

## Prophets January 24, 2016

### Review:

- role of the Prophet: *Mediation and interpretation of the divine mind and will.*
- Key Concerns: Key concerns of prophetic teaching:
  - Israel was elected by to play a part in God's work in the world;
  - reminded the people of the consequences of being the chosen people.
  - Moral character of that election.
  - God's judgment is not between Israel and non-Israel, but between the just and the wicked.
  - Spoke of the moral will of God.
  - Montheism
- Pattern of Prophetic teaching:
  - a. look to past to see pattern of God's will and work;
  - b. hold present up for scrutiny:
    - i. is pattern one of salvation, which leads to life, or pattern of sin, which leads to death. If it's the latter, the prophet makes a proclamation.
- Prophecy is a form of grieving: things are not as they should be.
  - c. Brings hurt to public expression; the first step in the dismantling criticism that permits a new reality. Invites everyone to experience what we need to experience.
- Task of prophet is to nurture an alternative perception to the dominant culture around us.
- Prophet criticizes and energizes at the same time.
- **Merton: Alienation.** Big word in Marx and Fried. Consciously or unconsciously. Someone else is living life for you. Someone determines.
- Prophet rocks the boat by telling people who think they are free that they are slaves.
- Being prophetic is not going to fit in with anybody's ideas of what is acceptable. Nevertheless, people will be ready for it.

## Jesus as Prophet and Sage

- Jesus acts in style of Elijah
- Malachi to Ben Sira – Elijah will come and usher in the final stage of history (will he return bodily or someone will act the role.)
- Imitation of Elijah:
- Itinerant ministry in Northern Israel
- Performed series of miracles – raising dead, multiplication of food.
- Last supper – affikomen bread (of the coming one) set aside at seder for Elijah.
  - Jesus does not set aside, takes it, eat now.

Jesus presents himself to his fellow Jews as an Elijah like prophet of the end time (final stage of history).

Preaches against privatized religion.

Blending tradition with reality. In context of Roman domination, etc. Don't be concerned with setting up old empire. Isaiah – be a light to the world, bring justice to the lands; get act together as a nation.

Wisdom looks to how God reveals things to us in creation. Learn about God by studying the world; God has planted patterns in the universe. Look to creation.

Coming of God to rule as king – God's kingly rule (Isaiah).

## Salvific promises of Isaiah

Blind see 29:18, 35:5

Lame walk 42:7, 61:1

Deaf hear 29:18, 35:5

Dead are raised 26:19

Poor have good news preached to them (61:1)

## Poetry of the Prophets

- [literature](#) that evokes a concentrated imaginative [awareness](#) of experience or a specific emotional response through [language](#) chosen and arranged for its [meaning](#), sound, and [rhythm](#).

- Hebrew poetry has meter and sometimes rhyme (only in original).
- Written as column of lines.
- Psalm 1: one line comes out to margin, with two sublines. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> develop idea of first line. Paralellism – each constitutes a poetic verse. Verse numbers don't always correspond.
  - How groupings operate: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reinforce the first line.
  - Walk not intensified, wicked varied to sinners and scoffers.
- Verses are of 1,2 or 3 lines. Generally 2. 3 or 1 – stop and ask, what is the effect? Varied usual wavelength of two lines.
- Kinds of parallelism: synonymous, antithetical, progressive.
- Poetry of this kind- ANE, China, Japan, Europe. Intense kind of poetry.
- Concentric design in Psalm 1.
- Also an inclusion – words at the beginning are picked up at the end.