

January 19

Prophetic Warnings and III

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I have read: Amos 1-9, Hosea 1-14, Joel 1-3,
Micah 1-7, Syllabus pp 40-52,
Sperry, 274-315, 334-351 and Jonah.

WHAT HAPPENED: If Israel ^{were} was scattered and her kingdom taken away from her, it was certainly because of her own disobedience and not for lack of warning from the Lord through his Prophets. One wonders what would have happened if Israel and Judah had repented and turned about-face as did the inhabitants and King of Ninevah in response to the warnings of the Lord through Jonah. Jonah was almost hilarious in his response to the repentance of Ninevah. He didn't WANT them to repent--he wanted them to be destroyed. Jonah is important, in my opinion, because it shows that God loves ALL of his children and that through repentance and humility, the prophecies of the Lord can be turned aside. It happens all too often, however, that repentance is not forthcoming.

Frankly, it was difficult for me to separate the prophecies of these men as to things to happen soon (in his time) to Israel and Judah and what would happen in the last days, ^{Join the club!} In this respect, I found Sidney B. Sperry's "The Voice of Israel's Prophet's" to be very helpful. Prior to reading his book, I had consulted a protestant commentary on the bible (Dummelow, M.A, "The One Volume Bible Commentary", and was not at all satisfied with his version of "The Day of the Lord."

The message that came across strong to me through all of these books, however, was that the Lord WOULD eventually redeem Israel, predicated, of course, upon their acceptance of him and their obedience to the covenants that he made with Abraham. It is probably these promises that have kept the Israelites ^{even} in their scattered condition) a distinct and unique people. (Now, if they would only accept the Gospel and Christ as their Savior!)

EVALUATION-CONCLUSION. What further need for guidance do we have in our day? All the prophets and their teachings, wherever they appear in our scriptures are of great value to us in our lives. However, it is very comforting to me to know that we have prophets in our own day to teach us the word of the Lord, let us know his will for us, and interpret his teachings. We are promised, in our time, that if we obey his Prophets we will be blessed. The danger to us, as to those in ancient times, is that we will not listen, or that we will listen to only those parts of their teachings that are "convenient" for us.

3. It seems significant to me that these writings alone of these prophets have survived to be in our Bible. Why these parts? Significant, to me, in that it was from these prophets that Moroni quoted when he came to Joseph Smith. (Joel 2:28-32). "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as the Lord hath said, And among the "remnant" *those whom the Lord shall call." Indicating, again, the Lord's love for all his people and especially those of Israel.

The Lord himself quotes from Micah ^{or Himself as quoted by Micah} when he appears as a resurrected being to the Nephites, (346-7, Sperry) when he gives a prediction that is very pertinent to our day, namely, that if the "Gentile nations do not repent the remnant of Israel shall have power over them." We are a gentile nation. Will we heed the warnings of the Savior--or will we be destroyed or overcome--and if so, how will this ^a effect us, the Latter-day-Saints, who are of Ephraim? I intend to do some more reading on this particular issue--it is one of those I have not fully satisfied in my own mind.

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*Remnant.(?) Does he mean Remnant of those that escape, or "Remnant" of the blood of Israel? *could these both mean the same?*

I think so