



# The Prophets

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## Major and Minor Prophets

The Old Testament identifies at least 48 prophets, including major and minor prophets, as well as a few individuals considered prophets based on their roles and actions.

### Major Prophets (5 Books)

1. Isaiah
2. Jeremiah
3. Lamentations (Traditionally attributed to Jeremiah)
4. Ezekiel
5. Daniel

### Minor Prophets (12 Books)

6. Hosea
7. Joel
8. Amos
9. Obadiah
10. Jonah
11. Micah
12. Nahum
13. Habakkuk
14. Zephaniah
15. Haggai
16. Zechariah
17. Malachi



## Other Named Prophets in the Old Testament

These individuals are specifically called prophets but do not have books named after them:

18. Abraham (Genesis 20:7)
19. Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15, 34:10)
20. Aaron (Exodus 7:1 – called Moses' prophet)
21. Miriam (Exodus 15:20)
22. Samuel (1 Samuel 3:20)
23. Nathan (2 Samuel 7:2)
24. Gad (1 Samuel 22:5)
25. Ahijah (1 Kings 11:29)
26. Shemaiah (2 Chronicles 12:5)
27. Iddo (2 Chronicles 9:29)
28. Jehu, son of Hanani (1 Kings 16:7)
29. Elijah (1 Kings 17:1)
30. Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21)
31. Micaiah, son of Imlah (1 Kings 22:8)
32. Hulda (2 Kings 22:14; one of the few female prophets)
33. Hanani (2 Chronicles 16:7)
34. Azariah, son of Oded (2 Chronicles 15:1-8)
35. Jahaziel (2 Chronicles 20:14-17)
36. Zechariah, son of Jehoiada (2 Chronicles 24:20)

## Other Individuals with Prophetic Roles

Though not explicitly called prophets, these figures acted as messengers of God:

37. Enoch (Genesis 5:24; Jude 1:14 refers to his prophecy)
38. Noah (2 Peter 2:5 calls him a “preacher of righteousness”)
39. Deborah (Judges 4:4 – a judge and prophetess)
40. Manoah's wife (mother of Samson, Judges 13:3-5)
41. Eli (1 Samuel 2:27 – sometimes seen as prophetic)
42. The 70 Elders (Numbers 11:25-29 – received the spirit of prophecy)
43. The unnamed young prophet of Bethel (1 Kings 13:1-10)
44. The unnamed old prophet of Bethel (1 Kings 13:11-32)
45. The unnamed prophet who confronted Ahab (1 Kings 20:13-22)
46. Malchijah (Nehemiah 3:11, possibly a prophet)
47. The Sons of the Prophets (Schools of prophets under Elijah/Elisha, 2 Kings 2:3-7)
48. The Messiah (Jesus is prophesied in the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

## Final Tally

- **Classical prophets (those with books named after them):** 17
- **Other explicitly named prophets:** 19
- **Individuals with prophetic roles:** At least 12

This brings the total to at least **48 prophets** in the Old Testament, though the number could be higher depending on how one classifies prophetic figures.



## Prophets Who Prophesied About the Messiah (Interpreted as Jesus)

### Major Prophets

- **Isaiah** – One of the most detailed messianic prophets.
  - **Isaiah 7:14** – The virgin birth (*Matthew 1:23*).
  - **Isaiah 9:6-7** – The divine Son and eternal kingdom.
  - **Isaiah 53** – The suffering servant (*interpreted as Jesus' crucifixion*).
  - **Isaiah 11:1-10** – The “Branch” from Jesse’s line.
- **Jeremiah**
  - **Jeremiah 23:5-6** – The “righteous Branch” from David’s line.
  - **Jeremiah 31:31-34** – The prophecy of a “New Covenant” (*Luke 22:20*).
- **Ezekiel**
  - **Ezekiel 34:23-24** – A shepherd from David’s line (*John 10:11*).
  - **Ezekiel 37:24-28** – A messianic king uniting the people.
- **Daniel**
  - **Daniel 7:13-14** – The “Son of Man” given dominion (*Jesus' favorite title for Himself*).
  - **Daniel 9:24-27** – The prophecy of “Seventy Weeks,” interpreted by Christians as pointing to Jesus’ death.

### Minor Prophets

- **Hosea**
  - **Hosea 11:1** – “Out of Egypt I called my son” (*Matthew 2:15*).
- **Joel**
  - **Joel 2:28-32** – The outpouring of the Holy Spirit, fulfilled at **Pentecost** (*Acts 2:16-21*).
- **Amos**
  - **Amos 9:11-12** – The rebuilding of David’s fallen tent (*Acts 15:15-17*).
- **Micah**
  - **Micah 5:2** – The Messiah will be born in **Bethlehem** (*Matthew 2:5-6*).
- **Zephaniah**
  - **Zephaniah 3:14-17** – The coming King will bring salvation and dwell among His people.
- **Haggai**
  - **Haggai 2:6-9** – The future glory of God's house (interpreted as Jesus’ presence in the Temple).
- **Zechariah**
  - **Zechariah 9:9** – The Messiah will enter Jerusalem on a **donkey** (*Matthew 21:4-5*).
  - **Zechariah 12:10** – “They will look on the one they have pierced” (*John 19:37*).
  - **Zechariah 13:7** – The shepherd struck, scattering the sheep (*Matthew 26:31*).
- **Malachi**
  - **Malachi 3:1** – The messenger (John the Baptist) will prepare the way (*Mark 1:2*).
  - **Malachi 4:5-6** – Elijah will come before the day of the Lord (*interpreted as John the Baptist in Matthew 11:14*).



