

SENIOR 6 SELF STUDY WORK

C.R.E PAPER 1

DAY 1

TOPIC: PROPHETIC INSTITUTION IN ISRAEL

By the 9th century, BC of covenant faith into Israel had greatly distorted especially by the syncretism, direct persecution like during the reign of king Ahab and the failure to maintain the Decalogue.

This was also due to the failure to maintain the idea of the theoretical society in which Yahweh was the true king of Israel. A prophet (Avabbi) in Hebrew is a person who speaks in the name of God and is chosen by God.

A prophet is God's spoke's man or God's Mouth piece

Prophets delivered God's divine message and formulated Israel's true mission in God's plan.

The authority of prophets wasn't in themselves or in their religious experiences. Or their opinions but in the one who had sent them.

Prophets stood for the covenant faith and law and therefore challenged those who failed to keep it.

The biblical prophets are classified into two categories.

- (i) The former/ non-canonical prophets
- (ii) The latter/ canonical prophets

The non- canonical prophets are those who prophesied and when preserved in writing but their names do not appear as titles of their message.

What they said (their message) is preserved in other accounts or events of rulers of the bible. Such prophets include Moses, Elijah, Elisha etc.

The canonical prophets on the other hand are those prophets whose message was preserved in the books bearing their names. Their prophetic message was written in their individual collections which take their names such prophet included, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel. The canonical prophets are classified into two categories

- (i) The major prophets
- (ii) The minor prophets.

The major prophets are prophets whose prophetic works are lengthy compared to those of minor prophets such prophets include Isaiah and Ezekiel.

Minor prophets are prophets whose works are short such prophets include Amos, Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi

In Israel's prophets, there was pre-exilic prophets exilic and post- exilic prophets

Per- exilic prophets are those who prophesied before exile like Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Exilic prophets are those who prophesied during exile like Ezekiel, Deutero, Isaiah.

Post- exilic prophets are those who prophesied after the end of exile like Ezra, Trito, Isaiah.

There were also prophets who prophesied at the courts of the Kings (Palaces like Samuel, Nathan, Elisha)

CHARACTERISTICS OF ISRAEL'S TRUE PROPHETS

True prophets were chosen and called by God hence they spoke in God's name.

A true prophet was one set aside by the direct revelation of God hence he had a personal experience with God.

The experience of a true prophet's call always forced him to speak and act on behalf of God regardless of his security and comfort.

Whatever a true prophet prophesied came true since their message came from God.

True prophets lived a Holy life which demonstrated to the Israelites how they are supposed to live.

True prophets were mediators between God and the Israelites

True prophets were not magicians or fore tellers but were God's special chosen messengers.

True prophets called people back to the covenant law and faith hence they confronted those who failed to keep it.

A true prophet stood alone prophesied independently.

True prophets performed prophetic symbols and signs under God's guidance like prophet Isaiah walked naked.

True prophets could be persecuted because of their true message and they would accept perpetuation.

True prophets communicated through proverbs like prophet Isaiah sung a song of the vineyard and prophet Amon sung a funeral song.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE PROPHETS IN ISRAEL

False prophets were not called by God hence they were not inspired by God's messages

They spoke in the name of Baal to whom they were serving (Jer 23)

They were professional cultic people hence were trained by other false prophets how to prophecy and deliver messages

They worked for money hence their message was always bought and influenced

Their prophecies used in most cases were given in violence (1 Sam 19”20- 24)

Their prophecies could not come true hence could not be fulfilled since they were liars

False prophets were not exemplary. They were sinners most of them were adulterers, thieves and drunkards

Their progress was always given in favour of the custom wanted to hear

They were always boastful of their positions (Jer 23:32)

False prophets worshipped idols and Baal

False prophets always avoided suffering

Their messages were their own imaginations (Jer 23:6)

They were always associated with worshipping places as their areas of operation.

They operated in groups of prophetic guides and were organized under a leader.

PROPHET ELIJAH AND KING AHAB

Ahab was son of Amri who became king of Israel and was described as the notorious (worst) king Israel has ever had.

King Ahab failed to defend, supervise and promote the covenant faith,

Because Israel was always under military threats by the neighbors he bought a marriage alliance with Siden by marrying Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal

Marrying Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal was against the masaic law.

Jezebel imported her own traditional practices, political and cultural into Israel.

Temples of the godless Asherah throughout Israel but most especially at D.

Jezebel likewise imported Baal prophet that were used and guided the Israelites in idol worship.

Jezebel also hunted and killed God's prophets.

Prophet Elijah eventually appeared on the scene to condemn Ahab for betraying his nation.

He also condemned Ahab for letting Jezebel his wife drive the leadership of Israel.

Elijah condemned Ahab for having led Israelites astray and therefore judgment was going to come upon him.

In his message, Elijah spoke without fear which all showed that God's power was working in Him.

The three-year drought in Israel.

(1 king 17:1)

Prophet Elijah announced the 3-year drought in Israel as commanded by God.

Israel had been driven into sinning by Ahab's wife.

According to Elijah, the lord doesn't destroy his people without warning

The drought was announced by prophet Elijah as a way of calling people to repentance

After prophet Elijah had announced the drought, he went to hide in the wilderness where he was fed by ravens and drunk water from the brook. (1 king 17:2-4)

He was later commanded by God to go to Sidon where a widow was to give him refuge.

While staying with the widow, Elijah helped her performing miracles like when he multiplied the flour and oil that kept her moving through out the drought.

Elijah also brought back to life the son of the widow who had died (1 Kings 17:23)

ACTIVITY 1

1. Examine the essential characteristics of true prophets in Israel?

Discuss the characteristics of false prophets in Israel

DAY 2

WHY ELIJAH ANNOUNCED THE THREE YEAR DROUGHT

Israelites had abandoned their God and had turned to Pagan gods of fertility hence Elijah announced the drought to show them that those gods could not bring rain.

Elijah wanted to show the Israelites the powerful nature of the God of Israel. As a powerful God, he stopped rain from coming. Elijah wanted to show God's anger when his people the Israelites and their king abandoned him and broke the Mosaic law.

Elijah wanted to show the Israelites that he was God's spokesman since it was through him that God announced judgement.

Elijah wanted to show God as the only provider of his people Israel since he was able to stop providing them with rain because of their unfaithfulness.

Elijah wanted to show himself as a true prophet of God who could announce drought and it happened as opposed to false prophets of Baal.

Elijah wanted to restore monotheism worship in Israel since the Israelites were worshipping Baal gods instead of Yahweh

Elijah wanted to reveal the lies of the false prophets of Baal who could not bring rains or offer any solution.

He wanted to show the God of Israel as a god of miracles by announcing drought for three years through his faithful servant.

He wanted to show that one person's sin Ahab could lead to the destruction of the whole Israel nation. The whole Israel faced drought because of Ahab's sin.

He wanted the Israelites to recognize Yahweh as their God since they were worshipping Baal gods of fertility instead of their God Yahweh.

He wanted to show that he was a true worshipper of Yahweh and also attract the Israelites from worshipping Baal gods to do the same.

He wanted to end Baal worship in Israel so that through the Israelites that through the drought Israelites can stop Baalism.

ELIJAH MEETING (CONFRONTATION/ATTACK) WITH KING AHAB (1 KINGS 18: 1-19)

In the 3rd year of the drought, God instructed Elijah to go and present himself to king Ahab.

After Elijah had come out of the hiding and presented himself to Ahab the drought was to come to an end as God's will.

The end of the drought was to be a sign to Israel that life belonged to Yahweh.

The reference to Obadiah and the 100 prophets of the Lord showed that there were some people in Israel who were still loyal to Yahweh in spite of Jezebel's persecution.

It should be noted that Ahab himself wasn't persecuting the followers of Yahweh but he did nothing to control his wife

Jezebel from persecuting Yahweh's prophets and enforcing Baal worship in Israel.

Ahab knew that Elijah had power to remove the curse of the drought but he failed to understand it and his own apostasy caused more drought.

Ahab had been searching for Elijah and when he eventually met him, he said to him "so there you are the worst trouble maker in Israel"

Elijah replied to Ahab's hostile words with great authority. He pointed out Ahab's sin as the cause of the trouble of Israel.

Elijah told king Ahab to call the prophets of Baal to Mt Carmel.

