**The Lives of the Prophets**

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The Names of the Prophets, and whence they were, where they died, and how and where they were buried.

**1 – Isaiah**

**1** He was of Jerusalem. He met his death at the hands of Manasseh, sawn in two, and was buried below the fountain of Rogel, hard by the conduit of the waters that Hezekiah spoiled (for the enemy) by blocking their course. **2** For the prophet’s sake, God wrought the miracle of Shiloah; for, before his death, in fainting condition he prayed for water, and it was sent to him from this source. Hence, it was called Shiloah, which means ‘sent’.

**3** Also in the time of Hezekiah, before the king made the pools and the reservoirs, at the prayer of Isaiah a little water came forth here, lest the city, at that time besieged by the Gentiles, should be destroyed through lack of water. **4** For, the enemy were seeking a drinking place, and as they invested the city they encamped near Shiloah. If then, the Hebrews came to the pool, water flowed forth; if the Gentiles came, there was none. Hence, even to the present day, the water issues suddenly, to keep the miracle in mind. **5** Because this was wrought through the prayer of Isaiah, the people in remembrance buried his body near the spot, with care and high honour, in order that through his prayers, even after his death, they might continue to have the benefit of the water. Indeed, a revelation had been given them concerning him.

**6** His tomb, however, is near the tomb of the kings, behind the tomb of the priests on the side toward the south. **7** Solomon constructed the tombs, which had been designed by David, on the east of Zion, where there is an entering road from Gibeon, the town twenty stadia distant from the city. He made a winding construction, its location unsuspected; even to the present day it is unknown to most of the priests, and wholly unknown to the people. **8** There the king kept the gold and the spices from Ethiopia. **9** When Hezekiah showed to the Gentiles the secret of David and Solomon, and defiled the bones of his ancestors, therefore God laid upon him the curse, that his descendants should be in servitude to their enemies; and God made him to be childless, from that day.

**2 – Jeremiah**

**1** He was of Anathoth, and he died in Tahpenes in Egypt, stoned to death by the Jews. **2** He is buried in the place where Pharaoh’s palace stood; for, the Egyptians held him in honour, because of the benefit which they had received through him. **3** For, at his prayer, the serpents which the Egyptians call *ephoth* departed from them; **4** and, even at the present day, the faithful servants of God pray on that spot and, taking of the dust of the place, they heal the bites of serpents. **5** We have been told by the children of Antigonus and Ptolemy, aged men, that Alexander the Macedonian, when he stood at the place where the prophet was buried, and learned of the wonders which he had wrought, carried away his bones to Alexandria, placing them round about with due ceremony; **6** whereupon the whole race of poisonous serpents was driven out of the land. With like purpose, he (the prophet) had introduced into Egypt the so-called argolai (that is, ‘snake-fighters’).

**7** Jeremiah also gave a sign to the priests of Egypt, that their idols would be shaken and their gods made with hands would all collapse, when there should arrive in Egypt a virgin bearing a child of divine appearance. **8** Wherefore, even to the present time, they honour a virgin mother and placing a babe in a manger they bow down to it. When Ptolemy the king sought the reason for this, they said to him, “It is a mystery handed down from our fathers, a sign delivered to them by a holy prophet, and we are awaiting its fulfilment.”

**9** This prophet, before the destruction of the temple, took possession of the ark of the law and the things within it, and caused them to be swallowed up in a rocky cliff, and he said to those who were present, **10** “The Lord departed from Sinai into heaven, and he will again come with might; and this shall be for you the sign of his appearance, when all the Gentiles worship a piece of wood.” **11** He said also: “No one shall bring forth this ark but Aaron, and the tables within it no one of the priests or prophets shall unfold but Moses the elect of God.” **12** And, in the resurrection, the ark will rise first, and come forth from the rock, and will be placed on Mount Sinai; and all the saints will be assembled to it there, awaiting the Lord and fleeing from the enemy wishing to destroy them.

**13** He sealed in the rock with his finger the name of God, and the writing was as though carved with iron. A cloud then covered the name; and no one knows the place, nor can the writing be read, to the present day and even to the end. **14** The rock is in the wilderness where the ark was at first, between the two mountains on which Moses and Aaron are buried, and by night there is a cloud as it were of fire, according to the primal ordinance that the glory of God should never cease from his law. **15** And God gave to Jeremiah the favour of completing this wonder, so that he might be the associate of Moses, and they are together to this day.

