

## Unit 10: Pre-Exilic Prophets, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and Psalms

### Pre-exilic Prophets

- Pre-exilic prophets
  - Pre-Assyrian prophets (700's)  
(Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah)
  - Pre-Babylonian prophets (600s)  
(Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel)

#### EXILE

- Post-exilic prophets (500s)  
(Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Joel, and Malachi)

## Pre-exilic Prophets

**There are four main points that Yahweh makes through the pre-exilic prophets.**

- Israel is Yahweh's covenant people.
  - Israel has rejected their covenant God.
  - Yahweh judges His disobedient people.
  - Yahweh promises to restore His people.
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- Israel was judged for the sins of idolatry and corruption of justice.
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- Yahweh promised to return Israel to the Land, send His Messiah, and establish the New Jerusalem.

## Pre-Assyrian Prophets

- **Jonah (793–753 BC):** Emphasized Yahweh's sovereign grace toward sinner
- **Amos (767–753 BC):** Rebuked Israel for their idolatry and lack of social justice concerning the poor and called them to true worship.
- **Hosea (767–700 BC):** Condemned Israel's idolatrous unfaithfulness, which is adultery but promised to heal and save them.
- **Micah (750–700 BC):** Condemned Israel for their violation of the Mosaic covenant and called them to covenant loyalty.
- **Isaiah (740–681 BC):** Yahweh as the sovereign and holy One of Israel will burn Israel in a purifying fire to create a new Jerusalem.

