

# Journey Through the Bible

## The Prophets

**Bible readings:**

2 Peter 1:10-21 (Page 860)

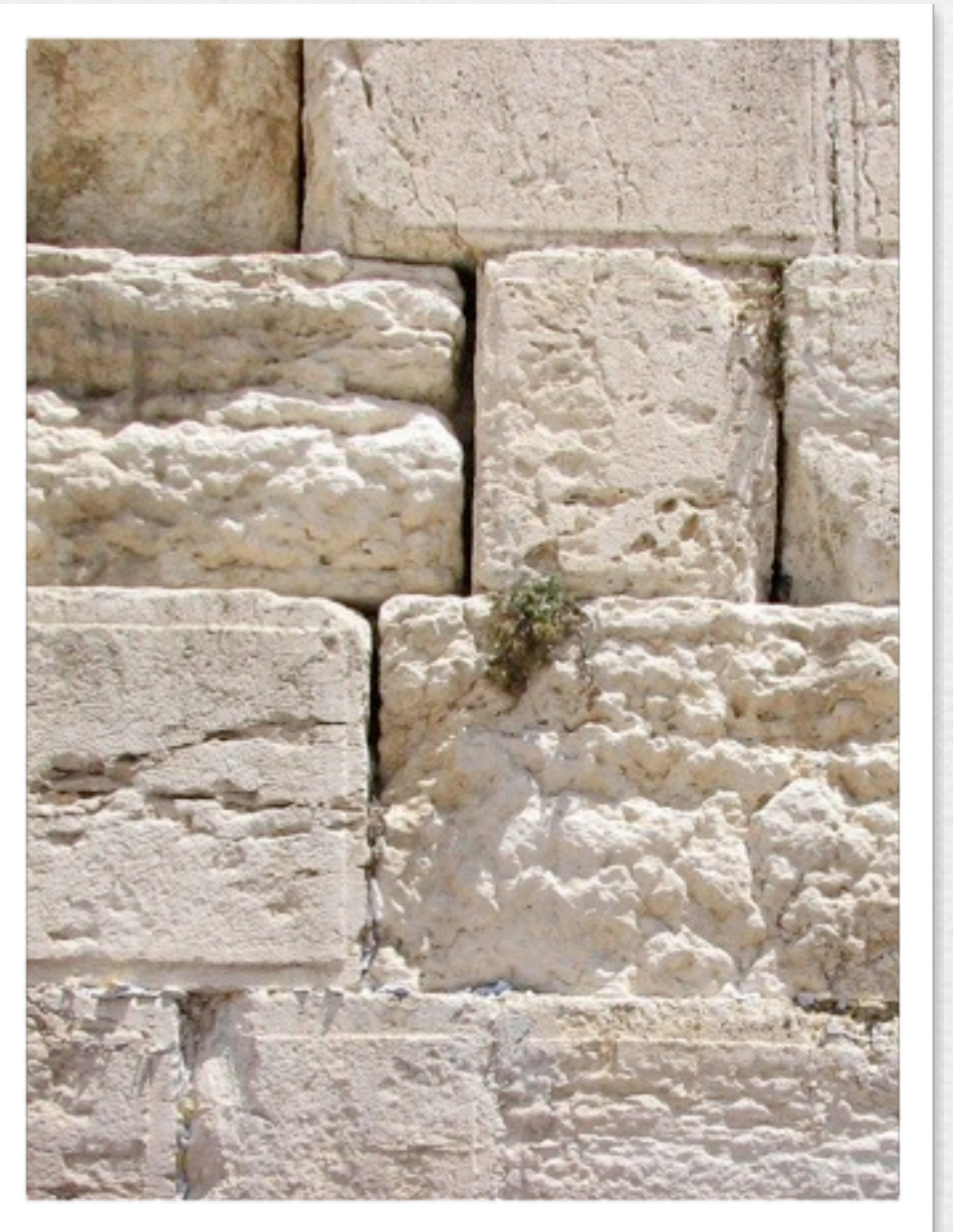
Luke 24:13-27 (Page 749)



# The Prophets

The Prophets can be challenging to read but there are many beautiful passages.

- ❧ “In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord for ever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:1–4, NKJV)



# The Prophets

Some prophetic passages could have been today about modern society.

- ❧ “What sorrow awaits the unjust judges and those who issue unfair laws. They deprive the poor of justice and deny the rights of the needy among my people. They prey on widows and take advantage of orphans.”  
(Isaiah 10:1–2, NLT)



# The Prophets

Some passages are very dark.

