

1. 1st Class Test over the first 5 Chapters

2. Go Over Test

Lesson Five – God’s Special Spokesmen – The Prophet

- *Last week we learned about God’s Salvation Plan including the covenants He made with his chosen ones.*

- **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- *Who is our “Father in Faith”?* **Abraham**
- *Abraham’s “sacrifice” of Isaac was a prefigurement of?* **Jesus**
- *Who did God give the 10 commandments to?* **Moses**
- *God has continually renewed his----- with his chosen people.* **Covenant**

- *Today we’ll learn about God’s special prophets He chose to guide His chosen people the Israelites.*

1. The Mission of the Prophets of Israel.

- *What is a Prophet?*
 - *A prophet is someone chosen by God to speak a message from God to the people.*
 - *A prophet speaks God’s message with God’s authority.*
 - *God has sent many men to His people as prophets.*
 - *Prophets remind the Jews about the covenant between them and God.*
 - *The prophets remind God’s people of the punishments they will endure if they stop loving God.*
- *Ultimately the prophets were really preparing the Jews for the coming of the messiah or Jesus.*
 - *Messiah means → the anointed one. In Greek its “Christos” → Christ!*
 - *The Old Testament is all about Jesus!*

2. The Prophets Proclaimed God's Message in Many Ways

- The prophets delivered God's message in various ways in order to get the people to hear God's message.
- They mainly used the spoken word and poetry, but other ways were also used.
- A message from God heard through a prophet is called a **prophecy**.

3. The Different Kinds of Prophets

- The lives of God's prophets are recorded in the Old Testament.
- They are divided into two groups both groups being equally important:
 - The Major Prophets – they wrote more extensively than the minor prophets.
 - The Minor Prophets – they wrote less than the minor prophets.

4. The Prophets Elijah and Elisha

- They are very important prophets although the Old Testament does not record their writings.
- Their lives however were recorded in the Old Testament.
- **Elijah** was one of the most important prophets.
 - He challenged the pagan priests to set up altars and pray to their "gods" to start the altars on fire.
 - They prayed and nothing happened
 - Elijah set up his altar with, flooded it with water and asked God to set it on fire. God sent down a blaze consuming the sacrifice Elijah had placed on the altar. → Elijah drew man men to God.
- **Elisha** was Elijah's most important follower. He lived with Elijah and saw him taken up (assumed) into heaven.
 - **Side note:** If Elijah was assumed into Heaven then there is nothing that says that the Virgin Mary (who is greater than Elijah) couldn't have been assumed into heaven as well. → The Assumption of Mary! Protestants deny the assumption and claim the idea is not biblical.

- Elisha performed many miracles including multiplying bread for the hungry just as Jesus did centuries later. Another prefigurement!

5. The Prophet Isaiah

- He lived 800 years before the birth of Christ.
- He's the most important prophet for Christians because he spoke of the coming Messiah.
 - He spoke of the Virgin Birth of the Messiah.
 - He spoke of the Messiah as being a great light.
 - He spoke of the Messiah as a great ruler.
 - He spoke of the suffering the Messiah would endure.
 - He spoke of how the Messiah will shine in glory upon the people.
- We use Isaiah's prophecies about the Messiah in our Liturgies during Advent & Christmas.

6. Saint John the Baptist

- St. John is the last of the Old Testament prophets even though he appears in the New Testament.
- God used St. John as a bridge between these two parts of our salvation history.
- He was to prepare God's people for the public ministry of Jesus!
- St. John was born six months before Jesus and was Jesus' cousin.
 - His parents were Zechariah and Elizabeth.
 - An angel appeared to Zechariah and told him he would become a father in his old age. He doubted the Angel and was stricken mute until St. John's birth.
 - God revealed to Zechariah that St. John was to be the forerunner of the Messiah and prepare his ways.

- St. John grew up and began his mission around the Jordan River.
- He told people to repent and give up their sinful ways.
- He would pour water on people who wanted to give up sin. → Called “**St. John the Baptist**”.
- He would baptize people and then tell them that one mightier than I is coming and He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
- John had many followers.
- King Herod who was living an immoral life had St. John placed in prison and later killed beheaded him because he did not like to hear St. John say his actions were wrong.
- St. John is one of the most important Saints of the Church. He is second only to Mary!

Class Questions:

1. **What does the term “Messiah ” mean?** The “anointed one” and it refers to the one who is anointed by the Holy Spirit as the savior of all of God’s people. → Jesus.
2. **Who was the last and greatest of all prophets?** St. John the Baptist
3. **Elijah and who else was assumed into heaven?** The Virgin Mary
4. **A message from called is called?** A prophecy

Next Week: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