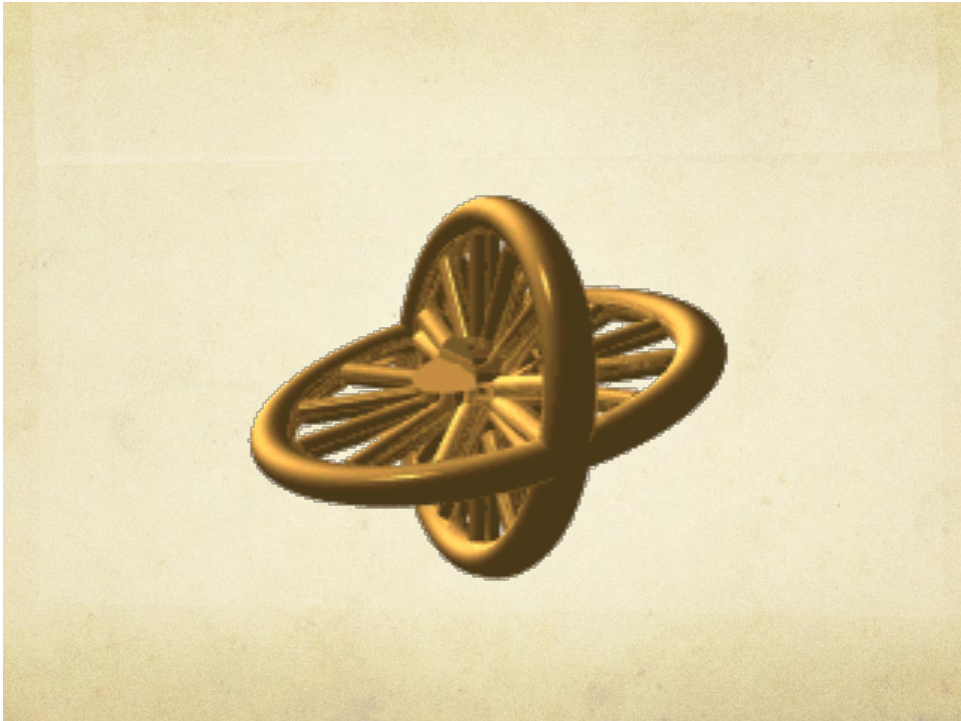


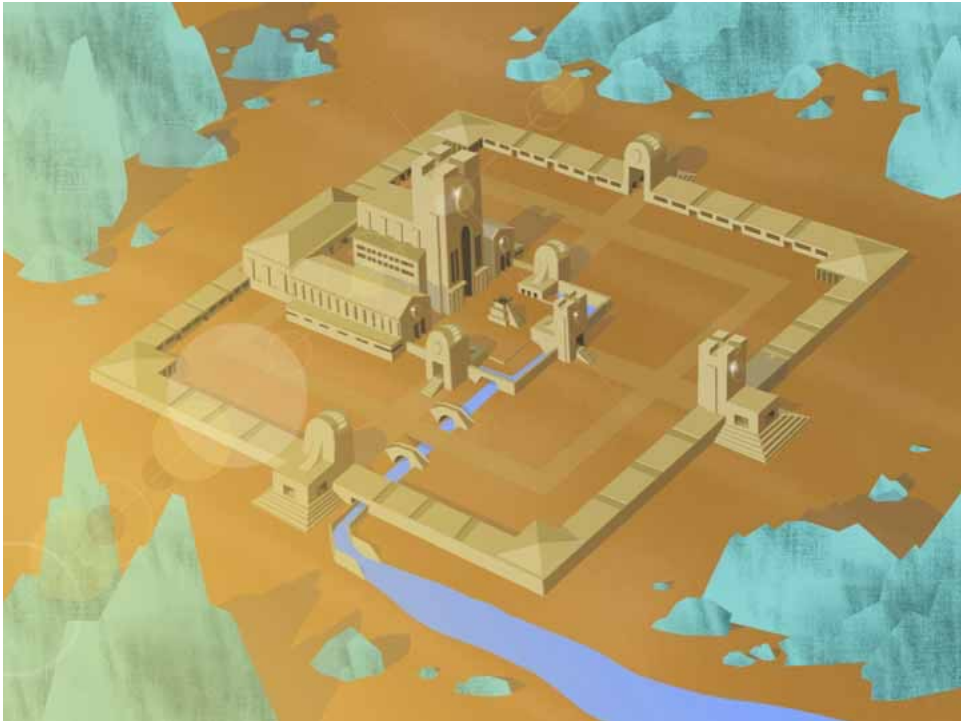
## Message of the Prophets

- Yahweh promised to send a ruling messianic king who would:
  - Establish a new Israel/Jerusalem.
  - All the nations would be included.
  - Heal and save Israel
  - Remove of all evil and establish a utopia on earth.
- Yahweh will do this because:
  - His character
  - His covenant promises

## Pre-Babylonian Prophets

- **Nahum (663–612 BC):** Announced the downfall of Assyria as an example of how Yahweh will not allow violent empires to endure.
- **Zephaniah (640–620 BC):** Foretold the judgment of Judah and the surrounding nations and promised to restore Israel one day.
- **Habakkuk (610–597 BC):** Pronounced judgment on Judah and Babylon but promised a future exodus for all nations.
- **Jeremiah (627–580 BC):** Proclaimed the coming of Babylon as judgment but promised to restore Israel with a new heart.
- **Ezekiel (593-571 BC):** Declared that because of Israel's sins Yahweh's glory would depart from Israel but that one day He would give Israel and the nations a new heart so that His glory could dwell with them.





## 70 Years Captivity

- Israel went into captivity for the sins of idolatry and corruption of justice.
- Israel spent one year in captivity for every year they did not obey the Sabbatical year for the last 490 years (Jeremiah 29:10; 2 Chronicles 36:21).

## Future Promises of Yahweh

### Return to Land

- Garden of Eden
- Abundant Life
- No evil or war
- Nations destroyed
- Covers all the earth

### New Jerusalem

- Cosmic Mountain
- Dwelling of Yahweh
- New Temple
- Covers all the earth
- All nations
- New Covenant
- Make humans righteous
- Know Yahweh intimately
- Law written on Hearts
- Indwelling of Spirit

### Messianic King

- Davidic line
- Righteous king
- World government
- Suffer for our sins
- Remove all sins

## Proverbs

- **Wisdom** is the ability to know the will of Yahweh and discern the truth of the people and the world.
- Wisdom helps you develop practical skills to obtain the *good life*.
- The main idea of the book of Proverbs is that to show how wisdom brings the good life.

