

Best Pearls from the Prophets

Lesson #1

Begun with Pearls #88

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“Teacher” - Heard Lowry

Pearls from the Prophets

1

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

Meaningless Worship

Stop bringing meaningless offerings!

Your incense is detestable to me.

I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

I hate [them] with all my being.

Isaiah 1:13-14

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

True Worship

**Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.**

Isaiah 1:17

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Message

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord.

**“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.**

Isaiah 1:18

Jesus is the light of the world.

**Living near him
is the brightest place in the universe.**

John Piper

Total Sacrifice

Moses was willing to be blotted out of God's book, Exodus 32:32

Exodus 32:30-32; The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin — but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

Paul considering giving up his salvation for his people, Romans 9:2-4

I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

[Later he let go of his mission to the Jews in favor of the Gentiles]

Interesting Notes

Sometimes a need was not made known to the prophet:

When the Shunnamite's son died,
she went to Elisha without telling anyone the reason.

When she reached the man of God at the mountain,
she took hold of his feet.

Gehazi came over to push her away,
but the man of God said,
“Leave her alone!
She is in bitter distress,
but **the LORD has hidden it from me**
and has not told me why.”

2 Kings 4:27

The prophet was not given all knowledge...

Interesting Notes

[A prophet in the time of Gideon]

When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, **he sent them a prophet**, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:

I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’

But you have not listened to me.”

Judges 6:7-10

[the angel of the Lord came to Gideon afterwards]

This is a very early presentation of a prophet;
I had not really seen this before.

Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

[Paul preaches at Rome under guard (1)]

They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying.

He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus.

Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.

They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement...

Acts 28:23-25a

Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

[Paul preaches at Rome under guard (2)]

“The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

‘Go to this people and say,
“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”

For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.’ [Isaiah 6:9,10 Septuagint]

“Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!”

Acts 28:25b-29

Pointing to Christ

(They still did **not understand**
from Scripture
that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

John 20:9

Pointing to Christ

On hearing his words,
some of the people said,
“Surely this man is the Prophet.”

Others said, “He is the Messiah.”

Still others asked,
“How can the Messiah come from Galilee?
Does not **Scripture** say that the Messiah
will come from David’s descendants
and from Bethlehem,
the town where David lived?”

John 7:40-42

The Best Pearls from all the Prophets

What should we remember the most?

What helps us understand God the most?

What helps us understand how God pointed to Christ?

What helps us understand most what God wants from us?

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Call – and the Answer

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “**Here am I. Send me!**”

Isaiah 6:8

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

Perceiving the Glory of God

I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; ...
Above him were seraphim, each with six wings ...
And they were calling to one another:
**“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

Isaiah 6:1-3

He said, “Go and tell this people:
“Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’
Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull and close their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

Isaiah 6:9-10

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

A Son is Given

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

“The virgin [or young woman] will conceive and give birth to a son,
and will **call him Immanuel [God with us]**.”

Isaiah 7:14

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 9:6-7

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Way

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ...
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

Isaiah 40:3,5

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Davidic King

**A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.**

**The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.**

Isaiah 11:1-3a

**“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;
the one who relies on it
will never be stricken with panic.**

Isaiah 28:16

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

Meaningless Worship

The Lord says:

**“These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.**

**Their worship of me
is based on merely human rules
they have been taught.**

Isaiah 29:13

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

Infusion of Strength

“See, I will create **new heavens and a new earth.**
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.”

Isaiah 65:17

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

God's Plan is for All Nations

I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a **light for the Gentiles**, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 42:6-7

I will also make you a **light for the Gentiles**, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Isaiah 49:6b

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**”

Isaiah 56:7

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Suffering and Glory of the Servant Savior

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was **crushed for our iniquities**;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Suffering and Glory of the Servant Savior

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.
He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah 53:6-9

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Suffering and Glory of the Servant Savior

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Greatness of God

**“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.**

**“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”**

Isaiah 55:8-9

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

True Worship

**“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”**

**Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter -
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?**

**Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.**

Isaiah 58:6-8

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

The Power of the Savior

He saw that there was no one ... to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.

He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

Isaiah 59:16-17

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor...

Isaiah 61:1-2a

The Best Pearls from Isaiah

New Heavens and Earth

**“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.”**

Isaiah 65:17

**The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent’s food.**

Isaiah 65:25

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

The Call of Jeremiah

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, [see Psalm 139:13]
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a **prophet to the nations.**”

“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said,

“I do not know how to speak;
I am too young.”

