

Survey of the Old Testament

Part 2

Kings & Prophets

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Introduction

Many Christians shy away from the Old Testament, or look only at a few well known passages. Much of the OT seems obscure, and difficult to place into a historical and theological context. The result of such neglect is that much of the richness of the New Testament is lost.

This Survey is designed to ease Christians into the Old Testament. It covers most of the OT books in a roughly chronological order so as to give the historical context, and where possible points forward to the New Testament.

However, it is not a heavy study. I want to encourage the participants to find treasures, not to frighten them away.

The Survey is divided into three parts, each containing several studies.

1. Genesis to Judges
2. Kings & Prophets
3. Exile & Return; The Inter-testamental Period

I have planned each part to be studied in about fifteen weeks, with two studies each week. Each study should take about twenty minutes, so two studies can be completed in a one hour Adult Sunday School or Bible Class. However, each group may feel free to use the material as they like.

The purpose of each study is two-fold.

The participants' weekly reading and the introductory comments at the beginning of each class are intended to help participants to gain an overview of the Old Testament in its historical context. The summaries should also guide the participants to see relevance to the New Testament.

However, such study on its own could prove academic and sterile. God's Word should touch our lives and draw us closer to Him. The studies themselves, therefore, in a gentle way, draw out theology and principals, and seek to encourage application.

How to use these study guides

You may use these guides in any way you find will encourage Christians to dig into the Old Testament. Below I outline how I use them as you may find it profitable to follow a similar approach.

I recognise that many Christians are fairly busy, so the studies are designed so as not to require a lot of preparation. For each study I give the participants several chapters to skim during the week, and a few chapters to read. Then during the class I give a brief talk (usually no more than three minutes) to put the study into context. After this I hand out the study questions and give each group of about five persons around ten minutes to discuss and answer them. Finally I draw the groups back together for about five minutes of summary and to highlight important points.

This approach requires minimal preparation from the participants, and I have found my class attendees very faithful in at least reading the required chapters. Many have read all of the suggested chapters, and some have done a fair bit of research each week as well. Such responsiveness has been very rewarding.

However, the approach does require a fair bit of work from the class presenter. The introduction I have provided for each study is about the right amount to present to the class, but the person leading the class must have a much better grasp of the material than is presented here. There are many good aids available, including Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, and books surveying both Old Testament history, and the OT books themselves. I would recommend that the presenter spend at least 30 minutes preparing for each study in addition to reading all of the suggested chapters.

Most of the material below is organised so that two lessons are printed on one A4 sized sheet. If the lessons are then printed or photocopied onto both sides of A4 sheets, they may be cut into A5 sized sheets, each containing one lesson on each side of the sheet. Some of the introductory material is organised to fill two sides of an A4 sheet which may then be folded in half.

Outline of Kings & Prophets (Rough Chronological Order)

Beginning of the Monarchy

1	1 Samuel 1 - 7	Samuel - the last of the Judges
1	1 Samuel 8 - 15	Samuel & Saul
2	1 Samuel 16 - 31	Saul & David
2	2 Samuel 1 - 10	David's Reign Consolidated
3	2 Samuel 11 - 24	David's Reign Threatened & Reaffirmed
3	1 Kings 1 - 11	Solomon's Reign

The Divided Kingdom

4	1 Kings 11 - 16	The Divided Monarchy
4	1 Kings 17 - 22	Ahab & Elijah
5	2 Kings 1 - 8	Elijah & Elisha
5	2 Kings 8 - 13	Other Kings

Israel Falls

6	Amos	Against Israel
	Jonah	Against Nineveh
6	Micah	Against Israel & Judah
7	Hosea	Against Israel
7	2 Kings 14 - 17	Israel Taken Captive

Judah Falls

8	Isaiah 1 - 12	Against Judah
	Isaiah 13 - 23	Against other Nations
	Isaiah 24 - 35	Judgement on the Earth
8	2 Kings 18 - 20 Isaiah 36 - 39	Isaiah & Hezekiah
9	Zepheniah	Against Judah
9	Nahum	Against Nineveh
10	Habakkuk	Against Judah
10	Jeremiah 1 - 39	Against Judah
11	2 Kings 21 - 25 Jeremiah 39	Judah Defeated
11	Ezekiel 1 - 24	Against Jerusalem
	Ezekiel 25 - 32	Against other Nations

