Old Testament Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel (notes from The Daily Walk and The New Indexed Bible c. 1913)

Isaiah  Isaiah the Prophet lived during the eighth century B. C. He was the son of Amoz and he was said to have died a martyr, sawed in two. His book has sometimes been referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” and the “Gospel according to Isaiah.” The first thirty-nine chapters are historical and predictive. They stress the righteousness, holiness, and justice of God. Isaiah announces judgment upon immoral and idolatrous people, beginning with Judah, then Judah’s neighbors, and finally the entire world. The next twenty-seven chapters are prophecies related to the person and work of Jesus Christ. They portray God’s glory, compassion, and amazing grace. The Messiah is seen to come as a Savior to bear a cross and as a Sovereign to wear a crown and his mission is to all people. This book is the “Mount Everest” of Hebrew prophecy.

Condemnation; Sinful Servant (Judah) Chapters 1 - 39

Judgment (1 - 35)
Judgment is Coming for Judah (1 - 12)
1 Indictment: A Vision of Judgment
2 - 3 Indignation:
  2 – The Mountain of God
  3 – Punishment for Judah
4 Imminent Glory: Protection for Judah
5 Parable: Song of the Vineyard
6 Personal Call: Call of the Prophet
7 - 8 Prediction:
  7 – Sign of Immanuel
  8 – Assyrian Invasion
9 Anticipation: A Child is Born
10 Annihilation: A Remnant is Spared
11 Administration: A Branch is Coming
12 Adoration: A Song of Praise

Judgment is Coming for Judah’s Neighbors (13 - 27)
13 - 14 Babylon’s Downfall
15 - 16 Moab’s Desolation
17 - 18 Damascus’ Doom
19 - 20 Egypt’s Demise
21 Confrontation: Babylon’s Idolatry
22 Condemnation: Jerusalem’s Indifference
23 Chaos: Tyre’s Industry
24 Day of the Lord: The Earth will Reel
25 - 26 Delight in the Lord
  25 The People will Rejoice
  26 Judah will Sing
27 Discipline: Jehovah will Sift

Judgment is Coming for All the Earth (28 - 35)
28 An Example to Heed: Woe to Samaria
29 An Example Unheeded: Woe to Jerusalem
30 An Example Unheeded: Warning to Judah
31 Woe: Ruin of Egypt
32 Watch: Reign of the King
33 Watch Out: Rule of the King in Justice
34 Watch Out: Rule of the King in Judgment
35 Watch Out: Rule of the King in Jubilation
Transition; Interlude: Assyria at the Gates of Jerusalem (36 – 39)

36 Hezekiah’s Faithfulness: Arrogant Assyria
37 Hezekiah’s Faithfulness: Divine Deliverance
38 Hezekiah’s Failure: A Mortal Illness
39 Hezekiah’s Failure: A Fatal Error

Consolation and Hope; Suffering Servant (Christ) Chapters 40 – 66

Comfort and Peace are Coming (40 – 48)

40 Comfort: Consoling God’s People
41 Challenge: Confronting God’s Enemies
42 Concert: Caroling God’s Praise
43 Confession: Correcting Israel’s Errors
44 Impotent Idols: Folly of Idols
45 Impotent Idols: Greatness of God
46 Impotent Idols: Frailty of Idols
47 Omnipotent God: Fall of Babylon
48 Omnipotent God: Failure of Judah

Prince of Peace is Coming (49 - 57)

49 Help in Zion: Messiah’s Service
50 Healing in Zion: Messiah’s Steadfastness
51 Hearken in Zion: Messiah’s Salvation
52-53 Rejection: Suffering of the Servant
54-56 Response: Redemption for the Repentant
57 Reassurance: Comfort for the Contrite

Restoration of God’s People is Coming (58 – 66)

58 Despair in Isaiah’s Day: Israel’s Sin
59 Despair in Isaiah’s Day: Israel’s Suffering
60 Delight in Messiah’s Day: Israel’s Glory
61-62 Delight in Messiah’s Day: Israel’s Glad Tidings
63 Judah’s Penitent Prayer: The Lord’s Tenderness
64 Judah’s Penitent Prayer: The Lord’s Terror
65 Jehovah’s Powerful Reply: Remaking God’s People
66 Jehovah’s Powerful Reply: Remaking God’s Creation

