

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations	XI
Acknowledgements	XIII
 CHAPTER 1	
INTRODUCTION	1
Stylistic differences	1
Relevant literature	2
Composition	3
Authorial intention	6
The texts	6
The prophetic persons	7
Modes of communication	7
Settings	8
Theological approach	9
Method	10
 CHAPTER 2	
THE CALL NARRATIVES.	13
2.1 Jeremiah's Call: Jeremiah 1:1-19	13
The superscription: Jer 1:1-3	13
The call: Jer 1:4-10	15
<i>Yahweh's prior initiative: Jer 1:5.</i>	15
<i>A prophet to the nations: Jer 1:5</i>	16
<i>Jeremiah's response: Jer 1:6</i>	18
<i>Touch on the mouth: Jer 1:9</i>	19
<i>Key tasks: Jer 1:10</i>	19
The two visions: Jer 1:11-16	20
<i>Visionary subjects: Jer 1:11,13</i>	20
<i>Interpretation: Jer 1:12-16</i>	21
The final statement: Jer 1:17-19	24
Yahweh's responses to Jeremiah's concerns	24
The function of Jeremiah's call	25

2.2 Ezekiel's Call: Ezekiel 1-3	26
Introduction: Ezek 1:1-3	27
<i>Dates: Ezek 1:1-2</i>	27
<i>Visions of God: Ezek 1:1</i>	28
<i>The hand of Yahweh: Ezek 1:3</i>	29
The approaching glory: Ezek 1:4-28	30
<i>Visionary imagery</i>	30
<i>The stormcloud: Ezek 1:4</i>	30
<i>The four living creatures: Ezek 1:5-14</i>	31
<i>The wheels: Ezek 1:15-21</i>	35
<i>The divine throne: Ezek 1:22-28</i>	36
<i>Ezekiel's response: Ezek 1:28</i>	38
Ezekiel's Call: Ezek 2:1-3:15	38
<i>Son of man: Ezek 2:1</i>	38
<i>Power to stand: Ezek 2:2</i>	39
<i>Sent to rebellious people: Ezek 2:3-5</i>	39
<i>Don't be afraid: Ezek 2:6-8a</i>	40
<i>Eat this scroll: Ezek 2:8b-3:3</i>	41
<i>As hard as Israel: Ezek 3:4-9</i>	43
<i>Back to Chebar: Ezek 3:10-15</i>	44
Ezekiel's call to be a watchman: Ezek 3:16-21	44
<i>After seven days: Ezek 3:16</i>	44
<i>A watchman for the house of Israel: Ezek 3:17</i>	45
<i>The watchman's accountability: Ezek 3:18-21</i>	46
<i>The stumbling block: Ezek 3:20</i>	47
<i>Watchman and judge: Ezek 3:18</i>	47
Ezekiel's call to be speechless: Ezekiel 3:22-27	48
<i>The divine glory in the valley: Ezek 3:22-24a</i>	48
<i>The call to withdrawal: Ezek 3:24b-27</i>	49
<i>Shut in, bound up and tongue-tied: Ezek 3:24b-26</i>	50
<i>Binding by others: Ezek 3:25</i>	51
<i>Speechlessness: Ezek 3:26</i>	53
2.3 Comparison of Call Material in Jeremiah and Ezekiel	62
Introductions	62
Settings	62
Priestly backgrounds	63
Portrayal of Yahweh	63
Response of the prophet	65
The prophetic role	66
Conclusion	68

CHAPTER 3

WORKER IMAGES OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY: ASSAYER, POTTER AND WATCHMAN	69
3.1a Jeremiah as assayer: Jeremiah 6:27-30	69
Textual notes	70
The work of the assayer	75
The assayer and Yahweh	77
The assayer and the community	77
The fire of the assayer	78
<i>Jer 5:12-14</i>	78
<i>Jer 20:9</i>	79
<i>Jer 23:29</i>	79
The wind of the bellows	80
3.1b Yahweh as Potter: Jeremiah 18:1-12	80
Yahweh's work as a model for Jeremiah's work	80
Potter and clay: Jer 18:3-4	81
A key question: Jer 18:6	82
Responsive changes: Jer 18:7-11	83
Rhetorical Shifts: Jer 18:7,11	85
Working with the nations: Jer 18:7-10	85
Destruction and building: Jer 18:7-10	87
The people's choice: Jer 18:12	88
3.2 Ezekiel as Watchman: Ezekiel 33:1-20	90
An end or a beginning?	90
Recurring motifs: Ezek 3 and 33	91
Made a watchman: Ezek 33:1-9	91
Heed the warning: Ezek 33:7-9	93
Answering the people: Ezek 33:10-20	94
Warning for the nation, not just for individuals	96
Duration of the watchman call	97
Beyond self-centredness	98
3.3 Comparison of Jeremiah as Assayer and Potter with Ezekiel as Watchman	99
The prophet in relation to Yahweh	100
The prophet in relation to the people	100
Working for response	101
Tools of trade	101
Destruction and hope	102