**3 – Ezekiel**

**1** He was from the district of Sarira, of the priests; and he died in the land of Chaldea, in the time of the captivity, after uttering many prophecies to those who were in Judea. **2** He was slain by the leader of the Israelite exiles, who had been rebuked by him for his worship of idols; **3** and they buried him in the field of Nahor, in the tomb of Shem and Arphaxad, the ancestors of Abraham. **4** The tomb is a double cave, according to whose plan Abraham also made the tomb of Sarah in Hebron. **5** It is called ‘double’ because it has a winding (stairway) and there is an upper chamber hidden from the main floor hung in the rock above the ground-level.

**6** This prophet gave to the people a sign, that they should pay attention to the river Chebar; **7** when its waters should fail, they were to expect, “the sickle of desolation to the ends of the earth,” when it should overflow, the return to Jerusalem. **8** While the saint was dwelling there, many kept coming to him; **9** and, on one occasion, when a throng had assembled to him, the Chaldeans feared an uprising and came upon them to destroy them. **10** He made the water cease its flow, so that they could flee to the other side; but when the enemy ventured to pursue, they were drowned.

**11** Through his prayer he provided for them ample sustenance in fish which came of their own accord to be caught. Many who were at the point of death he cheered with the news of life coming to them from God.

**12** When the people were being destroyed by the enemy, he went to the hostile captains and so terrified them with marvels which he wrought that they ceased. It was then that he said to the people **13** “Are we indeed perishing? Is our hope at an end?” And, by the vision of the dry bones, he persuaded them that there is hope for Israel both now and in the time to come.

**14** While he was there he showed to the people of Israel what was being done in Jerusalem and in the temple. **15** He himself was borne away thence, and came to Jerusalem, for a rebuke to the faithless.

**16** Also after the manner of Moses he foresaw the fashion of the temple, with its walls and its broad surroundings, as Daniel also declared that it should be built.

**17** He pronounced judgment in Babylon on the tribes of Dan and Gad, because they dealt wickedly against the Lord, persecuting those who were keeping the law; **18** and he wrought upon them this grievous wonder, that their children and all their cattle should be killed by serpents. **19** He also foretold, that because of their sin Israel would not return to its land but would remain in Media, until the end of this evildoing. **20** One of their number was the man who slew Ezekiel; for, they opposed him all the days of his life.

**4 – Daniel**

**1** He was of the tribe of Judah, of a family prominent in the service of the king; but, in his childhood, he was carried away from Judaea to the land of Chaldaea. **2** He was born in Upper Beth-Horon. In his manhood he was chaste, so that the Jews thought him a eunuch.

**3** He mourned greatly over the city, and in fasting abstained from every sort of dainty food. He was lean and haggard in the eyes of men, but beautiful in the grace of the Most High.

**4** He made great supplication on behalf of Nebuchadnezzar, whose son Belshazzar besought him for aid at the time when the king became a beast of the field, lest he should perish. **5** For, his head and foreparts were those of an ox, his legs and hinder parts those of a lion. **6** The meaning of this marvel was revealed to the prophet; the king became a beast because of his self-indulgence and his stubbornness. **7** It is the manner of tyrants, that in their youth they come under the yoke of Satan; in their latter years, they become wild beasts, snatching, destroying, smiting, and slaying.

**8** The prophet knew by divine revelation that the king was eating grass like an ox, and that it became for him the food of a human being. **9** Therefore, it was that Nebuchadnezzar himself, recovering human reason when digestion was completed, used to weep and beseech the Lord, praying forty times each day and night. **10** Then the mind of a dumb animal would (again) take possession of him and he would forget that he had been a human being. **11** His tongue had lost the power of speech; when he understood his condition he wept, and his eyes were like raw flesh from his weeping. **12** There were many who went out from the city to see him; Daniel alone had no wish to see him, but during all the time of his transformation he was in prayer for him. **13** He declared that the king would be restored to human form, but they did not believe him.

**14** Daniel caused the seven years (the meaning of his ‘seven times’) to become seven months. **15** The mystery of the seven times was fulfilled upon the king, for in seven months he was restored and, in the (remaining) six years and five months, he was doing penance to the Lord and confessing his wickedness. When his sin had been forgiven, the kingdom was given back to him. **16** He ate neither bread nor flesh in the time of his repentance; for, Daniel had bidden him eat pulse and greens while appeasing the Lord. **17** The king named the prophet Baltasar because he wished to make him a joint heir with his children; **18** but the holy man said, “Far be it from me to forsake the heritage of my fathers and join in the inheritances of the uncircumcised.” **19** He also did for the other Persian kings many wonderful things which were not written down. **20** He died there, and was buried with great honour, by himself, in the royal sepulchre.

