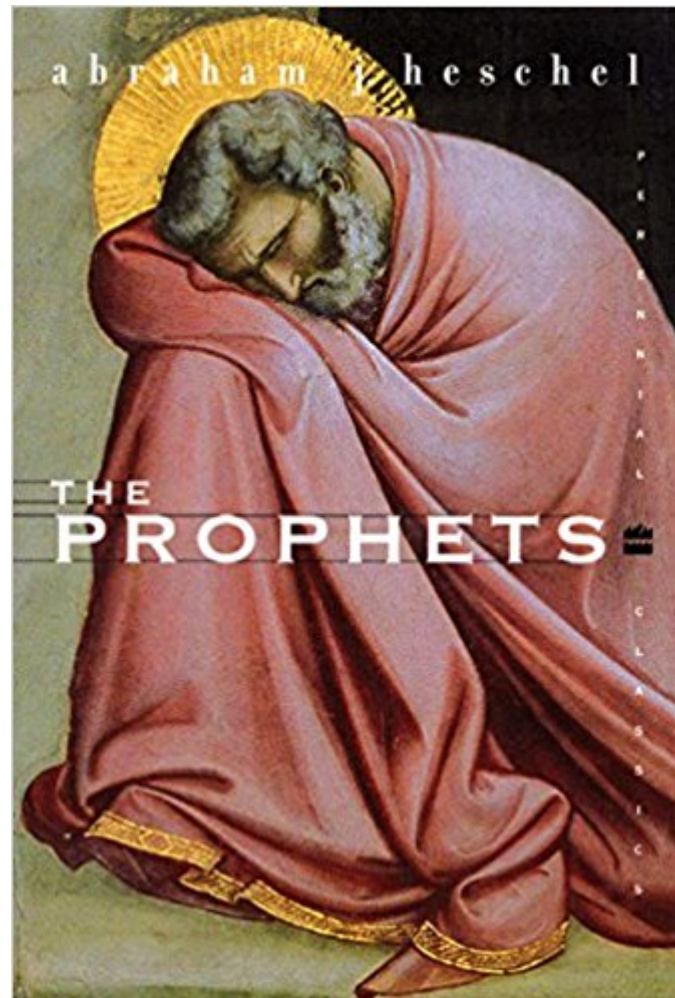




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The Prophets (Perennial Classics)



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Synopsis

Abraham Heschel is a seminal name in religious studies and the author of *Man Is Not Alone* and *God in Search of Man*. When *The Prophets* was first published in 1962, it was immediately recognized as a masterpiece of biblical scholarship. *The Prophets* provides a unique opportunity for readers of the Old Testament, both Christian and Jewish, to gain fresh and deep knowledge of Israel's prophetic movement. The author's profound understanding of the prophets also opens the door to new insight into the philosophy of religion.

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Customer Reviews

According to the popular definition, a prophet is one who accurately predicts the future. But in the Jewish tradition, as Abraham Joshua Heschel explains in *The Prophets*, these figures earn their title by witnessing the world around them with outstanding passion. Prophets are those whose "life and soul are at stake" in what they say about "the mystery of [God's] relation to man." They are "some of the most disturbing people who have ever lived," and yet they are also "the men whose image is our refuge in distress, and whose voice and vision sustain our faith." Heschel's book, one of the classic texts on the subject, contains sophisticated, straightforward discussions of each of the Hebrew prophets, the primary themes of their preaching, and comparisons of Israel's prophets to those of other religions'. Throughout, Heschel avoids the two great temptations in any discussion of prophesy: overstating the supernatural quality of a prophet's epiphany ("A prophet is a person, not a

microphone"), and reducing prophesy to a merely human phenomenon. Instead, Heschel describes the prophet's peculiar status as God's spokesman in a way that does justice to its complexity: "He speaks from the perspective of God as perceived from the perspective of his own situation."

--Michael Joseph Gross

Abraham Heschel was an Orthodox Jewish scholar who was born in Warsaw and fled the Nazi regime, ending in the United States. "The Prophets" is an expanded English translation of his German doctoral thesis, first published in 1962. Both volumes are here conveniently reprinted in a single volume, marking the hundredth anniversary of his birth. Heschel's approach to the prophets seeks to take account both of their divine inspiration and of the human personalities through which this came. He rejects any approach that stresses revelation to the exclusion of the human role or that views the prophets in purely human terms. The key to the prophets, for Heschel, is the divine pathos. Their writings reveal the passionate God, being 'filled with echoes of divine love and disappointment, mercy and indignation'. Much modern theology has moved away from the traditional doctrine that God is impassible, not subject to feelings or emotions. Heschel's work has been influential in that move, as for example on Jiirgen Moltmann's "The Crucified God." In the first volume Heschel expounds the thought of a number of the prophets: Amos, Hosea, First and Second Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah and Habakkuk. The second volume focuses especially on the divine pathos. But doesn't 'anthropopathic language', speaking of God's feelings in human terms, prejudice the transcendence of God? There are two opposite errors to avoid. On the one hand we must not make God so 'Wholly Other' that he remains unknown. On the other hand we must not reduce him to human terms. The prophets used anthropomorphic and anthropopathic language of God, but did not imagine that this described him adequately. Adapting Isaiah 55:8, 'My pathos is not your pathos, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and my pathos than your pathos.' The essential meaning of the divine pathos 'is not to be seen in its psychological denotation, as standin --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Get inside the minds of the prophets, like an intimate view into their lives. It helps to understand the whole gamut of the prophetic & dispel the misconceptions. Who better than the amazing Mr. Heschel? Read every one of his books. EVERY one.

Abraham J. Heschel is himself an outstanding prophetic voice for our times. I first read this in a two

book format. It is the most intimate and lyrical and profound grasp of the prophet's sensibility, Mission and challenges. Should be read by every serious student of religious Vision. Very deeply personal and riveting!

Heschel is a refreshing voice that challenges thought and inspires life. This is a must read!

Before reading *The Prophets* by Abraham Heschel, I had thought of the writings of the Prophets as angry diatribes against the people they were intended for, but Heschel sees these men, on the one hand, as passionate lovers of God who must relate to their people the wrath of God and the consequences of their behavior, and on the other hand, vulnerable human beings themselves whose compassion for these same people moves them to beg God for mercy, for one more chance. One is also able to see, through Heschel's eyes, the tremendous love of God for these same people and even though they bring their troubles on themselves, God is always compassionate, forgiving, and eternally loving. Abraham Heschel's writings are not only profound and moving but also written in a flowing prose style that attracts the modern reader. I heartily recommend this book to fans of Heschel as well as to those who might see the Old Testament as a book of judgment and condemnation. Heschel will cure you of that.

Heschel is skilled writer, who is a joy to read. Check out his take on the prophets of the Old Testament.

I've been using this book for two years during a four year bible study course. I've found it invaluable and the insights are wonderful. Mr. Heschel conveys his information in an easy to read and understand manner. This book is a treasure for anyone who studies the Old Testament Prophets.

Heschel always has amazing insights that a lay person can appreciate as well as clergy.

Truly the most amazing study of the Prophets I have ever read. I must spend a lot of slow reading time to comprehend the information he shares. I recommend it to anyone who wishes to find the truth.

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