

The Prophetic Checklist

Name: _____

As you read about a prophet, check off the characteristics below that are common to biblical prophets and put the relevant biblical citation next to each characteristic.

Shared Characteristics	Biblical Citations That Illustrate Each Characteristic
<p>They obeyed God. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for <i>obedience</i> meant primarily “listening” or “hearing.” An obedient person heard God’s Word and followed it (see Exodus 15:26). To be obedient was simply to align oneself with God’s will.</p>	
<p>They knew that God wanted his people to treat all people with justice. They understood the need for and purpose of divine justice. The Hebrew and Greek words translated as “justice” are also translated as “righteousness” and “judgment.” Divine justice calls for the fair and equitable distribution of life’s necessities. The scriptural idea of justice is based in the truth that all humans have dignity and worth and are children of God. God’s love for all creation is shown in his emphasis on justice, which is love in action.</p>	
<p>They lived good, moral lives themselves. They committed themselves to ethical responsibility. The commandments of God are the fundamental rules of conduct for the Chosen People. The Ten Commandments are about loving God and neighbor.</p>	
<p>They understood that God wanted his People to come back to him with their whole selves. They needed to be able to ask the Jews and Israelites to return to the Covenant in body, mind, and spirit. At this time the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants had been entered into and long adhered to by the people. Therefore God no longer looked only for sacrifice to appease him. He sought more. Specifically, God was interested in a full return to the Covenant by his People in body, mind, and spirit. Yet the Israelites were unsure of how to accomplish this goal. The leaders God chose were men and women who committed themselves to a relationship with God and to be his voice among the people. They spoke on God’s behalf to the people.</p>	

