

## YEAR ONE

Monday, April 27, 2020: Deacon Tom Broderick:

NOTE: To contact me call (209) 380-1915 or e-mail broderit@aol.com

### OLD TESTAMENT (Hebrew Scripture) FOUNDATIONS: Genesis through Kings.

#### III.5 David and Nathan

In the Gospels, sometimes the Evangelists have Jesus referring to Hebrew Scriptures as **THE LAW and THE PROPHETS**.

**In the passage of the Transfiguration, Jesus stands between Moses (THE TORAH/Instruction or Law) and Elisha (THE SPIRIT FILLED Charasmatic Leader who represents ALL "PROPHETS).**

**In the time of Jesus, (Second Temple) and modern Judaism the books we are now studying are not call "historical books". This is how Christians name the books immediately following TORAH. The Jewish traditions calls them EARLY PROPHETS.**

**In the Gospels when people refer to Jesus as *mighty in deed* or as *a prophet*, generally they are acknowledging Jesus as a SPRIT FILLED LEADER who helps the PEOPLE OF GOD.**

#### What is a Prophet?

<http://www.jewfaq.org/prophet.htm>

Many people today think of a prophet as any person who sees the future. While the gift of prophecy certainly includes the ability to see the future, a prophet is far more than just a person with the ability to see "the future"..

A prophet is basically a spokesman for God, a person chosen by God to speak to people on God's behalf and convey a message or teaching. Prophets were role models of holiness, scholarship and closeness to G-d. They set the standards for the entire community.

The Hebrew word for a prophet, navi (Nun-Beit-Yod-Alef) comes from the term niv sefatayim meaning "fruit of the lips," which emphasizes the prophet's role as a speaker.

The Talmud teaches that there were hundreds of thousands of prophets: twice as many as the number of people who left Egypt, which was 600,000. But most of the

prophets conveyed messages that were intended solely for their own generation and were not reported in scripture. Scripture identifies only 55 prophets of Israel.

A prophet is not necessarily a man. Scripture records the stories of seven female prophets, listed below, and the Talmud reports that Sarah's prophetic ability was superior to Abraham's.

A prophet is not necessarily a Jew. The Talmud reports that there were prophets among the gentiles (most notably Balaam, although they were not as elevated as the prophets of Israel (as the story of Balaam demonstrates). And some of the prophets, such as Jonah, were sent on missions to speak to the gentiles.

According to some views, prophecy is not a gift that is arbitrarily conferred upon people; rather, it is the culmination of a person's spiritual and ethical development. When a person reaches a sufficient level of spiritual and ethical achievement, the Shechinah (Divine Spirit) comes to rest upon him or her. Likewise, the gift of prophecy leaves the person if that person lapses from his or her spiritual and ethical perfection.

The greatest of the prophets was Moses. It is said that Moses saw all that all of the other prophets combined saw, and more. Moses saw the whole of the Torah, including the Prophets and the Writings that were written hundreds of years later. All subsequent prophecy was merely an expression of what Moses had already seen. Thus, it is taught that nothing in the Prophets or the Writings can be in conflict with Moses' writings, because Moses saw it all in advance.

The Talmud states that the writings of the prophets will not be necessary in *The World to Come*, because in that day, all people will be mentally, spiritually and ethically perfect, and all will have the gift of prophecy.