Post Defeat

12	Obadiah	Against Edom
12	Jeremiah 40 - 52	Judah after the Defeat
13	Ezekiel 33 - 48	Hope for the Exiles
13	Isaiah 40 - 55	Encouragement for the Exiles
14	Isaiah 56 - 66	New Heavens & a New Earth

Beginning of the Monarchy

1 Samuel 1 - 7 Samuel - the last of the Judges

Recall that for many years the nation of Israel was ruled by judges, or military generals who led the people in battle to free them from oppression.

1. Samuel was the last of the judges. What three functions did he fulfil?

3:19ff; 7:2ff; 9:5ff

4:1; 7:11-14

7:6, 15-17

Both Eli (1:17; 3:9) and Samuel were men of God.

2. How did their sons turn out?

2:12-16

8:1-3

3. What warning is there here for us?

1 Samuel 8 - 15 Samuel & Saul (1020 - 1000 BC)

When Israel had been ruled by judges the people had often forgotten God and were oppressed by surrounding nations. There was no continuity in the rule by judges, so the people longed for the stability of a hereditary monarchy.

4. What did Samuel think of their desires? 8:6-9

5. What distinguished Saul as King? Ch 11

6. What were Saul's weak points? 13:7-10; 14:24, 41-44; 15:3, 7-9, 15

7. How does God regard our good deeds? 15:22

Homework Read 1 Samuel 16 - 19; Skim 1 Samuel 20 - 31;
Skim 2 Samuel 1 - 10; Read 2 Samuel 7

Beginning of the Monarchy (continued)

1 Samuel 16 - 31 Saul & David

Saul had rejected God and His word, and in turn God rejected his kingship (1 Sam 15:26). Now Samuel was sent to anoint a successor to Saul, however it would be many years before David would take up the crown.

1. 16:1 - 13. What characteristics do men & women use to judge ability and success? What does God look for?
2. Note the effect of jealousy on Saul. How do you regard another person's success?
3. Note David's character. See especially: 16:13, 18; 17:26, 36, 37, 45; 20:41; 26:7-11; 27:1; 30:7, 8, 21-25
What particularly can you learn from him?

2 Samuel 1 - 10 David's Reign Consolidated

After Saul's death David (1000 - 961 BC) was anointed King over Judah (his own tribe), and after 2 years resistance, over all of Israel. He ruled fairly, showing mercy to those who were fair, but showing harsh justice to those who acted unjustly.

David was a great military leader, gradually subduing all of the surrounding enemies, and it was only during his reign that all of the land promised to Abraham was finally possessed by Israel. See Gen 15:18.

David ruled 7 years from Hebron before capturing Jerusalem and moving his capital there. Ever since, Jerusalem has had a special significance to the Jews, right down to the modern day.

In 2 Samuel 7 God made a covenant with David (The Davidic Covenant).

4. What did it promise?
5. In whom is this promise fulfilled today?
6. Why did God prohibit David from building a "house" for Him?
7. How should we regard church buildings today?
8. What was David's attitude in prayer?
9. What can we learn from this?

Homework Skim 2 Samuel 11 - 24; Read 2 Samuel 11, 12, 15
Skim 1 Kings 1 - 11; Read 1 Kings 3, 8

Beginning of the Monarchy (continued)

2 Samuel 11 - 24 David's Reign Threatened & Reaffirmed

From last week's study we saw something of David's character (also exemplified in many of the Psalms) as well as the special relationship he had with God. His kingdom was well established, and confirmed by a covenant from God.

Today we see that David's reign was threatened, twice by rebellion, and far more seriously, by his own sin of adultery and murder.

Read Psalm 51.

1. Who is hurt most by our sin?
2. What grounds do we have to appeal to God for cleansing?
3. What attitude is necessary?
4. What should be the result of forgiveness?

