

Israel according to the Prophets

DR. ROBERT B. CHISHOLM, JR.

Study Questions

1. Review the five major themes in the prophets' vision of Israel's future. Which elements of the vision were fulfilled in history? Which were not?
2. Review what the prophets say about the role of Israel's repentance in the fulfillment of the prophetic vision. Why is this so important in understanding the fulfillment (or lack of fulfillment) of the prophetic vision?
3. According to the author of this chapter, what are some problems with the so-called hyper-literal approach to the fulfillment of the prophets' vision? Do you agree with the author? Why/Why not?
4. What does the author of the chapter mean by "essential fulfillment"? What examples from 1-2 Kings does he offer to support this concept? Do you agree with his interpretation of these texts? Why/Why not?
5. Look carefully at the examples of essential fulfillment cited by the author. In each case how did the exercise of human freedom alter the fulfillment of the prophecy? In what way(s) was the prophecy essentially fulfilled?
6. What does the author mean by "contextualization" and "archetypal language"? What prophecies does he cite as examples of this? Do you agree with his interpretation of these texts? Why/Why not?
7. How does a hyper-literal model of prophetic fulfillment understand the prophecy of Israel's return from Assyrian exile? Why is this problematic? How is the return from exile understood in the essential fulfillment model?
8. How does a hyper-literal model of prophetic fulfillment understand the prophecy of the reunification of the northern and southern kingdoms? Why is this problematic? How is the prophecy of reunification understood in the essential fulfillment model?
9. In what ways do the prophets speak of the Messiah in relationship to David? How is this variety understood in the essential fulfillment model?
10. With whom does God make a new covenant? How is the prophetic vision of a new covenant with Israel to be harmonized with the New Testament's teaching that the Church is a participant in the new covenant?