

ALIVE ^{IN} CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

Prophetic Promise

Let Us Pray

Leader: With great mercy, the Lord keeps promises;
the Lord fulfills all prophecies.

“Let your mercy come to me, LORD,
salvation in accord with your promise.”

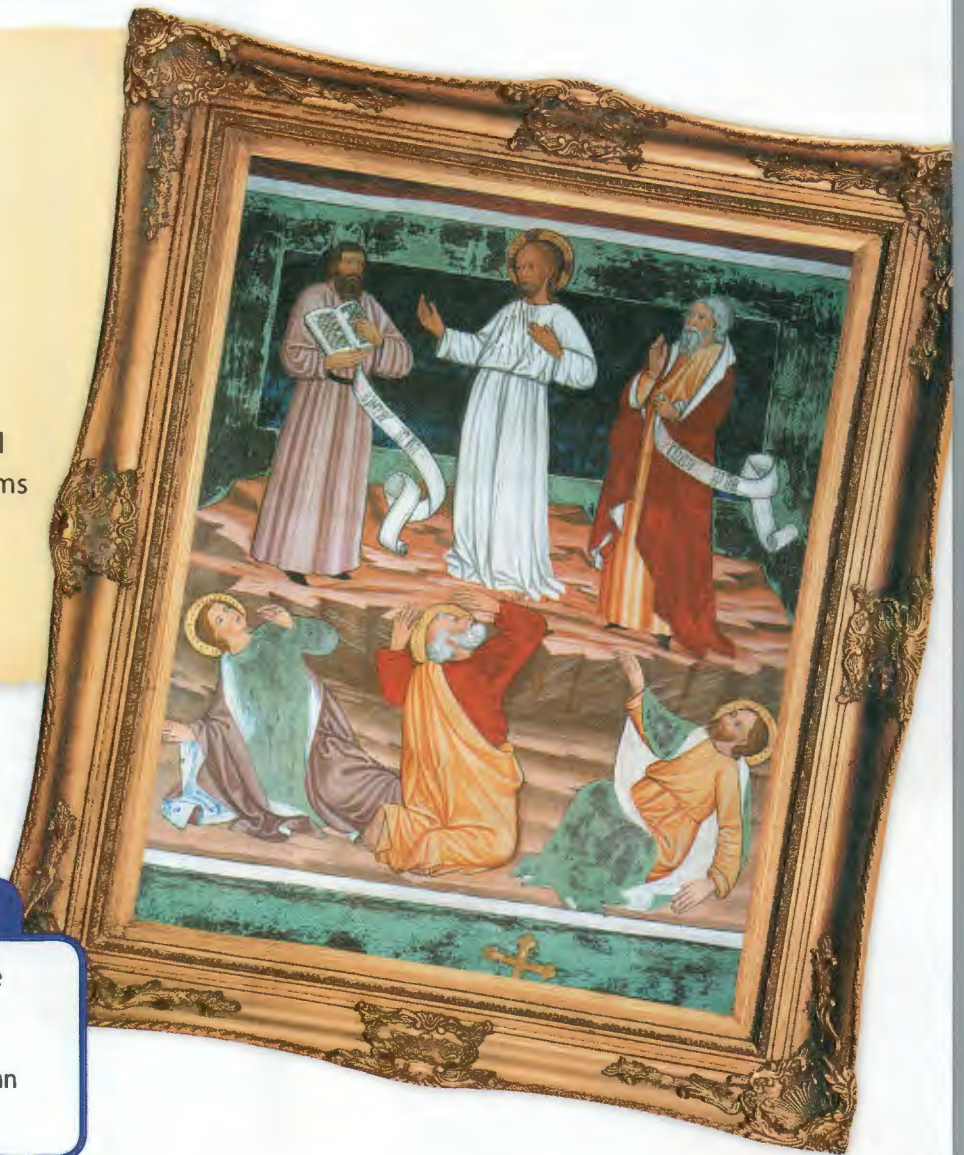
Psalm 119:41

All: Send, O Lord, the Promise of Ages to dwell as
guest-in-our-hearts and so to draw all creation
home to you. Amen.

Scripture

The Lord himself will give you a sign; the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this! Based on **Isaiah 7:14; 9:5b-6**

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What Do You Wonder?

- Why did God send prophets to the Chosen People?
- Do we still need prophets? How can you act as a prophet?

Catholic Faith Words

prophet a messenger from God who speaks the truth and calls the people to follow the laws of God's covenant and act with justice

exile the time when Judah, the southern kingdom, was conquered by the Babylonians (586 B.C.). As a result, the people of Judah were sent into Babylon, away from their homeland.

God's Messengers

What message did the prophets bring to the people?