The contest with the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel was one of the most dramatic stories in the OT

The contest saved monotheism worship in Israel. Elijah accused the Israelites of limping with two different opinions, keeping one foot with Yahweh and another with baalism (syncertism).

The contest was to determine that Yahweh alone is God with control over rain and fertility. Both parties agreed to perform their respective rituals with the understanding that the God who answers by fire is God.

Baal prophets failed the contest when their prayers wea not answers by fire is God

Baal prophets failed the contest when their prayers were not answered by baal and hence no fire came down to consume the sacrifices.

When Elijah stepped forward, his first act was to repair the Altar of Yahweh.

This showed that Elijah was restoring the worship of Yahweh in Israel.

Elijah prayed and the supernatural fire came from heaven and consumed the sacrifices.

All the people exclaimed that of “Yahweh is God”.

The prophets of Baal were seized and killed as a way of respecting the act of Herem.

WHY THE CONTEST AT MT CARMEL

- Elijah wanted to fulfill God’s wish by organizing the Mt. Carmel contest since it is Yahweh who told Elijah to go and show himself to king Ahab.
- Elijah wanted to demonstrate the power of God over Baal when he prayed and God sent fire which burnt the sacrifice and all the stones yet the Baal prophet failed.
- Elijah wanted to show that Baal was an empty god in the contest, the prophet of Baal prayed and Baal failed to send fire upon the sacrifice.
- Elijah wanted to show the powerful nature of Yahweh to the people of Israel when he poured water on the sacrifice but Yahweh sent a fire which consumed the sacrifice and all the stones.
- Elijah wanted to protect the rights of the poor from Ahab and Jezebel’s dictatorship in the contest. Ahab and Jezebel were accused by Elijah for being behind all the sins in Israel including mistreating the poor.
- He wanted to show that Baal had no control over the fertility, rain and drought. The God of Israel had brought the 3 years of drought thru Elijah and after the contest, that God and not Baal brought rain thru Elijah.
- He wanted the Israelites to decide who the true God was. After Baal failing to send fire to burn the sacrifice and

Yahweh sent, Israelites were able to acknowledge Yahweh as the true God.

- He wanted to show that the prophets of Baal were false and useless. In the contest, Baal prophets prayed and as false hence useless.
- He wanted to show that God appreciates proper sacrifices. In the contest Elijah offered a proper sacrifices and God sent fire w/c burnt it as a sign of appreciating it.
- He wanted to demonstrate God's Holiness in the contest, Elijah 1st repaired the altar of the lord as a symbol of Holiness and the Holy God sent fire w/c burnt the sacrifice.
- He wanted to show Yahweh as a God of miracles. In the contest, God sent fire which burnt the sacrifice as a miracle.
- Elijah wanted to renew God's covenant with the people of Israel. Ahab and the Israelites had turned to Baal gods and with the contest at Mt Carmel the Israelites were able to turn back to the covenant faith.
- He wanted to show that Yahweh had power over life. Yahweh brought drought through Elijah and the people suffered and Yahweh brought rain through Elijah and people were able to live again.
- He wanted to show that the God of Israel is universal. As a universal God, he punished the prophet of Baal to death through Elijah for misleading the Israelites away from the covenant faith. He wanted to show Israel as a theocratic nation. In the contest, Elijah the prophet of God was alone but defeated the many prophets of Baal.
- Elijah wanted to encourage the prophets who were facing persecution. As a prophet of God, in the contest defeating the many prophets of Baal was an encouragement to other prophets of God who were being persecuted by Jezebel.

- He wanted to end the 3years drought in Israel after the contest, Elijah came prayed and there was rain in Israel.
- He wanted to show that he was a true prophet of God.
- Elijah wanted to show that he was a true worshipper of Yahweh. As a true worshipper of Yahweh in the contest, Elijah called upon the Israelites to worship Yahweh if he is God.
- He wanted to save the Israelites from spiritual darkness. Jezebel and the prophets of Baal had over powered monotheism hence the spiritual darkness which in the contest Elijah ended.
- He wanted to show the power of prayer. In the contest, Elijah prayed and the God of Israel sent fire which consumed the sacrifice.
- He wanted to end Baal worship in Israel. After the contest Elijah Arrested and killed the Baal prophets ending Baalism.
- Elijah wanted to show God's love in concern for.
- He wanted to restore the glory of God in Israel. God's glory in Israel had been occupied by Baal and Elijah restored it thru the contest
- He wanted to save Israel from God's destruction because of their apostasy. By Ahab's time many Israelites totally rejected Yahweh and worshipped Baal which ended through the contest

What is the relevance of the contest (struggle) on Mt. Carmel to modern religious leaders?

Modern religious leaders should:

- Be ready to defend the Christian faith
- Be ready to face challenges from non-believers

- Endure all forms of persecution from non- believers
- Worship only one true God
- Have trust in God to defend them during fear, confusion and persecution.
- Call upon God himself to deal with false religious leaders who come up
- Be committed to God's call amidst challenges
- Guard the Christians against false teachings support be faithful too God in all situations
- Advise political leaders when they are going wrong.
- Cleanse the Christian from all evils
- Consult God thru prayers
- Encourage Christians repent from their sins
- Run away for their lives when they are persecuted
- Confess the greatness of God thru words and actions

ACTIVITY 2

1. Justify prophet Elijah's announcement of the Drought in Israel?
2. Discuss the significance of the personality of Elijah in Israel?
3. Examine the prophetic role of Elijah in Israel's history?
4. Account for the contest at Mt Carmel between monotheism and Baalism

DAY 3

NABOTH'S VINEYARD (AHAB AND THE COVENANT LAW) (1 kings 21:1)

This story of corruption and murder showed the behavior of the king of Israel in relation to the covenant law.

Ahab wanted to buy the vineyard so as to enjoy more room.

Naboth could not sell the land because it belonged to the whole family.

The land was a sacred inheritance to the family hence Naboth refused since Yahweh had rejected it.

According to this attitude, Yahweh himself was the owner of the land.

The Israelites who had been settled on this land were keepers of Yahweh's property for the good of the whole community. (LEV 25:23)

The Israelites social systems was held together by the covenant law, even jezebel was afraid to directly challenge the covenant law hence undermined it by corruption,

Ahab had silently accepted a covenant stand taken by Naboth's land by falsely accusing Naboth of blasphemy (Exo 20:7) as well as treason.

Naboth was stoned to death and he was never given chance to defend himself

He even called sons who were to inherit him and were executed so that land was then left with no ownership (I kings (9:26).

From this incident, it is clear that Ahab had no intension of upholding the covenant law. If it did not suit him.

Ahab intended to rule in the style that foreign kings ruled when they ruled autocratically.

In a dramatic encounter between Elijah and Ahab, rightly describes Elijah as his enemy.

Elijah announced the Judgement of God on Ahab.

Ahab was condemned for murder, theft, false accusation, greed, violation of covenant law by piling riches for himself and allowing the influence of his wife

Total destruction of Ahab's family was announced by Elijah.

The story concludes with Ahab repenting but later he died in the battle field after ignoring the warnings of prophet Micaiah.

His body was buried in Samaria. (1 kings 22:35-34)

He was succeeded by his son Ahaziah who ruled for only two years.

REASONS WHICH LED TO NABOTH'S DEATH

- Lack of respect for human life. Ahab and Jezebel had no respect for human life that's why they found it easy to have Naboth Killed.
- Ahab's marriage to a pagan woman Jezebel led to Naboth's death. Among the pagan people the king had power over their subjects' life and property hence Jezebel influenced Ahab to behave like Pagan kings
- Naboth's vineyard being suitable for vegetable gardening led to his death. It was suitable for that purpose and when Ahab admired it, Naboth was killed.
- Jezebel accusing Naboth falsely caused his death. He was accused falsely of cursing God and blasphemy the punishment of which was his death.
- Naboth's faithfulness led to his death. He never wanted to break the law concerning the land since did not allow any Israelite to sell land this led to the loss of his life.

