

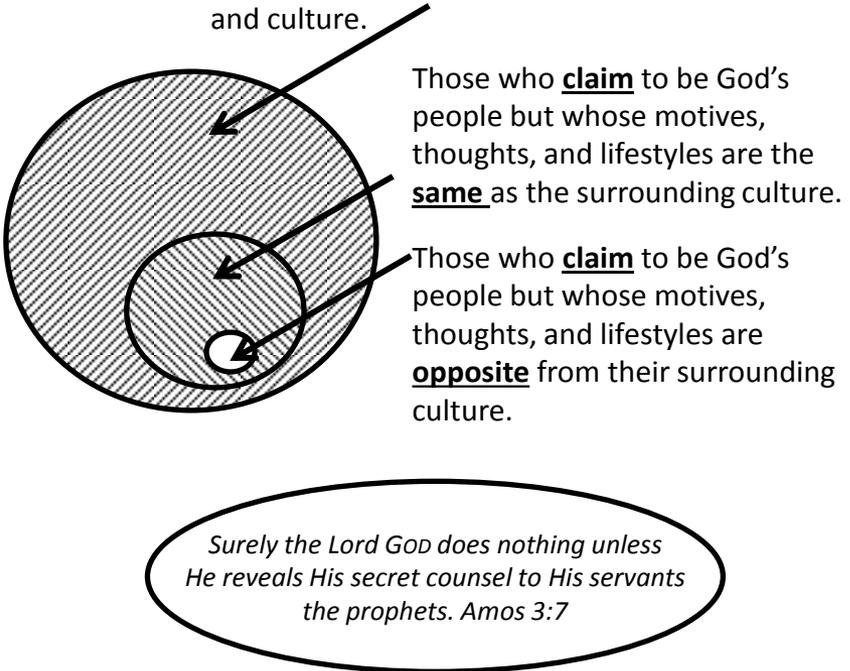
Turning the Hearts: God's Prophets

Various Scriptures

Those who **don't claim** to know or follow the one true God. It is the surrounding society and culture.

Those who **claim** to be God's people but whose motives, thoughts, and lifestyles are the **same** as the surrounding culture.

Those who **claim** to be God's people but whose motives, thoughts, and lifestyles are **opposite** from their surrounding culture.



Surely the Lord GOD does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

Judgment: *a misfortune or calamity viewed as a divine punishment*

Coming disaster is UNSEEN:

There is a time of felt peace, safety, and prosperity which gives a false sense of security to those who claim to be God's people. The skies appear clear as if there is no "storm on the horizon."

Coming disaster is UNKNOWN:

The suddenness and timing of a calamity will catch those who claim to be God's people unexpectedly. Normal details of life surrounding family (birth, marriage, death) and work (buying, selling, saving) seem as if they are the most important things to attend to.

Coming disaster is UNEXPECTED:

The people of God do not connect the events of a disaster with the moral condition of their lives or of their society. The most common reaction is, "Why would God allow this to happen to me/us?"

God's prophetic messages REVEAL, PREPARE and GIVE UNDERSTANDING

to those who claim to be His people, but who, knowingly or unknowingly, are no longer living by His standards.

They are always for the purposes of

REPENTANCE—turning the hearts of God's people back to Himself, not gleefully 'smiting' them.

RESTORING—decency and truth in the society and justice for those who are oppressed.

REMOVING—corrupt people and practices, especially those in leadership who influence others to be corrupt.

God gives warnings that are serious and specific.

His messengers are in the minority to what the majority of religious leaders are saying.

His messengers' lifestyles don't blend in with the way everyone else is living.

His messengers' words line up with His Law and previously revealed truth.

False view of God:

The God of the Old Testament is harsh and judging, but the God of the New Testament is loving and forgiving.

Truth:

The character of God, both His justice, His mercy and His grace, remain unchanged in all ages.

Turning the Hearts: God’s Prophets

Prophet	God-directed lifestyle	Message	Other Religious Messages
Elijah	Hiding in the Kerith Ravine during famine and being fed by ravens. Living with a Gentile widow and her son to be fed during famine. Confronting Ahab.	“There will be no rain except by my word.” I Kings 17:1 ““How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” I Kings 18:21 Elijah said to Ahab: “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house <i>have</i> , because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals.” I Kings 18:17	450 prophets of Baal 400 prophets of Asherah
Elisha	Giving up wealthy farm, family business and property to follow Elijah and serve him. Traveling to sons of the prophets.	Elisha said to his servant, Gehazi: “Is it a time to receive money and to receive clothes and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and male and female servants? Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever.” II Kings 5:26	Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?” “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here...” II Kings 3:11
Hosea	Marrying a prostitute and naming his children “not my people” and “not received mercy.” Having his wife cheat on him as a visual of Israel’s actions toward God.	My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. Hosea 4:6	Hear this, O priests! Give heed, O house of Israel! Listen, O house of the king! For the judgment applies to you...Hosea 5:1
Amos	Traveling from his farm in Judah to the wealthy in Samaria, Israel who ridiculed him.	Warned that all the surrounding nations were ripe for God’s coming judgment—but was only sent to proclaim that message in Israel. Amos 1-2 “I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.” Amos 5:21-22	Amaziah the priest of Bethel reported Amos to the king of Israel and then told Amos: “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.” Amos 7:12-13
Jonah	Was sent 600 miles to preach against Nineveh. Was swallowed and vomitted by a large fish (whale) and sent again to Nineveh.	“Forty days and Nineveh will be overturned.” Jonah 3:4 “The Lord is using Jonah to tell a GENTILE nation a message in order to show Israel that their coming judgment was not because of His unwillingness to forgive, but because of her unwillingness to repent! ” (--SM)	If God’s prophet is concerned about his own comfort and not about perishing people, who will tell the truth of their condition and the coming disaster?



The Bottom Line

True believers have been chosen by God to live different from the world and speak His truth.