To be heard and understood is a gift. When a parent, teacher, or friend pays attention to what you have to say, you know that you are valued. When someone will not listen to you, it can be very difficult. Beginning around the time of the kings of Israel, God called certain people to speak the truth to the people and to summon them back to God. These people were called prophets. A **prophet** reminds people to be faithful to the covenant.

One person at the royal court, writing after the death of Solomon, might have written a letter like this one.

The Disturber of Israel

Dear Cousin Abi,

So much has been happening here at the royal court. The Kingdom has split in two, with Israel in the north and Judah in the south. But the big news is about prophets.

Since the Kingdom has been divided, there have been many false prophets. They speak for money or personal gain. And the court prophets just try to please their kings.

Recently, however, a prophet named Elijah appeared in Israel. He has warned of years of drought to come. King Ahab called Elijah "the disturber of Israel." But Elijah replied that the true disturber of Israel is King Ahab's own household, because his family members worship idols.

What Elijah says is true. The people and rulers are turning away from God. I hope people listen to Elijah soon.

Your loving cousin,
Hanani



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Underline why King Ahab is the true disturber of Israel.

Repentance and Restoration

The people did not listen to Elijah. God continued to send prophets, but the people still did not change their ways. Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Many of the people of Judah were sent into **exile** far away.

The prophet Ezekiel saw the exile of the people of Israel as God's correction of their wrongdoings. In a prophecy called the Vision of the Dry Bones, Ezekiel shared a picture of the exile and what would come after it. The people understood the prophecy to mean that God would restore them to their land.

Who Are We?

Prophets in the north

- Amos criticized those who were wealthy for ignoring those who were poor.
- Hosea called the people of Israel unfaithful because they had other gods.
- Micah urged people to turn from their sinful ways back to God.
- Despite all the warnings, the people did not repent, and the Assyrians conquered Israel, the northern kingdom, in 721 B.C.

The great prophets in the south

- Isaiah's prophecies predicted punishment for the kingdom.
- Jeremiah predicted destruction if the people did not repent.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Read one of the passages below, and think about what the prophet means.

Isaiah 3:1–8

Hosea 12:1–4

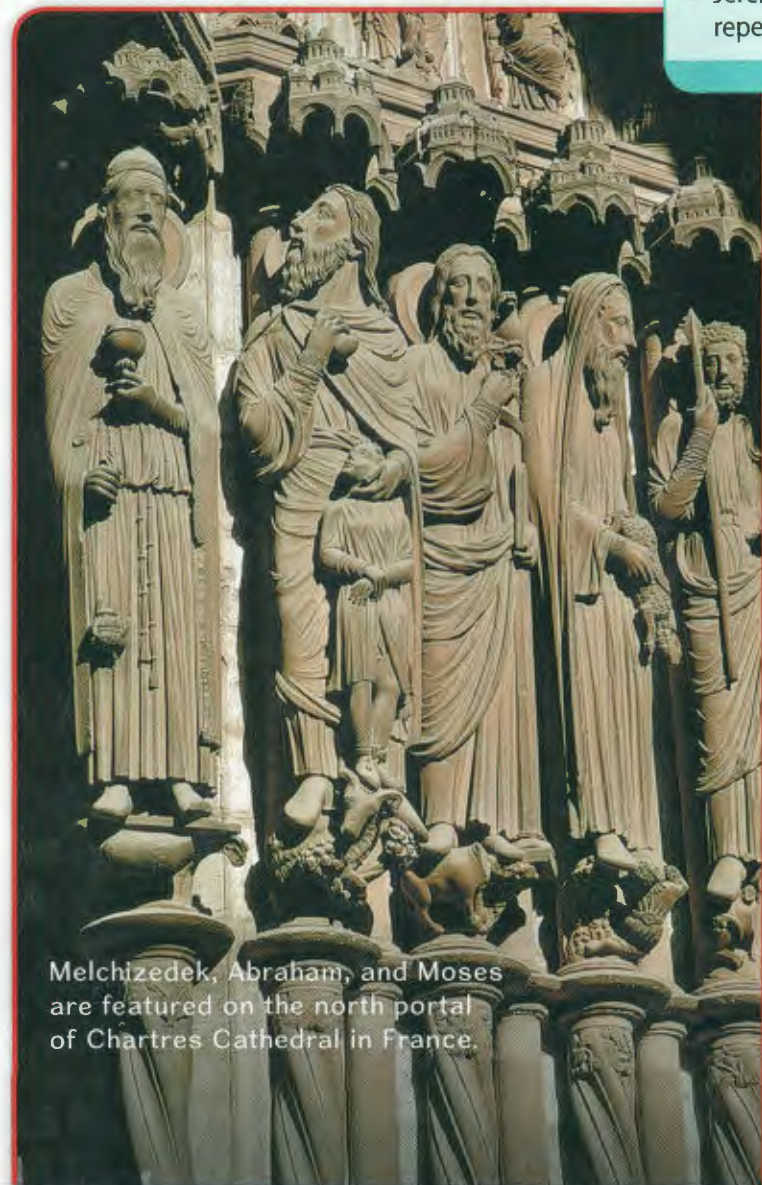
Jeremiah 19:10–11

Amos 8:4–12

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Micah 3:9–12, 6:8

Share Act out what the message of one of these prophets is for your life or our world today.