- The presence of the law concerning land led to his death, among the Israelites laws no Israelite was allowed to sell the land because it belonged to God and he was just a keeper of the land hence he refusal to break this existing law led to his death.
- Naboth died because of possessing (owning) a fertile which made Ahab admire it leading to loss of his life.
- Ahab's failure to live by God's law "you shall not admire another man's property" led to the death of Naboth".
- Ahab's greed led to Naboth's death. Ahab seemed not to be contented with the land he had possessed yet he was expected to be contented with the land he had as a king hence killing Naboth to add on the land he had.
- Moral decay in Israel during Ahab's time led to Naboth's death because Ahab and Jezebel were immoral, they ended up killing Naboth who was innocent.
- Naboth's vine yarded being suitable for vegetable gardening led to his death. It was suitable and when Ahab admired it Naboth was killed.
- Ahab's weak administrative skills led to Naboth's death where leadership to Israel was left to Jezebel his wife who ended up writing a letter which caused Naboth's death.
- Corruption in Israel at the time of Ahab led to Naboth's death. The men who killed Naboth were promised a reward something they fulfilled by killing an innocent person.
- Ahab's failure to control his feeling and emotions led to his death. When Naboth refused to sell him the vineyard, he refused to eat something which disturbed Jezebel his wife hence writing a letter that caused Naboth's death.

Why did Elijah condemn Ahab for taking Naboth's vineyard?

The vine yard belonged to members of Naboth's family and therefore it was Naboth's family member's property.

It was wrong for Naboth to sell the Vineyard to Ahab since it was against the covenant law that the land belonged to God.

Ahab violated the law of owning property which belonged to his subject something that was wrong according to the Mosaic law.

Ahab accused Naboth falsely for cursing the Lord which was not true in order to own his vineyard.

Ahab killed Naboth which was against the law do not kill, in order to grab his vineyard

Ahab took over the vineyard of a dead man Naboth something which was a violation of ownership of property in the Mosaic law.

Ahab was driven by his wife Jezebel to kill Naboth yet he knew the laws of Israel more than Jezebel like "do not kill"

Ahab decided to be a dictator like kings in Pagan nations by owning Naboth's vineyard.

Ahab had set Israel on the standards of pagan nations by taking over property of his servants Naboth.

Naboth was killed without being given chance to defend himself on the charges of cursing God which showed that there was no rule of law in Ahab's leadership.

Ahab was trying to pile Riches for himself thru false means by grabbing Naboth's vineyard.

How relevant is Naboth's death to political leaders?

Political leaders should;

- Be contented with what they have unlike Ahab who seemed not to be contented and grabbed Naboth's
- Have love for people they lead unlike Ahab and Jezebel who ended up killing Naboth innocently.
- They should respect religious days unlike Ahab and Jezebel who killed Ahab on the day of fasting
- Respect human life
- Lead people by example
- Be faithful to the laws of their country
- Seek for God's guidance
- Respect property of their subjects
- Follow God's laws
- Exercise justice in their leadership.

REASONS FOR PROPHET ELIJAH'S ATTACK ON KING AHAB

King Ahab married a foreign woman Jezebel this was selling himself to doing evil.

Ahab's wife Jezebel brought in Israel Baal gods hence Ahab selling himself to doing evil by welcoming foreign Baal gods in Israel.

Ahab worshipped Baal gods of Jezebel his wife hence selling himself.

Ahab's wife Jezebel killed God's prophet while Ahab did nothing to stop her hence devoted himself to doing evil.

Ahab's wife Jezebel hunted for killing God's prophet Elijah and Ahab did nothing to stop her hence selling himself to doing evil. Ahab provoked God's anger by sinning more than kings who came before him hence selling himself to doing evil.

Ahab's actions gave a bad example as a leader to the people of Israel hence selling himself to doing evil.

Ahab built a temple of Baal in Samaria which promoted Baalism hence selling himself to doing evil.

Ahab made an altar for Baal and put it in the lord's temple hence selling himself to doing evil.

Ahab made an image of the goddess Asherah in Israel which promoted idolatry hence selling himself to doing evil before God.

Ahab allowed Jezebel to control him and to run the affairs of Israel yet she was a foreign woman hence sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab honoured his wife Jezebel more than God like when Jezebel planned Naboth's death and Ahab accepted yet God had rejected killing

Ahab mistreated God's servants together with Jezebel like when both hunted for Elijah's death.

Ahab imported foreign prophets to Israel which act defiled the holy nation of Yahweh hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab respected the words of the imported prophets of baal instead of the words of Elijah the prophet of Yahweh hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab violated the rights of the Israelites as a way of pleasing Jezebel his wife like when he took over Naboth's vineyard as a way of pleasing his wife hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab admired Naboth's vineyard yet the Decalogue rejected a person to admire another Israelites property hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab accepted to use evil means and grab Naboth's Vineyard hence he sold himself to doing evil if he killed Naboth and grabbed the vineyard.

Ahab killed Naboth in order to grab his vineyard yet killing was not allowed in the 10 commandments hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahabs sins caused suffering to the people of Israel like his Baal gods brought in Israel and he worshipped them himself led to drought in Israel for three years.

He made political alliances with foreign kings hence marrying their princess jezebel in order to help him fight Assyrians who were his enemies yet Yahweh had rejected alliances hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab was blood thirsty as seen by killing an innocent man Naboth and many prophets of God hence sold himself to doing evil.

During Ahab's reign as king syncretism came to its climax in Israel where many Israelites begun worshipping Baal alongside Yahweh which was against the covenant laws hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab rejected Israelites from the North to go to Jerusalem and worship God and yet festivals like the Passover were celebrated from the Jerusalem temple hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab promoted temple prostitution by Israelites during worship which was an abuse to the covenant faith hence he sold himself to doing evil.

Ahab gave his 1st son as a sacrifice to Baal gods when building the temple for the gods of his wife hence he sold himself to doing evil.

The above are reasons for Prophet Elijah's attack.

ACTIVITY 3

1. Justify Prophet Elijah's attack on king Ahab?
2. Account for the disagreement between Prophet Elijah and King Ahab?
3. To what extent was king Ahab a liability in Israel?

DAY 4

What lessons do political leaders learn from Ahab's wickedness?

Political leaders should: -

- Respect the rights of the people they lead
- Consult God's prophets and religious leaders.
- Listen to God's servants for advice
- Practice monotheism
- Repent when they sin against God
- Be contented with what God has given them
- Love God's servants
- Lead people to God instead of leading them to small gods.
- Show faith in God
- Build God's places of worship instead of building for small gods
- Be exemplary to the people they lead

N.B

Avoid negative points such as: -

- Political leaders should not worship small gods
- Should not kill people they lead
- Should not fail to be a good example

Under what circumstances may (should) political leaders be criticized by religious leaders.

For question with “under what circumstances”, start all points with “when”/ “if”.

When political leaders;

- Kill God’s innocent people
- Grab people property like land
- Persecute and mistreat innocent people for one reason or the other
- Refuse to leave power
- Are corrupt
- Impose heavy taxes on people
- Make laws which undermine of rights of the people they lead - Fail to develop areas were they come from.
- Lead people to the worship of small gods
- Exercise nepotism in giving government jobs
- Promote tribalism among God’s people.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPHET ELIJAH IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY

Elijah appeared in Israel and showed that Yahweh was not happy because of their sins under Ahab their king.

He criticized Ahab for marrying Jezebel who had promoted Baalism in Israel.

He announced a three-year drought in Israel as a punishment for the sins of Israel and Ahab. The drought Elijah announced caused a shortage and a national crisis which led to suffering in Israel and led to repentance.

Elijah brought to life a widow's son who had died hence a true prophet of God.

God eventually sent rain upon Israel after Elijah had prayed for it which showed Yahweh as the only God of Israel.

He confronted the prophets of Baal and had victory over them at Mt. Carmel.

He prayed and God sent fire which burnt the sacrifice, the wood and stones which showed the powerful nature of Yahweh.

He ordered for the arrest of the prophets of Baal and killed them hence ending Baalism in Israel.

He cleansed Israel of Idol worship by ruling over the many prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel.

He anointed Elisha as his successor to continue with God's prophetic work as his ministry was about to come to an end.

He called upon the Israelites to observe the Sinai covenant in order to do what Yahweh wanted.

He condemned Ahab saying that he was the cause of the drought due to his sins.

Elijah ran and reached Jezeal after the Mt. Carmel contest before Ahab who was on a chariot which showed the power of Yahweh. He revived the covenant faith in Israel by preaching against Baal.

He openly challenged Ahab for worshipping idols which showed the characteristic of a true prophet of Yahweh.