Jeremiah  Jeremiah is of the priestly line and he is called to his prophetic office around 629 BC. His mission, a work requiring rare courage and undaunting resolution, is to proclaim the coming avalanche of judgment upon Judah and Babylon. He is rewarded, over the course of four decades and four wicked kings who succeed Josiah, with opposition, beatings, and imprisonment. His mission is utterly sad and deeply painful. He must witness against his fellow priests and prophets who have sunk to the lowest states of degradation. His prophecies are often broken with a sudden outburst of prayer or complaint, sometimes with a word of indignation or cries for vengeance upon his enemies. Jeremiah is sometimes referred to as the “Weeping Prophet.”

Prophecies to Jews, Chapters 1 – 45

Prologue: Call of the Prophet (1) Direction: The Call of Jeremiah
Prophetic Signs and Sermons (2 – 45)
Condemnation of the Prophet (2-25)
2 Defilement: The Case Against Judah
3 Destruction: The Crisis of Judgment
4 Danger: Enemies from the North
5 Disease: Evil from Within
6 Destruction: Fire from the Lord
7 Desecration: The Wrong Rites
8-9 Desolation: Laments for a Lost Land
10 Divinity: The Incomparable Lord
11-12 Judah: A Broken Relationship
13 Jeremiah: A Rotten Waistband
14-15 Jehovah: A Righteous Wrath
16 Command: Wifeless Life
17 Instruction: Sabbath Sermon
18 Allegory: Reformed Pot
19 Allegory: Dashed Flask
20 Anguish: Imprisoned Prophet
21-22 Jeremiah’s Preaching: Curse of Corrupt Kings
23 Jeremiah’s Preaching: Righteous Regathering
24 Jeremiah’s Pictures: Future Figs
25 Jeremiah’s Pictures: Wrathful Wine

Conflicts of the Prophet (26 - 29)
26 Trial: The Prophet with a Problem
27 Exile: The Prophet in a Yoke
28 Hananiah: The Prophet and the Pretender
29 Hope: Letters of Enlightenment

Consolations of the Prophet (30 - 33)
30-31 New Covenant: A Relationship Restored
32 New Purchase: A People Reinstalled
33 New Future: A Righteous Rule Reinstated

Circumstances of the Prophet (34 - 45)
34-36 A Burning Scroll: Forgiveness Rejected
37-38 A Damp Cistern: Jeremiah Rejected
39 A Burning City: Jerusalem Ransacked
40-41 Disorder: Gedaliah Slain
42 Direct Order: Guidance Sought
43-45 Disobedience: Refugees’ Sanctuary

Prophecies to Gentiles, Chapters 46 - 52
Prophetic Signs and Sermons: Condemnation of Nine Kingdoms (46-51)
46 Against Egypt
47 Against Philistia
48 Against Moab
49 Against Other Nations
50-51 Babylon’s End Foretold

Postlude: Fall of Jerusalem (52)
Ezekiel Ezekiel is another prophet born of priestly parentage. He prophesies from exile in Babylon from 592 – 570 BC. He was settled in exile about 200 miles north of
Babylon on the Chebar River, which fed the Euphrates. He was a contemporary of Daniel and also overlaps with Jeremiah who remained in Jerusalem. By Hebrew tradition, Jeremiah and Ezekiel were said to have exchanged writings during their lifetime, so that Jeremiah’s prophecies were read in Babylon and Ezekiel’s in Jerusalem. Ezekiel is primarily prose, but has large portions in poetical form, with chapters 7 and 32 being “refrains.” Ezekiel’s emphasis is upon the glory of God and hedistinctively expresses that God’s purpose through both judgment and blessing is that the whole world would know that He is God.

