



# *Power of the Prophets: from Moses to Jesus*

Week 1

*The Birth of Israel, the People*

1



## *Introducing the Class*

- ❖ The syllabus
  - Course description
  - Our objectives
  - The class schedule
  - A study Bible and the Weekly Worksheets
- ❖ The index cards
- ❖ The Academy website
  - Go to [www.standrewacademy.org](http://www.standrewacademy.org)
- ❖ Why are the overheads so wordy?
- ❖ How we'll learn
  - Teaching the head and forming the heart

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2



## *What can we hope for in this class?*

- ❖ A better appreciation for and understanding of the biblical prophets.
- ❖ We will look for the larger story of Israel and God's prophets.
  - We will place the lives and the writings of the prophets in context.
  - We will get a better sense of how the story and the promises brought by the prophets lead us toward Jesus. He was the fulfillment of Israel's hope! He would vindicate the prophets who came before him.
- ❖ Enjoy and appreciate some of the smaller stories!
  - e.g., the confrontation between Elijah and the priests of Baal
- ❖ We hope to make the story of Israel our own story – to see ourselves in these ancient people.



## *What is a prophet?*

- ❖ A prophet is someone who speaks for God
  - KEY – “speaking” doesn't have to be in words! Your mother was right -- actions can speak louder than words.
- ❖ As a group, the prophets are much more interested in “forthtelling” than “foretelling.”
- ❖ True v. false prophets (from Mariottini)
  - Is the prophet willing to tell the community what they don't want to hear?
  - Is the prophet vindicated by what actually happens?
  - Does the prophet lead people toward or way from worship of the one true God?
  - Finally, “the most trustworthy prophet is the one who will seek guidance from the Lord; who will share with the community what has been seen and heard; and who will continue with the community to test and clarify the word, open always to further guidance”



## *The Stages of Life*

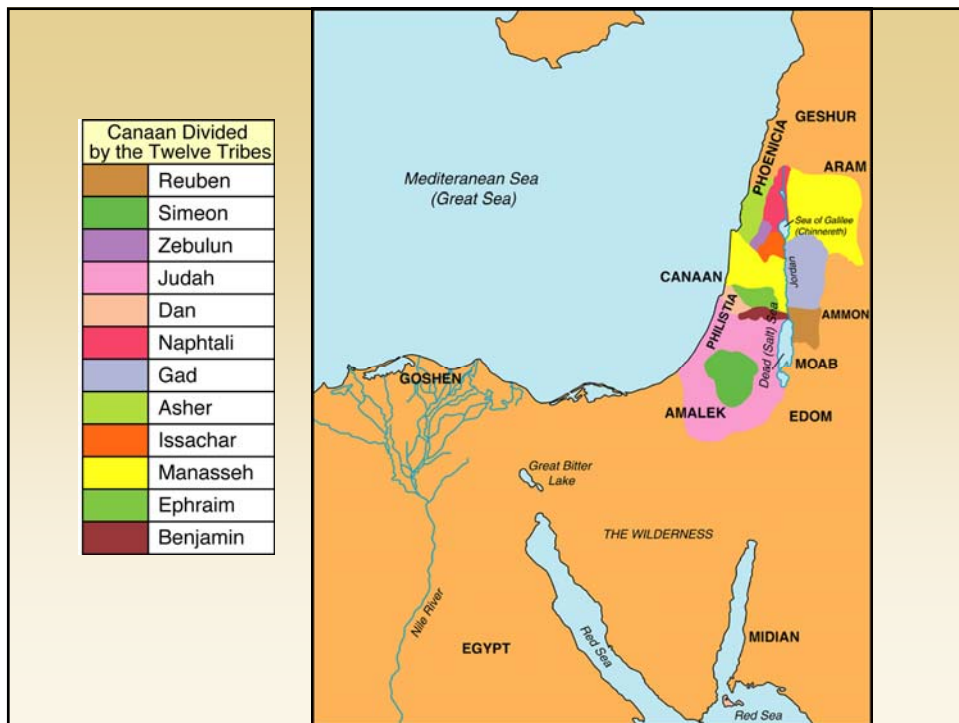
- ❖ birth
- ❖ life
- ❖ death
- ❖ life after death
- ❖ life after "life after death"
  - This is resurrection!
- ❖ Israel's birth
- ❖ Israel's life
- ❖ Israel's death
- ❖ Israel's life after death
- ❖ Israel's life after "life after death"
  - The resurrection of Israel!