He challenged Ahab and led him into repentance which made God to extend his judgment on Ahab and his family.

He fought against injustice in Israel which included the killing of innocent people like when Ahab led to the death of Naboth.

He repaired the altar for worshipping God which promoted monontheism in Israel especially when Ahab led to the death of Naboth.

He announced Jehu asking of Israel hence a true prophet of Yahweh

He announced the death of Jezebel and other family members of Ahab which ended Baal worship since Jezebel was the promoter. He prayed to God to have mercy on the Israelites and give them rain after three years of drought.

He threatened king Ahaziah with death because he asked for help from Baalism instead of Yahweh

He insisted on meeting Ahab to show him how sinful he was even when Obadiah was discouraging him hence a committed servant of Yahweh.

He confronted king Ahab without fear hence a model and a true prophet of Yahweh

KING AHAB CONSULTS PROPHET MICAIAH (1 KING 22)

Israel and the neighboring country of Syria had 3 years of peace. However king Ahab and king Jehoshaphat of Judah wanted to violate this peace by Invading Syria after making a military alliance

At this time there was another prophet of God apart from Elijah, Micaiah

Although Micaiah was consulted, the two kings also consulted 400 false prophets led by Zedekiah.

The false prophets encouraged the king to invade Syria and gave them the message of victory.

These prophets applied magic and wore horns on their heads while giving their message,

But when Micaiah came, he consulted God in prayers and stopped the kings from attacking Gilead in Syria

However, the two kings defiantly rejected Micaiah's prophecy

Ahab rebuked Micaiah and went ahead with the war plans and attacked Syria which was under king Benhadad.

According to (1 king 22: 28) Micaiah told Ahab that he would return safely. On attacking Syria, Ahab was killed making the words of God come true.

REASONS WHY AHAB CONSULTED PROPHET MICAIAH

(1 kings 22:1)

- Israel and Judah wanted to go in for a military alliance. Therefore, they wanted to know whether that alliance could get a blessing from God.
- Ahab wanted to know from God if the relationship he was making with king Jehoshaphat was justifiable

- Ahab wanted to reconquer Ramoth, Gilead that Israel had lost to Syria some years back hence seeking an encouragement from God.
- The two kings wanted to go to war and therefore wanted to get blessings and support from God.
- The two kings wanted to know whether they were to be victorious in the war against Ben-hadad in Syria
- The two kings wanted to verify whether the prophecy of victory the 400 prophets of Baal led by Jezebel would be similar to what Micaiah would give them.
- Ahab consulted Micaiah on the request of Jehoshaphat (king 22:7) hence it was not his initiative.
- Ahab consulted Micaiah on the request of Jehoshaphat (1 king 22:7) hence it was not his initiative
- The prophets of Baal were always giving messages of victory because they were working for money hence the two kings became concerned and wanted to get the truth from an independent prophet.
- Ahab had been condemned and rejected by God due to his evils hence he wanted to know if God had gradually forgiven him and was to support him in this war and others
- Ahab consulting Micaiah the prophet of God wanted to show that he was turning to God.
- The two- kings wanted to show God through Micaiah that the two- sister nations could still co- exist.

Reasons why prophet Micaiah pronounced death

- Ahab had consulted false prophets which was against the law which governed God's people hence he was punished by announcing his death.
- Ahab had refused to consult God through Micaiah until he was forced to do so by king Jehoshaphat and the reward was announcing his death.
- Ahab believed so much in the prophecies of victory given by the Baal prophets when he went ahead with the war preparations hence prophet Micaiah announcing his death.
- Ahab had known God's position but over looked it yet Micaiah had told him God's position which he rejected something that made Micaiah pass on God's judgement by announcing his death
- Ahab humiliated God's prophet Micaiah when he never condemned zelekiah a false prophet for slapping Micaiah in the face hence announcing his death (1 king 22:24)
- Ahab rejected Micaiah's prophecy and continued making arrangements for the war which annoyed God's prophet forcing him to announce his death.
- The war was to drain the state treasury and Ahab was therefore to be punished for it by death. Ahab had committed many sin like marrying Jezebel a foreign woman something that also led to the announcement of his death.
- Ahab had also worshipped false gods something that also led to the announcement of his death.
- Ahab had killed prophets of God something also that led to the announcement of his death.
- Ahab has rejected all the messages given by God's prophets like Elijah and disrespecting Micaiah led Him into big trouble of announcing his death.

- Ahab was determined to violate the people of political atmosphere existing by the wishes of God hence Micaiah announcing his death.
- Ahab made alliance with Jehoshaphat for evil purposes which was to cause a lot of suffering to the people of Israel hence announcing his death.

ACTIVITY 4

- 1.Examine the circumstances that led to Ahab's death
- 2.What lessons do political leaders learn from Ahab's wickedness?
- 3.Account for king Ahab's consultations with prophet Micaiah (1 kings 22:1)

DAY 5

THE REVOLUTION MADE BY JEHU:

The anointment of Jehu as king of Israel. (2 Kings 9:1)

Elisha called one of the young prophets and told him to go to Ramoth

A young prophet was told to carry with him a jar of olive oil.

When he would get to Ramoth, he was to look for Jehu .

He was to take Jehu to a private room and anoint him as king of Israel. This young prophet went to Ramoth and found army officers in the conference.

He asked to have a word with Jehu.

They went indoors and the young prophet poured olive oil on Jehu's head

The prophet proclaimed that the lord had anointed Jehu king of his people Israel.

Jehu was to bring to an end Ahab's family because Jesebel had murdered God's prophets.

He was to bring to an end Ahab's family because the family had brought Baalism in the life of the people of Israel.

He was to bring to an end Ahab's family because it had murdered Israelites

When Jehu went back to his fellow officers, they asked him whether everything was fine, Jehu told them that the lord had proclaimed him as king of Israel.

His fellow officers spread their cloaks for him, blew trumpets and shouted Jehu is king.

Jehu's reform's (positive achievement) in Israel?

- ✓ Jehu Killed Joram who had succeeded his father Ahab as king.
This was because Jehu knew that
- ✓ Joram supported his father's Baal worship
- ✓ He killed Jezebel who had brought Baalism in Israel.
- ✓ He killed the descendants of Ahab living in Samaria who had supported Baal worship
- ✓ He killed all Ahab's relatives when he reached Samaria Jehu organized to have all the worshippers of Baal killed and destroyed in Israel.
- ✓ Jehu brought out of the temple the sacred pillar of Baal and burnt it.
- ✓ Jehu brought down the Baal temples in Israel. This revived monotheism in Israel.
- ✓ Jehu killed all Ahab's chiefs and friends

- ✓ Jehu killed every one in Jezreel who had remained in the house of Ahab.
- ✓ Jehu Killed all the prophets of Baal as God had commanded him in order to bring spiritual revival in Israel.
- ✓ Jehu ordered for the killing of King Ahaziah of Judah.
- ✓ Jehu restored true worship in Israel by eliminating Baal worship
- ✓ He killed the relatives of king Ahaziah because they misled God's people.

However, negatively Jehu had the following contribution in Israel: -

- He failed to turn away from the sins of Jeroboam
- He worshipped the golden calves at Bethel
- He caused Israel to commit sins like Jeroboam
- He led to God reducing the size of Israel as a punishment to him;
- He did not remove all the forms of Canaanite worship in Israel.
- He didn't completely obey God's law with all his heart.

Relevance of Jehu's leadership to modern political leaders

- They should rule according to the law of God
- They should fulfill the promises they make when they are asking for votes like fulfilled God's intentions of being a king when he destroyed the house of Ahab for Baal worship.
- They should do God's will. He Killed Baal worshippers brought in by Ahab
- They should be faithful to God

- They should follow the laws so that it controls them from sinning.
- They should work hand in hand with religious leaders to do God's work
- They should guard against doing mistakes of those they replaced in office.
- They should accept leadership when they are called upon to serve.

KING JOSIAH OF JUDAH

(2 KINGS 22:1)

Josiah embarked on the re-dedication of the people and the temple of God.

He re-dedicated the temple as a way of purifying it from pagan influences

Re-dedicating the temple, Josiah interceded to purify Israel and Judah since Jerusalem was to become the official place of worship.

Josiah started with the repairing of the temple as a way of strengthening monotheism in Israel.

