

## Prophets and Prophetesses: The Lord's Messengers

Joseph Smith taught this important truth: “The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.”<sup>29</sup>

God’s prophets and prophetesses had significant and noteworthy responsibilities in the Old Testament setting. They were teachers of righteousness; denounced sin; warned of impending doom; blessed the lives of individuals, communities, and nations; prophesied, instructed, and preached; and revealed God’s covenants, laws, and ordinances. The prophets displayed literary genius in their presentation of the scriptural books and passages they authored and edited; they employed rhetorical questions, symbolic forms, figures of speech, laments, poetic parallelisms and other forms of poetry, and other literary types.

Prophets set forth various prophecies and often used prophetic speech forms such as “thus saith the Lord.” Prophets taught and prophesied by the power of the Holy Ghost. As Peter wrote, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were

moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet. 1:21). Prophecy is not limited to males; instances of females with the gift of prophecy include Deborah, Miriam, and Huldah. Both males and females were empowered to prophesy (Num. 11:29; 1 Cor. 14:1–5, 29, 31, 39).

Notwithstanding all of these significant and noteworthy responsibilities, the prophets’ central message was Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:10) and His atoning sacrifice. They prophesied of Jesus’s ministry, atoning sacrifice and Resurrection, Second Coming, and Millennial reign. In most or all of their prophecies, they used symbols and figures of speech.

Prophets did not speak to the covenant people only, but they also uttered God’s words to the known world. Isaiah, for example, warned and prophesied to Syria, Babylonia, Moab, Egypt, Philistia, Ethiopia, Sidon, Assyria, Elam, Edom, and Arabia. Similarly, Jeremiah warned or prophesied against many nations and peoples, including Egypt, Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, Elam, and Babylon (Jer. 47–51).

The dates in the chart are approximations and are presented only for the purposes of providing a sense of the time frame.

Prophet	Possible Name Meaning	Place of Origin	Date of Ministry (circa BC)	Miscellaneous Notes
<b>Abraham</b>	<i>Father of a multitude</i>	Ur of the Chaldees		Abrahamic Covenant
<b>Adam</b>	<i>Mankind</i>	Eden		Blessed his posterity
<b>Ahijah</b>	<i>My brother is Jah</i>	A Shilonite	930	Prophesied to Jeroboam of the rending of the two kingdoms
<b>Amos</b>	<i>Burden</i>	Tekoa	760	Prophesied concerning Israel, Judah, Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab
<b>Balaam</b>	<i>Glutton?</i>	Pethor by the Euphrates		Blessed Israel near Moab; prophesied of “the Star” and “Scepter” from Judah
<b>Daniel</b>	<i>God is my Judge</i>	Judah in exile	605–530	Prophesied concerning Judah, Israel, other empires; spoke of the “Ancient of Days”
<b>David</b>	<i>Beloved</i>	Bethlehem		Ruled over undivided Israel; psalms prophesy of Jesus Christ
<b>Deborah</b> Judg. 4:4	<i>Bee</i>	Mount Ephraim?		Prophetess, judge, prophesied of Israel's defeat of Sisera
<b>Eliezer</b>	<i>God is help</i>	Mareshah	850	Prophesied against Jehoshaphat's league with Israel
<b>Elijah</b> 1 Kgs. 17:1–2 Kgs. 2:18	<i>My God is Jehovah</i>	Tishbe	870	Israel, Judah
<b>Elisha</b> 1 Kgs. 19:15–21; 2 Kgs. 2–9, 13	<i>God shall save</i>	Abel-meholah	850	Israel, Judah
<b>Enoch</b>	?			Preached mightily; established the city of Zion