Melchizedek, Abraham, and Moses are featured on the north portal of Chartres Cathedral in France.

Catholic Faith Words

Messiah the promised one who would lead God's People. The word Messiah means "God's anointed," or "God's chosen one." Jesus is the Messiah.

Incarnation the mystery that the Son of God took on human nature in order to save all people

The birth and life of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of a Messiah coming to the Israelites.

Message of a Messiah

Who is the promised Messiah?

The prophets continued to speak to the people even after the Israelites returned to their homeland. Many of the prophetic messages told the people that God would send a **Messiah**, God's anointed or chosen one, to save them. Christians believe that these prophecies of a Messiah tell about Jesus.



Scripture

The Chosen One

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:5

Exult greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!

Behold: your king is coming to you,
a just savior is he,

Humble, and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9



Underline the similarities and circle the differences between these two prophecies.

Jesus the Christ

We hear these readings at Mass during Advent when we prepare to celebrate the **Incarnation**. During the Christmas season, we remember the meaning of Jesus' name: "God saves." Jesus can save us because he is both God and man, Divine and human. He shares our humanity in all things except sin.

When Jesus began teaching and healing, many believed that he was the promised one. Jesus is called *Christ*, a word meaning "anointed one" or "Messiah." In time, his followers also came to understand that Jesus was the Son of God. Through Jesus and in the Holy Spirit, all people share in God's promise of eternal life.

God still needs messengers to call people to be faithful and turn away from evil. Here are stories about two messengers.

Saint Paul

Saint Paul was one of Jesus' followers who traveled and told people about Jesus. When he left a place, he would write letters to the people there. The letters taught the new Christians more about Jesus, how to follow him, and ways to live in love and God's grace. Paul's messages

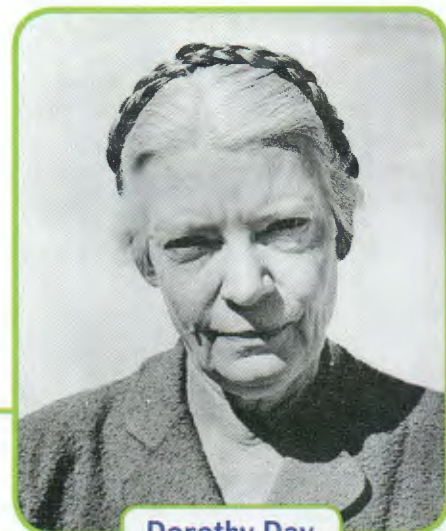


still speak God's Word to us today. We read from his letters during many Masses.

Dorothy Day

When Dorothy Day was thirty, she became a Catholic. Together with her spiritual adviser, Peter Maurin, she founded the Catholic Worker movement. She started soup kitchens for those who were homeless. Until her death in 1980, she chose to live in poverty and was a witness to Jesus' message of love for all who are poor and homeless. Dorothy Day called for "a revolution of the heart... which must start with each one of us."

➔ **What qualities did Saint Paul and Dorothy Day have in common?**



Dorothy Day

Connect Your Faith

Find the Message Write two words that describe each person's message.

Saint Paul _____

Dorothy Day _____

Who in your community has shared a similar message?

Tell a partner how you have responded to one of these messages.

Our Catholic Life

What does it take to stand strong as the prophets in the Bible did?

The prophets in the Bible gave the people the messages God wanted them to hear. In this way, they helped people know God's will. However, sometimes he called prophets to deliver messages that the people did not want to hear: Stop hurting others! Help those who are poor! Repent of your sins and follow God's laws!

The prophets had to stand up for what they believed, and so do you. Perhaps one day you will have to stand up for someone who is being teased or mistreated. You may have to decide whether to go along with the crowd or go your own way. Like the prophets, you might be rejected or made fun of. Practicing right actions will help you prepare to stand up for what is right when the time comes.

Steps to Standing Strong

- 1. KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE** Learn God's Word and follow it. He gives you wisdom and the knowledge of what is right and true.

"With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones and also for me, that speech may be given me to open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel" (**Ephesians 6:18-19**).

- 2. PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP** Ask God to help you stand strong when you are pressured to give in.

"So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you" (**1 Peter 5:6-7**).

