

# The Bible Jesus Used

**A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament**

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# The Law at a Glance

Genesis	Prologue to God's Universal Kingdom
Exodus	King Yahweh & His Global Purpose through Israel
Leviticus	Holy Yahweh & the Need for Holiness
Numbers	Faithful Yahweh & His Unfaithful People
Deuteronomy	Israel's Constitution

# The Former Prophets at a Glance

Joshua	Yahweh's Covenant Faithfulness & the Call for Israel's Covenant Faithfulness
Judges	Israel's Covenant Faithlessness & Need for God's Kingship
1–2 Samuel	The Importance of Honoring Yahweh & the Davidic Hope
1–2 Kings	Covenant Failure, Kingdom Destruction, & the Hope of Kingdom Restoration

# The Old “Covenant” Structure

Law (Established)	Prophets (Enforced)		Writings (Enjoyed)	
	<i>Former</i>	<i>Latter</i>	<i>Former</i>	<i>Latter</i>
Genesis	Joshua	Jeremiah	Ruth	Daniel
Exodus	Judges	Ezekiel	Psalms	Esther
Leviticus	1–2 Samuel	Isaiah	Job	Ezra-Nehemiah
Numbers	1–2 Kings	The Twelve	Proverbs	1–2 Chronicles
Deuteronomy			Ecclesiastes	
			Song of Songs	
			Lamentations	
Narrative	Narrative	Commentary	Commentary	Narrative

# The Latter Prophets at a Glance

Jeremiah	Israel's Lack of Covenant Loyalty & the Eschatological Promise of Covenant Loyalty
Ezekiel	Israel's Loss of God's Presence & the Eschatological Promise of His Spirit
Isaiah	Israel's Rejection of God's Kingship & the Eschatological Promise of His Universal Kingdom
The Twelve	Israel's Spiritual Unfaithfulness & the Eschatological Promise of Divine Faithfulness

# Yahweh Prophecy vs. Pagan Prophecy

## ❖ Examples:

- ❖ Moses' encounter with the Egyptian magicians (Exod 7:10–11, 21–22; 8:6–7, 18–19; 9:10–11)
- ❖ The Philistine's call for priests and diviners to discern what to do with the ark of the covenant (1 Sam 6:2).
- ❖ Saul's seeking out a diviner to connect him to the dead Samuel (1 Sam 28:8)
- ❖ The king of Babylon seeks omens to discern where to battle (Ezek 21:21–22)

- ❖ **Isa. 47:13.** You are wearied with your many counsels; let them stand forth and save you, those who divide the heavens, who gaze at the stars, who at the new moons make known what shall come upon you.
- ❖ **Hos. 4:12.** My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.
- ❖ **Zech. 10:2.** For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.

# Prophecy & Pagan Religion



*\*Adapted from W. A. VanGemeren, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*, 22*



## ❖ God forbids and judges such practices

- ❖ Lev. 20:6. If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.
- ❖ Isa. 44:24–26. I am Yahweh, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, <sup>25</sup>who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish, <sup>26</sup>who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers.

- ❖ **1 Chr. 10:13. So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with Yahweh in that he did not keep the command of Yahweh, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance.**
- ❖ **2 Kings 17:17–18. And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of Yahweh, provoking him to anger.**  
**<sup>18</sup>Therefore Yahweh was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.**

❖ **Even pagan prophecy and powers are under Yahweh's control. He uses them:**

❖ **To test his people, disclosing who is truly faithful.**

❖ **Deut. 13:1–3. If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup>and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, “Let us go after other gods,” which you have not known, “and let us serve them,” <sup>3</sup>you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For Yahweh your God is testing you, to know whether you love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

❖ **To direct hard-hearted leaders in paths of destruction.**

❖ **2 Chr. 18:18–22. And Micaiah said [to Ahab], “Therefore hear the word of Yahweh: I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. <sup>19</sup>And Yahweh said, ‘Who will entice Ahab the king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one said one thing, and another said another. <sup>20</sup>Then a spirit came forward and stood before Yahweh, saying, ‘I will entice him.’ And Yahweh said to him, ‘By what means?’ <sup>21</sup>And he said, ‘I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And he said, ‘You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.’ <sup>22</sup>Now therefore behold, Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these your prophets. Yahweh has declared disaster concerning you.”**

❖ In contrast to pagan prophecy, Yahweh prophecy:

❖ Is characterized by truthful charges and predictions.

❖ Deut 18:22. When a prophet speaks in the name of Yahweh, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that Yahweh has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

❖ Jer. 28:9. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that Yahweh has truly sent the prophet.

- ❖ Promotes sustained loyalty to Yahweh alone, exposing iniquity and calling for repentance that leads to blessing.
- ❖ Deut. 13:1–3. If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup>and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, “Let us go after other gods,” which you have not known, “and let us serve them,” <sup>3</sup>you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For Yahweh your God is testing you, to know whether you love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

(On the performance of authentic signs and wonders by the unregenerate, see Exod. 7:10–11, 21–22; 8:6–7; Matt. 7:22–23; 24:24–25; Rev. 13:14; 16:14; 19:20.)

❖ **Lam. 2:14**. Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading.



- ❖ Includes no sign of pagan practice and finds its confirmation in God's word alone.
- ❖ Isa. 8:19–20. And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?  
<sup>20</sup>To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.