

Neviim

What is Neviim?

The Torah contains the Five Books of Moses. However, the Five Books are not the only sacred Jewish texts. The entire Written Torah is known as the Tanakh. This is an acronym derived from three words: *Torah*, The Five Books of Moses; *Nev'im*, the writings of the 21 Prophets; *Ketuvim*, additional sacred writings. Together *Torah*, *Nev'im* and *Ketuvim* are known as the Written Torah.

The Neviim contain these books:

Yehoshua (Joshua)

Shoftim (Judges)

Shmuel (I & II Samuel)

Melakhim (I & II Kings)

Yeshayah (Isaiah)

Yirmyah (Jeremiah)

Yechezqel (Ezekiel)

The Twelve (treated as one book)

- Hoshea (Hosea) - Yoel (Joel)

- Amos - Ovadyah (Obadiah)

- Yonah (Jonah) - Mikhah (Micah)

- Nachum - Chavaqquq (Habbakkuk)

- Tzefanyah (Zephaniah) - Chaggai

- Zekharyah (Zechariah) - Malakhi

The prophets in Ancient Israel carried important moral messages to the people and reminded them of how they should behave. The words of the prophets were so important that we still read and learn from them today. The word “prophet” comes from a Greek word meaning “to speak out” and that is what the prophets did.

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In the time the historical time that the Prophets spoke out, life in Israel was turbulent, with threats coming from different leaders and frequent wars. The Prophets were “voices” of moral message for those times—and they are still read and used as inspiration.

Each week in synagogue, following the Torah reading, there is another reading called the Haftarah, which is a selection from Neviim. The Haftarah is written in a book, not a scroll.

Want to learn more?

Prophets: <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/prophets-neviim/>

Prophets for Kids: <http://adventuresinmommydom.org/bible-curriculum/bible-prophets-kids>

Journal:

Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsAcl4dXK48> about a prophet named Jonah. Jonah is a reluctant prophet—he does not want to carry God’s message to the people of Nineveh. Why do you think Jonah is reluctant? What changes him? Have you ever been reluctant to do something that you knew a parent or teacher really wanted you to do?