- ❧ “Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs. The noise of a whip and the noise of rattling wheels, of galloping horses, of clattering chariots! Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, countless corpses — They stumble over the corpses — Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, the mistress of sorceries, who sells nations through her harlotries, and families through her sorceries.” (Nahum 3:1–4, NKJV)



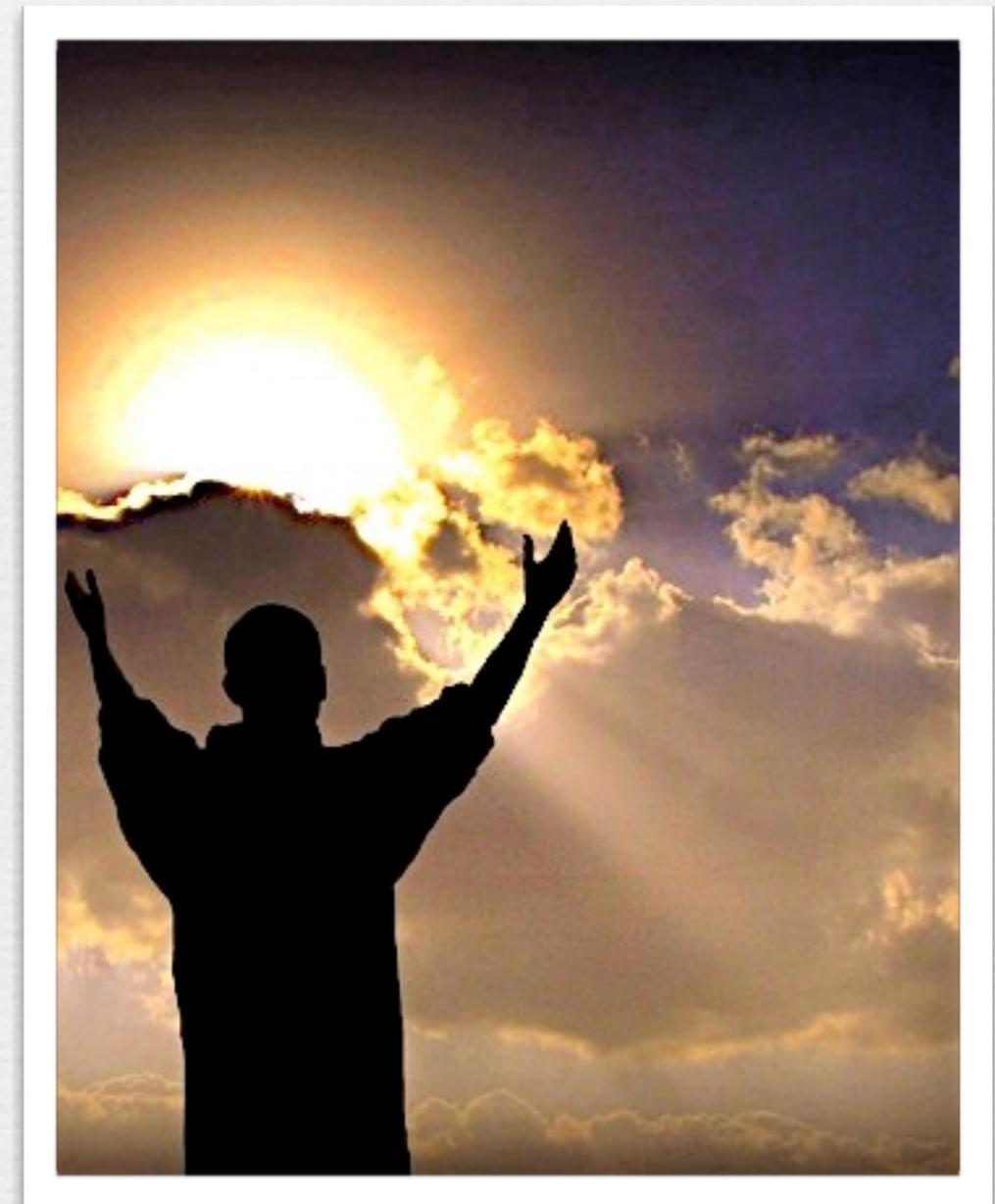
# The Prophets

- ❧ There are prophets and prophecies right through the whole bible from Genesis to Revelation
  - ❧ Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Samuel, Nathan, King David.
  - ❧ Elijah, Elisha, nameless prophets
  - ❧ John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul,
  - ❧ Agabus, Philip's daughters, John the Evangelist