## *The stages in the life of Israel*

- ❖ Israel's birth
  - What do we mean by "Israel"? (1) A people and (2) a place
  - Abraham and Moses
- ❖ Israel's life
  - The time of the judges & the age of kings
- ❖ The death of Israel and the death of Judah
  - The destruction of Israel at the hands of the Assyrians in 722BC
  - The exile of Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple at the hands of the Babylonians in 587BC
- ❖ Israel's (Judah's) life after death
  - Cyrus of Persia allows the exiles to return to the land. BUT!! – is this really the end of the exile?
- ❖ The resurrection of Israel
  - Jesus and the coming of God's kingdom







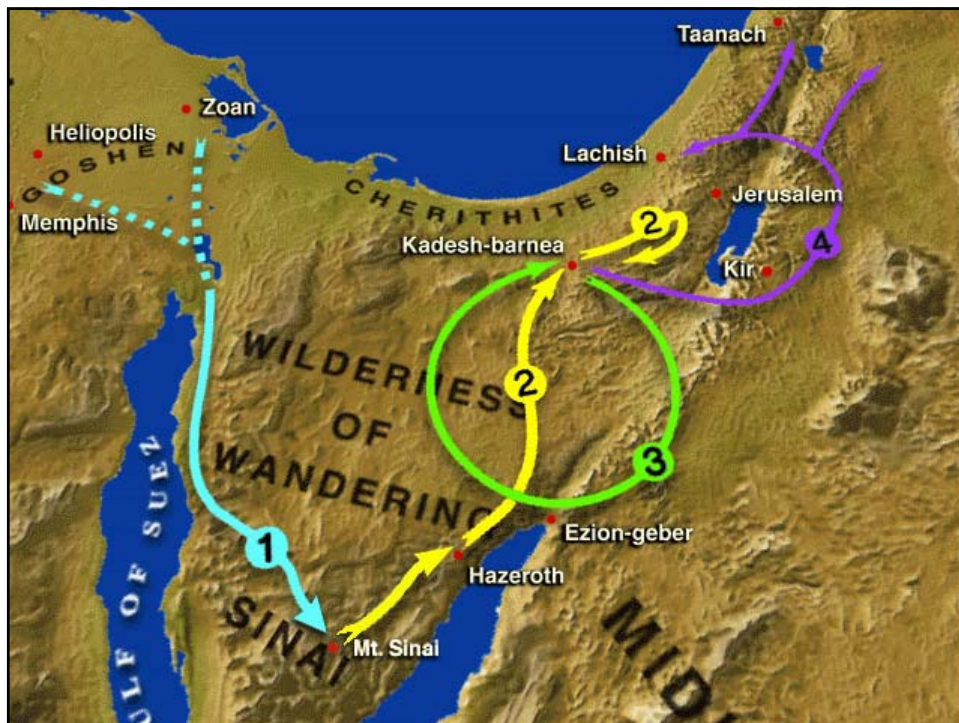


## *Moses and the birth of Israel*

- ❖ The story of Israel's birth really begins with Abraham (see Genesis 12).
- ❖ But it is Moses whom God chooses to form his people. Moses will lead the Hebrews out of Egypt and shape them into God's people.
  - Moses is the law-giver, the prophet who brings God's covenant to the Hebrews, shaping them into the people of Israel. This covenant is what would make them a people and a nation.
  - Moses will lead the people to the Promised Land.
- ❖ Moses' prophetic work is found in his actions and his words.

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13





## *Stories of Moses – chapters 32-34 in Exodus*

- ❖ A three-fold story is told: the covenant is broken, Moses intercedes with God; the covenant is renewed and restored
  - Sin, punishment, intercession, and forgiveness
- ❖ Chapter 32 – the golden calf!
  - Moses is so angry that he smashes the tablets
  - Moses intercedes with God
- ❖ Moses glimpses God -- Exodus 33:12-23
- ❖ Chapter 34 – the covenant is renewed
  - New tablets are made
  - Moses' face shines with the glory of God when he comes back down the mountain



## *Next week*

- ❖ As a nation, Israel comes to life in the time of the judges, but it is a life lived apart from God. See the last verse of Judges!
- ❖ God raises up a new prophet, Samuel, who will anoint a king, Saul, giving birth to the kingdom of Israel.
- ❖ We'll look at some stories of Samuel and of David.