[remember Moses?]
[a child...]

Jeremiah 1:4-6

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

The Davidic King

... I will give you shepherds after my own heart, [like David]
who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:14-15

“The days are coming ... when I will raise up for David
a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land. [the worthy way]

... he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior. Jeremiah 23:5-6

I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter;
I did not realize that they had plotted against me ... Jeremiah 11:18

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

This is the name ...: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.'

David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel,

Jeremiah 33:14-17

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

Circumcised Hearts

Circumcise yourselves to the Lord,
circumcise your hearts,
you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,
or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire
because of the evil you have done –
burn with no one to quench it.

Jeremiah 4:4

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh –
For all these nations are really uncircumcised,
and even the whole house of Israel
is uncircumcised in heart.”

Jeremiah 9:25-26

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

Missing the Point

... you ... have eyes but do not see ... have ears but do not hear:
Should you not fear me? declares the Lord. Jeremiah 5:21-22

Do not trust in deceptive words and say,
“This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord,
the temple of the Lord!” Jeremiah 7:5-8

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.
‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.
... No, they have no shame at all;
they do not even know how to blush. Jeremiah 6:14-15a

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.
“Peace, peace,” they say, when there is no peace.”
Jeremiah 8:9-12a

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?
Jeremiah 8:21-22

Obedience driven by **delight
is far better
than obedience
driven by duty alone.**

Landon Dowden

Contrast Between Abraham's Sons

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his “only” son Isaac, but God saved the boy (Gen 22:1-19).

Earlier, God had told Abraham to let Ishmael go (sacrifice?), but then saved him, too (Gen 21:8-21).

Note that Isaac is noted as Abraham's “only” son, Gen 22:2,12,16

This mostly refers to the pre-eminence of Isaac in God's providence; this is a parallel to the idea of Jesus Christ being God's “only” son, even though we are all to be children of God

Interesting Notes

Concerning this salvation, **the prophets**, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care. ...

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.

Even angels long to look into these things.

1 Peter 1:10, 12

The angels never get tired of looking into the gospel.

This means that there is no end to gospel exploration.

There are depths in the gospel that are always there to be discovered and applied not only to our ministry and daily Christian life, but above all to the worship of the God of the gospel with renewed vision and humility.

J. D. Greear

Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

[No One Is Righteous – neither Jew nor Gentile]

[5 OT quotes]

As it is written:

**“There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.**

**All have turned away, they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.”** **[Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Eccles. 7:20]**

**“Their throats are open graves;
their tongues practice deceit.”**

[Psalm 5:9]

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

[Psalm 140:3]

“Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

[Psalm 10:7 Sep]

**“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
ruin and misery mark their ways,
and the way of peace they do not know.”**

[Psalm 59:7,8]

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

[Psalm 36:1]

Acts 28:25b-29

Pointing to Christ

**So, imagine what we would do if we didn't have
Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.**

**How would we know Jesus
and make sense of our experience of Christ?**

**We probably would follow Paul's example,
poring over the Old Testament to see the story of
Jesus and our life together in Christ
on every page.**

**Paul would remind us
that we are part of a bigger story.**

David B. Capes, Rodney Reeves, and Randolph E. Richards

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

False Worship and not Helping the Helpless

Their evil deeds have no limit;
they do not seek justice.

They do not promote the case of the fatherless;
they do not defend the just cause of the poor.

Jeremiah 5:28

Your burnt offerings are not acceptable;
your sacrifices do not please me.

Jeremiah 6:18-20

... do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow
and do not shed innocent blood in this place,
and ... do not follow other gods to your own harm...

Jeremiah 7:7

... prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.

Jeremiah 8:8

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

God's People

Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people.

Jeremiah 7:22b-24

**Obey me and do everything I command you,
and you will be my people, and I will be your God.**

Jeremiah 11:1-5

I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord.

They will be my people, and I will be their God,

for they will return to me with all their heart. Jeremiah 24:4b-10

'But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,'

“So you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

Jeremiah 30:18-22

“I will be the God of all the families of Israel,

and they will be my people.”

Jeremiah 31:1

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

The Almighty Characteristics of God

[God is not Limited by Space]

“Am I only a God nearby, ... and not a God far away?

Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?

Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

[God is all Powerful]

“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind.

Is anything too hard for me?”

