



**HERMENEUTIC  
TOOL #7  
UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY**

Definition: Old Testament prophecy has one correct interpretation, but multiple fulfillments.

- 1) Immediate Fulfillment
- 2) Christ Fulfillment
- 3) New Heavens and New Earth Fulfillment

**Example: The Messiah**

*Genesis 3:15 – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

**Isaiah 7:14**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

How is this immediately fulfilled?

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How does Christ fulfill this prophecy?

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How does this point to the New Heavens and New Earth?

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**THE FUTURE IS GRIM**

In Nehemiah 9, we read a short summary of Israel history. Watch the interplay between the Abrahamic Covenant and the Mosaic Covenant.

**Read Nehemiah 9:21-31; Psalm 137:1-9**

**THE PROPHETS**

The prophets have the primary goal of \_\_\_\_\_ the words of God to God’s people.

Their primary message was to call the people of God

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They were often lonely, despised, \_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_. (See Acts 7:51-53)

**TWO ERAS OF PROPHETS**

Moses (c.1450 BC) – Elisha (c.850 BC)

Goal: Testify to the faithfulness of God and warn against unbelief.

Isaiah – Malachi (c.850 BC - c.400 BC)

Goal: To indict the people of Israel for their sin and call them to repentance.

**WHAT IS A PROPHET?**

A prophet is someone who receives direct revelation from God (God directly speaks to them), and they are charged with communicating God’s message to others. They reveal the nature and attributes of God, call others to repentance, obedience, and worship, and foretell coming events that God has decreed, in particular, judgment and the coming Messiah. Technically, Abraham was the first prophet (Genesis 20:6-7), followed by Moses (Exodus 3:1-12). But the era of the prophets really begins with Samuel and lasts through Malachi.









**HOMEWORK:**

1) Read the following passages from Isaiah about the Messiah. What do we learn about the Messiah from each passage?

- Isaiah 9:2-7
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Read Isaiah 11:1-9
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Read Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 53:4-6
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Read Isaiah 61:1-4

**Read Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount)**

2) What do you think Jesus' understanding was of the Old Testament Law? Did he want to uphold the Old Testament Law, make it harder to follow, or do away with the Law all together? What in the passage(s) helps you to arrive at your answer?

3) The Sermon on the Mount ends with this statement, "And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes." Cite two or three examples of how Jesus' authority as the Son of God is displayed in the Sermon.