

The Message of the "Minor" Prophets

PROPOSITION: The repentance that the Old Testament prophets preached is one of our greatest needs even now.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jeremiah and Ezekiel spoke of three classes of persons who were important to the instruction of the people (cf. Jer. 18:18; Ezek. 7:26).
 - a. Priests were administrators of the Law (Lev. 10:8-11; Hosea 4:6; Ezek. 22:26; Mal. 2:7).
 - b. Wise men gave counsel (2 Sam. 14:1-24; 20:16:22).
 - c. Prophets were communicators of God's word (Ex. 4:14-16; 7:1).
2. A "prophet" was a spokesman for another.
3. There were "oral" and "literary" prophets.
 - a. "Oral" left no writings bearing their names.
 - b. "Literary" are categorized as "major" and "minor." The distinction pertains only to the length of their "books."

DISCUSSION:

I. Things to remember as you study the prophets:

- A. The political, social, and religious conditions of the times are important to the interpretation of the prophets' writings.
- B. God often directed the destiny of heathen nations.
- C. The prophets often wrote of future hope.

II. Great themes developed by the prophets:

- A. The holiness of God
- B. The sovereignty of God
- C. The immutability of God's word
- D. The terribleness of sin
- E. Repentance and righteousness
- F. The worship that is due to God

III. Lessons for today from the prophets in general:

- A. We must courageously preach God's message.
- B. The size of the response to the preaching is not necessarily a sign of success.
- C. We must call a lost world to repentance.
- D. The mere display of religion is not pleasing to God.
- E. God must be first.

CONCLUSION:

1. Many prophets who served God long ago have messages for us today.
2. The repentance they preached is one of our greatest needs even now.

--Andy Kizer
9th Avenue church of Christ
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