Read 2 Samuel 15

5. Note David's attitude to what was happening. What can we learn from this?

1 Kings 1 - 11 Solomon's Reign (961 - 922 BC)

When David was very old and about to die his son Adonijah proclaimed himself king. However when David's wife, Bathsheba, and Nathan the prophet brought this news to David, David had his son Solomon anointed king instead.

Whereas David had consolidated his kingdom via military campaigns, Solomon established his rule through a combination of wise rule and marriage alliances. The former brought him much fame; the latter proved to be his undoing.

6. List Solomon's petitions in his prayers (1 Kings 3, 8).
7. What things does this list suggest that you could pray for?

Homework Skim 1 Kings 11 - 16; Read 11:26 - 40; 12; 14:1 - 20
Skim 1 Kings 17 - 22; Read 18, 19

The Divided Kingdom

1 Kings 11 - 16 The Divided Monarchy

As we saw last week, Solomon began his reign well. He asked God for wisdom, and was renowned far and wide because of his wise rule.

On the other hand, he made many marriage alliances with surrounding nations, and his foreign wives led him into idolatry. Because of this, God tore 10/12 of the kingdom out of the hands of his son Rehoboam (922 - 915 BC) and gave them to Jeroboam (922 - 901 BC). This became the northern kingdom of Israel.

Most of the kings of Israel "did evil in the sight of the Lord", and often they were deposed violently as one dynasty ended and another began.

In contrast, many of the kings of Judah "did what was right in the sight of the Lord". And even though some of them did evil, God maintained a single dynasty for the sake of His promise to David.

1. Whom did Rehoboam turn to for counsel? 12:1 - 17
2. What sort of people do we (should we) look to for counsel when we need guidance?
3. What were Jeroboam's motives for making calves of gold? 12:25 - 30.
4. What was the result? 12:31 - 33; 14:12 - 16.

1 Kings 17 - 22 Ahab & Elijah

These chapters outline a long battle of words between King Ahab (869 - 850 BC) and the prophet Elijah, with occasional appearances by other prophets. A climax is reached in the duel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal.

5. Read 17:1; 18:42 - 46.
What lesson does James draw from these verses? (James 5:17, 18)
6. Read 19:1 - 18
Note how Elijah sinks into depression immediately after his great victory.
How does God comfort him?
7. What can we learn about depression and about dealing with it from these verses?

Homework Skim 2 Kings 1 - 8;
Skim 2 Kings 8 - 13;

Read 2 Kings 2, 5
Read 2 Kings 11, 12

The Divided Kingdom (continued)

2 Kings 1 - 8 Elijah & Elisha

Elijah was considered by the Jews to epitomize the prophets (Mark 9:4). The first 2 chapters record the end of Elijah's life and the passing of his prophetic authority to his disciple, Elisha.

The remaining chapters contain a number of anecdotes which illustrate God's working through Elisha.

1. Note Elisha's character (2:1 - 18). What motivated him?
2. Is there some pattern here for us to emulate? What?
3. Read 5:1 - 27. What were Naaman's expectations?
4. In what ways might our expectations of God be unrealistic?
5. How did Gehazi handle temptation?
6. What warning is there here for us?

2 Kings 8 - 13 Other Kings

These chapters give us a picture of some of the kings of Israel & Judah, most notably Jehu (842 - 815 BC) & Joash (837 - 800 BC).

Jehu was appointed by God to avenge the slaying of His prophets by King Ahab & his wife Jezebel. He also destroyed both the temple & prophets of Baal and as a reward, God granted him a dynasty of four generations. Unfortunately, Jehu was not careful to follow God, and he continued to allow worship at the golden calves that Jeroboam had set up.

In Judah, after Jehu had killed King Ahaziah, things looked pretty black. Athaliah, the Queen Mother, decided to kill all of Ahaziah's sons so that she might assume power herself. However, God continued faithful to his covenant to David, and preserved one year old Joash through his aunt Jehosheba. She hid him in the Temple and entrusted him to the protection of Jehoiada the priest.

