

Dear Sojourners in Faith,

Christ is risen! — We're in the last days of Easter (season) and in the first unofficial days of summer. I pray that God sustains you in good health, whether you travel or remain at Ann's Choice. If you are away, please feel free to join us via Zoom (see below for information).

We continue to get acquainted with the prophets of the Bible, whose prominence is particularly connected with the time of kings. If you have not yet done so, please skim Amos, and as I suggested for our spiritual walk today, see how much of it can be immediately applied to our life and the world today (e.g., Amos 2.6-8; 5.10-13, 21-24; 6.1, 4-7; 8.4-6).

If you can, please read Amos and Hosea, and reread and focus on **Hosea 11**. Please note your observations and questions about what we can learn from Hosea about Israelite prophets and prophecy as well as about Israel and God. For example, depending on your translation, the assessment of Israel and Judah and their relationship with God might be different. In any case, how do you understand what happens in Hosea 11? In fact, what do you think is happening in Hosea 11? What can we learn from it, and how might it help us understand God and our faith?

Worth reviewing might be my previous email(s):

As we "master" the Mosaic and Davidic traditions, the northern-southern divide, we will be better equipped to handle the histories and narratives still far on the horizon, e.g., Jesus, Paul.

Previously in the Bible study . . .

We have been walking with Israel from slavery into the desert (to learn to be free and become the people of God) and from the desert into Canaan (to settle down in the promised land). At the same time, we have been walking with Israel from being slaves to the free people of Israel in the wilderness under Moses, then to the tribal confederacy in the land of Canaan/Israel (under Joshua and then the judges), and then to monarchy under many kings, beginning with the united kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon, and then thereafter in the divided kingdoms of Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

We have come a long way, seen many things, and experienced much. Throughout it all, the presence and providence of God, the LORD (YHWH), have been pointing the way into all possible futures through "the law" (the Torah, *instruction* or *teaching*). It is the prophets who, like Moses and the judges, are possessed by God's spirit to remind Israelites how they should live (ethics and behavior). We have learned a lot about God, about Israel, and about ourselves; we still have a long way to go through the biblical history ahead of us, but it is the prophets who will be the constant voice reminding Israelites and us how to walk with God.

So, who and what are Israelite prophets? What is prophecy? And how should we at Ann's Choice hear the word of God in the words of the prophets and word in our Bibles as we walk our faith today?

As always, I look forward to **your observations and questions**, and please never hesitate to **suggest any biblical, theological, or life topics** along the way. We can be flexible and take detours on our journey through the Bible. Please see the "**syllabus**" online for where we are headed: **Bible study 2021-04** (printed copies also available in front of my office in Resident Life, Liberty Commons).

For the Zoomers, here are the instructions:

Zoom (online or using an app):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82395191045?pwd=TTRiQklwR2RhRzZkNFNlU2RRbGRoUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 9519 1045

Meeting Password: annschoice

Dial in by telephone: nearest phone access in New York City

Dial 1 (929) 205 6099

Enter Meeting ID: 823 9519 1045, followed by "#"

Enter Passcode: 394871 if requested

See you in class or via Zoom. Have a wonder-ful, cool day.

With prayer and best wishes,

