

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

April 13, 2008

My servants the prophets

by David King

"I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me" (Jer. 35:15).

We tend to think of prophets as foretellers of future events, but that was only part of their work. A prophet is simply "a spokesman for God," someone who delivers a message from Him. Throughout Israel's history, God sent hundreds of these men to His people with messages of encouragement, warning, or rebuke. Some of these prophets made their living doing this work. Many, however, were ordinary citizens with routine jobs, whom God picked to deliver messages in specific circumstances.

As our opening text suggests, the work of these men was generally not appreciated by the people who heard their messages. For some of these men, their work as prophets was a ticket to death. But with few exceptions, it was a price they were willing to pay. God chose these men precisely because their passion for Him ran deep and strong.

The Old Testament records the messages of only a few of these men, often just snippets of exchanges they had with kings, for example. A few wrote whole books, now collected as the Major and Minor Prophets in our Old Testament. These books contain some of the most fascinating—and perplexing—reading you'll find anywhere in the Bible.

For most Christians, the writings of the Old Testament prophets are a mystery. Their archaic language and treatment of nations and events we know nothing about turns off many readers. So we tend to shy away from them.

But our neglect of these writings is a serious mistake. There are several reasons why we should study the writings of the prophets.

First, these men can help us better understand God. His compassion, His anger, His power and wisdom, His eternal perspective on human affairs — all of these traits are treated at length in these books. Study the prophets, and you will come away with a deeper understanding of — and reverence for — God.

Second, they help us understand our duty to God, and the consequences of not doing it. Our fundamental responsibility to God and our fellow man has never really changed through the ages. Getting familiar with the message of the prophets will help us keep our hearts focused on what is important, and help keep our lives pointed in the right direction.

Finally, these men help us understand the world we live in today. The prophets were the political pundits of their day. Their commentaries on the current events that swirled around them reveal some remarkable parallels to the social and political trends that we wrestle with today. Spend time with the prophets, and the front page of your daily newspaper will begin to make more sense.

A study of the prophets should be a regular part of the spiritual diet of Christians. Our lives will be deeply enriched for it.