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<b>Ezekiel</b>	<i>God will Strengthen</i>	Judah—In Exile	592–570	Prophesied concerning Judah, Israel, Ammonites, Moab, Edom, Philistines, Tyre, Sidon, Egypt
<b>Ezias</b>	?	?	Before 600	Prophesied of the Messiah
<b>Ezra</b>	<i>Helper</i>	Babylon, exiled Judah	458	Returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple
<b>Gad</b>	<i>Fortune</i>	?		Seer and friend of David
<b>Habakkuk</b>	<i>Embrace</i>	Judah	625	Judah, Chaldeans
<b>Haggai</b>	<i>Festive</i>	Judah—Post Exilic	520	Judah
<b>Hanani</b> 2 Chron. 16:7	<i>My grace/ Jehovah has been gracious</i>	Judah	930?	Prophesied against Asa, king of Judah
<b>Hosea</b>	<i>Salvation</i>	Israel	760–736	Israel, Judah, Egypt, Assyria
<b>Huldah</b> 2 Kgs. 22; 2 Chr. 34	?	Jerusalem	640	Hilkiah and Josiah
<b>Iddo</b>	<i>Beloved/ Witness?</i>	?	953–932	Judah, Israel
<b>Isaac</b>	<i>He will laugh</i>	Hebron/ Beer-sheva		Canaan
<b>Isaiah</b>	<i>Jehovah is Salvation</i>	Judah (Jerusalem)	740–701	Judah, Israel, Babylon, Assyria, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, Tyre, Sidon
<b>Isaiah's Wife</b>	<i>(unnamed)</i>	Judah?	740–701?	Called a “prophetess”
<b>Jacob/Israel</b>	<i>Supplanter/ May God show His strength</i>	Beer-sheva		Beer-sheva, Haran, Shechem, Beth-el, Egypt

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<b>Jahaziel</b>	<i>God sees</i>	Judah	853	Prophesied the victory over the Ammonites
<b>Jehu</b>	<i>He is Jehovah</i>	Israel	925	Prophesied against Baasha
<b>Jeremiah</b>	<i>Jehovah will Raise Up</i>	Anathoth	626–586	Judah, Israel, Egypt, Philistines, Moab, Ammonites, Edom, Damascus, Kadar, Hazor, Elam, Babylon, Tyre, Sidon, Arabia, Medes
<b>Jethro</b>	<i>Abundance</i>	Midian		Midian, Israel, counseled Moses
<b>Job</b>	<i>He whom they treat as an enemy/ He who turns to God</i>	Uz	?	Prophesied of Jesus Christ's Resurrection
<b>Joel</b>	<i>Jehovah is God</i>	Judah–post Exilic	520–518? 835–796?	Judah, Tyre, Sidon, Egypt, Edom
<b>Jonah (book of Jonah)</b>	<i>Dove</i>	Gath-hepher (Land of Zebulun)	770 784–722?	Nineveh
<b>Joseph</b>	<i>He will do again; he will repeat</i>	Haran		Shechem, Egypt
<b>Joshua</b>	<i>Jehovah is salvation</i>	Egypt?		The conquest of Canaan
<b>Malachi</b>	<i>My Messenger</i>	Judah–post Exilic	430	Judah, Israel
<b>Melchizedek</b>	<i>My King is Righteousness</i>	Salem		King of Salem; blessed Abraham

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<b>Micah</b> Micah 1:1	<i>Who is like [Jehovah]</i>	Moresbeth Gath (Plains of Judah)	737–690	Judah, Israel, Assyria
<b>Micaiah</b> 1 Kings 22:6–28; 2 Chr. 18:1–34	<i>Who is like Jehovah?</i>	Samaria	856	
<b>Miriam</b>	<i>Bitterness</i>	Egypt		“The prophetess” (Ex. 15:20); song of Miriam (Ex. 15:21)
<b>Moses</b>	<i>Son/To draw out</i>	Egypt		Led Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness
<b>Nahum</b>	<i>Consoler</i>	Elkosh	610	Nineveh, Judah
<b>Nathan</b>	<i>He has given</i>	?		Contemporary with David; revealed the instructions to build the temple
<b>Nehemiah</b>	<i>Jehovah comforts</i>	Persia	530	Rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem
<b>Neum</b>	?	?	Before 600	Prophesied of the Crucifixion
<b>Noadiah Prophetess</b> Neh. 6:14				
<b>Noah</b>	<i>Rest</i>	?	?	Warned of the Flood
<b>Obadiah</b>	<i>My servant is Jehovah</i>	Judah	586	Edom, Israel
<b>Oded?</b> 2 Chron. 15:8; 28:9–11		Samaria	733	
<b>Samuel</b>	<i>His name is God</i>	<u>Ramathaim-zophim</u> , Shiloh		Judged Israel; counseled Saul and David

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<b>Shemaiah</b>	<i>Jehovah has heard</i>	Judah	950?	Counseled Rehoboam
<b>Urijah</b> Jer. 26:20–23	<i>Jehovah is light</i>			
<b>Zechariah</b>	<i>Jehovah remembers</i>	Judah, Post exilic	520–518	Judah, Israel
<b>Zephaniah</b>	<i>Jehovah Hides</i>	Judah	626	Judah, Israel, Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopians, Assyria