

Correspondence Course

The Prophets of

the Old Testament

A Study Guide

Dr. Clifford Hill

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Course Introduction

Why study the prophets of the Old Testament?

The twentieth century has witnessed an increasing interest in prophecy both inside and outside the Christian church. The Pentecostal revival at the turn of the century brought new emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit and the exercise of spiritual gifts. The rise of the charismatic movement in the 1960s and the advent of the so-called 'House Church' movement had the effect of bringing the challenge of the exercise of spiritual gifts to the mainstream denominations. By the mid 1980s the exercise of spiritual gifts, or charismatic streams, appeared across nearly all the mainstream denominations. How is the believer to respond to the claims of prophecy in the modern church? The answer surely lies in the Scriptures. In this course Dr Clifford Hill examines Old Testament Prophecy and gives excellent guidance for assessing prophecy in current times. Be sure to read the Introduction to the course text; *Prophecy Past and Present* to prepare yourself before you commence the first lesson.

Course Description

The Prophets of the Old Testament Course No. 2 Credits 10

This course uses analytical and topical Bible-based studies in an attempt to enable the student to learn for understanding. Bible teaching coupled with data from related subjects such as history and sociology will give the student a wide understanding of this very important subject. To help the student with follow up research we may include a select bibliography on the subject.

Course Objectives

After studying this course the student should be able to;

1. Give clear definitions of the terms Prophet, Seer and Nevi'im.
2. Trace the linear historical and spiritual development of Old Testament Prophecy.
3. Be familiar with major texts upon the subject.
4. Explain the character of the prophet.
5. Discuss the methodology of the prophets.
6. Relate how the prophets interpreted the signs.
7. Understand the role of prayer in the life of the prophet.
8. Articulate the message of the prophets.
9. Understand the relationship between Old Testament Prophecy and the New Testament.
10. Understand how prophecy in ancient Israel provided the foundation for the use of prophecy in the New Testament.

Textbooks and Study Guide

You will use this Study Guide *The Prophets of the Old Testament; A Study Guide* by Dr Clifford Hill together with;

1. Hill, C. *Prophecy Past and Present*.
2. *The Holy Bible*. Your preferred translation. NB The texts used are from the NIV. Otherwise, the version used is annotated.

You will find it useful to keep a Concordance handy. Try to be conversant with current debates concerning prophecy and prophetic movements in the Christian Press.

Study Pattern

It is suggested that you set aside a regular time for study and attempt to complete one lesson per week. This is good discipline and will help you to show yourself as a workman approved by God who rightly handles the word of truth (2 Tim. 15). You should anticipate spending around four or five hours per lesson. This of course will depend upon your past experience of studying and how your skills have developed. Learning by extension requires more effort than sitting in a classroom and sometimes it takes a few days to get into the swing of something new. Do not be disheartened if the first lessons take a little longer. There may well be words, expressions and ideas contained in the material that you are unfamiliar with. There is a glossary included in the Study Guide and you should take advantage of it, even if you are familiar with some of the terms. Different disciplines may use words in different ways so it is good to check. Some words also have several differing meanings. To help with this we include the sense in which the word is used in the material. If you find there are several words or expressions that are new to you do not worry, most students find this a feature of any kind of study. Don't be afraid of them they are useful tools and used properly, often one word can say more than a sentence. Try to think of new words and expressions like a bag of spanners or screwdrivers. Once you pick them up they are easy to use.

Some students like to set goals. Why not mark out on a calendar the times you plan to study and the dates you hope to complete the lessons. Working towards a goal is a good way to achieve it. Don't be intimidated by goalsetting. Set yourself obtainable goals and work towards them.

Each lesson contains:

1. A lesson outline.
2. Lesson objectives.
3. Key Words appear in some lessons, which will help you understand how they are applied in the texts.
4. Short questions, the model answers are found at the end of the chapter.
5. An assignment. This, when completed, should be sent to The Centre for marking and will count towards your final grade.

The outline and objectives of the lesson are there to give you an overview of the material and to help you focus on the work in hand. They also give you your reading assignment for the lesson. Read the lesson outline and objectives and then read the designated texts. This will help you to be thorough in your preparation for the lesson.

You may study this material alone or in groups. When you have completed a lesson share the content with a friend and see if you can articulate the things that you have learned.

Final examination

When you have completed the course you will sit a final examination which you will apply to take. This may be taken at any time and may be invigilated by your pastor if he is willing, or may be taken at The Centre. The assignments count for 20% of the final examination. The examination is in the form of short questions, medium length (paragraph) questions and short essays. Successful candidates will gain ten credits towards their Fellowship certificate.