## Other Prophets Who May Have Had Messianic Elements

- **Moses**
  - **Deuteronomy 18:15-19** – A prophet like Moses (*Acts 3:22* identifies this as Jesus).
- **David (as a Psalmist & Prophet)**
  - **Psalm 22** – A vivid prophecy of the crucifixion (*Matthew 27:46*).
  - **Psalm 110:1** – “The Lord said to my Lord” (*quoted by Jesus in Matthew 22:44*).
- **Elijah (By Prophetic Role)**
  - Though he did not explicitly prophesy about Jesus, Elijah is connected to **John the Baptist**, who prepared the way for Jesus (*Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 11:14*).

## Final Count

- **Direct Messianic Prophecies: 16 prophets** (including Moses and David as prophetic figures).
- **Indirect Messianic Themes:** Elijah’s connection to John the Baptist.

## New Testament Prophets

Several prophets are identified in the New Testament, either explicitly called prophets or functioning in a prophetic role. Besides Jesus, here are the key **prophets** mentioned:

### 1. John the Baptist ✅ (The Greatest Prophet)

- **Explicitly identified as a prophet** (*Matthew 11:9; Luke 7:26*).
- Considered the **last prophet of the Old Covenant** and the forerunner of Jesus.
- Fulfilled **Isaiah 40:3**: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness” (*Matthew 3:3*).
- Jesus said, “**Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist**” (*Matthew 11:11*).

### 2. Agabus ✅ (A New Testament Prophet)

- Explicitly **called a prophet** (*Acts 11:27-28*).
- Prophesied a **great famine** during the reign of Emperor **Claudius** (fulfilled).
- **Predicted Paul’s imprisonment** in Jerusalem (*Acts 21:10-11*).

### 3. Anna the Prophetess ✅ (Witness to Baby Jesus)

- **Explicitly called a prophetess** (*Luke 2:36*).
- One of the **few female prophets** in the Bible.
- Recognized **Jesus as the Messiah** when He was an infant.

### 4. Simeon ✅ (Recognized Jesus as the Messiah)

- Not explicitly called a prophet but **spoke prophetically** (*Luke 2:25-35*).
- **Prophesied** about Jesus' future suffering and impact.
- Blessed Mary and Joseph and predicted that **Jesus would be “a light to the Gentiles”**.

### 5. The Apostle Paul ⚠️ (Prophetic Gifts)

- Not always considered a prophet but **spoke prophetically** (*1 Corinthians 13:2*).



- Received **direct revelations from God** (*Galatians 1:11-12*).
- Predicted his **own sufferings and imprisonment** (*Acts 20:23*).

## 6. The Apostle Peter ⚠️ (Preached Prophetic Fulfillment)

- Declared **Joel's prophecy was fulfilled** at Pentecost (*Acts 2:16-21*).
- Had **visions** (e.g., the sheet with unclean animals, *Acts 10*).
- Predicted **Ananias and Sapphira's deaths** (*Acts 5:1-11*).

## 7. Philip's Four Daughters ✅ (Female Prophets)

- **Explicitly called prophetesses** (*Acts 21:9*).
- Their prophecies are not recorded, but they had a prophetic ministry.

## 8. New Testament Prophets in the Church ✅

Paul mentions **prophets as an active role** in the early church:

- **Ephesians 4:11** – "Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers..."
- **1 Corinthians 12:28** – "God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets..."
- **Acts 13:1** – Mentions **prophets in the church of Antioch**, including Barnabas and Simeon.

## Summary

| Name               | Explicitly Called Prophet?      | Notable Prophecy                        |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| John the Baptist   | ✅ Yes                           | Foretold Jesus' coming                  |
| Agabus             | ✅ Yes                           | Predicted famine & Paul's imprisonment  |
| Anna               | ✅ Yes                           | Recognized infant Jesus as Messiah      |
| Simeon             | ⚠️ No (but spoke prophetically) | Predicted Jesus' suffering              |
| Paul               | ⚠️ No (but prophesied)          | Predicted his own trials                |
| Peter              | ⚠️ No (but prophesied)          | Declared prophecy fulfillment           |
| Philip's Daughters | ✅ Yes                           | Prophetesses in the early church        |
| Church Prophets    | ✅ Yes                           | Mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 & Acts 13:1 |

## Final Thoughts

- **Jesus is the ultimate prophet** (*Deuteronomy 18:15*, fulfilled in *Acts 3:22*).
- **John the Baptist is the last Old Covenant prophet** but appears in the New Testament.
- **Agabus, Anna, and Philip's daughters** show prophetic gifts continued in the early church.
- **Prophets were part of church leadership** in the early Christian movement.