## Proverbs

1. Wisdom is an attribute of Yahweh (Prov. 2:6) woven into the fabric of the universe (Prov. 3:19-20; 8:22-31).
2. Wisdom is for all (Prov. 9:1-6) and seen through what they build.
3. Wisdom only comes through the fear of Yahweh (Prov. 1:7; 9:10).

The fear of Yahweh is a deep awe, respect, and trust in the Yahweh as ultimate king and judge who is good (Prov. 1:7).

## Ecclesiastes

- The main idea of Ecclesiastes is to show that humans cannot grasp the meaning of life, for it is only found in Yahweh.

Author—Ecc. 1:1-11

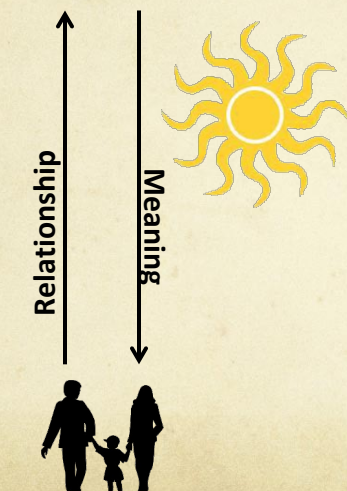
Teacher—Ecc. 1:12-12:7

Author—Ecc. 12:8-14

- Time is passing away (Ecc. 1:4-11; 3:1-15)
- Everyone is going to die (Ecc. 2:12-16; 3:18-21; 9:1-10)
- Life is random (Ecc. 9:11-12; 10:5-9)

## Ecclesiastes

Yahweh



## Job

- The **purpose** of the book of Job is to show that Yahweh is just in our suffering in a fallen and unjust world.

## Job

### **The Hebrew word *satan* is not Satan.**

1. Hebrew the word *satan* is preceded by the definite article *the*.
2. The Hebrew word *the satan* means “adversary” and is always translated as “adversary” except in three places (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; 1 Chr. 21:1; Zech. 3:1-2).

## Job

“Then God’s anger was kindled because he went, and an angel of Yahweh stood in the road as an **adversary (satan)** to him” (Num. 22:22).

“But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, “Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he may become an **adversary (satan)** to us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master’s favor than by taking the heads of our own men” (1 Sam. 29:4)?

## Job

“David replied, ‘What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? What right do you have to be an **adversary (satan)** to me? Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Do not I know that today I am king over Israel?’” (2 Sam. 19:22)?

“But now Yahweh my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no **adversary (satan)** or disaster” (1 Kgs. 5:4).

“Then Yahweh raised up against Solomon an **adversary (satan)**, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom” (1 Kgs. 11:14).

## Job

“And God raised up against Solomon another **adversary (satan)**, Rezon son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah” (1 Kgs. 11:23).

“Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy; let an **adversary (satan)** stand at his right hand” (Ps. 109:6).

## Job

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2. The Hebrew word *the satan* means “adversary” and is always translated as “adversary” except in three places (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; 1 Chr. 21:1; Zech. 3:1-2).
3. *The satan* (“adversary”) in Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7 and Zech. 3:1-2 does not function as a diabolical being.
4. The only way any being can enter the righteous and holy presence of Yahweh is if they are without sin or are saved through sacrifice of Jesus Christ

## Job

- The adversary (*the satan*) states that Job only serves Yahweh for blessings and not to be punished (Job 1:4-5).
- However, the main focus is not on whether Job is righteous but on whether Yahweh is running the world correctly.
- The question is whether Job will retain his integrity and his righteous devotion to Yahweh in the midst of suffering?