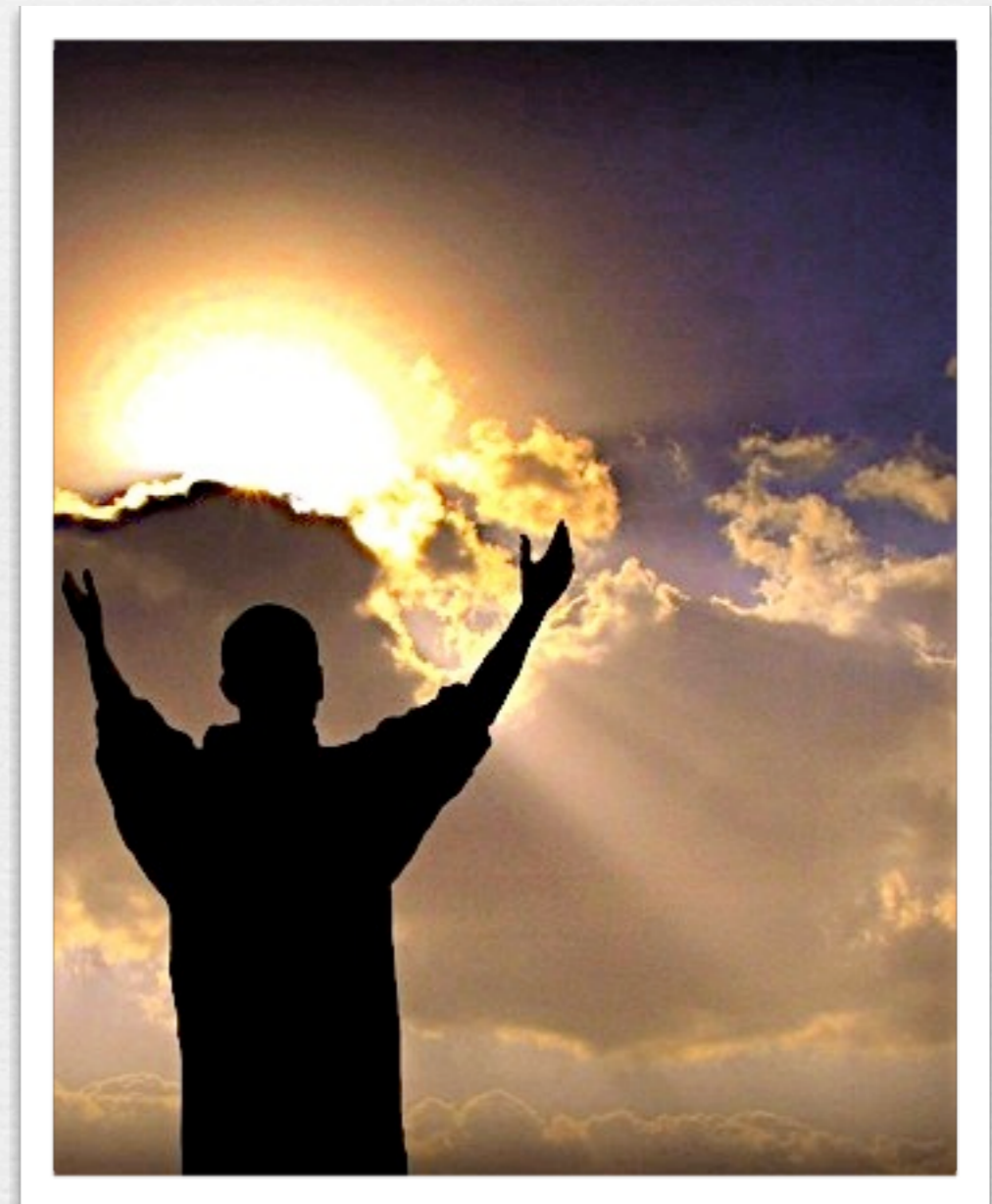
# The Prophets

1. God chose them.
2. God anointed them and empowered them with the Holy Spirit. Prophetic gift is not a natural ability.



