

## *The Message of the Prophets* Return to God

Isaiah 1:1-20  
February 21, 2010

## Intro to OT Prophecy

*“Many prophetic messages strike readers as hopelessly obscure. The prophetic books seem to team with spooky creatures flying or crawling all over the earth, devouring everything in their path.”*  
[William Klein]

## Intro to OT Prophecy

*“They have a queer way of talking, like people who, instead of proceeding in an orderly manner, ramble off from one thing to the next, so that you cannot make head or tail of them or see what they are getting at.”* [Martin Luther]

## Intro to OT Prophecy

- Facts about OT prophecy
- The basic prophetic message
  - You have broken the covenant and had better repent!
  - If you don't repent then you will face judgment!
  - Yet there is still hope for future restoration!

## A Call to Return

- God's charge against Judah
- A broken relationship
  - Why did you abandon me? (Jeremiah)
  - You are an adulterous wife (Ezekiel)

## *God's blessing*

<sup>8</sup>“When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. <sup>9</sup>Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil.

### *God's blessing*

<sup>10</sup>"I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. . . . <sup>14</sup>And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord God.

### *Judah's unfaithfulness*

<sup>15</sup>"But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his. <sup>16</sup>You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them played the whore. The like has never been, nor ever shall be."  
(Ezek. 16:8-10,14,15-16)

### *A Call to Return*

- God's charge against Judah
- A broken relationship
- Why did you abandon me? (Jeremiah)
  - You are an adulterous wife (Ezekiel)
  - You are a prostitute (Hosea)

### *God's command to Hosea*

<sup>2</sup>"When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, 'Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.'" (Hosea 1:2)

### *God's desire for us*

- God desires a relationship with His people
- Sin hurts our relationship with God
- God calls us to repent and return to Him
- He promises to forgive and restore us when we repent and turn to Him

### *The Message of the Prophets* **Return to God**

Isaiah 1:1-20  
February 21, 2010

## Additional Information

© 2010 Kenneth P. Carlson

Presented at Chinese for Christ Church in  
Berkeley, CA

Sermon audio can be found on the church  
web site at <http://cfcberkeley.org/english/>  
(look under Equipping Ministry/Sermons)