**Condemnation, Chapter 1 - 32**

**Before the Siege (592-587 BC), 1-24**

**Vision and Call: Ezekiel’s Preparation (1 - 3)**

1. Wheels in Wheels
2. Call and a Scroll
3. Watchman on the Wall

**Signs and Sermons: Jerusalem’s Condemnation (4 - 6)**

4. Brick and Bread
5. Shave and a Haircut
6. Saved and Scattered

**Departing Glory (7 - 11)**

7. Sentence Passed
8. Crimes Restated
9. Executioners Loosed
10. Judge Departed
11. Remnant Spared

**Parables of Judgment (12 - 24)**

12. Future Pain: Baggage for Exiles
13. for Sins in the Past and Present: Prophets for Hire
14. for Sins in the Past and Present: Wayward Elders
15. for Sins in the Past and Present: Worthless Wood
16. Bad Wife: Too Lewd to Pardon
17. Bad Politics: Two Ominous Eagles
18. Bad Proverb: Two Fathers, Two Sons
19. Bad News: Two Lions in Cages
20. Swords: A Legacy of Sin
21. Swords: The Wages of Sin
22. Smelter: A Summary of Sin
23. Sorrow: Two Sisters of Sin
24. At Home: Death in the Family

**During the Siege (586 BC), 25 - 32**

**Judgment on Enemies (25 - 28)**

25. East and West: Death in Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia

**Judgment on Egypt (29 - 32)**

29-30. Judgment on the Country: The Downfall and Discipline of Egypt
31-32. Judgment on the King: The Downfall and Dirge of Pharaoh

**Consolation: After the Siege (585-570 BC), 33 - 48**

**New Life for Israel (33 - 39)**

33. Ezekiel: A New Watchman
34. David: A New Shepherd
35 Edom: An Old Enemy
36 Israel: A New Flock
37 Question: The Valley of Dry Bones
38-39 Answer: The Valley of Hamon-Gog

New Temple for Israel (40 - 48)
40-42 Cubits and Courtyards: Template for a New Temple
43 Ordinances and Glory: Residence for a Returning Lord
44 Reorganizing Worship: Priestly Order for Service
45 Reorganizing Worship: Priestly Order for Supply
46 Reorganizing Worship: Priestly Order for Sacrifice
47 Rezoning the Land: Population Orders for the Nation
48 Rezoning the Land: Population Orders for the Tribes

Daniel  This book is the Apocalypse of the Old Testament and bears the name of the author. Daniel, unlike the other three major prophets, has a princely genealogy. Ezekiel mentions him in company with Noah and Job as one who has great righteousness and wisdom. He is carted off to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar at the time of his first attack upon Jerusalem, 606 BC, eight years before Ezekiel is deported. Three years after his arrival, Daniel interprets the King's dream and rises to fame and prominence. He is the designated viceroy during the King's seven years of madness. He is also famous for his interpretation of the writing on the wall for Belshazzar and for his escapade in the lions' den. He was placed in charge of the kingdom when Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon. He died in exile at more than ninety years of age. The book is broken into two key parts: the first six chapters are historical narrative and the remaining six lays out Daniel's vision of the future. The book is unique in the Old Testament because part of the writing is in Hebrew, while part is in Chaldaic. In both his life and his prophetic vision, Daniel shows God's guidance and intervention in the affairs of all people.

Historical Narrative: God's Plan for Gentiles, Chapter 1 - 6
Nebuchadnezzar's Dreams (1-3)
1 Devotion: Daniel's Palace Diet
2 Interpretation: Nebuchadnezzar’s Puzzling Dream
3 Deliverance: Daniel’s Friends in the Furnace

Daniel’s Daring Faith (4-6)
4 Nebuchadnezzar: Discipline in the Pasture (insania zoanthropia)
5 Belshazzar: Writing on the Wall
6 Daniel: Safety in the Lion’s Den

Apocalyptic Vision: God’s Plan for Jews, Chapter 7 - 12
Daniel’s Vision of Beasts and Weeks: Future of Empires (7-9)

Daniel's Vision of Israel's Future (10-12)
10-11 Kings: Politics and Conflicts
12 Angels: Rewards and Punishments