He destroyed the living quarters of prostitutes in the temple

He destroyed all the Pagan priests who were serving at the altar

He led to the discovering of the law book in the process of repairing the temple

The law book was read to him hence realized how sinful of Israel had become by disobeying and turning to idols

Josiah vowed to follow the commandments of God after the law book was read to him

Josiah pulled down all the alters of Baal in Judah and Jerusalem

He destroyed the holy places for worshipping the sun, moon and the stars. He banned the worship of the moon, the sun and the stars.

He abolished Pagan sacrifices like sacrificing daughters and sons to Baal.

He made Jerusalem the only place of worship and abolished all other places hence turning the Israelites back to God

He attempted to restore the lost unity of David's kingdom by making Jerusalem the only worship centre.

He tore clothes as a sign of repenting to Yahweh when the book was read to him.

He went and consulted the prophet of God Huldah which was a sign of restoring God's office, the priesthood.

He was very sad for the sins of the people hence prepared them for repentance in order to bring them back to the covenant faith.

He gathered the elders of Israel and had the book read to them as a way of giving them God's message in the book.

He commanded the high priest Huldah to remove from the Lord's temple all the articles/symbols for Baal worship and other gods

He destroyed all items for worshipping Baal and burnt them to ashes.

He broke down the Asherah from the lord's temple and destroyed it.

He brought back priest from rural towns to once again offer sacrifices at the altar in Jerusalem.

He completely destroyed the horses and chariots which were used to honour the sun, god. He destroyed the high places

which were built by king Solomon in honour of foreign gods

He broke down the altar and high places at Bethel Jeroboam had built.

He initiated the biggest ever celebrations of the Passover in the history of Israel.

He turned to the lord with all his heart, soul and strength hence an exemplary king.

How can political leaders influence the life of the Christian in Uganda today?

- By offering moral support to Christian leaders
- By offering financial support like in Christian construction
- By mobilizing the people for God's activities
- By making policies favouring the spread of the gospel
- By offering religious leaders responsibility in decision making by offering peace and security to the people they lead
- By condemning false leaders in God's place of holiness.
- By making programs for assisting the needy.

ACTIVITY 5

1. Analyze the circumstances under which Jehu came to be elected king of Israel?

2. Analyze the main features of King Josiah's reform?

3. Assess the reign of Jehu as king of Israel (kings 9:1)

DAY 6

PROPHET HOSEA

The evils Hosea condemned that were against the covenant law

Israelites were adulterous as a sin shown by Hosea's by Hosea's marriage to Gomer who was unfaithful. (movement from Yahweh to Baal God's)

Israelites turned from their God and worshipped Baal gods

Israelites denied God as the or God yet he had liberated them from slavery in Egypt as their God

Israelites turned to idol worship him alone in the 10 commands
Israelites abandoned the covenant faith and ignored the law of
God yet they had vowed to obey it.

Israelites failed to acknowledge God as their God yet some
priests who were supposed to give a good example to the rest of
the Israelites.

Israelites Killed fellow Israelites yet God had told them not to
kill in the 10 commands

Israel priests where feeding on people's sins yet they were serve
a good example to the rest of the

Israelites as God's representatives.

Israelites practiced prostitution which was immoral as chosen
people of God who were supposed to be models to other nations.
Israelites sacrificed to idols form unholy places yet Yahweh had
rejected them to related with idols in the ten commandments.

Israelites where corrupt especially those in courts of law and
therefore passed unfair judgment against the poor.

Israelites where arrogant hence never repented even after sinning
against God.

Israelites priests disrespected God's sacrifices and ate the meat
offered to him.

Israelites rebelled against God yet in the covenant at Sinai they
promised God to be their God.

Israelites sacrificed to Baal gods yet they were supposed to
sacrifice to God alone.

Israelites where insincere in their prayers praying on surface to
God but in the harts they were serving Baal.

Israelites signed and depended on foreign alliances for protection instead of depending on God for their protection.

Israelites became hypocrites to God by repenting outside but sinning in their hearts in their religious practices.

Israelites cheated in because by using false weighing scales Israelites med leaders to get drunk and later killed them.

Israelite priests became greedy and hence the more people sinned the more sacrifices they received since they have a share of those sacrifices.

Political leaders exploited and oppressed the Israelites like grabbing their land, over taxing, killing them which was against the covenant law.

HOSEA'S MARRIAGE EXPERIENCE AND ITS PROPHETIC MESSAGE

God told HOSEA to get married with Gomer, the same way God entered into convenient with Israel.

HOSEA was told data Gomer would be unfaithful just like the people of Israel were become unfaithful to God.

The children of Gomer Hosea were to unfaithful the same way Israelites generation had become unfaithful to God the covenant. Hosea and Gomer had their 1st child a son named “Jezreal” which showed the punishment that would come to Israel because of their sins.

Gomer got another Child whom they named “unloved” which showed that God no longer loved Israel.

Gomer and Hosea had a third child who was named “not my people” which showed that the Israelites were no longer to be God’s people.

Hosea sent his children to plead with their mother to change her behavior the same way God sent prophet to the Israelites to change their behavior.

Gomer ran away to other men the same way Israelites had run after Baal gods.

Hosea was going to punish Gomer for her sinfulness the same way God would punish Israel for her sinful nature.

Hosea was to strip Gomer naked before her lover the same way Israelites were to be taken to I to Israel and be exposed to other nations

Gomer was to suffer in the desert by being there alone the same way of Israelites were to suffer by being in exile.

Gomer was to realize Hosea was a source of prosperity and not her lovers the same way Israelites were to discover that it was God who had been a source of their prosperity.

Gomer failed to appreciate Hosea her husband the same way Israelites failed to appreciate their God.

Hosea married Gomer again the same way God was going to make her hate her lovers and end her prostitution the same way God’s punishment to the Israelites thru exile was intended to turn them from Baal to God.

After Hosea and Gomer remarrying, they loved each other the same way would show faithfulness and love to God after renewing their covenant with God.

Hosea changed the name “Jezebel” to “prosperity” after remarrying with Gomer the same way Israelites were going to prosper after coming from exile.

Hosea forgave after punishing her the same way God forgave the Israelites after bringing them back from their land in exile.

Gomer had gone to her lovers thinking that would provide her with clothes, perfumes the same way Israelites had turned to Baal gods thinking that would provide them with good crops and fertility in animals.

Hosea remained faithful to Gomer who became a prostitute the same way God had remained faithful to the people of Israel even though they were unfaithful.

God commanded Hosea to go again and show love to unfaithful Gomer the prostitute the same way God was going to bring the Israelites back to himself.

Hosea had to pay 15 pieces of silver to get Gomer back from whoever owned her just as God was going to pay heavily to bring back Israelites to himself.

Gomer had to stay for some time before having sexual relations with Hosea her husband the same way Israelites would stay for some time without sacrificing to God.

When Hosea gets to love his wife, he would change the name of “Unloved” to love the same way God was to make Israelites.

Relevance of Hosea’s marriage to Christians today?

Christians should be faithful to their marriage partners just as Hosea who remained faithful to Gomer who was a prostitute.

They should stick to their marriage agreement just as Hosea remained faithful to his marriage agreement to Gomer his wife who became a prostitute later.

They should tolerate evils of their partners and their sinners just as Hosea tolerated Gomer his wife who was adulterous

They should forgive one another in case of misunderstanding just as Hosea forgave Gomer and received her back as his wife.

They should reconcile with their fellow Christians just like Hosea reconciled with Gomer and accepted her back.

They should be contented with what they have unlike Gomer who was not contented with Hosea her husband and ran after other lovers.

They should promote marriage to remain permanent just like Hosea never divorced but remained in a permanent marriage.

They should show love to one another just like Hosea showed love to his wife Gomer and even brought her back.

They should listen to God just like Hosea who listened to God who guided him to go back to Gomer his wife.

They should be ready to repent in case of sinning unlike Gomer who continued with her prostitution even when her children pleaded with her to stop and return home.

They should be willing to change from their sins just like Gomer accepted to change from her adultery life.

They should follow God's instructions just like Hosea followed God's instructions and married Gomer a prostitute

They should be extemporary just as Hosea showed a good example by for giving gomer; his wife who was a prostitute.

