



SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

HEBREW BIBLE 2

2. Prophets in the Torah and the Historical Texts

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The prophetic tradition in Judaism goes all the way back to Moses in the Torah, and continues through the period of the Judges and the early monarchy (the books of Samuel and Kings) before the period of classical prophecy eponymously documented in the three Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel) and the 12 Minor Prophets that we will be focusing on for most of the first part of this course. It is worthwhile spending some time looking at these earlier prophets whose colorful lives of speech and activity are recorded in the Torah and the Historical Texts. The distinctive nature of the ministry of these earlier prophets establishes the themes and paradigms for the classical prophets whose written oracles make up almost a third of the Hebrew Bible. So, this week we will be examining the prophetic ministries of Moses, Miriam, Deborah, Samuel, the Witch of Endor, Nathan, Elijah, Michaiah and Elisha.

Assignment #2 for Class on Saturday 8th September 2018

Reading

Please read the following passages from the Hebrew Bible:

- Moses – Exodus 1-7, 11-14
- Miriam – Exodus 15 (Numbers 12:1-2)
- Deborah – Judges 4-5
- Samuel – I Samuel 1-3, 8-10, 16, 19
- Witch of Endor – I Samuel 28
- Nathan – II Samuel 7, 11-12
- Elijah – I Kings 17-21; II Kings 1
- Michaiah – I Kings 22
- Elisha – II Kings 2-9, 13:14-20

Please feel free to skim through some of the stories you might be more familiar with so that the reading is not too burdensome. However, please focus particular attention on any of the passages where the prophets are *speaking* the “Word of the Lord.”

Thinking & Responding

Choose one (1) of the following three major prophets — **Samuel** or **Elijah** or **Elisha** — and please reflect on the way in which their life and ministry, their words and their actions, illustrate the central features and characteristics of a Hebrew Bible prophet that we discussed last week. Refer to specific examples / passages in the text – I suggest you pick two (2) stories within each prophet’s narrative to focus on in depth. Type up and print your Reflections which should be approximately 400-500 words (12 point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margin, with your name at the top of the paper), and be ready to share and discuss your Responses. I will collect them in to review and grade at the end of the class.