

Who Were the **PROPHETS?**

Lesson 5 • October 2
Messengers of Hope

Let's draw this series to a close by focusing in on the very end of the Old Testament

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” (Mal 4:1-6)



God used the prophets in a variety of ways. Thankfully, even in the toughest of times, they were carried along to “speak from God” (2 Pet 1:21) as messengers of hope:

- * The “suffering servant” of God would bear the sins of many and make intercession for the transgressors (Isa 53:12).
- * God would make a new covenant and write his law on the hearts of his people (Jer 31:31-34).
- * The God of heaven would set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed (Dan 2:44).
- * The LORD would pour out his Spirit and everyone who calls on his name will be saved (Joel 2:28-32).
- * The word of the LORD would spread from Jerusalem and be good news for the nations (Mic 4:1-2).
- * For those who fear the name of the LORD, a new sunrise would bring healing (Mal 4:2).

With the help of the New Testament, we can see and understand that these prophecies (and many more) were pointing to and preparing people for Jesus, the arrival of his kingdom, and the gospel that is God's power to save anyone from their sins. Thank God for messengers of hope!

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's work our way through the prophecies mentioned in the video and dig a little deeper. What do we need to see and understand from:
 - [Isaiah 53:12](#)?
 - [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)?
 - [Daniel 2:44](#)?
 - [Joel 2:28-32](#)?
 - [Micah 4:1-2](#)?
 - [Malachi 4:1-6](#)?
- How many years passed between [Malachi 4](#) and [Matthew 1](#)? Why do you think that is? What had God used the prophet Amos to foretell in [Amos 8:11-12](#)?
- As we turn our Bibles to [Matthew 1](#), what is Matthew communicating in [1:1](#)? [1:22](#)? [2:5](#)? [2:17](#)? [2:23](#)?
- Did you notice what God had foretold in [Malachi 4:5](#)? "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes." How does [Luke 1:16-17](#) help us understand what the LORD was foretelling and who he was talking about?
- According to Peter and the rest of the apostles in [Acts 2](#), what was the prophecy in [Joel 2:28-32](#) about and how was it fulfilled?