7. In chapter 11 note the role of Jehoiada.
8. What can we learn from his example?
9. In chapter 12, note Joash's concern for the Temple. What is necessary for concern to have an effect?
10. What can we learn about the stewardship of offerings from 12:10?

Homework Skim Amos; Read Amos 1; 2; 8; 9:11-15
Skim Micah; Read Micah 1:1-7; 2; 6; 7

Israel Falls

Amos 1, 2, 8, 9 Against Israel (c 750 BC)

Amos was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamore-fig trees (1:1; 7:14) from Tekoa in Judah. Although not a prophet by profession, he became incensed by the social injustice in the northern kingdom, and was compelled by God (3:8; 7:15) to go north to Israel to confront the nation with its sin.

1. In 1:1 - 2:5 Amos decries the sins of the surrounding nations. How do you think the people of Israel would have reacted to these prophecies?
2. In 2:6-16 Amos turns to the sins of Israel, a theme which he returns to throughout his prophecy. How do you think the people reacted? (See 7:10-13)
3. How do you react when your shortcomings are revealed?
4. What does 7:1-9; 8:1,2; 9:11-15 reveal about the way God deals with sinners?

Micah 1, 2, 6, 7 Against Israel & Judah (c 740 - 700 BC)

As we have seen before, while many of the kings of Judah "did what was right in the sight of the Lord", some of the kings of Judah and most of the kings of Israel "did evil in the sight of the Lord". Micah (from Moresheth-gath in western Judah) saw this evil spread from the capital cities (1:5) throughout the two nations.

At that time Assyria was the super power of the day. Micah predicted that the northern kingdom would fall to Assyria (1:7), but that Judah would be spared (5:6), at least for a period. However, judgement upon Judah would eventually come at the hand of the Babylonians (4:10), a nation that had not yet begun its rise to power.

5. List some of the sins that the Lord held to account against His people:
2:1 2, 6-11; 3:1-3, 9-11; 6:9-16; 7:1-6
6. In contrast, what sort of behaviour does God desire? 6:6-8
7. What is God's plan for His people?
2:3-5; 3:12; 6:13-16; 7:18-20; 4:6; 5:2-4

**Homework Skim Hosea; Read Hosea 1 - 3, 14;
Skim 2 Kings 14 - 17; Read 2 Kings 16, 17**

Israel Falls (continued)

Hosea 1, 2, 3, 14 Against Israel (c 760 - 700 BC)

Like Amos & Micah, Hosea preached to the northern kingdom. The thrust of his message was that Israel was like an unfaithful wife or a wayward child. Rather than be faithful to a loving God, the nation had played the harlot with idols and had put its trust in other nations (2 Kings 17:3-4) rather than in their Lord.

Soon God would punish and expose the nation to shame.

1. Note the nature of Hosea's wife and his relationship with her.
What did this convey about the relationship between Israel and God?
2. Note the names of Hosea's children.
What were they intended to convey?
3. What was God's desire and purpose for His children?
4. What is necessary in order to enjoy a good relationship with God?
(cf 1 John 1:9)

2 Kings 14 - 17 Israel Taken Captive (722 BC)

This section quickly skims over the lives of several kings of Israel & Judah:

Israel: Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem,
Pekehiah, Pekah, Hoshea

Judah: Amaziah, Azariah (Uzziah), Jotham, Ahaz

It also illustrates rise of Assyria (15:29; 16:7-9; 17:3-6) and the decline of both Israel & Judah. This led to the final collapse of Israel in 722 BC and to the deportation of its people to Assyria.

5. From 2 Kings 16 list the sins of Ahaz (king of Judah).
6. From 2 Kings 17 list the sins of Israel.
7. Note the origin of the Samaritans of Jesus' time.
Why were they hated by the Jews?

**Homework Skim Isaiah 1 - 12, 36 - 39;
Read Isaiah 6, 7, 9, 11; 2 Kings 18-20**

Judah Falls

Isaiah 1 - 12 Against Judah (c 750 - 690 BC)

From the fall of Israel in 722 BC we now step back about 20 years and move to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

When the righteous King Uzziah died the young prophet Isaiah (possibly depressed, and languishing in the Temple) received a vision of God's glory and a calling to service that sustained him through many decades of ministry.