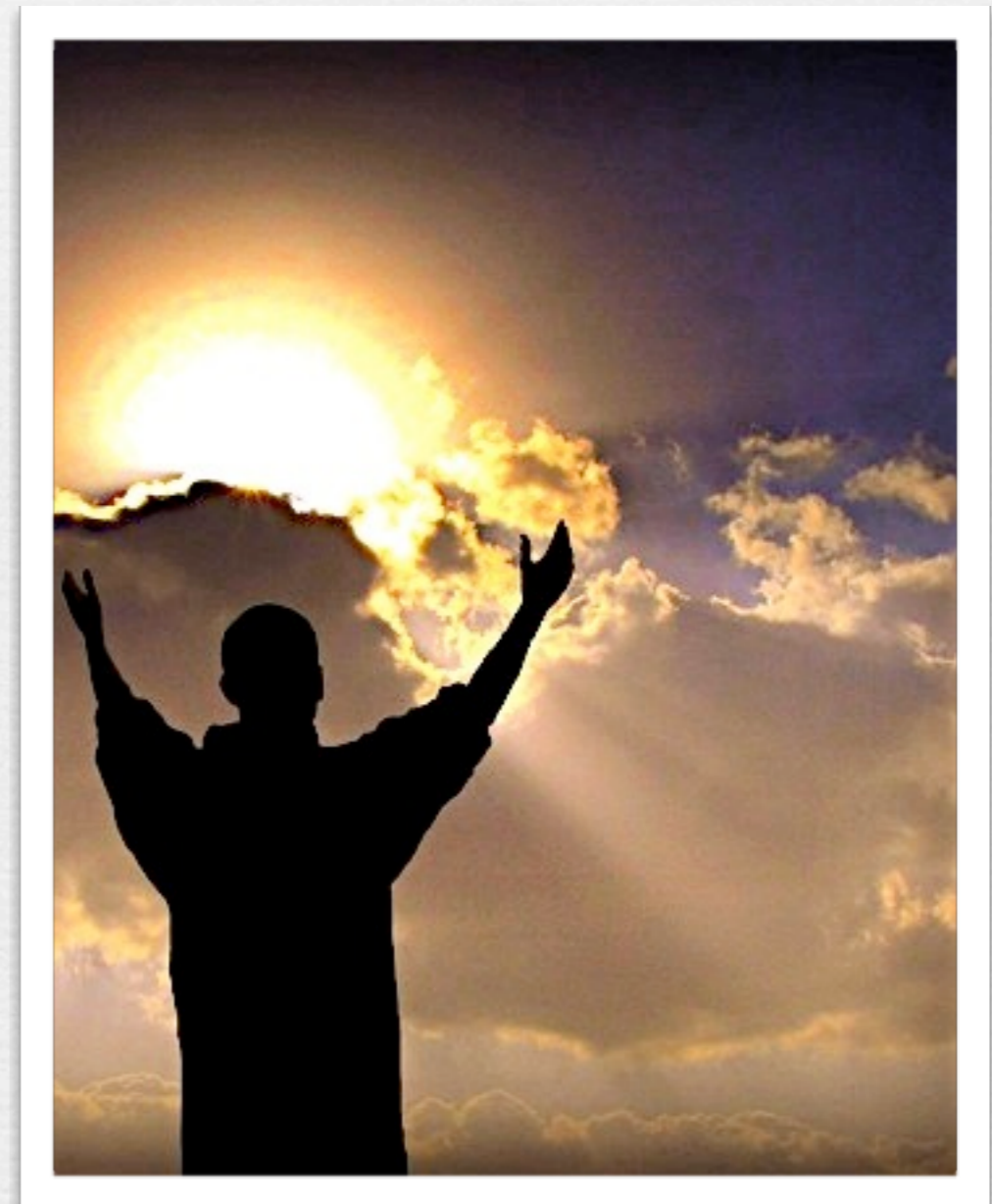
# The call of Jeremiah

- ❧ “Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord.”” (Jeremiah 1:4–8, ESV)