ACTIVITY6

1. Examine Israel's sins during the reign of prophet Hosea?
- 2.(a) "HOSEA'S marriage to Gomer Symbolic God's relationship in Israel" Discuss.
(b) Show the relevance of Hosea's marriage to Christians today
3. Account for God's accusation against Israel through prophet Hosea?

DAY 7

1. **"When was a child I loved him and called him out of Egypt as my son" (Hosea 11:7)**

(a) Explain/ analyses of circumstances which compelled (forced) Hosea to say the above statement?

- Israelites had turned away from God which compelled Hosea to say the above statement.
- Israelites had denied their God which compelled Hosea to say the above statement.
- **N.B**

End all of points with the statement "which compelled Hosea to say the above statement"

- They turned to idol worship
- Abandoned the covenant faith
- Failed to acknowledge God as their God

- Killed fellow Israelites
- Stole property of fellow Israelites
- Priests were feeding on people's sins
- Practiced prostitution in places of worship
- Were corrupt especially those in courts of law
- Were arrogant hence never repented
- Rebelled against God
- Sacrificed to Baal gods
- Were insincere in their prayers
- Cheated those who were b/2 people

(b) What lesson can Christians learn from the above statement? In relation to God's with the Israelites? Christians should: -

- Depend on God for their survival
- Worship only one God and not small gods
- Turn God and run away from small gods
- Accept God to take care of their needs
- Love God
- Trust and show faith in God
- Listen to God and follow his instructions
- Obey God's teachings
- Build and God places of worship
- Respect religious and political leaders
- Make agreements with God instead of making with non-believers

HOSEA'S ACCUSATION TO THE PRIESTS OF ISRAEL

- Priests were not exemplary since most of them failed to repent yet they had sinned against God.
- Priests were feeding themselves instead of feeding God on the people's sacrifices.
- Priests were disrespectful to the covenant law by promoting Idol worship.
- Priests worshipped idols which was against the Ten Commandments which required them to worship only one God.
- Priests gave empty sacrifices to God since sacrifices they gave were not different from those of the Pagans as they tacked faith but went ahead to sacrifice.
- Priests practiced temple prostitution playing sex with worshippers leading to Hosea's attack on them.
- Priests abused God's temple since some of them played sex with worshippers in the temple.
- Some priests ate sacrifices which belonged to Yahweh yet they had their share on those sacrifices hence Hosea's accusation.
- Priests worshipped both Yahweh and Baal gods for fertility and prosperity which was against the covenant faith hence Hosea's condemnation
- Priests associated always with the rich and ignored the poor.
- Priests accepted bribes hence gave unfair judgment in the cases of the people. Leading to lack of justice.
- Priests stopped God's prophets from prophesying God's message.
- Priest Hunted for life of God's prophets.
- Israelites looked like lost sheep without the shepherd yet it was the work of the priest to look after the sheep.
- Priests were no longer listening to the voice of God.

Relevance of Hosea's attack/ concern/ accusation to religious leaders today

Religious leaders should mind about the Christians instead of minding about themselves like priests of Israel who never minded about the poor.

They should live humble lives unlike priests of Israel who lived in luxury when the poor were suffering.

They should be exemplary to Christians they lead unlike priests of Israel who favored the rich and not the poor.

They should protect Christians from false preaching unlike priest of Israel who led Israelites into Baal worship.

They should comfort Christians who are in problems like poverty, cancer, HIV/ AIDS unlike priests like priests of Israel who never cared for the people.

They should treat all Christians with kindness unlike priests of Israel who only treated the rich with Kindness.

They should live a Holy life unlike Israelite priests who lived a life of sacrificing to Baal gods.

They should stick to the truth unlike priests of Israel who worshipped to God on surface but sacrificing to Baal in their hearts.

They should promote Holiness in the house of God unlike priests of Israel who practiced temple prostitution.

WHY HOSEA WAS AGAINST THE SACRIFICES OF THE ISRAELITES

- The Israelites were offering unclean sacrifices since some were lame, blind animals hence Hosea condemning them.
- Some sacrifices were offered by unclean people like Killers, those who abused sex hence Hosea attack in them

- Some priests ate God's chosen parts of the sacrifices which was disrespecting to God hence Hosea condemning their sacrifices.
- Some sacrifices were just outward show off were Israelites who were rich simply offered to show off their wealth which annoyed God.
- Some sacrifices were insincere yet Israelites were expected to be sincere when sacrificing to God
- Some sacrifices were offered by unrepentant people since Israelites were expected to repent their sins first and then offer to God.
- Some Israelites offered sacrifices yet their hearts were very far away from God hence Hosea condemning such sacrifices
- Some Israelites sacrificed simply to fulfill the law of Moses but they were sinful in nature.
- Some sacrifices aimed at bribing God yet God is not a human being to be bribed hence
- Hosea's attack.
- Some Israelites lacked faith but went ahead to sacrifice yet God was interested in the people's faith in him instead of the sacrifices.
- Some Israelite sacrificed with a double mind.
- Some Israelite sacrificed to God and Baal gods hence.
- Some sacrifices were grabbed from the poor especially rich hence Hosea condemned such sacrifices acquired through wrong means.

Under what circumstances may priests in Uganda be condemned?

- When they misuse Christian money
- When they became proud
- When they favour the rich and ignore the poor

- When they force Christians to give them more money.
- When they divide up Christians instead of uniting them.
- When they promote Tribalism
- When they enslave Christians
- When they commit adultery
- When they drink and loose senses in places of worship.
- When they hate Christians
- When they lack commitment to Christians affairs
- When they are selfish
- When they worship both Baal and mall gods
- When they are jealous of people's success
- When they involve themselves in politics more than Christians

N.B

End all the above points with “Priests in Uganda maybe condemned”

HOSEA’S MESSAGE OF JUSGEMENT

- Hosea said that God was going to bring destruction on Israel hence their land would dry up, the birds and animals were to die and eventually the people would not survive
- The prophets and priests would be destroyed together with the rest of the Israelites not would eat, they would still remain hungry
- Hosea said that those who practiced temple prostitution would be carried into exile were they would face a lot of humiliation.
- Hosea said that Israelites military power would be weakened by their enemies and Israelites themselves would be humiliated

- Hosea announced doom using the name of his 1st son “Jezereal” which showed that God would stop calling the Israelites his loved people.
- Hosea used the name of his third child “not my people” to show that God would stop calling the Israelites his loved people.
- Hosea said that God would not accept those who worshipped idols but would allow their enemy to destroy their land
- Hosea said that punishment would befall those who were dishonest while judging cases and no one would survive.
- Hosea said that those who were making treaties with Pagan nation would be destroyed and some would be taken into exile
- Hosea announced doom to those who worshipped idols in order to make the land fertile that their prayers would be answered since their idols were to be destroyed.
- Hosea said that idol worshippers could not have children and these who would happen too get some children, they would be taken into exile and destroyed.
- Hosea said that the kings would be taken away from their land and the people would have no leaders yet they had demanded for a king from God.
- God promised never to listen to the prayers of the Israelites and never to accept their sacrifices.
- Hosea said that God would send a disastrous wind which would wash away people’s crops so that they die of hunger.
- Hosea said that God was going to break down the altars of the Israelites and cause death in Israel.
- Hosea announced judgment against Judah for attacking Israel and stealing their land hence God was to pour punishment on them like a flood

ACTIVITY 7

1. Discuss the judgment of God to the people of Israel and Judah during Hosea's prophetic ministry
2. Account for prophet Hesea's accusation against the religious leaders of his time?
3. "When was a child I loved him and called him out of Egypt as my son" (Hosea 11:7)
 - (a) Analyse of circumstances which compelled Hosea to say the above statement?

DAY 8

HOSEA'S MESSAGE OF LOVE FOR THE REBELLIOUS ISRAELITES (HOSEAS'S MESSAHE OF HOPE)

Hosea said that even when the Israelites were unfaithful to God, God did not abandon them which was a message of love.

Hosea said that God had too much love for the Israelites and that's why he was not willing to destroy them.

Hosea said that because of God's love, God went ahead and made a covenant with unfaithful Israelites.

Hosea said that God promised never to punish Israel in anger and never to destroy Israel again.

Hosea said that out of God's love, the Israelites were rescued from suffering in Egyptian slavery.

Hosea announced that there would be a time when Israelites would stop being called "unloved" but would be called "love people of God"

Hosea said that there would be a time went Israelites would stop being called "not my people" and would then be called "my people" which showed God's continued love to forgive them.