Jeremiah 32:26-27

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

God's Earnest Plea

**“You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all your heart.
I will be found by you,” declares the Lord,**

Jeremiah 29:12-14

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

The New Covenant

“The days are coming ...
when I will make a **new covenant**
with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the **covenant** I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my **covenant**,
though I was a husband to them ...

This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time

I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

The Best Pearls from Jeremiah

Chapters 35 – 38 and 51

The Rekabites – the standard of faithfulness. They were asked to not partake of any grape product, and they stood by this for generations.

Jeremiah 35:1-17

Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll. He cut off strips of the scroll and threw them in the fire with great contempt. Jeremiah dictated it again to Baruch, and this story and many other things were added.

Jeremiah 36:1-32

Jeremiah in Prison for desertion – they would have been smart to let him go! He was put in a vaulted cell, then thrown into a muddy cistern, then rescued and put back in the courtyard of the guard.

Jeremiah 37:1-21

Zedekiah Questions Jeremiah Again about the future of Judah.

Jeremiah 38:14-18

God made the earth by his power, wisdom, and understanding.

Jeremiah 51:15-16

Picking the Pearls from Ezekiel

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 12

[Vision: The Promise of Israel's Return – a New Heart]

I will give them **an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them;**
I will remove from them their heart of stone
and give them a heart of flesh.

Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
They will be my people, and I will be their God.

But as for those whose hearts are devoted
to their vile images and detestable idols,
I will bring down on their own heads what they have done,
declares the Sovereign Lord.”

Ezekiel 12:14-21

Then the people of Israel will no longer stray from me ... **They will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Sovereign Lord.”**

Ezekiel 14:11

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 18

Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed,
and **get a new heart and a new spirit.**

Why will you die, people of Israel?

Ezekiel 18:31

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 33

Ezekiel's prophetic words are ignored by the people

Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

“When all this comes true — and it surely will — then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

Ezekiel 33:32-33

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 34

The Lord Will Be Israel's **Shepherd**

“As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

**I will judge between one sheep and another,
and between rams and goats.**

Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture?

Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet?

Is it not enough for you to drink clear water?

Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?

**Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink
what you have muddied with your feet?**

Ezekiel 34:17-19

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 34

The Lord Will Be Israel's Shepherd

“I will make a **covenant** of peace with them ...

I will send down showers in season;
there will be showers of blessing.

The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops;
the people will be secure in their land.

They will know that I am the Lord,
when I break the bars of their yoke
and rescue them from the hands
of those who enslaved them.

...

You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture,
and I am your God, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

Ezekiel 34:25-29, 31

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 36

For I will take you out of the nations;
I will gather you from all the countries
and bring you back into your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;
I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

**I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit in you;**

I will remove from you your heart of stone [heart transplant]
and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you ["move us"]
to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors;
you will be my people,
and I will be your God.

Two “core” ideas (in red) ...

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 37

The Valley of Dry Bones

Then he said to me:

“Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel.

They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’

Therefore prophesy and say to them:

‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

My people, I am going to open your graves
and bring you up from them;

I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord,
when I open your graves and bring you up from them.

I will put my Spirit in you and you will live,
and I will settle you in your own land.

Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken,
and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 37

[Two Sticks of Wood]

Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them,

‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone.

I will gather them from all around

and bring them back into their own land.

I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.

There will be one king over all of them

and they will never again be two nations [relate to denominations?]

or be divided into two kingdoms.

They will no longer defile themselves

with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses,

for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding,

and I will cleanse them.

**They will be my people,
and I will be their God.**

Main theme!

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 37

[Two Sticks of Wood]

“My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd.

They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees.

They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob,
the land where your ancestors lived.

Image: worldly kingdom

They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever,
and David my servant will be their prince forever.

I will make a **covenant of peace** with them;
it will be an **everlasting covenant**.

I will establish them and increase their numbers,
and I will put my sanctuary among them forever.

There will be a
higher level of unity
in the ultimate
Kingdom of God!

My dwelling place will be with them;

a main theme!

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy,
when my sanctuary is among them forever.”

Ezekiel 37:24-28

**The God who creates ex nihilo,
something out of nothing,
can create exoduses
through anything.**

Ann Voskamp

Adam and Christ

Adam and Eve disobeyed and brought us death.

Christ, the last Adam, obeyed and brought us life.

The Old Testament shows sin in all its dimensions.

Christ brings salvation in all its dimensions.