# The Prophets

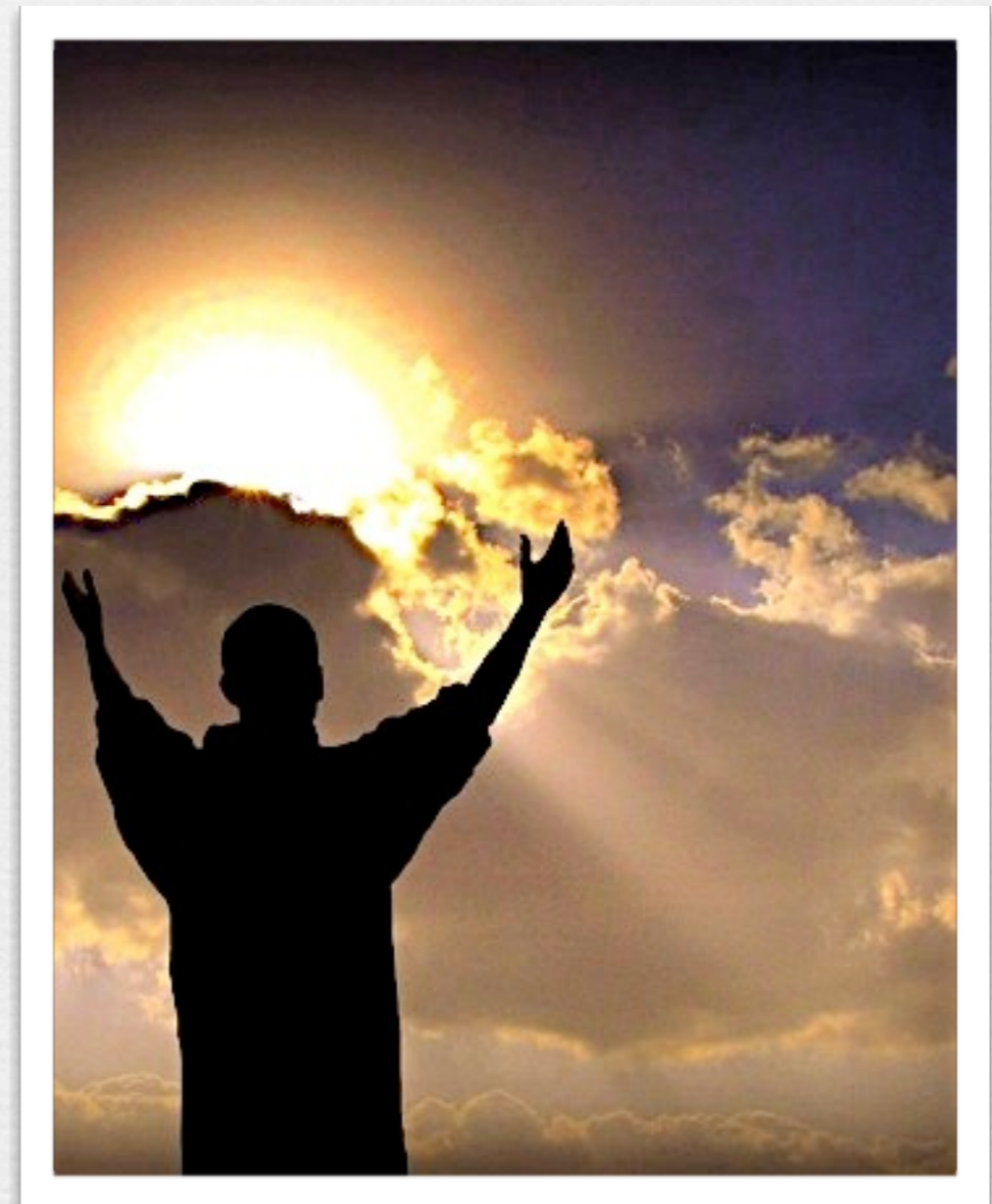
1. God chose them.
2. God anointed them and empowered them with the Holy Spirit. Prophetic gift is not a natural ability.
3. God gave His chosen prophets visions and messages to communicate to people. Sometimes the prophets had to act out the message God had given them.





