

Who Were the **PROPHETS?**

Lesson 2 • September 11
Retellers of Israel's Story

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Pet 1:21)

Long ago, there were things that the children of Israel (and the nations around them) needed to hear, and God used the prophets as his messengers. Sometimes, that was to foretell—to reveal something that was going to happen in the future. At other times, their work was to retell the family story as a reminder of who they were and whose they were. For example, listen to the prophet Amos as he called Israel to “prepare to meet your God.”

For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind,
and declares to man what is his thought,
who makes the morning darkness,
and treads on the heights of the earth—
the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name! (Amos 4:12-13)

The children of Israel needed to be reminded of what the LORD—I AM, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—had done for them. He had appeared to Moses at the burning bush (Exo 3:4-6). He had delivered Israel from the hand of the Egyptians (Exo 4-12). He had brought them to himself at Mount Sinai (Exo 13-19). “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son” (Hos 11:1). God used prophet after prophet to remind his people where their relationship had started and what the LORD had wanted all along (Mic 6:3-4; Hos 11:3-4; 13:4-5).

Israel had entered into a covenant with the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exo 19:4-8) and God's desire for his people had been made clear from the very beginning (Lev 26:11-13). The problem?

Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? (Mal 2:10)

The LORD used the prophets to retell Israel's story and remind them of the covenant they were ignoring.

There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land... (Hos 4:1)

For Israel has forgotten his Maker... (Hos 8:14)

...when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me. (Hos 13:6)

The LORD was going to act, but before he did, his prophets would retell Israel's story (Amos 3:7-8).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- We heard a lot about Israel's covenant with God in our video. In your own words, what is a covenant? What makes covenants in the Bible so serious?
- We live a long time after Israel entered into that covenant with the LORD at Mount Sinai. Does God still want a covenant relationship with anyone today? If so, who? How can we come to be in a covenant relationship with God today?
- We heard the words of the LORD in [Leviticus 26:11-13](#) that clearly revealed what he wanted with the children of Israel. Notice how Christians are talked to in [2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#). What does God still want from his people today?
- We heard in [Malachi 2:10](#) that the children of Israel were being “faithless” to one another and “profaning the covenant.” In your own words, what does that mean? What were they doing?
- According to [Hosea 4:1-2](#), what was going on in Israel instead of faithfulness and steadfast love?
- Why was it all happening? Let's open our Bibles back to [Hosea 13:4-6](#). What had happened to the children of Israel?
- With all of that in mind, here's a really important question: can the same thing happen to us today? If so, how? What might it look like?
- To get his people to wake up, the LORD retold them the family story through the prophets. What sort of “family story” do we need to hear and be reminded of today? Who is our family? In what ways is it powerful to be reminded over and over again of who we are and whose we are? Where do we find reminders of our “family story” today?