

## Understanding the Prophets

Many preachers would agree with Luther's assessment that the prophets "have a queer way of talking". Their language is full of interpretative hurdles for the modern-day preacher. We will discuss some of these challenges that we face in interpreting the prophets and consider how to overcome them.

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### Introduction: Genre & Interpretation

#### I. The Prophetic Genre

##### a. Divinely Inspired Anthologies

##### b. Oracles

##### c. Poetical Language (Parallelism & Metaphors)

##### d. Visionary Literature



**h. Proceed with caution when approaching future prophecies**

**i. Focus on the full picture rather than on the pieces of the puzzle**

**j. Stay humble**

**Suggested Readings:**

Alter Robert, *The Art of Biblical Poetry*, New York: Basic Books, 2011).

Chalmers Aaron, *Interpreting the Prophets: Reading, Understanding and Preaching from the Worlds of the Prophets*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2015.

Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart Douglas. *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003

Gentry Peter J., *How to Read & Understand the Biblical Prophets*, Wheaton: Crossway, 2017.

Hays, J. Daniel, *The Message of the Prophets*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Sandy, D. Brent, *Plowshares & Pruning Hooks*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002,