Some years later Judah was threatened by a coalition of Syria and Israel. When King Ahaz called out to the mighty Assyria for help, Isaiah warned that not only would Assyria conquer Syria and Israel, its mighty army would flow on to punish Judah for its sin.

However, Judah would not be completely destroyed. A holy remnant would be preserved, to be ruled by a coming King, a descendant of Jesse (David's father).

1. Is 6 - What should a knowledge of God's holiness cause us to realize and motivate us to do?
2. Is 7:10-16 - How long would it be before God would deliver Judah from the Syria-Israel coalition?
3. What NT significance is given to these verses?
4. Is 9; 11 - What would be the characteristics of the coming King?

2 Kings 18 - 20; Isaiah 36 - 39 Isaiah & Hezekiah

Seven years after the fall of Israel Isaiah's prophecy against Judah began to be fulfilled. Sennacherib, king of Assyria, marched on Judah, and one by one defeated and captured the fortified cities of the Southern Kingdom.

However King Hezekiah was a righteous king. Like none other before him, he had torn down the high places and idols that his people had worshipped, and commanded that only at the Temple should the people worship God.

When Sennacherib's men came to Jerusalem and dictated terms of surrender, Hezekiah did not capitulate. Instead he and his advisors exchanged their clothes for sack-cloth, entreated Isaiah to beseech God for them, and themselves turned to God in prayer.

Some years later Hezekiah suffered what was to be a fatal illness. However, again he turned to God in prayer, and was given a reprieve of 15 years. Subsequently, when envoys of the king of Babylon came with good wishes, Hezekiah revealed to them all the riches that remained in his kingdom. In response to this folly, Isaiah prophesied that there would come a time when all these riches would be confiscated and taken to Babylon. At this time Babylon had not yet begun to rise to power, and it was only 100 years later that the prophecy was fulfilled.

5. 18:19-35 - In what ways was the argument of the Assyrian envoys flawed?
6. 19:14-19 - On what did Hezekiah base his prayers?
7. On what should we base our petitions to God?

Homework Read Zephaniah, Nahum

Judah Falls (continued)

Zepheniah Against Judah

Good King Hezekiah was succeeded by his son Manasseh, a king who was the antithesis of his father. Hezekiah had torn down the high places and idols. Manasseh built them up again, and encouraged all sorts of pagan worship.

It is no wonder, therefore, that when the prophet Zephaniah arose some time after Manasseh's 55 year reign, Judah was infested with all types of religious, moral, and social evil. Indeed it may have been Zephaniah's preaching which spurred the subsequent reform under King Josiah.

Nahum Against Nineveh

About 100 years after Assyria defeated Israel and oppressed Judah, the prophet Nahum arose to predict that Assyria itself would be punished, just as cruelly as it had treated its conquered, and that Judah would be freed from its oppression.

Homework Skim Jeremiah 1 - 39;
Read Habakkuk; Jeremiah 27, 32, 33

Judah Falls (continued)

Habakkuk Against Judah

Habakkuk prophesied at a time when Babylon had become a serious threat to Judah, but before the Southern Kingdom had fallen to the Chaldean might.

1. In 1:2-4 Habakkuk is perplexed, and brings a complaint to God. What is it?
2. What is God's reply?
3. This further perplexes Habakkuk, who brings a second complaint. What is it?
4. What is God's reply?
5. In 2:4-20 five evils are decried. What are they? What are modern day equivalents?
6. Note Habakkuk's trust in God, no matter what happens:
2:4
3:16-18

Jeremiah 1 - 39 Against Judah

Jeremiah prophesied from the middle of Josiah's reign (627 BC) until Judah fell in 587 BC. Like Hosea, he took up the message of the unfaithful wife, and in many prophecies predicted that Judah would fall to the Babylonians.