**21** He appointed a sign in the mountains which are above Babylon: When the mountain on the north shall smoke, the end of Babylon will come; when it shall burn as with fire, the end of all the earth will be at hand. If the mountain on the south shall flow with water, Israel will return to its land; if it shall run blood, it portends a slaughter brought by Satan on all the earth. **22** And the holy prophet slept in peace.

**5 – Hosea**

**1** He was from Belemoth, of the tribe of Issachar, and he was buried in peace, in his own land. **2** He gave a sign, that the Lord would come to the earth when the oak tree which is in Shiloh should of its own accord be divided and become twelve oaks.

**6 – Micah the Morashtite**

**1** He was of the tribe of Ephraim. Having given much trouble to King Ahab, he was killed, thrown from a cliff, by Ahab’s son Joram, because he rebuked him for the wickedness of his fathers. **2** He was given solitary burial in his own land, near the burying place of the giants.

**7 – Amos**

**1** He was from Tekoa. Amaziah (the priest of Bethel) had often beaten him, and at last Amaziah’s son killed him with a cudgel, striking him on the temple. **2** While still living he made his way to his land, and after some days died and was buried there.

**8 – Joel**

**1** He was from the territory of Reuben, of the field of Bethmeon. He died in peace and was buried there.

**9 – Obadiah**

**1** He was from the region of Shechem, of the field of Beth-Hakkerem. **2** He was a pupil of Elijah, and having done much in his service he was saved from death by him. **3** He was that third captain of fifty whom Elijah spared, and went down with him to Ahaziah. **4** Afterward, leaving the service of the king he became a prophet and, upon his death, he was buried with his fathers.

**10 – Jonah**

**1** He was from the district of Kiriath-maon, near the Gentile city of Azotus on the sea. **2** After he had been cast on shore by the whale and had made his journey to Nineveh, on his return he did not stay in his own land, but took his mother and settled in Tyre, a country of foreign peoples. **3** For, he said, “In this way I will take away my reproach, that I prophesied falsely against the great city Nineveh.”

**4** Elijah was at that time rebuking the house of Ahab, and having called a famine upon the land he fled. Coming to the region of Tyre he found the widow and her son, for he himself could not lodge with the uncircumcised. **5** He brought her a blessing and when her child died, God raised him from the dead through Elijah, for he wished to show him that it is not possible to flee from God.

**6** After the famine was over, Jonah came into the land of Judaea. On the way thither his mother died, and he buried her beside the oak of Deborah. **7** Thereafter having settled in the land of Seir, he died there and was buried in the tomb of the Kenizzite, the first who became judge in the days when there was no king. **8** He gave a sign to Jerusalem and to all the land: When they should see a stone crying aloud in distress, the end would be at hand; and when they should see all the Gentiles gathered in Jerusalem, the city would be razed to its foundations.

**11 – Nahum**

**1** He was of Elkosh, on the other side of the mountains toward Beth-Gabrin, of the tribe of Simeon. **2** This prophet after the time of Jonah gave a sign to Nineveh, that it would be destroyed by fresh waters and by underground fire; and indeed this came to pass. **3** For, the lake that surrounded the city overwhelmed it in an earthquake, and fire coming from the desert burned its upper portion. **4** He died in peace, and was buried in his land.

**12 – Habakkuk**

**1** He was from the tribe of Simeon, of the field of Beth-Zachariah.

**2** Before the captivity he had a vision of the destruction of Jerusalem, and he grieved exceedingly. **3** When Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem, he fled to Ostracina (in Egypt), and then sojourned in the land of Ishmael. **4** When the Chaldeans returned (to their country), and all those who were left in Jerusalem went down to Egypt, he settled again in his own land.

**5** He was accustomed to carry food to the reapers of the harvest in his field; **6** and one day, as he received the food, he announced to his family, “I am off for a far country, but will return immediately; if I should delay, carry out the food to the reapers.” **7** Finding himself straightway in Babylon, and having given Daniel his meal, he stood by the reapers as they ate; and he told no one what had happened.

**8** He had knowledge that the people would soon come back from Babylon. **9** Two years before the return, he died and was buried alone in his own field.

**10** He gave a sign to the people in Judea, that they would see in the temple a light shining, and thus they would know the glory of the sanctuary. **11** Concerning the end of the temple, he foretold that it would be brought to pass by a western nation, **12** “Then,” he said, “the veil of the inner sanctuary will be torn to pieces, and the capitals of the two pillars will be taken away, and no one will know where they are; **13** but they will be carried away by angels into the wilderness where in the beginning the Tabernacle of Witness was pitched. **14** By them in the end the presence of the Lord will be made known; for, they will give light to those who are pursued by the Serpent in darkness as at the beginning.”

