



Religious Studies

Y8 Autumn 2: Prophecy and Promise

Keywords

Prophet – someone who publicly declares a message from God

Divine Plan for Salvation - God's plan to save humanity from Sin, finished with Jesus' birth, ministry and death

Messiah – literally 'the anointed one', the predicted saviour of the Jews

Fulfillment – the achievement of something predicted or promised

Cycle of Prophecy - the sequence of prophets from Elijah to John, whereby prophets prepare the way for Jesus

Mission – the Christian action of sharing Jesus' message to the world

Anoint – to make something sacred in a ceremony by applying oil to it

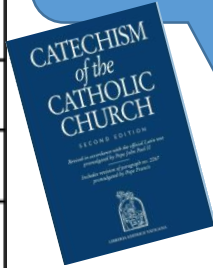
Office – a role, responsibility or a position of authority

Laiity – the ordinary people who are involved with the Church but do not hold official religious positions

Advent – the season of waiting and preparation leading up to Christmas lasting for four Sundays

Devotion – a religious practice

The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant". **He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel.** -CCC 522



Why are prophets important?

- 1 - Prophets ensured the Israelites followed God's laws.
- 2 - Prophets prepared the way for Jesus.
- 3 - They are called by God; initiated by him.

Prophets link to God's Divine plan for Salvation by preparing the way for Jesus and ensuring the laws were followed gradually over time with many prophets.

When God uses prophets, we see a pattern of three phases occur: a **prophetic pattern of call, message and fulfilment.**



Call
God calls a prophet.



Message
God gives the prophet a message for them to preach.



Fulfilment
God fulfills these prophecies when the message or prediction comes true.

The Call of Jeremiah

Jeremiah lived in Jerusalem and was born into a family of Priests who worked at the Temple. Jeremiah had a dual vocation, with a message of both **judgement and hope.**

His call is in the Old Testament at **Jeremiah 1:1-10** and we see:

1. God tells Jeremiah he was chosen as a prophet before he was born.
2. Jeremiah feels unworthy and says 'I am only a boy'
3. God tells Jeremiah that he will protect him.
4. God touches Jeremiah's lips and he is made a prophet to every nation.

The Message of Amos

Amos is a prophet who was a shepherd and farmer who lived in Israel as they got a new King, considered the worst and most evil ever – God sent him to speak God's truth to the King.

In the **book of Amos** in the Bible we see that his message had key themes of:

- Calling to care for the poor
- Calling for Israelites to repent
- Preaching God's judgement to all nations
- Preaching against prayers and ceremonies without love of God
- Warnings and promises for the future

Fulfilment in Isaiah

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem and spoke on God's behalf to the leaders of Jerusalem and Judah. He had a message of **judgement** (against their rebellion from God) and **hope** (about the coming messiah and king).

Isaiah 11:1-10 predicts the Messiah will:

- Be a descendant of King David
- Obey God fully
- Have unique knowledge about God
- Care for the poor and persecuted
- Bring peace to society 'wolves and sheep will live together in peace'
- Share his knowledge of God with all
- Help all nations not just Israel

The CCC says, 'Jesus fulfilled the messianic hope of Israel in his threefold office of prophet, priest and king.'

Jesus did these in different ways...

priests bring people close to God, are in harmony with God and offer sacrifices for sins. Jesus does these and his body is his sacrifice.

prophets speak the word of God. Jesus is the ultimate prophet as he is literally 'the word made flesh'.

kings care for their citizens according to God's rules. Jesus cares for his citizens by dying on the cross and bringing the Kingdom of God.

'By Baptism Catholics share in the **priesthood of Christ**, in his **prophetic and royal (kingly) mission**'
CCC 1267

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas and Jesus entering the world as a baby, his **incarnation**. This season uses a lot of prophetic texts and themes as we remember the prophecies about Jesus' birth and look forward to their fulfilment.

Advent Traditions and Devotions in the UK



Jesse Tree

Families add new decorations to the tree during advent, each new decoration symbolizes a different part of story leading up to Christmas.



Advent Calendars

Traditionally, each door opens to a picture of a new part of the story leading up to Christmas day.



Advent Wreaths and Candles – This is a popular tradition full of symbolism of hope and waiting. The wreath made of evergreens reminds us of everlasting life. The candles remind us of the light that Christ brings into the world. A new candle is lit every Sunday as it becomes brighter over advent preparing us for Jesus' birth.