**The covenant with Israel was made through Moses at Mount Sinai,
sealed with the sacrificial blood of animals, and called for obedience to the law.**

**The new covenant was made through Christ, sealed with the blood of his self-sacrifice,
and calls for the obedience of faith through the Holy Spirit.**

In the Old Testament nobody could go into the presence of God in the holiest place in the temple except the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement.

Dramatically, at the moment of Christ's death, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, for Christ's own sacrifice has opened the way for us to enter into God's presence.

**In the Old Testament God redeemed one nation, Israel,
and other nations were not included yet in the people of God.**

**In Christ, God extends redemption to all nations,
and Gentiles are included in God's family.**

**The Old Testament story takes place primarily in one land,
promised and given to one people.**

**Christ sends his disciples to take the good news to the ends of the earth
and to all peoples (as the Old Testament itself promised).**

Interesting Notes

... there's a little phrase at the beginning of Daniel 3 that should catch your attention.

It says that Nebuchadnezzar had gathered together people of every "tribe, tongue and nation."

This was the first time all the nations have been gathered together since the scattering at the Tower of Babel.

J. D. Greear

Picking the Pearls

Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom – in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the **Scriptures**, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

Daniel 9:1-2

Picking the Pearls

Pointing to Christ

[If we didn't have the gospels, but did have Hebrews]

... we'd be listening for Jesus himself to speak to us through the Scriptures.

Although Isaiah is the one prophesying in Isaiah 8:17-18, the Preacher assumes that he is listening to Jesus talking (Hebrews 2:13).

Similarly, Psalm 40 may be a Davidic psalm, but the Preacher hears the voice of the priestly Jesus coming through loud and clear (Hebrews 10:5-6).

David B. Capes, Rodney Reeves, and Randolph E. Richards

The Best Pearls from all the Prophets

What should we remember the most?

What helps us understand God the most?

What helps us understand how God pointed to Christ?

What helps us understand most what God wants from us?

The Best Pearls from Amos

The Best Pearls from Amos

Chapter 4

Note the literary form that Amos used here:

[God punished the people]

... yet you have not returned to me,
declares the Lord.

This was applied to:

famine
drought
blight and mildew
plagues
overthrow

[... and the result is...]

“... prepare to meet your God”

Amos 4:12

Amos has one central point: Israel must “prepare to meet your God”.

Trent Butler

The Best Pearls from Amos

Chapter 5

[Amos' summary]

Seek good, not evil,
that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you,
just as you say he is.

Hate evil, love good;
maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the Lord God Almighty
will have mercy
on the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:14-15

The Best Pearls from Amos

Chapter 5

[False Worship]

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.

Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.

**But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!**

Amos 5:21-24

But you have turned justice into poison
and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness—

Amos 6:12b

The Best Pearls from Amos

Chapters 7 and 8

[... but then...]

This is what he showed me (7:7):

... a plumb line (7:7)

[What do you see, Amos?]

Then the Lord said,

“Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel;
I will spare them no longer.” (7:8)

This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me (8:1):

... a basket of ripe fruit (8:1)

[What do you see, Amos?]

Then the Lord said to me (8:2),

“The time is ripe for my people Israel;
I will spare them no longer.” (vs 8:2)

The Best Pearls from Daniel

The Best Pearls from Daniel

Chapter 3

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him,
“King Nebuchadnezzar,
we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.
If we are thrown into the blazing furnace,
the God we serve is able to deliver us from it,
and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand.
But even if he does not,
we want you to know, Your Majesty,
that we will not serve your gods
or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Daniel 3:16-18

The Best Pearls from Daniel

Chapter 6

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published,
he went home to his upstairs room
where the windows opened toward Jerusalem.

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed,
giving thanks to his God,
just as he had done before.

Daniel 6:10

The Best Pearls from Daniel

Chapter 9

While I was speaking and praying,
confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel
and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill —
while I was still in prayer,
Gabriel,
the man I had seen in the earlier vision,
came to me in swift flight
about the time of the evening sacrifice.

Daniel 9:20-21

The Best Pearls from Hosea

The Best Pearls from Hosea

Chapters 1-2

[Hosea was told to marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, represent the unfaithfulness of the land to the Lord.]

The first child, a son, was named Jezreel, because of a massacre at Jezreel

The second child, a daughter, was named “not loved”

The third child, a son, was named “not my people”,
for the Lord said **“you are not my people, and I am not your God.”**

Hosea 1:1-9

“In that day I will respond,” declares the Lord ...

