



Dear Summer Staff:

The prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible are a rich and deep study in the grace and love of God for His stubborn and rebellious people. Most avoid these books because they are difficult to understand and are filled with unhappy messages of judgment and destruction. What we will find this summer, however, is that these books are a rich study in the characteristics of God and His unrelenting desire to see His people conformed into His image once again. Furthermore, a proper understanding of these passages, we will see, helps us to more rightly understand why the New Testament authors quoted these passages so frequently. Finally, while the message of the prophets was delivered to the nation of Israel, we will also find timeless principles that are applicable to our own lives as well.

It is my hope that through surveying these prophetic books this summer that we not only gain more knowledge and information about the message of each book, but that we respond to the message of each prophet with immediate costly obedience. Israel made the grave mistake of not listening to these men the first time; I hope that we do not make that mistake a second time.

Remember, don't be the end user of this study. Re-invest what you have learned into the lives of the people you minister to back at home and at school. It will not only be a blessing to those whom you choose to spend time with, it will further cement what you have learned this summer.

And don't forget – not only do you have the notes to this study, you also have access to the audio recordings as well! Each week we will post the audio on our blog: blog.pinecove.com.

I'll look forward to next summer when we'll get to do this all over again! In the meantime, don't forget about the opportunity you have at the Forge. If you are interested in applying, please give me a call – I'd love to speak with you about it.

Grace and peace be yours in abundance,

Matt "DynoLight" Lantz
Forge Director
903.579.3674 - office
mlantz@pinecove.com
www.pinecoveforge.com
www.matthewdlantz.com

Profit from the Prophets

Instructions for Teachers & Bibliography

How To Use This Study:

- Step 1: Familiarize yourself with the Text. These notes assume that you are already familiar with the passages being studied, so don't expect to be able to sit down with the note pack and easily walk through the study without a little prep work on your part.
- Step 2: Decide which parts of the passage are the ones you want to focus on. These lessons are NOT designed to teach the lesson for you. You have more things to teach here than you could/should possibly teach in a 30-45 minute lesson. You must decide which parts of the Text and notes are most pertinent to the group you're teaching.
- Step 3: Don't bore or insult your study group by reading the study to them point by point. Instead, have a general outline of thoughts and your own personal illustrations that make the study come alive. Think of these notes like the bone structure and skin. It is your job as the teacher to make the study come to life. Feel free to change the study as you like.
- Step 4: Look for opportunities for application. The thrust of this note pack is focused on helping you, the teacher, prepare well for your study. You will need to encourage application with your small group based on who they are and what your relationship is with them. Whatever the case, don't skip this step – otherwise this study will just be an exercise in information transfer.
- Step 5: Copy these notes and distribute them each week to your small group. No need to give them lessons in advance – once per week will be good. Encourage them to use the notes as a guide for the rest of the week for their quiet times so they can dive deeper into the lesson if they would like to.

Remember: These notes are *mine*. You have to make them *yours*. Until the Text becomes something you are passionate about and familiar with you will have a lot to say but nothing to teach. Change this up as much as you want – add more quotes/references. *Make it your own*. The most inspiring and effective teachers are those who own what they teach.

Tough Questions:

It's hard to replace the value of a good question that will keep your students learning even after they leave your study. Each week there will be a question or two at the end of the study that is designed to make your students (and you!) think hard about the subject just discussed. Sometimes the questions aren't even answerable – but that's not the point. The point is that they are engaging the Word on their own (and they're motivated to do so!). Don't worry about your answers – there is more to be learned in the investigation of the question most of the time than in determining what the right answer is.

Sample Schedule for Summertime:

- 6:50am – Arrive before they do & make sure there is coffee!
- 7:00am – Start your Bible study promptly on time. No need to waste time asking “how was your week” or “how are you feeling.” They will get that in their small group time. Get straight to the meat – you'll need every minute!
- 7:40am – If you want to have time for Q&A at the end, plan on ending the study a little early. Then you can have some dialogue about the text or discuss the tough question from the week before.
- 7:45am – Dismiss the study *promptly*. Do not go over on time as it obstructs the flow of camp.

Bibliography:

There are not many single volumes out there about the covenants themselves. Most of my research has come from a few sources and then random commentaries. As I compiled my notes and thoughts, these were the resources that I found to be the most helpful. If you would like to study further, I would recommend these resources to you first as good entry points. So, to the degree you find this study helpful, you need to know it really comes from the wisdom of these brothers in Christ. I'm just the young guy standing on their shoulders.

Primary Sources:

- Constable, Tom. Expository notes on specific books. 2013 edition.
 - Dr. Constable, a retired professor of Dallas Theological Seminary, makes his expository notes on the entire Bible available online for free! You can download them at www.soniclight.com. Highly recommended!
- McComiskey, Thomas Edward. *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical & Expository Commentary, Vol. 3*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - This is a technical volume that would be most useful for the advanced student.
- Walvoord, J.F. & Zuck, R. B. (Eds.) *Vol. 1: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
 - This resource is one of the first commentaries I recommend young students purchase as they begin to build their theological library. It provides a basic and brief verse by verse commentary on each book of the Hebrew Bible in one volume.
- I also draw a lot from my personal notes I took while a student at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Special Thanks To . . .

. . . Andrew Peterson, The Album Leaf, Shane & Shane, Explosions in the Sky, George Winston, and James Horner whose music helped to drown out all the distractions and keep me focused.

. . . My gorgeous, thoughtful and nurturing wife who puts so much of her own wants and needs aside so that I can do things like the Forge and write studies like this one. Darcie, your love is a gift; I treasure it. You are precious to me.

. . . Pine Cove for giving me the opportunity and the time to write this study. I'm grateful to work for a ministry who cares so deeply not just for the people they minister to, but also the people they employ as ministers.

Profit from the Prophets

A Survey of the Major and Minor Prophets

Week 1: Introduction & Isaiah 6:1-13

Week 2: Isaiah 40

Week 3: Habakkuk 2:1-4

Week 4: Zephaniah 1:1-7

Week 5: Malachi 1:1-14

Week 6: Ezekiel 16

Week 7: Ezekiel 37

Week 8: Hosea 1

Week 9: Micah 6:1-8

Week 10: Joel 2:28-32

Week 11: Daniel 9:24-27

