Iona School for Ministry

Latter Prophets

December 3, 2022

**Summary of “What you need to know…”**

**Session 1**

Definition of *divination*

The attempt to read the significance of the interplay of unseen superhuman forces that decisively affect human life,

* using methods commonly recognized as legitimate,
* subject to verification by subsequent experience

Definition of *prophet*

One who performs oracular divination by

* Having psychic experiences
* Interpreting them as revelatory messages describing Yahweh’s

involvement in human affairs

* Delivering the message to its intended recipient: king, other

officials, individuals, or the people at large, etc.

**Session 2**

Prophetic books are

* Based on the oracular revelations of the prophet for whom they are named,
* Transcribed, edited, and augmented by mantic scribes,
* Reinterpreted retrospectively in light of subsequent developments to show a typological correspondence between how the prophet viewed Yahweh’s involvement in his time and how the scribal reinterpreter views Yahweh’s involvement in his time
* So as to give the impression that the prophet is speaking to readers of later generations

**Session 3**

Assyrian Crisis, 8th century BCE

Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah

Babylonian Crisis, 6th century BCE

Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Ezekiel

Persian Restoration, late 6th-mid 5th century BCE

Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Other

Joel, Jonah, Daniel