turn around your difficult circumstances and the other was saying that you had to submit to the difficult times that God himself had brought into your life?

You could pre-arrange a drama where two people come into the class and give two completely conflicting messages about the same contemporary topic. The thing that distinguished the true prophets in this period was their willingness to honestly confront Israel's brokenness and challenge them to repent.

P208 Hope is given as future expectations are raised:

One of the important points in this part of the Bible that points us toward Christ is the way that God never took away hope from the nation even when they were coming under his judgment for their rebellion. This short activity touches on just a few of the major prophecies that are shared with the nation during this time about the future leadership and deliverance that God would raise up for the nation.

YOUR TIPS

We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- This is a new chapter so we don't know yet!

We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

- Kings and Prophets Visual aid

If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 12

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at

CHAPTER 12

P.196 Activity	The calling of Isaiah
<i>How did God call Isaiah?</i>	Through a vision
<i>Why did God call Isaiah? / What was he told to do?</i>	To tell people who thought they were blessed by God that God was going to destroy them because of disobedience.
<i>How did Isaiah respond?</i>	Here I am, send me.

P.197 Activity	The calling of Jeremiah
<i>How did God call Jeremiah?</i>	Appointed as a prophet (set apart before he was born)
<i>Why did God call Jeremiah? / What was he told to do?</i>	To prophecy – speak God’s words. Repentance from sin
<i>How did Jeremiah respond?</i>	I don’t know how to speak – I am only a child.

P.198 Activity	The calling of Ezekiel
<i>How did God call Ezekiel?</i>	God called Ezekiel to be a prophet and spoke to him through visions
<i>Why did God call Ezekiel? / What was he told to do?</i>	To go to the Israelites and give them God’s message
<i>How did Ezekiel respond?</i>	He obeyed immediately

p. 199 Activity	Judah is confronted by God about...
	<i>Read Jeremiah 3:6-25, Jeremiah 5, Jeremiah 18 and Ezekiel 13-14.</i> Adultery Dishonesty Idolatry Forgetting him False prophets (students may find more to add to this list)

p. 204-5 Activity	Case Study 1: Hananiah
	<i>Read Jeremiah 27-28</i> <i>Explain what God said Israel had to do in relations to the threat of Nebuchadnezzar?</i> Submit to being handed over to Nebuchadnezzar and serve him. <i>What would happen to the nations who refused to submit?</i> Punished with the sword, famine and plague and be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. <i>What did God ask Jeremiah to do as a sign to the Israelites?</i> Jeremiah wore a yoke as a sign of bondage. <i>How does Jeremiah describe the attitude of the false prophets?</i> They prophecy lies. <i>What were the false prophets saying about the people in exile in Babylon?</i> They would come back within 3 years.

	<p>Jeremiah confronts Hananiah at the temple – what is the issue? Hananiah gives the people false hope.</p> <p>What is the outcome of the confrontation? Hananiah breaks Jeremiah’s yoke. Jeremiah speaks God’s prophecy to Hananiah. Hananiah dies later that year.</p>
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p. 206-7 Activity	Case Study 2: The prophets’ provocative language
	<p>Hosea 1 and 3 What is Hosea first asked to do by God? Marry an adulterous wife</p> <p>Why is he asked to do this? Hosea’s marriage to an unfaithful woman would be an illustration of God’s relationship to unfaithful Israel.</p> <p>What is Hosea asked to do when his wife leaves him and starts sleeping around? Forgive her and take her back and love her.</p> <p>Why does God ask Hosea to do this? As an illustration of God’s love for Israel.</p> <p>Ezekiel 5:7-17 What does Ezekiel say will happen in Jerusalem? Punishment from God. Fathers will eat children and children will eat fathers. God will scatter the survivors.</p>

p. 208-10 Activity	Hope is given as future expectations are raised
	<p>Read Jeremiah 23:4-6, 33:15-16, Ezekiel 34:11-16 What to they say about new leadership? Shepherd, from David’s line, who will reign wisely. Judah will be saved God will lead his people like a shepherd.</p> <p>Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 What does this say about the new covenant? Not like the old one Put the law in your minds and hearts All will know God Forgive wickedness</p> <p>Read Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6 What does this say about the future Elijah? Preparing the way for the Lord Messenger to prepare the way Turn hearts of fathers to their children</p> <p>Read Isaiah 9:6-7, 16:5, Ezekiel 37:24-28, Jeremiah 23:5-6 What does this say about the Davidic king?</p>

	<p>Government on his shoulders Be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. House of David Will be just Covenant of peace Reign wisely</p> <p><i>Read Isaiah 53:2-10</i> <i>What does this say about deliverance from sin?</i> Despised and rejected by man Took up our infirmities and sorrows Pierced for our transgressions Oppressed and afflicted Lord's will to crush him</p>
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