**13 – Zephaniah**

**1** He was of the tribe of Simeon, of the field of Sabaratha(?). **2** He prophesied concerning the city, also concerning the end of the nations and the confounding of the wicked. **3** When he died, he was buried in his own field.

**14 – Haggai**

**1** Probably as a youth he came from Babylon to Jerusalem, and he had prophesied publicly in regard to the return of the people. **2** He witnessed in part the building of the temple. Upon his death he was buried near the tomb of the priests, honoured as though one of their number.

**15 – Zachariah [son of Iddo]**

**1** He came from Chaldaea when already advanced in age. While there, he prophesied often to the people, and did wonders in proof of his authority. **2** He foretold to Jozadak that he would beget a son who would serve as priest in Jerusalem; **3** he also congratulated Shealtiel on the birth of a son and gave him the name Zerubbabel. **4** In the time of Cyrus, he gave the king a sign of victory, and foretold the service which he was destined to perform for Jerusalem, and he praised him greatly. **5** His prophecies uttered in Jerusalem had to do with the end of the nations, with Israel and the temple, with the laziness of prophets and priests, and with a double judgment. **6** After reaching great age, he was taken ill and, dying, was buried beside Haggai.

**16 – Malachi**

**1** He was born in Sopha, after the return from the Exile. **2** Even in his boyhood he lived a blameless life, and since all the people paid him honour for his piety and his mildness, they called him ‘Malachi’ (angel); he was also fair to look upon. **3** Moreover, whatever things he uttered in prophecy were repeated on that same day by an angel of God who appeared; as had happened in the days when there was no king in Israel, as is written in the book of Judges. **4** While yet in his youth, he was joined to his fathers in his own field.

**17 – Nathan**

**1** He, David’s prophet, was from Gibeon, of a Hivite clan, and it was he who taught the king the law of the Lord. **2** He foresaw David's sin with Bathsheba, and set out in haste to warn him, but Satan (‘Beliar’) thwarted his attempt. He found, lying by the road, the naked body of a man who had been slain; **3** and, while he was detained by this duty, he knew that in that night the king had committed the sin; **4** so, he turned back to Gibeon in sorrow. Then when David caused the death of Bathsheba’s husband, the Lord sent Nathan to convict him. **5** He lived to an advanced old age, and when he died he was buried in his own land.

**18 – Ahijah**

**1** He was from Shiloh, the city of Eli, where the tabernacle stood in days of old. **2** He declared of Solomon, that he would provoke the Lord to anger. **3** He also rebuked Jeroboam, because he dealt treacherously with the Lord, and he had a vision of two bullocks trampling on the people and charging upon the priests. **4** He foretold to Solomon that his wives would bring disgrace on him and all his house. 5 Upon his death he was buried beside the oak of Shiloh.

**19 – Joed**

**1** He was of the district of Samarim. He was that prophet whom the lion attacked and slew, when he had rebuked Jeroboam concerning the bullocks; **2** he who was buried in Bethel beside the false prophet who led him astray.

**20 – Azariah**

**1** He was from Subatha, the prophet who turned away from Judah the captivity that befell Israel. **2** His burial was in his own field.

**21 – Zechariah [son of Jehoiada]**

**1** He was of Jerusalem, the son of Jehoiada the priest, the prophet whom Joash king of Judah slew beside the altar, whose blood the house of David shed within the sanctuary, in the court. The priests buried him beside his father. **2** From that time on, there were portentous appearances in the temple, and the priests could see no vision of angels of God, nor give forth oracles from the inner sanctuary; nor were they able to inquire with the ephod, nor to give answer to the people by Urim and Thummim, as in former time.

**22 – Elijah**

**1** He was a Tishbite, from the land of the Arabs, of the family of Aaron, residing in Gilead because Tishbi had been assigned to the priests. **2** At the time of his birth his father, Shobach, saw how certain men of shining white appearance addressed the babe, and that they wrapped him in swaddling clothes of fire and gave him a flame of fire to eat. **3** When he went and reported this in Jerusalem, the oracle gave answer, “Fear not; for, his dwelling will be light, and his word revelation, and he will judge Israel with sword and with fire.”

**23 – Elishah**

**1** He was from Abel-Meholah, of the territory of Reuben. **2** When he was born, in Gilgal, a marvellous thing happened: the golden calf bellowed so loudly that the shrill sound was heard in Jerusalem; **3** and the priest announced, by Urim and Thummim, that a prophet had been born to Israel who should destroy their graven and molten idols. **4** Upon his death he was buried in Samaria.