

# What on Earth is going on?

## Seminar handout 2a

### Who were the prophets in the Bible & what was their purpose?

- What is a prophet?
- Who were the prophets of the Bible?
- When were these prophets active?
- Do these prophets of long ago have a message for the reader today?
- Consideration of a worked example: Isaiah 1 and 2:1-5

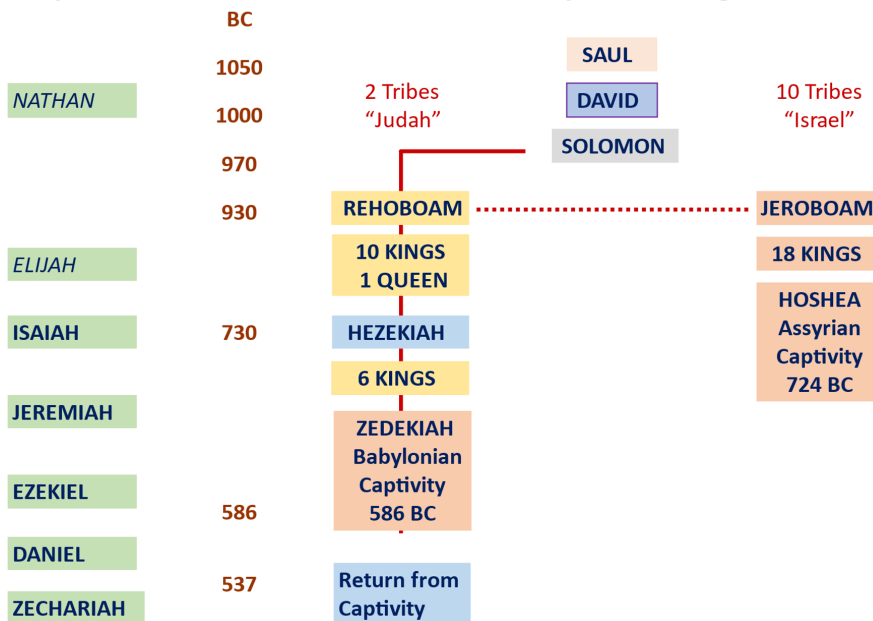


### Chronology of the OT Prophets



### Prophets

### Israel's History and it's Kings



- **Which Old Testament prophet spoke these words?**

“For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?” NIV

*“Indeed, the Sovereign LORD never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared—so who isn’t frightened? The Sovereign LORD has spoken—so who can refuse to proclaim his message?” NLT*

### **Sayings of the Bible Prophets:**

**“The word of the Lord came to me saying ...”**

**“Thus says the Lord...”**

**What is the simple test for whether a prophet speaks a message from God or not?**

*See Deuteronomy 18:20-22*

**What is an example of a prophecy which has passed the test?**

*See Ezekiel 26-28*

### **New Testament Prophets:**

- Jesus e.g. Luke 21, 17 and Matthew 24
- The Apostle John – the Book of Revelation
- The other Apostles – Peter and Paul in their speeches and letters e.g. 2 Peter 3

### **The purpose of the prophets:**

- Warn
- Help understand what is going to unfold in the future
- Call people to turn to God for direction
- Give hope
- Encourage

## To think about...

- What could give you confidence in the message of the Bible?
- Can confidence grow from the many examples of fulfilled prophecies in the Bible?
- Do you think that the message in Isaiah (1 & 2:1-5) considered in this session has implications for the reader?

## My questions...

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