

The Prophets – God sent people to His family to tell them to turn back and remind them He would fix up his family



The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the Lord came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

*The word of the Lord came to me, saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

*"Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."
But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.*

~ Jeremiah 1:1-8 ~

Jeremiah was a real person, given a really important job to do. An important, but very scary job to do!

Jeremiah's job was to give God's family messages straight from God! We call someone who does this a prophet.

Now it might sound really cool to give messages to God's family straight from God, but the reason why Jeremiah found it a scary job was because part of the message he had to give God's family wasn't a nice message.

Because God's family had rejected Him, they had to face the punishment. This meant that Jeremiah had to tell God's people that God's punishment was coming. But he also told God's family that if they turned back to God, God would forgive them, and they wouldn't have to face the punishment.

But it wasn't all bad news that Jeremiah had to give God's family. He also had some really good news to share as well. Jeremiah reminded God's family that God was definitely going fix everything up, at the right time!

Jeremiah wasn't the only prophet God used to give messages to his family in the Bible. God used a number of different prophets to give messages to his family, many of whom have books in the Bible named after them. These included men like Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, and Malachi. And all of these prophets pretty much had the same messages from God: Turn back to God, or you will face God's punishment, but also the promise that God would one day fix up everything!

And we need to hear those messages today!

We need to be reminded that we need to keep walking with Jesus and not get distracted by other things. We also need to be reminded that God will fix up everything one day, and God always keeps his promises!

Some questions to think about:

1. What was Jeremiah's special job?
2. Why would it be scary to give God's family messages straight from God?
3. What were the two main messages Jeremiah and the other prophets have for God's family?
4. Why do we need to hear those messages still today?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you gave your family prophets to tell them your messages. Help us to listen to those messages. Help us to keep living Jesus' way all the time and thank you that you will one day fix up everything.

Amen.