**I will plant her for myself in the land;
I will show my love to the one I called
‘Not my loved one.’**

**I will say to those called
‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’;
and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”**

Hosea 2:23

The Best Pearls from Hosea

Chapter 6

**For I desire mercy,
not sacrifice,
and acknowledgement of God
rather than burnt offerings.**

Hosea 6:6

The Best Pearls from Hosea

Chapter 10

Sow for yourselves righteousness,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord,
until he comes
and showers righteousness on you.

Hosea 10:12

The Best Pearls from Hosea

Chapter 13

I will ransom them from the power of the grave;
I will redeem them from death,
Where, O death, are your plagues
Where, O grave, is your destruction?

Hosea 13:14

The Best Pearls from Hosea

Chapter 14

The ways of the Lord are right;
the righteous walk in them,
but the rebellious stumble in them.

Hosea 14:9

The Best Pearls from Joel

The Best Pearls from Joel

Chapter 2

**Rend your heart,
and not your garments.**

Joel 2:11a

The Best Pearls from Joel

Chapter 2

[The Day of the Lord]

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful [awesome]
day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved ...

Joel 2:28-32a

The Best Pearls from Micah

The Best Pearls from Micah

Chapter 4

**Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.**

**He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.**

Micah 4:2

The Best Pearls from Micah

Chapter 6

With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:6-8

The Best Pearls from Micah

Chapter 7

...Though I have fallen,
I will rise.

Though I sit in darkness,
The Lord will be my light.

Micah 7:8

The Best Pearls from Nahum

The Best Pearls from Nahum

Chapter 1

The Lord is good,
a refuge in times of trouble. ...

Nahum 1:7

The Best Pearls from Habakkuk

The Best Pearls from Habakkuk

Chapter 1

... the Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth be silent before him.

Habakkuk 2:20

The Best Pearls from Habakkuk

Chapter 3

Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.

Habakkuk 3:17-19

The Best Pearls from Zechariah

The Best Pearls from Zechariah

Chapter 7

“This is what the Lord Almighty said:

**‘Administer true justice;
show mercy and compassion to one another.**

Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor.

**Do not plot evil against each other.’ [Do not think evil of one another]
Zechariah 7:9-10**

The Best Pearls from Zechariah

Chapter 8

... they will be my people,
and I will be faithful and righteous to them
as their God.

Zechariah 8:8

The Best Pearls from Zechariah

Chapter 9

The Coming of Zion's King

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

The Best Pearls from Zechariah

Chapter 11

Two Shepherds

The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them and said,
“I will not be your shepherd.

Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with **all** the nations. It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the Lord.

I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me **thirty pieces of silver**. And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter” — the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.

Then I broke my second staff called Union,
breaking the family bond between Judah and Israel.

“Woe to the worthless shepherd,
who deserts the flock!

The Best Pearls from Zechariah

Chapter 12-14

Other Messianic Passages

I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations.

All who try to move it will injure themselves.

Zechariah 12:3

They will look on me, the one they have pierced...

Zechariah 12:10

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David
and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Zechariah 13:1

These wounds I was given at the house of my friends.

Zechariah 13:6b

On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem ...

The Lord will be king over the whole earth.

On that day there will be one Lord
and his name the only name.

Zechariah 14:8-9

The Best Pearls from Zechariah

Chapter 13

I will say,

'They are my people',

and they will say,

'The Lord is our God.'

Zechariah 13:9c

The Best Pearls from Haggai

The Best Pearls from Haggai

Chapter 1

Give careful thought to your ways.

**You have planted much,
but harvested little.**

**You eat,
but never have enough.**

**You drink,
but never have your fill.**

**You put on clothes,
but are not warm.**

**You earn wages,
only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”**

Haggai 1:5b-6

The Best Pearls from Malachi

The Best Pearls from Malachi

Chapter 2-4

So guard yourself in your spirit,
and do not break faith.

Malachi 2:16b

... I will send my messenger,
who will prepare the way before me

Malachi 3:1

I the Lord do not change.

... Return to me, and I will return to you.

Malachi 3:6,7

“Test me in this”, says the Lord Almighty,

“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven

and pour out much blessing

that you will not have room enough for it.

Malachi 3:10

But for you who revere my name,

the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.

Malachi 4:2

The Best Pearls from Malachi

Chapter 4

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you
before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children,
and the hearts of the children to their parents;
or else I will come and strike the land
with total destruction.”

Malachi 4:5-6

The End