Hosea announced that there would be a time when Israelites would experience growth and prosperity thru the change of “Jezereal’s ” name

Hosea said that the Israelites would be under God’s care and protection during the time of restoring them back to their land hence they would show love and faithfulness.

Hosea announced that there would be time when Israelites would no longer experience suffering under their enemies hence a message of love.

Hosea’s act of sending his children to ask their mother to come back showed God’s love thru sending prophets to the Israelites to ask them to repent.

Hosea announced that God would protect the Israelites from external enemies and remove all the harmful weapons which would bring peace in Israel hence a message of love.

Hosea’s willingness to remarry his wife Gomer showed God’s love for the Israelites who sinned again and again but God forgave.

Hosea announced that there would be time when the Israelites would respect God and out of his love he would give them new hearts and forgive them.

Hosea paid a high price in order to buy back his wife Gomer which was a sign of God’s love as she paid highly to bring back the Israelites from slavery.

Hosea announced that there would be time when the Israelites would be restored back to their land after exile and they would receive God’s favours and blessings

Hosea said that God’s love for the Israelites was reflected in the way he provided for them in times of need like when they were hungry and he fed them.

God promised to answer the prayers of the Israelites and take care of them as long as they had nothing to do with the idols. Hosea announced that the Israelites after exile would become famous like the wine of Lebanon.

Hosea announced that the Israelites were to go back to their land where they would settle and harvest a lot and never to suffer from famine again

Hosea said that the Israelites would be protected by their God and he would show them a lot of love.

Hosea announced that the Israelites were to rebuild their cities after exile and enjoy nice wine from their land.

Discuss the view that Hosea was a prophet of loved (Hope)

The above is a one sided **Question** (in most cases discuss the view Question are one sided)

- God didn't abandon Israelites though unfaithful hence love
- God was not willing to destroy other Israelites hence love
- Mened a covenant with the Israelites though unfaithful.
- promised never to punish Israelites in anger.
- Rescued Israelites from suffering in Egypt hence love
- "unloved" would be called loved people of God
- "Not my people" would be called my people hence love
- Time Israel was to experience growth and prosperity was to come.
- Time God would restore Israelites back to their land would come.
- Time Israelites would no longer experience suffering was to come

- God would send prophets to the Israelites to repent hence love
- God would protect them from external enemies.
- Time God would give Israelites new hearts was to come.
- God paid highly to bring Israelites back from Egyptian slavery hence love.
- God was to give Israelites his favours and blessings after exile
- God provided for the Israelite some times of need like feed them when hungry,
- God was to answer Israelites prayers if they turned away from idols.
- Israelites were to become as famous as Lebanon wine after exile
- Israelites were to harvest a lot and never to suffer from famine again after exile.
- Israelite were to rebuild their cities after exile.
- Israelites were to enjoy nice wine in their land.

THE NATURE OF GOD ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF HOSEA

- God is loving. This is seen by Hosea, loving Gomer who was unfaithful.
- God has unconditional love. This seen by Hosea, remarrying Gomer without any condition.
- God is a source of protection. This is seen when he promised to protect the Israelites after exile.
- God is a source of protection. This is seen when he promised to protect the Israelites after exile
- God requires obedience from man. This is seen when he decided to exile Israelites because of disobeying him.

- God requires repentance from man. This is seen where he decided to disown / reject of Israelites “not my people” because of their failure to repent.
- God is emotional and get annoyed because of man’s sins. This seen by Hosea getting annoyed because of Gomer’s prostitution.
- God hates sin. This is seen by Hosea divorcing Gomer because of her adultery.
- God punishes after warning. This is seen by God sending prophets to warn the Israelites the same way Hesea sent his children to Gamer to ask her to come back home.
- God is forgiving. This is seen by Hosea remarrying Gomer and adulterous wife - God is a source of blessing. This is seen by God making Israelites prosper after exile.
- God is jealous. This is seen by God divorcing the Israelites for worshipping idols.
- God is powerful. This is seen by God punishing the Israelites for worshipping the gods of Baal.
- God is merciful. This is seen by God forgiving the Israelites out of mercy and brings them back after exile
- God is the provider. This is seen by God providing the Israelites with wine after coming back from exile.

THE NATURE OF MAN ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF HOSEA.

- ✓ Man is unfaithful. This is seen when Gomer abandoned Hosea her husband for other lovers
- ✓ Man depends on God. This is seen wen the Israelites decided to depend on Baal and not God and they were exiled

- ✓ Man is greedy and this is seen when Gomer abandons her husband Hosea and is not satisfied hence went for other lovers.
- ✓ Man is disobedient. This is seen by Gomer disobeying her husband Hosea and went for other lovers.
- ✓ Man is ungrateful. This is seen by the Israelites abandoning the God who chose them as his people and turned to Baal Gods
- ✓ Man is unrepentant. This is seen by the Israelites sinning again and again without repenting as Gomer went in for a man after a man.
- ✓ Man is for getting in Nature. This is seen by the Gomer for getting Hosea her husband.
- ✓ Man is impatient. This is seen by Gomer leaving her husband for other lover expecting them to provide a lot.
- ✓ Man is forgiving. This shown by Hosea for forgiving Gomer and remarrying her as his wife.
- ✓ Man is patient. This is seen by Hosea patiently waiting for Gomer who ran away for other lovers.
- ✓ Man is sinful. This is seen by Hosea marrying an adulterous woman Gomer.

ACTIVITY 8

1. Discuss the view that Hosea was a prophet of loved (Hope
2. Examine the major concerns of prophet Hosea
 - (a) On the forms of worship in Israel.
 - (b) On the priests of his time
 - (c) On the sacrifices and offering of the Israelites.

DAY 9

PROPHET AMOS

THE EVILS CONDEMNED BY PROPHET AMOS IN ISRAEL.

Socially, Israel experienced the following evils during Amos time

- The poor had no say in the courts of law where a poor man would move all the way to Samaria to get justice but instead he would get injustice in the courts of law.
- Sex abuse was common in Israel where a father and a son would share one slave woman yet according to the Mosaic law, children were expected to respect their parents
- In case a poor person failed to pay back a small debt not worth a pair of sandals, he would be sold into slavery yet according to laws of Moses, all people belonged to God hence no one was supposed to be sold into slavery.
- Silencing of the poor was common in Israel where a poor was not supposed to be listened to but were only expected to be seen which was a form of injustice.
- The wives of the rich were demanding too much from their husbands in order to please them. Anybody who spoke the truth in Israel was hated hence almost all people was speaking lies offerings to God were acquired by grabbing them from the poor on many occasions mainly by the rich
- The rich Israelites lived a life of drunkardness and luxury on many occasions as the poor were suffering in poverty yet the Mosaic law required all Israelites to live equal life
- The mansions of the rich Israelites were full of stolen property from the poor yet according to the Mosaic law stealing was forbidden by God.

Politically Israel experienced the following evils during Amos time

- Over taxation of the poor was very common yet according to the Mosaic law the Israelites were expected to be taxed according to their income
- Forced labour was common in Israel at the time of Amos where political leaders used to force people to work for them without any payment.
- Grabbing of the people's property was common in Israel during Amos' time where political leaders believed that they were above the law and therefore had the rights to own whatever they wanted.
- Alliances with Pagan nation were made by political leaders in Israel during Amos time yet according to the Mosaic law Israelites were only expected to depend on Yahweh not pagan nations

Economically Israel experienced the following evils during Amos

- Income inequality was common in Israel during Amos, time where some people were very rich and others very poor yet according to the Mosaic teaching, resources in Israel had to be shared equally.
- The rich were money hungry in Israel during the time of Amos where they over charged their commodities and also cheated their customers by mixing wheat with dust.
- The rich were lending the poor at a high interest rate and if one failed to pay back his property was grabbed.
- The rich used false - weighing scales, tampering with those scales in order to cheat their customers

- The rich lived a life of luxury as the poor would only afford meat on big days yet the rich could eat any lamb of their choice each day.
- The rich sold the righteous men a silver or a pair of sandals and the poor who failed to pay their debts
- The rich priests and false prophets asked for bribes hence they were corrupt in the services they provided.
- The rich mistreated and discriminated the poor, trampling down in dirt and kicked them out of their way.