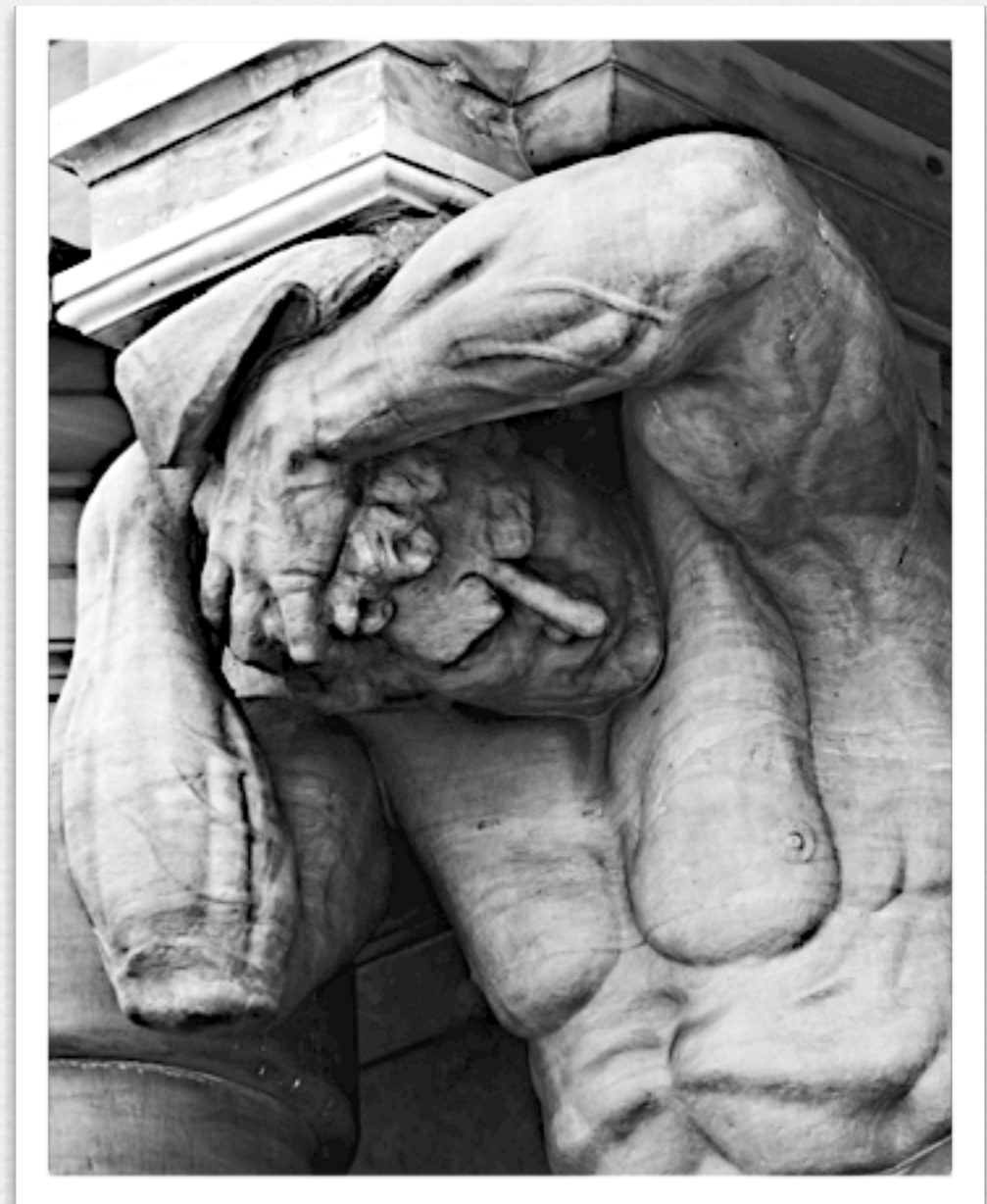
# The Prophets

- The messages of the prophets did not come from the man himself but from God.
- “Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.” (2 Peter 1:20–21, NLT)



# The Prophets

4. The prophets often did not want to be a prophet or want to speak the words the Lord gave them. The messages the Lord gave them were often called “Burdens” - a heavy load which did not lift off them until they had spoken the message.



# The Prophets

- “Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out of Israel, you prophet! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your living there. Do your prophesying there. Don’t prophesy here at Bethel anymore. This is where the king worships. The main temple in the kingdom is located here.” Amos answered Amaziah, “I was not a prophet. I wasn’t even a prophet’s son. I was a shepherd. I also took care of fig trees. But the Lord took me away from taking care of the flock. He said to me, ‘Go. Prophesy to My people Israel.’” (Amos 7:12–15, NirV)



# The Prophetic Vision

- Some prophetic messages are given only for the people the prophet speaks to and describe the situation of the day. Like this from Ezekiel
- “In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt; speak, and say, Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, ‘My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.’” (Ezekiel 29:1–3, ESV)



