

"Promises of God"

(Wrath & Restoration)

June 30, 2013

“Sometimes we may be surprised at what we find (in the O.T.). We should be encouraged when we occasionally meet the unexpected in Scripture – that is, when the Scriptures convince us of the truth of something that changes our minds or leads us down paths once hidden from our view. **IF** we acknowledge the **AUTHORITY** of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17), we **MUST** be willing to **SUBMIT** to it by being open-minded about our opinions. **God’s Word is the final word.**” - Andrew Hill, *Survey of the Old Testament*

Creator,

Corruption,

Covenant,

Conflict,

Christ,

Church,

Come-back,

Completion

- **Amen!**

9 Weeks in O.T.

1. Creator-Creation (Creator-Christ)
2. Sin / Solution (“Gone wrong” & Gospel Promise)
3. Promise per People (Abe, Israel, Church)
4. Promise Proof (Plagues & Passover)
5. Promise Particulars (Mosaic Covenant)
6. Promise Personified (sacrificial sys./atonement)
7. Promised Presence (Tabernacle, Temple, Hearts)
8. Promised King/Kingdom (Divine, Davidic, Divine)
9. **Prophetic Promises (Wrath & Restoration)**
a.k.a. EXILE & RETURN

T/S: Quote: Andrew Hill, (*Survey of the Old Testament*)

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God’s Word is the FINAL word.

“The written Word of God has authority, while the reader’s response does not... The result is that we cannot be content learning our own lessons from Scripture... We must strive to discover what the Author intends to communicate, for that is where authority is vested.”

- Andrew Hill

IMPLICATIONS of the authority of God’s Word: (2)

1. TRUST every word as Truth.
2. Respond in faithful OBEDIENCE

“We cannot afford to ignore nor neglect God. He expects not only worship, but obedience, justice, loyalty, faithfulness, holiness, righteousness, and love. In short, He wants us to be like Him – that is one of the reasons He reveals what He is like.” - Andrew Hill

T/S: Case in point... as we close out the O.T....

Deuteronomy 28: Blessings for Obedience

1 “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. 9 The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways...”

To biblically “fear God,” is to live with an ever-present, personally-transformative, radically-obedient awareness of His Presence, Power, and Purpose for His People. - JDP

Curses for Disobedience: 28:15 *“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you... 20 “The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.*

“The constant in Scripture (from creation to culmination) is the covenant of Christ... & that covenant has two (and ONLY two) concrete consequences – heaven or hell. - JDP

28:36 "The Lord will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone. **37** And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the Lord will lead you away...

28:45 "All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till **you are destroyed, because you did not obey** the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.

46 They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. **47** Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart...

48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. **49** The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand...

28:62 Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God. **63** And as the Lord took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the Lord will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. **64** "And the Lord (will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods

“If the O.T. is viewed as God’s self-revelation, we will expect in most instances to learn first, something about God. From that we will then find out what implications that holds for our view of self, others, and/or the world around us. In this way, the message must seep through to our values, conduct, and worldview which will affect our decisions, as well as the attitudes we maintain.” - **A. Hill**

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

Answer: Anyone who speaks on behalf of someone else.

Most biblical prophets are identified as:

- A).** “*Nabi*” – which indicates “one who is called”
- B).** “*Seer*” – indicates “one to receive revelation”

A. Pre-exilic (9) = WARNING!

- 1. JONAH: God’s sovereign grace toward sinners
“Salvation comes from the Lord.”
- 2. AMOS: 4:12 “Prepare to meet your God.”
5:4 “ Seek Me and live.”)

3. HOSEA: idolatrous unfaithfulness = adultery.
(undying love)
4. MICAH: 5:2 “from (Bethlehem) shall come forth a
ruler over Israel)
5. ISAIAH: God as “the Holy One of Israel”
6. NAHUM 1:7 = “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the
day of trouble, He cares for those who trust in Him.”
7. ZEPHANIAH: Foretold of the judgment of Judah
and the restoration of Judah.
8. HABAKKUK 2:4 = “The righteous shall live by faith.”
9. JEREMIAH: called leaders to repentance... in view
of God’s jud1:5 = “I knew you in the womb...”
29:10 = the “70 year captivity”
31:35-37 = God has a future for Israel

B. **Exilic = WANDERING**

1. DANIEL: God’s sovereign plan...
3:18 = NO COMPROMISE!!!
2. EZEKIEL: Condemnation & Consolation. 36:24-28

C. **Post-exilic = WORSHIPPING**

1. HAGGAI: Rebuild the Temple now. (Finish the job! Zerubbabel rebuilt the second Temple).
2. ZECHARIAH: Rebuild the Temple for the future. (Coming of Christ. 9:9 “Your king is coming... mounted on a donkey.”)
3. MALACHI: God’s messenger & “spiritual lethargy.” (God’s “messe

PILLARS of INTERPRETATION:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | <i>Creator</i> | (author) |
| 2. | <i>Characteristics</i> | (genre) |
| 3. | <i>Community</i> | (audience) |
| 4. | <i>Culture</i> | (influential subtleties) |
| 5. | <i>Context</i> | (biblical & conditional) |

The prophets speak on behalf of God and expand upon the same basic premise established in the Garden...

Obey in faith and be restored...

Disobey in unbelief and receive wrath.

The Prophet's Message:

1. **Indictment** = description(s) of disobedience
2. **Judgment** = discipline due to disobedience
3. **Instruction** = directed response to wrath
4. **Promise** = affirmation of future hope/help.

“When we see how the Bible weaves history & prophecy together in God’s Word, we should have a healthy, awe-inspiring sense of worshipful bewilderment.” -JDP

Read: **2 Kings 17:7-23** (EXPLANATION)

Exile Because of Idolatry: 7 & this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, & had feared other gods 8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, & in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. 9 & the people of Israel did secretly against the Lord their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. 10 They set up for themselves pillars & Asherim on every high hill & under every green tree, 11 & there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the Lord carried away before them. & they did wicked things, provoking the Lord to anger, 12 & they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this.” 13 Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments & my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, & that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

14 *But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God. 15 They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the Lord had commanded them that they should not do like them. 16 And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. 17 And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger. 18 Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.*

19 *Judah also did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. 20 And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.*

21 *When he had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord and made them commit great sin. 22 The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, 23 until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.*

“Interpretation is sterile without Application.”

Andrew Hill

Read: **Ezekiel 36:22-32** (RESTORATION)

I Will Put My Spirit Within You

22 *“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: **It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.**”*

23 *And **I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, **when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.*****

24 *I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.*

25 *I will sprinkle clean water on you, **and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.***

26 *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

27 *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. **29** And I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. **30** I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

31 Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.

32 It is NOT for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

“Prediction & fulfillment are two of the terms most often connected to prophetic literature, but both can lead to harmful misperceptions... The prophets themselves were not predicting anything, but merely giving the word of the Lord. The prophecy was God’s message, not the prophet’s... Biblical prophecy is more interested in causation than in prediction. It is true that prophecy spoke of events before they happened, but the purpose was that God would be properly recognized as having caused those events as a part of His ongoing plan.”

Andrew Hill

Isaiah 46:8-9 = (Creator God = Sovereign God!)

*“Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,**9** remember the former things of old;**for***

I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,

Isaiah 55:6-9: "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; **7** let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. **8** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. **9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Jeremiah 9:23-24: This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, **24** but let the one who boasts boast that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

Acts 9:31:

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord AND in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied."