

GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Recent Additions:

Gladys Dunbar, who has been in our prayer list for some time, has passed away. Dawn Rutledge is suffering with acute leukemia. Norman Hurt (grandfather of Allison Haste) suffered a heart attack last week and underwent quadruple bypass surgery Thursday. The surgery went well and he is recovering.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Julie and the babies

Others: Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Taylor Osterling, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Michael Poynter, Sandy Childress, Mary Wilson, Charlie Little, Doris Baker, Edith Tirey, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Sun:	Ps 39, 1 Sam 31, Dn 11:2-45, Lk 7:36-8:3	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Mon:	Ps 40, 2 Sam 1, Dn 12, Lk 8:4-21	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Tue:	Ps 41, 2 Sam 2, Ek 1, Lk 8:22-56	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wed:	Ps 42-43, 2 Sam 3, Ek 2-3, Lk 9:1-50	John Thompson	Neal Erickson	Wednesday
Thu:	Ps 44, 2 Sam 4, Ek 4:1-5:4, Lk 9:51:10-24		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
Fri:	Ps 45, 2 Sam 5, Ek 5:5-17, Lk 10:25-42	EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
Sat:	Ps 46, 2 Sam 6, Ek 6, Lk 11:1-36	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	3rd Fri. of Month
			Matt Thompson	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
				(Ask for location)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Considering The Prophets--2

Let’s take a look at Revelation 19:10. “Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me,

‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.’ For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. The most important thing the prophets did was to point to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They are the ones who first tell us that He would be more than a mere man. They are the ones who give us details about His coming into this world, the nature of His work while here, His death on the cross, and much more.

Today, there are many critics who like to say that the prophets were nothing more than moral reformers, men who did little else but observe the signs of the times and speak out about what they saw. They were obviously incredible and singularly talented, but certainly not inspired. They would remove anything miraculous from the words of the prophets. They would like to create two Micah’s, the real Micah who prophesied about 750-700 BC and the fake Micah who spoke and wrote after certain Messianic events took place. Such assertions are made to make it seem as though such events had never really been prophesied at all. These critics seek to do the same to many of the other prophets as well.

That their efforts cannot factually work is easily proven by briefly perusing the history section of most libraries in this country. The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) was translated in stages between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC. The Pentateuch was completed for Ptolemy

Note

Brother Restrepo’s report from last Wednesday has been recorded for those who were unable to attend.

Philadephus somewhere between 285-246 BC. However, the *entire* Old Testament, along with apocryphal books, was translated into Greek many years before the birth of Christ, *complete with all prophecies intact*. The significance of this is quite clear to any thinking, unbiased person. Every Old Testament prophecy concerning Jesus was put in writing long years before He was born, something that cannot be denied by any honest person.

Why did I mention that today's critics would like to create two Micah's? Simply because of Micah 5:2. *"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from old, from ancient days."* Merely observing what he learned from "the signs of the time" obviously would not have allowed Micah to prophecy of the future birth of a Savior in an inconsequential village centuries before it ever happened. It would have taken divine assistance, inspiration, for Micah to know the future Messiah's birthplace. The explanation that some unnamed Christian centuries later went back in and inserted this prophesy into Micah's letter will not satisfy because the letter in its entirety was completed many years before Jesus was ever born in that small prophesied village, a truth which can be very easily documented. Obviously, this is but one example of a host that we could consider.

There is some confusion among Christians concerning what a prophet really was. It is important to understand his role as defined by God. Foremost, a prophet was a spokesperson for God. However, they were not the only one's. God provided at least five different classes of speakers for His people in the Old Testament. Because they are easy to remember let's consider them for just a moment.

First, there were the **Lawgivers**. Nehemiah 9:13-14 says, *"You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments, and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant."* Moses was the lawgiver. He stands alone among the prophets as the one who received and gave the law.

The **wise men (or elders)**, were also regular speakers for and to the

people. Jeremiah 18:18 says. *"Then they said, 'Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words.'" These men were often sought for their counsel and advice. They were also regular advisors to kings.*

The next group was the **priests**. Leviticus 10:8-11 says. *"And the Lord spoke to Aaron, saying, 'Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the Lord has spoken to them by Moses.'" While the priests tended to the sacrifices, they were also obligated to serve as teachers of the law to the people.*

I have also decided to place the **psalmists** into this group. Consider Nehemiah 12:45-46. *"And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God."*

Finally, there were the **prophets**. These men were not the givers of the law, but they were the proclaimers of it. They were the one's whom God would send to warn the people when they began to falter in regard to their zeal for God and in following His commands.

In the next article we will consider some of the unique characteristics of the prophets that served to distinguish them in various ways from the rest of their brethren. AL

Sermons: (AM) "What do I still lack?" (PM) "If you confess with your mouth..."

Reading: (AM) Luke 9:44-62 (PM) Luke 10:1-20