

Foretelling Prophecy

1. Ask someone to read Deuteronomy 18.20-22.

- How often was a prophet allowed to be wrong when foretelling something would happen?
- *Never!*

2. Ask someone else to read Deuteronomy 13.1-5.

- What was another qualification for a true prophet, besides accuracy?
- *Point people to worshipping the true God.*

3. Haggai 2.1-9 is an example of a prophetic salvation speech. Generally these prophecies flow from a situation of judgment to a promise of salvation. The typical features of such a prophecy are an announcement of who is speaking, reassurance, the lamentable situation, an announcement of intervention, and the promised result. Let's identify these in Haggai 2.1-9.

A. Ask someone to read Haggai 2.1-2.

- What does this part of the prophecy give us?
- *The announcement of who is speaking.*

B. Ask someone to read Haggai 2.3.

- What does this part of the prophecy give us?
- *The lamentable situation.*

C. Ask someone to read Haggai 2.4-5.

- What does this part of the prophecy give us?
- *Reassurance.*

D. Ask someone to read Haggai 2.6-7

- What does this part of the prophecy give us?
- *Promise of Intervention.*

E. Ask someone to read Haggai 2.8-9.

- What does this part of the prophecy give us?
- *The result.*

4. Ask someone to read Isaiah 1.18-20.

- Good harvests were part of the covenantal blessings in the Mosaic Covenant. Was that an unconditional or conditional promise?
- *Conditional.*

- If we say that through Isaiah God promised provision of better crops, was that an unconditional or conditional promise?
- *Conditional.*

- Conditional on what?
- *It is conditional on the people being willing and obedient.*

- What would happen if they were not willing and obedient?
 - *Not just poor harvests, but devoured by the sword.*
5. Ask someone to read Isaiah 45.23-25.
- Is this conditional or unconditional as a promise?
 - *Unconditional: it will happen no matter what.*
6. Ask someone to read Jonah 3.1-4.
- Is this conditional or unconditional?
 - *Seemingly unconditional, but...*
7. Ask that same person to read Jonah 3.5, 10.
- What do you think now?
 - *The judgement prophecy was going to happen, but on the condition of their repentance, God was open to changing it.*
8. Ask someone to read Jeremiah 18.7-10.
- What general principle about conditions could we draw from this?
 - *That all judgment promises are conditional, that repentance could change them.*
 - Does that affect how we look at unconditional promises of deliverance in the end times?
 - *It will happen, but there might be delay until repentance, until God's conditions are met.*
9. Ask someone to read Haggai 2.20-23.
- Without talking about what the details mean, does this sound like a conditional promise or unconditional promise?
 - *Unconditional: God chose Zerubbabel of the line of David; he promises to shake the heavens and earth, intervene in politics and military.*