Religiously Israel experienced the following evils during Amos time

- ✓ The Israelites were consulting false prophets yet according to the Mosaic law, they were only expected to consult true prophets of God.
- ✓ Israelites forgot Yahweh during Amos, Time where they started worshipping Pagan gods yet the 10 commandments required them to worship God alone.
- ✓ Religious days like Sabbath were considered to be a burden yet according to the Mosaic law Sabbath was God's day for Israelites to worship him.
- ✓ Israelites used abusive language against God's name where they would say that God is unfair and not caring.
- ✓ Priest were misguiding the Israelites yet they were supposed to guide the Israelites towards the covenant faith but instead guided them away from the covenant faith.
- ✓ There was a lot of religious pretence in Israel during Amos' time where many Israelites portended to be religious yet many were involving in sex abuse and practicing injustice. Many

Israelites were unrepentant during Amos time yet God expected them to repent whenever they sinned against him.

- ✓ Many Israelites offered unclean sacrifices yet according to the Mosaic law, they were expected to offer only clean sacrifice.
- ✓ There was idol worship in Israel during Amos; time yet the mosaic law required them to worship God alone
- ✓ There was religious formality in Israel where worshipping God offering and sacrificing to him were done for formality
- ✓ Religious leaders the Nazarites were forced to drink a lot of wine yet they were not expected to drink too much wine since doing so would make them losses their sense.
- ✓ Religious syncretism reached its climax in Israel where many people used to worship pagan gods together with Yahweh.
- ✓ Apostasy was very common in Israel during Amos time where many Israelites chose to abandon Yahweh completely
- ✓ Israelites abused holy place like Bethel for worshipping Yahweh and used them for worshipping Baal.

ACTIVITY 9

1. Why did Amos sing a funeral song in Israel?
2. Why did Amos cry over the people of Israel (Amos 5:1)?
3. Discuss the social and religious evils in Israel during the prophetic reign of Amos?
4. Account for prophet Amos' Prophetic ministry in Israel

DAY 10

WHAT LESSONS CAN RELIGIONS LEADERS LEARN FROM AMOS PROPHETIC REIGN

- Christians should respect God's name unlike the Israelites who were blasphemous by talking ill about God's name
- Christians should have respect for people's property unlike the rich Israelites who used to grab property from the poor.
- They should be exemplary unlike the Israelites who used to worship pagan gods alongside Yahweh.
- They should repent whenever they sin against God unlike the Israelites who were unrepentant
- They should have faith in the Almighty God unlike the Israelites who lacked faith.
- They should pay their workers (employees) unlike the Israelites who failed to pay their workers They should promote justice unlike the Israelites who inflicted injustices especially unto the poor or the weak.
- They should consult of true prophets of God unlike the Israelites who consulted the false prophets
- They should seek for God's guidance unlike the Israelites who were not guided by God and ended up committing evil against God
- They should be obedient to the law and commandments unlike the Israelites who disobeyed.
- They should have respect for sex since it is supposed to be sacred unlike the Israelites who used to abuse it
- They should have respect for the Sabbath and other religious days and celebrations unlike the Israelites who looked at the Sabbath as a burden.

- They should be true to themselves and others unlike the Israelites who were great liars and dishonest.
- They should guide people especially religious leaders towards the covenant faith unlike the Israelite religious leaders who were misguiding God people.

AMOS' MESSAGE OF JUSGMENT TO THE ISRAELITES (AMOS MESSAGE OF DOOM)

- Because of the wickedness of the Israelites and the pagan people Amos never had any kind words for them. He prophesied a message of doom or judgment and his message was as follows. He began by condemning the Pagan states, the states of Moab, Syria, Philistia, Tyre etc. He said because of their wickedness, they were to suffer from God's punishment.
- He said that the day of the lord is going to be characterised by darkness but not light and joy as people were expecting.
- Amos said that the wives of the rich people were going to be dragged into exile like fish on hooks.
- He said that the rich people were doomed because they ate choiced lambs and drunks wine in expense cups.
- They used expensive perfumes therefore they would nolonger enjoy the nice music and the good life but instead their songs would turn into funeral songs and they would also be taken to exile
- Amos condemned these who were betraying the covenant law and exploiting the poor. He said that they were going to be cursed even the bravest soldiers were going to be judged. The judgment would be so terrible that no one would escape it.

- Amos reminded the Israelites about the punishments God had sent before like famine, wars and he said that since they had failed to repent a worse disaster would befall them.
- He said that everyone was to die and a few people were to survive. He emphasized this by giving an example of a shepherd who can only recover 2- legs and an ear when a lion has attacked his flock
- He said that no one would escape death even if they climbed mountains, hid, under trees, they would still be destroyed.
- He saw the destructive visions which God was going to use to punish the Israelites. They included the vision of locusts the vision of fire, the vision of basket full of fruits, the vision of plumbline.
- He pronounced judgment upon the priest Amaziah because he said that his wife was a prostitute, his children were going to die and Amasiah was going to die in exile and the land of Israelites was going to be divided.
- Amos sang a funeral song to illustrate the future of Israel. The song clearly showed that there was no hope for Israelites.
- He said that God was going to send fire to the people of Bethel and no one would be in position to put it out.
- He said that there would be many dead bodies and no one would bury them because of fearing God's punishment.
- He said there would be famine to the extent of people beginning to eat one another.
- Because of cheating the poor, the Lord was going to send an earthquake and everybody was going to be destroyed.
- He said that Israel would be like sheep eaten up by a lion which implied that the Israelites would not survive God's punishment.

- Because of God's anger, Amos said that peoples' sacrifices would not be accepted. He went ahead and said that however much they prayed to God, he would not respond or even accept their sacrifices.
- He said that the Lord was going to carry out his judgment which was going to be so terrible that no one would escape it. It would be like someone running away from a lion and meets a bear or someone who goes home, puts the hand on the wall, only to be bitten by a snake.
- He said that those who became rich through injustices and exploitation would not enjoy their beautiful house.
- He said that the religious leaders were going to be destroyed because of drinking too much wine.
- He said that God was going to send an enemy to surround the land of the Israelites.

Should modern religious leaders proclaim a message of disaster against their countries?

Yes, modern religious leaders should proclaim the message of disaster to their countries in case of the following;

If nationals engage in corruption and embezzlement of public funds.

If the leaders favour a given group of people of the same region in the country like giving jobs to only those in that region

If the development of the country is focused to only one region causing imbalance.

If there are killings of innocent people by the.

If there are people practicing human sacrifices

If the people worship pagan gods instead the God

If the leaders practice abuses of human rights

If political leaders of their country imprison those in opposition on false grounds.

If some religious leaders of their country preach a false, gospel.

If political leaders persecute the people, they lead and religious leaders

If there is cheating in business where what is sold is not equal to quantity paid for.

If people sin again and again without repenting

If people commit sexual sins like rape and homosexuality.

What lessons can religious leaders learn from Amos message of disaster (doom/ judgment)?

- They should be faithful to God so that they encourage people to do the same.
- They should worship God and call upon their followers to worship God.
- They should respect God's places of worship and call upon the followers to do the same
- They should give guidance and counseling to married Christian.
- They should call upon people to repent and ask God for forgiveness
- They should treat Christian worship as equal without discrimination them in places of worship.
- They should lead believers in prayer to God.
- They should warn worshippers of the dangers which may come out of their disobedience.
- They should give hope to the believer thru their teaching - They should condemn evil in society without fear.
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THE ABOVE POINTS MUST BE QUALIFIED BY A CANDIDATE FOR EXAMPLE

What do Christians learn from Amos prophecy of disaster?

Christians should respect God's name unlike the Israelites who were abusing God's name by talking ill about it.

Christians should have respect for people's property unlike the rich Israelites at the time of Amos who used to grab property from the poor.

Christians should be exemplary unlike the Israelites who used to worship Pagan gods alongside Yahweh

Christians should repent whenever they sin against God unlike the Israelites who were unrepentant.

Christian should be true to themselves unlike Israelites at the time of Amos who were dishonest

Christian should guide people towards the covenant faith unlike Israelites religious leaders at the time of Amos who misled Israelites away from God.

ACTIVITY 10

- 1.Examine prophet Amos' message of disaster upon the people of Israel.
- 2.Analyse the view that Amos was a prophet of doom.
- 3.What lessons can religious leaders learn from Amos message of doom?