## Job

- **Job** declares that he is righteous, so Yahweh is not just (Job 9:22-24; 19:7-12; 30:18-25).
- He accused Yahweh of being petty and causing him to suffer for technicalities in the law (Job 7:17-21; 16:7-17).
- Job was so confident in his own righteousness that he was willing to criticize Yahweh's justice in order to maintain his righteousness, making him self-righteous.
- However, Job maintained his integrity.

## Job

- **Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar** argued that Yahweh is just so Job has sinned and needed to confess his sin in order to get his blessings back.
- **Elihu** stated that Yahweh is just but that His judgment sometimes preceded a person's offense in order to reveal flaws in their character.

## Job

### **Yahweh's First point**

- Yahweh states that Job did not have the understanding nor the ability to run the cosmos successfully.
- Therefore, Job was incapable of taking control of the cosmos and implementing his idea of justice.
- Just because Yahweh is just does not mean that the world operates justly (Job 38:25-27).
- Job responded with humility and submission, but he did not recant his accusation against Yahweh (Job 40:4-5).

## Job

### **Yahweh's Second point**

- Yahweh introduces two chaos monsters as examples.
- The Behemoth represents Job. Humans should respond to the raging waters (chaos of life) with security and trust in Yahweh as the Behemoth does.
- The leviathan represents Yahweh. Humans should not think that they can challenge or domesticate Yahweh since they cannot even challenge or domesticate the Leviathan, who is inferior to Yahweh.
- Job should be confident in Yahweh's wisdom and ability to run the world and take care of His creation.

## Job

- Job acknowledged his ignorance and finiteness in the presence of Yahweh, and he repented of his accusation against Yahweh (Job 42:1-6).
- Yahweh then called to act as a priest for his friends. This time Job acted as priest as a reflection of Yahweh's character, not in suspicion of Yahweh's unjust character.
- Yahweh then generously blessed Job with a gift.

## The Book of Psalms

- Hebrew poetry uses aesthetic qualities of language in order to communicate emotions.
- The Psalmist surrenders his emotions to God so that He may deal with them in a godly way.
- The **purpose** of the book of Psalms is that Yahweh, as the Creator of all things, is sovereign over creation and the nations.

## Types of Psalms

**Lament:** The purpose of the psalmist is to cry out to Yahweh for deliverance and to call others to do likewise.

- Cry to Yahweh for help
  - Complaint
  - Confession of trust
  - Request
  - Concluding praise
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- Examples: 55, 57

## Types of Psalms

**Thanksgiving:** The purpose of the psalmist is to praise Yahweh for delivering him or the community from a trial.

- Praise Yahweh
  - Report of problem and deliverance
  - Thanks
  - Call to others to Praise
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- Examples: 18, 32

## Types of Psalms

**Hymn (Praise):** The purpose of the psalmist is to glorify Yahweh by proclaiming who Yahweh is and what He has done.

- Call to praise
- Reason for praise
- Renewed cause for praise

Examples: 95, 96

## Types of Psalms

**Royal:** The purpose of the Psalm is to focus on Yahweh's promises in the Davidic covenant to bless and protect the Davidic Dynasty.

These Psalms focus on three things:

- The Davidic Covenant
- The Davidic Dynasty
- The Ultimate Davidic King, the Messiah

Example: 110

## Types of Parallelisms

He rushed through the streets  
and flew through alleyways.

She yelled with all her might  
and screamed with great intensity.

The nations conspire,  
and the peoples plot in vain.

She is busy at work,  
active at school,  
and occupied at home.

## Types of Parallelisms

**Synonymous Parallelism:** The idea from the first line is repeated with different words in the second line.

My hand will sustain him;  
surely my arm will strengthen him. (Ps. 89:21)

I am set apart with the dead,  
like the slain who lie in the grave. (Ps. 88:5a)

Save me, O Yahweh, from lying lips  
and from deceitful tongues. (Ps. 120:2)

## Types of Parallelisms

On lion and snake you will tread,  
you will crush lion-cub and serpent. (Ps. 91:13)

Wisdom shouts in the street,  
she lifts her voice in the square. (Prov. 1:20)

An evildoer listens to wicked lips,  
a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue. (Prov. 17:4)

## Types of Parallelisms

**Antithetical Parallelism:** An idea is stated in the first line, and then the opposite of that idea is stated in the second line.

