



**ISAIAH:** Here is the first of the major prophets that we will consider. Isaiah wrote in dark and difficult days. Evil and idolatry abounded, and God's people were deaf to Isaiah's warnings of coming judgment on both Israel and Judah. However, God never leaves His people without a ray of hope! In fact, Isaiah's very name speaks of hope: It means "Yahweh is Salvation!". His book is like a miniature Bible, with two sections. The first 39 chapters point ahead to the coming Messiah, and the last 27 chapters present a portrait of the suffering Savior. Yes, what a hope is to be found in God's blessed Son!

**JEREMIAH (Two Videos):** Jeremiah was warned by the Lord that he was in for a rough time. *"They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you"* (Jer 1:17-19). For over

four decades, like the tolling of a bell, he warned the people of impending doom. All the other prophets preached from a distance, but Jeremiah was the up-close messenger. He told the men of Jerusalem that their city would be destroyed by the Babylonians, even as the engines of war were being pulled up against the city's ramparts. "Ridiculous!" they replied. "Jerusalem is God's own city. He lives here in town! Jerusalem cannot fall." But fall it did. Yet even as the storm-clouds gathered over the city, Jeremiah continued to herald the news that no one loved these rebels like the eternal God with His everlasting love.

**EZEKIEL:** About 100 miles south of Babylon, on the shore of the river Chebar, the priest/prophet Ezekiel spoke God's words to

the exiles of Israel. God's disciplines of His people then had the same purpose as they do now: to bring us back to Himself. So the message is one of present judgment mingled with future glory, when God's people come home to God. True to his priestly role, the book is rich with the subjects of the sacrifices, the glory of the Lord, and the coming kingdom temple, when, as He says, *"I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore"* (Ezek 37:26).

**DANIEL:** As biography blends into history and then into prophecy, we watch the remarkable Daniel, spokesman for God, straddle the great Gentile empires of the ancient world. What is the message of the book? **God has a plan!** That plan focuses on His Son, the little Lamb, the hurtling Rock, the rightful King. The great-

est of earthly kingdoms may rise in glory and gold, but they end in broken shards of clay. Only one Kingdom — it's sign a Roman Cross, and it's Champion a lowly Servant — will never end. How can anyone read Daniel without being thrilled at the final triumph of the One who still shows up to stand with His people in the fire!



## THE MAJOR PROPHETS