# The Prophets

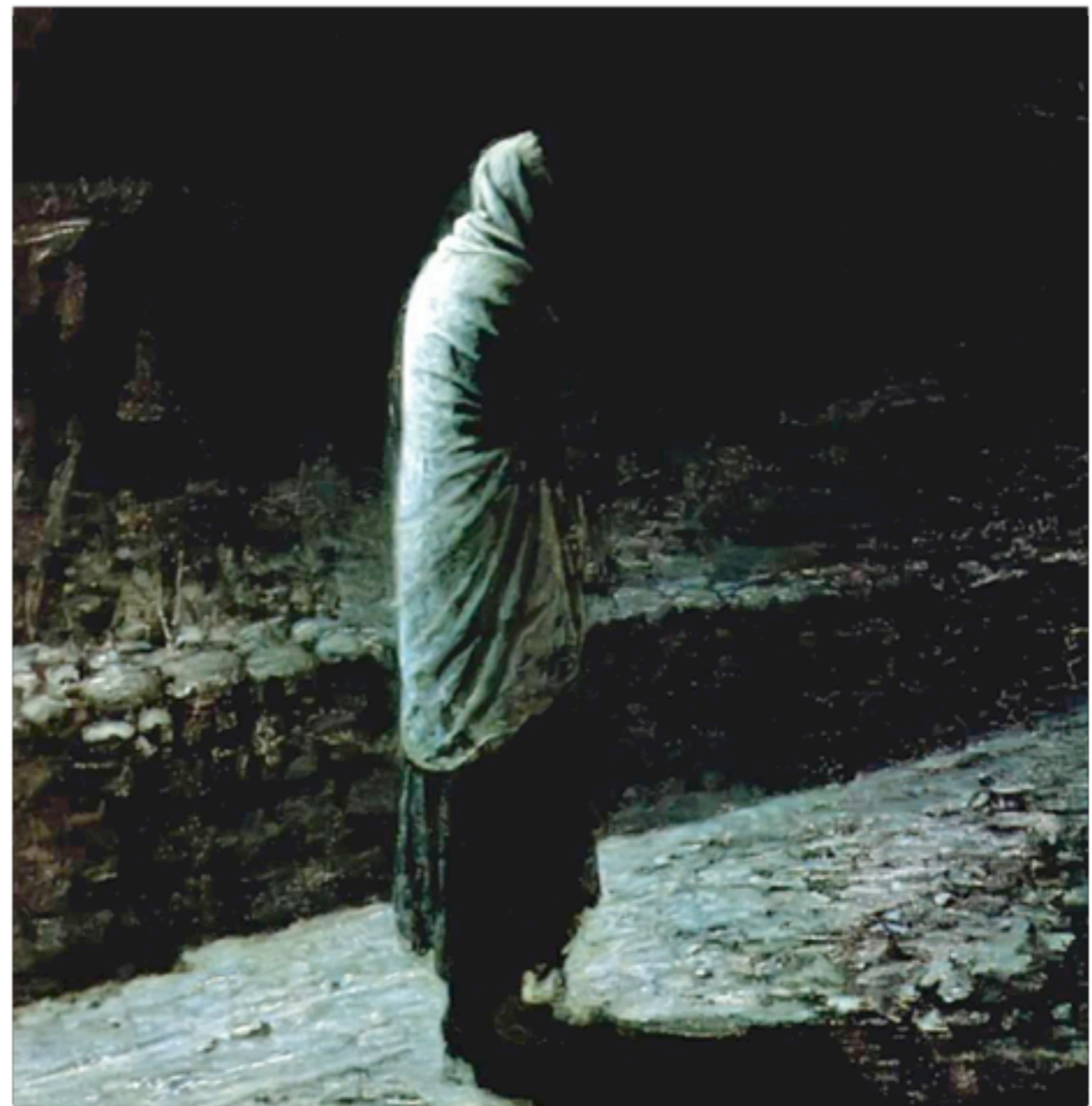
- Other messages from God say what God is going to do in the future like this from Zechariah.
- “Then I said to them, “If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them.” And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter” — the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter.” (Zechariah 11:12–13, ESV)



# The Prophets

- Fulfilment of Zechariah 11:12

Matthew 27 that after Jesus had been condemned to death Judas was filled with remorse and threw the 30 pieces of silver he'd been paid to betray Jesus into the temple. The priests then used this betrayal money to buy a field called the Potter's field.



# The Prophets

- There are other prophecies about future events which we can see clearly haven't happened yet. Like this from Jeremiah:
- “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” (Jeremiah 23:5, ESV)



# The Prophetic Vision



Events that happen during the Prophet's Life time

Events that happen many years after the prophet has died.

Events that are still in the future



# The Prophetic Writings

Why the Books of Prophecy are hard to understand.

- The prophecies are not recorded in chronological order either in the book or even within one chapter.
- Sometimes the prophecy will have two or more levels of fulfilment at different times in history.  
For Example Daniel 9:27



# The Prophetic Writings

- Daniel 9:27 describes how a ruler will set up an idol in the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem. This was fulfilled about 200 years after Daniel died when the Greek King Antiochus Epiphanes set up a statue of himself in the inner sanctuary of the Temple.
- Yet in Matthew 24:15 Jesus refers to this event in His teaching about the final judgement and His return as an event still in the future.



