

# Prophets - Prophecies

## PROPHETICAL BOOKS

**JOHN 12:41** “Isaiah spoke of Jesus”

Viewing the book of Isaiah reminds us that Isaiah is a prophet and we must comprehend some important information about the prophets before we can understand who this Messianic Prophet is. The NT says that Isaiah “*saw the glory of Christ, and spoke of him.*” (**John 12:41**) He was a prophet of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, at the time the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was destroyed by the Assyrians. He lived during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah and his call came in the year of Uzziah’s death. He was slain, according to Jewish tradition, by Manasseh. We can place his ministry about 745-695 B.C. Though not studying at present, this wonderful book, let’s get some understanding of the Historical books of the Old Testament.

- Genesis to Esther gives to us the rise and fall of the Hebrew Nation.
- The Poetical Books, Job to Song of Solomon belong to the Golden Age of the Hebrew Nation.
- The Prophetical Books, Isaiah to Malachi, belong to the days of the fall of the Hebrew Nation.
- There are 17 books of the Prophets; only 16 Prophets, since Jeremiah wrote two: the book called by his name, and Lamentations.
- Normally, these books are referred to as the “Major” and “Minor” prophets:
- The Major Prophets are: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.
- The Minor Prophets are: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

## Prophets - Prophecies (Continued)

- This classification is based on the size of the books. We will notice that Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, are individually larger than all 12 of the Minor Prophets when all of them are combined. The book of Daniel is about the combined size of the two largest Minor Prophets, Hosea and Zechariah.
- 13 of the Prophets are connected with the destruction of the Hebrew nation; and 3 with its restoration.
- The Destruction came in two periods:
  - The Northern Kingdom fell, 734-721 B.C. preceding and during this period were: Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Micah.
  - The Southern Kingdom fell, 606-586 B.C. and in this period was: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Obadiah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah.
- The Restoration of the nation occurred 536-444 B.C. and with this time period we have Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
- The Message, proclaimed by these prophets is classified mainly as follows:
  - To Israel: Amos, Hosea
  - To Nineveh: Jonah, Nahum
  - To Captives in Babylon: Ezekiel
  - To Edom: Obadiah
  - To Judah: Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. (Halley's Handbook quoted)