

FEATS Facilitators Guide
Module 6 – Deuteronomy and the Prophets
Homework for Learning Session 3

Reading the Prophets is like trying to drink from a fire hose – you’ll get some but you know a whole lot is getting by you. As we saw last time, much of the confusion is because the prophets are speaking in very specific ways to their specific social and historical context.

Another factor is that the prophets also assume that you have a very strong understanding of all of the previous parts of the Bible. Our study of Amos and Hosea showed us how these books assume we know the book of Deuteronomy, something they share with all of the Pre-Exilic prophets, the books that address Israel prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 bce.

With the Post-Exilic Prophets (after 586 bce), the books also assume knowledge of earlier prophets along with Deuteronomy. Our study will focus on how the later part of Isaiah and Zechariah respond to Israel’s new circumstances and how they reinterpret earlier parts of the Bible.

This process of reinterpretation and reaction is not unique to the Prophets – it reaches full flower in the teaching of Jesus. We’ll finish up by exploring how Jesus teaching in Luke reinterprets Deuteronomy.

Homework Assignments

Read Isaiah 40-55 and Zechariah 2-3 times each. As you read, develop notes for each book to enable you to answer and discuss the following questions:

- What is this book’s literary style? (Examples: How does it use repetition, sentence structure, catch phrases? Is it economical or expansive in it’s use of space?)
- What are the main issues each prophet addresses?
- Compare and contrast how Isaiah understands the covenant with Hosea and Amos
- Compare and contrast the approach to the Gentile nations in Amos 1 with the approach in Zechariah 9.
- Many scholars suggest that Luke arranges Jesus teaching (Luke 9-22) to have them serve as a tacit commentary on the book of Deuteronomy, in which Jesus either reaffirms, changes, or contravenes the teaching of the earlier book.

Download the following pdf:

http://www.readers.cofe.anglican.org/u_d_lib_res/r117.pdf and then evaluate with Jesus is doing in each of the pairs of verses.