- 3. TRUST GOD** Have faith that God will give you strength and help you say the right words at the right time.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; prudent are all who practice it. His praise endures forever" (**Psalms 111:10**).

- 4. HAVE THE PROPER ATTITUDE** Follow the example of the prophets and of Jesus, all of whom displayed the attitude of humility.

"Do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (**Matthew 10:19-20**).



People of Faith

May 13

Blessed Jacinta Marto, 1910 – 1920

Blessed Jacinta Marto was a modern-day prophet. Mary appeared to Jacinta, her brother Francisco, and their cousin Lúcia dos Santos at Fátima, Portugal. Mary gave them a message from Jesus, asking them to tell the world to repent and obey God's laws. She also told the children to say the Rosary and make sacrifices like giving up their lunches. Jacinta obeyed happily. Town officials, however, told Jacinta to stop speaking about the things that Mary had said. Even though she was threatened, she remained brave and continued to spread the message.



Discuss: How do you obey God's laws?



Learn more about Blessed Jacinta at aliveinchrist.osv.com


Live Your Faith

Read the Canticle of Mary in Luke 1:46–55. Write your own poem, modeling it on Mary's canticle. In your poem, describe one thing that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are accomplishing in your life and in the world around you.

 **Let Us Pray**

Prayer of Reflection

A prayer of reflection allows you to remember the things you have learned and consider how Jesus' words and actions affect you and the way you live each day. Reflective prayer helps us to quiet our bodies and minds and open our hearts to God's presence.

 **All:** Sing "Sacred Silence"

Sacred silence, holy ocean,
gentle water, washing over me.
Help me listen, Holy Spirit,
come and speak to me.

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Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: We gather today in thanks. We've learned about the work of Jesus the Messiah, the Promised One as Isaiah tells us.

Read Isaiah 9:5.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: During this prayer time, let us rest in God's love, grateful to the Father for sending his Son, Jesus, the greatest of the prophets.

Reflect on the Scripture passage. Be aware of how much God loves you, and listen for what his gift of Jesus means to you.

Leader: As we gratefully end these moments of reflective prayer, and at the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven...



YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter teaches that Jesus is the Messiah, God's promised one, and identifies prophets as messengers from God who speak the truth and call people to justice, and who are still needed today.

Scripture



Read **Isaiah 7:14; 9:5b-6** to find out what the prophet Isaiah had to say about Emmanuel.

Catholics Believe

- Prophets are messengers from God who speak the truth and call the people to follow the laws of God's covenant and act with justice
- We understand that Jesus is the Messiah described by the Old Testament prophets.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #709-714, 2581-2584 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Blessed Jacinta Marto, one of the three children to whom Mary appeared at Fátima. Jacinta is remembered for her happiness and obedience to God.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Prophets Because they have grown in their ability to understand the various eras in Scripture, sixth-graders might think of prophets as people who foresaw the future. This is a part of what prophets did, but prophecy means more than this; it is sharing God's Word with others. Understanding this can help your child begin to grasp and live out our anointing at Baptism to share in Christ's mission as "priest, prophet, and king."



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Have you ever tried to pound a nail with something other than a hammer?

Life is easier when we use things for their created purpose. The prophets warned against unfaithfulness (people living not according to their purpose). As Catholics, we know that "though God is totally other, hidden, glorious, and wondrous, he communicates himself to us through creation and reveals himself through the prophets and above all in Jesus Christ, whom we meet in the Church, especially in Scripture and the Sacraments. In these many ways, God speaks to our hearts where we may welcome his loving presence" (*USCCA p. 51*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you about why God sent prophets to his People.
- Discuss some of the messages of the biblical prophets and how they apply to your family today.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, help us to be happy to follow the example of Blessed Jacinta and obey God's laws.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 9 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle with the correct answer.

1. King Ahab called _____ the “disturber of Israel.”
 - Elijah
 - Isaiah
 - Jeremiah
 - Hosea
2. When the Israelites were taken to Babylon, they were living in _____.
 - Egypt
 - Assyria
 - Palestine
 - exile
3. The _____ communicated God’s truth and call people to follow his law.
 - foreigners
 - prophets
 - kings
 - Canaanites
4. Many of the biblical prophets told of the coming of a _____, the one anointed, or chosen, by God.
 - man
 - woman
 - missionary
 - Messiah
5. _____ is not one of the steps to standing up for what you believe.
 - Knowing what you believe
 - Praying for God’s help
 - Trusting only your own understanding
 - Having the proper attitude

B Check Understanding Complete each statement.

6. _____ wrote letters telling people how to live good lives.
7. The name _____ means “God saves.”
8. The Assyrians conquered _____ in 721 B.C.
9. _____ prophesied punishment for the Northern Kingdom.
10. The _____ is the mystery that the Son of God took on human nature in order to save all people.