7. What are the distinctive elements of Jeremiah's message in 27:1-15?
8. In spite of the continued message of doom, Jeremiah also brought a message of hope. In 32:6-15 Jeremiah bought a field. What was this to symbolize to the people? (32:36-44)
9. This message of hope also extends far into the future. What things are promised in 33:14-22?

Homework Read 2 Kings 21 - 25; Jeremiah 39
Skim Ezekiel 1 -24; Read Ezekiel 4, 5, 12

Judah Falls (continued)

2 Kings 21 - 25; Jeremiah 39 Judah Defeated

Good King Hezekiah was succeeded by his son Manasseh, a king who was the antithesis of his father. Hezekiah had torn down the high places and idols. Manasseh built them up again, and encouraged all sorts of pagan worship.

Manasseh was succeeded in turn by Amon (who ruled only 2 years) and then by his son Josiah. Josiah (640 - 609 BC) was probably the best king that Judah had had, and during his reign Judah had a time of peace, blessing, and prosperity. Assyria was declining in power, and Babylon had not yet asserted itself.

However, when Pharaoh Necho went to help Assyria against Babylon, Josiah sided with Babylon and tried to stop the Egyptian advance at Megiddo. There he was killed, and Judah became subject to Egypt for a few years. Josiah was succeeded in turn by each of his three sons, as well as Jehoiachin, son of the eldest.

In 605 BC the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, soundly trounced Egypt at the Battle of Carchemish, and took over Egypt's vassal states, including Judah. He then took away many bright young men (including Daniel) to become civil servants.

Jehoiakim bowed to Babylon's might for three years, but then, in spite of Jeremiah's warnings, rebelled. In 597 BC Nebuchadnezzar quashed the rebellion. Jehoiakim had just died, and his son, Jehoiachin (king for only 3 months) was taken captive, along with the treasure and many of the best people in Judah, including Ezekiel.

Finally in 587 BC Zedekiah rebelled again against Babylon. After a long siege, Nebuchadnezzar defeated Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and took into exile all but the poorest of the land.

1. What two factors were most important in Josiah's success?

2. What lessons can we learn?

Ezekiel 1 - 24 Against Jerusalem

While Jeremiah in Jerusalem was trying to convince the people that their best hope lay in submission to the Babylonians, Ezekiel was bringing the exiles in Babylon a similar message. They kept thinking that the exile would soon be over and they would be on their way home. Ezekiel's task was to convince them that they should settle down and make the best of their life there, as most of them would never see Jerusalem again.

Ezekiel was almost unique among the prophets in that many of his messages were in the form of enacted prophecy, rather than spoken or written. Try to visualize the following enactments. What did they symbolize, and how would they have been received? What lesson should we derive from them?

3. 4:1-3

4. 4:4-8

5. 4:9-17

6. 5:1-4

7. 12:1-7

8. 12:17

Homework Read Obadiah;
Skim Jeremiah 40 - 52; Read Jer 41:16 - 44:30

Post Defeat

Obadiah Against Edom

From the vision of Obadiah we learn something more about the fall of Judah that is not recorded anywhere else in Scripture.

When Babylon was attacking Judah, the nation of Edom (descended from Esau, Israel's brother), rather than helping their "brother", took advantage of the situation, reporting the whereabouts of refugees to the Chaldeans, and plundering defenceless areas.

1. Edom lived in the high mountainous area to the east of the Dead Sea. What was their physical elevation a symbol of (1-4)? What would be the consequences?
2. Who are our "brothers", and how should we treat them? (Mk 3:31-35 ; Mt 25:34-40)
3. What hope is held out here for Israel?

Note: After the defeat of Judah, God's people are often again referred to as "Israel", the name that for over three hundred years referred only to the Northern Kingdom.

Jeremiah 40 - 52 Judah after the Defeat

After Judah fell and all but the poorest of the land (and a few soldiers who had escaped) were taken away to Babylon, Nebuzaradan, the Babylonian commander appointed Gedeliah as governor of Judah.

He also gave Jeremiah the choice of going to Babylon where he would be well looked after or of staying in Judah. Jeremiah chose to stay with Gedeliah.