The wicked borrow and do not repay,  
But the righteous give generously. (Ps. 31:27)

In the morning it glistens and sprouts up;  
At evening time it withers and dries up. (Ps. 90:6)

A wise son brings joy to his father,  
but a foolish son brings grief to his mother. (Prov. 10:1)

## Types of Parallelisms

Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life,  
but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.  
(Prov. 19:6)

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.  
(Ecc. 7:4)

If he holds back the waters, there is drought;  
if he lets them loose, they devastate the land.  
(Job 12:15)

## Types of Parallelisms

**Synthetic Parallelism:** An idea is stated in the first line, and the second line explains it or adds more detail.

In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, Yahweh,  
make me dwell in safety. (Ps. 4:8)

Not so with the wicked!  
They are like chaff  
that the wind blows away! (Ps. 1:4)

## Types of Parallelisms

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false,  
and does not swear deceitfully. (Ps. 24:4)

The eyes of Yahweh are in every place,  
watching the evil and the good. (Prov. 15:3)

O Yahweh, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not hear? (Hab. 1:2a)

## Figures of Speech

**Simile (resemblance):** A comparison between two things that have something in common using “like” or “as,” but are still seen as distinct from each other.

He is sleeping *like* a baby.

He is fast *as* a gazelle.

## Figures of Speech

He will be *like* a tree planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

Keep me *as* the apple of your eye. (Ps. 17:8)

When calamity overtakes you *like* a storm. (Ps. 1:27a)

Therefore, be as shrewd *as* snakes and as innocent *as* doves. (Matt. 10:16b)

## Figures of Speech

**Metaphor (representation):** A comparison between two things where the subject is described as being the other object.

The key is the verb “to be” (is and are).

My father *was* boiling mad.

The assignment *was* a breeze.

## Figures of Speech

Yahweh *is* my Shepherd. (Ps. 23:1)

But you *are* a shield around me, O Yahweh. (Ps. 3:3a)

Yahweh, my Rock and Redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)

You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? (Matt. 23:33)

## Figures of Speech

**Symbolism:** When a person, place, or thing is used to represent a moral or spiritual truth.

The rebels raised the *white flag*.

He gave her *red roses* for their anniversary.

## Figures of Speech

In the middle of the garden were the *tree of life* and the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. (Gen. 2:9)

A *star* will come out of Jacob; a *scepter* will rise out of Israel. (Num. 24:17b)

And Yahweh said, “Remove the *filthy garments* from him. Behold, I have taken away your *iniquity*.” (Zech. 3:2-5)

The great *dragon* was hurled down—that ancient *serpent* called the devil. (Rev. 12:9a)

## Figures of Speech

**Hyperbole (rhetorical exaggeration):** An exaggeration to say more than what is literally meant.

My suitcase weighs a ton.

I am so hungry I could eat a horse.

## Figures of Speech

I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. (Ps. 6:6)

Every one of them could sling stones at a hair and not miss. (Judg. 20:16)

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. (Lk. 14:26)

If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. (Matt. 5:29)

## Figures of Speech

**Personification:** Gives human characteristics or actions to inanimate objects.

The flowers danced in the gentle breeze.

The fire swallowed the entire forest.

## Figures of Speech

Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares. (Prov. 1:20)

The mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isa. 55:12)

The land mourns and the olive oil laments. (Joel 1:10)

Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses. (Rom. 5:14a)

## Figures of Speech

**Zoomorphism:** Pictures Yahweh or man in the form of animals, in terms of appearance or actions of the animal.

She buzzed around the kitchen.

Hide me, O Yahweh, under the shadow of your wings. (Ps. 17:8b)

He mounted the cherubim and flew; He soared on the wings of the wind. (Ps. 18:10)

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. (Ps. 22:6)