

Love

Serve

Keep

= *True Piety/True Religion in both Old and New Covenants*

Remember, that the Gospel produces a whole person restoration-transformation by God's grace and Spirit, that brings well-being-shalom-peace-contentment-joy-well-ordered affections-loves in Christ: fear, walking, loving, serving, keeping, etc.

ESV Deuteronomy 18:15-19: *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers- it is to him you shall listen-¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸**I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.**¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.*

Interpreting the Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets):

ESV Romans 15:4 *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

We should interpret the Book of the Twelve in three "readings" (which is how we should interpret the Old Testament as God's people):

- 1) **First Reading:** *"How did the people of Israel first hear the words of the prophets within their cultural milieu?"* - Considering the message of the prophet in his historical context and time period in redemptive-history.
- 2) **Second Reading:** *"How do the prophets point to Jesus Christ?"* (cf. Luke 24:24ff): Considering the message of the prophet as it becomes clearer throughout redemptive-history, and particularly with the coming of Jesus Christ.

TYPE → ANTITYPE

PROPHET → JESUS

ISRAEL → CHURCH

NATIONS → UNBELIEVERS

- 3) **Third Reading:** “How do we read the prophets “in Christ as the Church today”?
Considering the message of the prophet as it applies and has implications for Christ’s Church today.

Let us remember what our father in the faith, John Calvin wrote as the very “key” to rightly interpreting and understanding the prophets:

*“...I urge readers to remember to use the key which I gave them, so that they may understand aright. That is, whenever the prophets describe the bliss awaiting believers and which appears as but a tiny shadow in this world, let them recall this distinction: to provide a clearer picture of God’s goodness, the prophets portrayed it figuratively in terms of earthly advantages. While portraying them this way they nevertheless meant to lift men’s hearts above the earth, above the elements of this world and above this perishable sphere, and to lead them to meditate on the blessedness of the spiritual life” (Calvin, *Institutes*, 1541, 446-47).*

Common Sermon Form of the Prophets of the Book of the Twelve

The sermons or prophecies of “The Twelve” have a three-part structure; this is often called a “covenant lawsuit”:

- 1) Accusations against Israel**
- 2) Judgment as a consequence for their sins**
- 3) Eschatological Hope for repentant believers**

CRB/February 2019