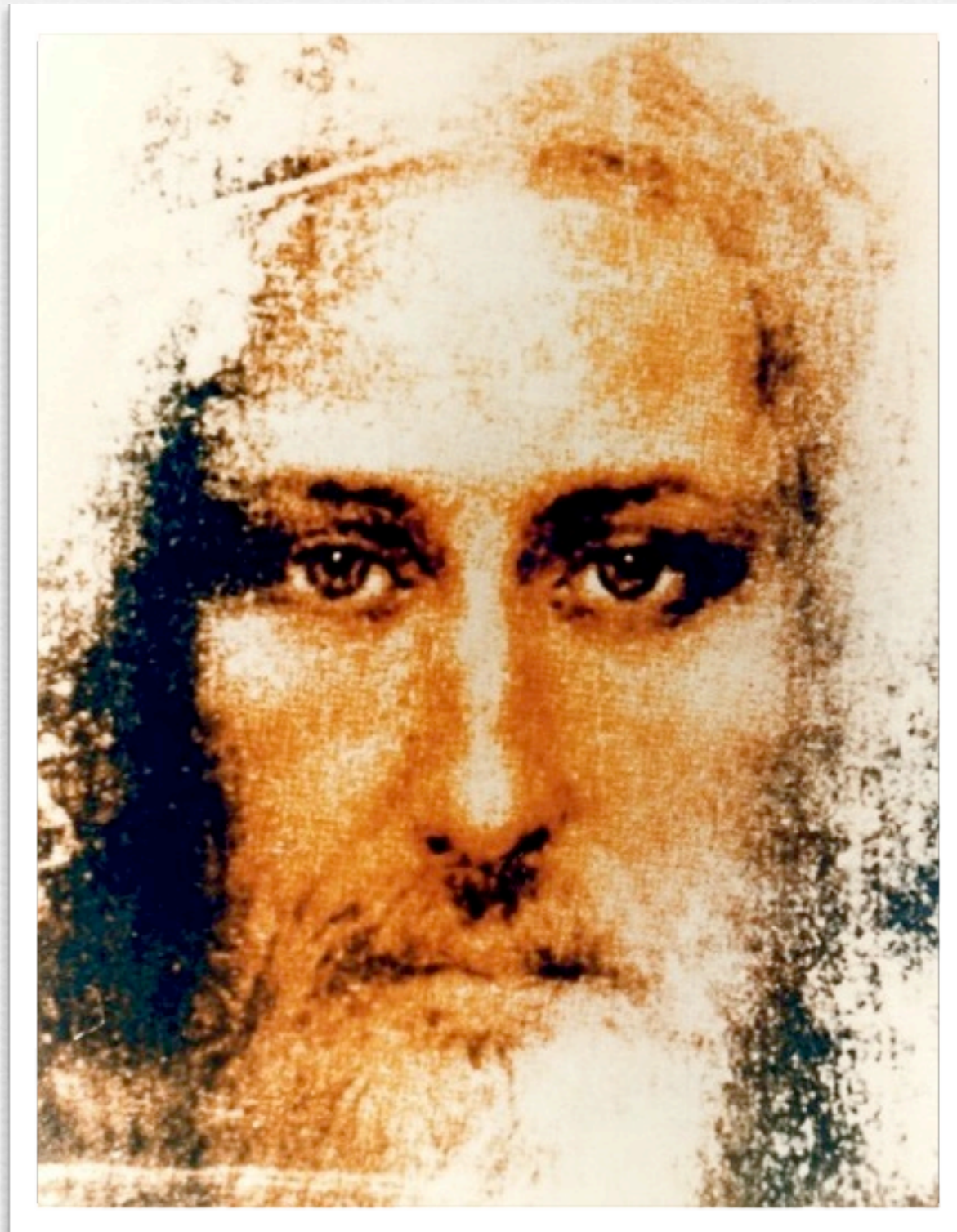
# The Prophetic Writings

- [Jesus said,] “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”  
(Matthew 24:15–16, ESV)



# Why are the books of the prophets important?

- **Firstly**, because the words and visions of the prophets reveal the mind and character of God.
- **Secondly**, by studying the prophets we will better understand the character and life of Jesus.



# Why are the books of the prophets important?

- “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.” (Luke 24:25–27, TNIV)
- Jesus expects His disciples to know and believe the prophets.



# Why are the books of the prophets important?

- **Thirdly**, the books of the prophets are important because they provide powerful evidence of the accuracy and reliability of the Bible itself.



# The Gift of Prophecy

- The Prophets of the OT were anointed by the Holy Spirit and empowered to receive in words and pictures messages from the Lord. In OT times the Holy Spirit was given only to special servants of God. But since the death and resurrection of Jesus the gifts of Holy Spirit are available to all believers who desire them.
- “But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them.”  
(1 Corinthians 14:3, NLT)



- The difference today from the time of the OT prophets is that since the coming of Jesus there is no need for God to speak and reveal His plans for salvation and warn people of His judgement.
- Jesus has fulfilled all that is needed to save us from judgement of sin. It is the task of all disciples to make known to all people God's judgement of sin and His salvation through Jesus.
- All believers are called to be prophets, people empowered by the Holy Spirit to communicate God's message of hope – the Gospel.

