

How to Preach the Prophets

What are the traps to avoid when preaching the prophets? How to preach the prophets today with exegetical rigor, theological depth and pastoral sensitivity? How to preach the Old Testament prophets in a genre sensitive way? How can we exploit the rhetorical genius of the prophets? We will seek to answer these questions and therefore establish a methodology for preaching the prophets today.

Andy Hamilton is originally from Northern Ireland but has lived in Italy for most of his life. Andy obtained a Master of Theology from Queen's University Belfast through Belfast Bible College. He is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Andy served as Youth Pastor of Scrabo Hall in Newtownards, Northern Ireland and was member of the steering committee of a discipleship and missions training programme called FirstServe (first-serve.org.uk). He now lives in the outskirts of Rome where he lectures at the Italian Evangelical Bible Institute (www.ibei.it) as well as being involved in church leadership. He is married to Ruth, and they have three children: Isaiah, Hollie and Joshua.

Introduction: Traps & Tips

I. Traps to Avoid

a. Historical Trap

b. Eschatological Trap

c. Character Trap

II. Tips for Preaching the Prophets

a. Immediately show relevance

b. Master the history but don't be mastered by it

c. Enjoy, explore and exploit the language of the prophets

d. Prioritise the purpose rather than the fulfilment of future prophecies

e. Take a road to Christ

f. Build a bridge to the Church

Suggested Readings:

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

Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Sweeter than Honey: Preaching the Old Testament* Carlisle: Langham Preaching Resources, 2015.