

Elijah

Lived: Northern Kingdom (Israel), 9th century BCE

What to remember:

Elijah was a prophet when God's people lived in two kingdoms: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Ahab, the king of Israel, was married to a woman who worshiped a false god named Baal. Ahab turned away from God and worshiped Baal, too. A 3-year drought came upon Israel – a sign of God's displeasure with Ahab. God used Elijah to try to bring Ahab and the people back into covenant relationship with God. In a dramatic contest between Elijah and 450 prophets of Baal, God made God's self powerfully known.

Where to read about Elijah in the Bible:

1 Kings, chapters 17-19

Words of God spoken by the prophet:

“O LORD, you are God and I am your servant.” (1 Kgs 18:36)

Amos

Lived: Northern Kingdom (Israel), 8th century BCE

What to remember:

Amos saw that the people of God – and especially their leaders – were growing away from God because of two things. Although they worshiped God, their ceremonies meant nothing to them. And they neglected people who were poor. A small group of rich leaders got richer while many, many poor people struggled to get by. Amos warned the leaders that God didn't like the way they were worshiping. He said that God wants them to do what is right, especially for those who are poor.

Where to read about Amos in the Bible:

The Book of Amos

Words of God spoken by the prophet:

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24)

1st Isaiah

Lived: Southern Kingdom (Judah), 8th Century BCE

What to remember:

The prophet Isaiah saw that wealth and power was causing some people to turn away from God and to trust human leaders and “false gods” instead. He told people to trust God, not corrupt governments. He warned of a day of judgment but also promised that God would send a Messiah – a Chosen One – who would establish a just and peaceful kingdom on earth.

Where to read about Isaiah in the Bible:

Isaiah, chapters 1-39.

Words of God spoken by the prophet:

“Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Is 9:2-3, 6)

Micah

Lived: Northern & Southern Kingdoms (Israel & Judah), 8th Century BCE

What to remember:

As a farmer, the prophet Micah saw how rich landowners took advantage of poor, working class peasants. He predicted that because people were no longer faithful to God, the great city of Jerusalem would one day fall. Micah used the image of a lawsuit to show how the relationship between God and God's people could get worked out. But Micah also said that one day in the future a great leader would bring peace to God's people. That leader, he told them, would be born in Bethlehem, a small village where farmers and shepherds lived.

Where to read about Micah in the Bible:

Book of Micah

Words of God spoken by the prophet:

“God has told you, O mortal, what is good and what is required of you: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Jeremiah

Lived: 627-585 BCE

What to remember:

During Jeremiah's time, God's people were being attacked by countries with big, strong armies. Jeremiah believed this was happening because the people were treating each other unfairly. Jeremiah warned the people that Jerusalem and the Temple would one day be destroyed. To make his point, Jeremiah took a large clay pot and threw it to the ground, saying that God would break the people and the city the same way. But Jeremiah also told the people that through the pain of that crisis, people would rediscover a deep and lasting relationship with God and one another. God would reshape them, like a potter reshapes clay pots on a wheel.

Where to read about Jeremiah in the Bible:

Book of Jeremiah. (Many of the events that took place during Jeremiah's lifetime can be found in 2 Kings, chapters 21-24.)

Words of God spoken by the prophet:

“Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”
(Jeremiah 18:6)

Ezekiel

Lived: 597-570 BCE

What to remember:

During the prophet Ezekiel's lifetime, the Babylonian army invaded Judah, destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, and forced many of God's people to live in Babylon. This time in history was known as "the exile in Babylon." Ezekiel was one of the people who had to move to Babylon. He urged the people living in exile with him to learn from their mistakes and be faithful to God, even though they were living in a foreign land. He reassured them that one day all of God's people would be reunited in their homeland. Ezekiel said that God's forgiveness would make people feel like that they had new life.

Where to read about Ezekiel in the Bible:

Book of Ezekiel.

Words of God spoken by the prophet:

God said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord." (Ezekiel 37:4)