

Elijah and Amos Speak for the Lord



CHAPTER 21 Study Guide

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 21**.

A prophet is someone called by God to speak God's Word to the people, even when they do not want to hear it, and to point out how people are turning away from God.

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After Solomon died, the people of Israel became unfaithful to God and his covenant. The three major prophets of the prophetic books who called on the people to return to faithful worship are Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. The minor prophets during this time are those whose books are the shortest in the Bible.

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The prophet Elijah lived in the northern kingdom, which was ruled by a wicked king named Ahab and his wicked queen, Jezebel. The king and queen worshiped the foreign god Baal, and Jezebel tried to have Elijah killed after he persuaded Ahab to repent for his sins and return to the one true God. When Elijah's work was finished, he was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot.

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The prophet Amos told the rich city people of the northern kingdom that because all human beings have equal dignity, we are all called to eliminate inequality in society. He told the Israelites that if they continued with idol worship and their unjust ways, they would be met with disaster. The Book of Amos, though, ends on the hopeful prophecy that the fallen house of David will be restored.

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People working for social justice try to participate in Christ's work by showing care and concern for every person and try to help those in need.

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Works of mercy are things that we can do to help those in need. Corporal works of mercy address the physical needs of others. Spiritual works of mercy help meet their emotional and spiritual needs.

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