After only two months Gedeliah was assassinated by Ishmael, a member of the royal family who had taken refuge in Amon. Following this, the remaining soldiers who had gathered in Gedeliah's court were fearful of Babylonian reprisal, and sought from Jeremiah a word from the Lord as to what they should do. (Jer 42)

4. In seeking God's will, Johanan, et al, promised to obey it, no matter what it was. In the end, what did they do? (Jer 43)
5. How willing are we to obey God's word when He reveals it to us through Scriptures? In what ways do we respond?
6. What is the inevitable result of continued disobedience? (cf Jer 44)

Homework Skim Ezekiel 33 - 48; Read Ezekiel 33, 34, 37
Skim Isaiah 40 - 55; Read Isaiah 40, 53

Post Defeat (continued)

Ezekiel 33 - 48 Hope for the Exiles

Recall that Ezekiel had been made dumb by God, and that his message that Jerusalem would be destroyed was mainly by enacted prophecy.

After Jerusalem was defeated a messenger came to the exiles with the bad news, and the night before he arrived, Ezekiel's voice was restored. When the messenger arrived, Ezekiel began to speak. He needed to explain to the distraught people why God had forsaken His holy city, and to give them some hope for the future.

1. What was Ezekiel's responsibility? (33:1-9)
2. Do we have a similar responsibility?
3. What hope should 33:10, 11 give to us?
4. What hope did God hold out for the exiles?
(34:11-31; 37:1-28)
5. Whom was God to place over them as His shepherd?
(34:23, 24; 37:24)

Isaiah 40 - 55 Encouragement for the Exiles

In these chapters Isaiah, writing before the fall of Israel in 722 BC, looks forward nearly 200 years to the time of the exiles in Babylon.

The Jews must have felt that Assyria and Babylon's triumphs over Israel and Judah also represented a triumph over their God. Isaiah, therefore, brings comfort, restores confidence, and provides hope.

We also find in these chapters four "Servant Songs" (42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12). In some places these seem to refer to the nation of Israel; in others to an individual.

6. Of whom and of what event in the NT is 40:3-5 applied?
7. List the characteristics of God portrayed in Is 40.
8. What encouragement can we derive from this chapter?
9. 52:13 - 53:12. List the characteristics of Christ and His ministry portrayed in this Servant Song.

Homework Skim Isaiah 56 - 66; Read Isaiah 55, 58, 61

Post Defeat (continued)

Isaiah 56 - 66 New Heavens & a New Earth

The book of Isaiah can be divided into three major sections:

1 - 39, at the time of the imminent fall of Israel, anticipates and warns of the fall of Judah over 100 years later.

40 - 55 looks forward to the end of the exile and provides hope of return and renewal.

These final chapters look much further into the future.

1. What characteristics of God are portrayed in chapters 55, 58, & 61?
2. What does God require of us?
3. What does He promise?
4. In the NT, what reference was made to Is 61:1, and in what context?

Homework Skim Daniel, Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah
Skim Haggai, Zechariah, Joel, Malachi

Review of Kings & Prophets

1050 - Beginning of the Monarchy

Samuel - the last of the Judges

Samuel & Saul

Saul & David

David's Reign Consolidated

David's Reign Threatened & Reaffirmed

Solomon's Reign

722 - Israel Falls

Amos Against Israel

Jonah Against Nineveh

Micah Against Israel & Judah

Hosea Against Israel

Israel Taken Captive to Assyria

Post Defeat

Obadiah Against Edom

Judah after the Defeat

Ezekiel Hope for the Exiles

Isaiah Encouragement for the Exiles

Isaiah New Heavens & a New Earth

931 - The Divided Kingdom

The Divided Monarchy

Ahab & Elijah

Elijah & Elisha

Other Kings

587 - Judah Falls

Isaiah Against Judah

Isaiah & Hezekiah

Zephaniah Against Judah

Nahum Against Nineveh

Habakkuk Against Judah

Jeremiah Against Judah

Judah Defeated by Babylon
605, 597, 587/6

Ezekiel Against Jerusalem