Working with perseverance	103
Conclusion	103
CHAPTER 4	
THE PROPHET IN RELATION TO THE TEMPLE	105
4.1 Jeremiah's Temple Sermon: Jeremiah 7:1-15.	105
Context	106
Amend your ways: Jer 7:3	108
Temple and land	108
A deceptive word: Jer 7:4.	110
Lifestyle responsibilities: Jer 7:5-9	112
Standing before Yahweh: Jer 7:10	114
A precedent of destruction: Jer 7:12	115
An end of patience: Jer 7:13-15	115
4.2 Ezekiel's First Temple Vision: Ezekiel 8-11.	116
Abominable practices: Ezek 8.	116
<i>Scene 1: Ezek 8:3b-6</i>	118
<i>Scene 2: Ezek 8:7-13</i>	122
<i>Scene 3: Ezek 8:14-15.</i>	124
<i>Scene 4: Ezek 8:16-18.</i>	125
Executing judgment: Ezek 9	128
<i>The executioners: Ezek 9:1,2</i>	128
<i>Unsettled glory: Ezek 9:3</i>	129
<i>The mark: Ezek 9:4</i>	129
<i>No pity: Ezek 9:5</i>	130
<i>Pleading with Yahweh: Ezek 9:8</i>	131
The glory departs: Ezek 10	132
<i>Repetition with variation</i>	132
<i>Burning coals: Ezek 10:2,6</i>	134
<i>Departure of the glory.</i>	135
The leaders are judged: Ezek 11:1-13	135
<i>Relationship to the preceding account</i>	135
<i>Leaders.</i>	136
<i>False hopes.</i>	137
<i>Judgment.</i>	138
<i>Ezekiel's distress: Ezek 11:13.</i>	138
Surprising hope: Ezek 11:14-25	140
<i>Ezekiel's kindred: Ezek 11:14.</i>	140
<i>A little sanctuary: Ezek 11:16</i>	140

	<i>Future hope: Ezek 11:17-21</i>	143
	<i>Final departure: Ezek 11:22-25</i>	144
4.3	Comparison of Temple Material in Jer 7:1-15 with Ezek 8-11	144
	The place of the temple	145
	Divine presence in temple and land	146
	Temple terminology	147
	Yahweh, not the temple	147
	Metaphors of seeing and hearing	148
	Temple worship	150
	Divine anger, jealousy and judgment	151
	Messages of hope	152
	Conclusion	153
 CHAPTER 5		
	DEVIANT PROPHETS	155
5.1	Jeremiah against the Prophets: Jeremiah 23:9-32	155
	Such ungodliness: Jer 23:9-12	156
	Worse than Samaria: Jer 23:13-15	160
	Not in the council of Yahweh: Jer 23:16-22	162
	Yahweh sees: Jer 23:23-24	165
	The word has priority: Jer 23:25-32	167
5.2	Ezekiel against the Prophets: Ezekiel 13	170
	The frame: Ezek 12:21-28 and 14:1-11	171
	The structure of Ezekiel 13	173
	Male Prophets: Ezek 13:1-16	176
	Introduction: Ezek 13:1-3a	176
	<i>Excursus: Can words 'out of one's own heart' originate from Yahweh's deception?</i>	178
	Senseless prophets: Ezek 13:3b-8	181
	Jackals among ruins: Ezek 13:4	183
	They fail to repair the wall: Ezek 13:5	184
	Readiness for the day of Yahweh: Ezek 13:5	187
	False visions: Ezek 13:7	187
	Lying divinations: Ezek 13:7	188
	Judgment against the male prophets: Ezek 13:8-9	191
	Whitewashing the wall: Ezek 13:10-16	193

Prophetic Women: Ezek 13:17-23	195
A unique address to women	195
Are these women 'prophetesses'?	195
Set your face against the daughters of your people: Ezek 13:17	198
Strange practices: Ezek 13:18-21	201
Issues of power: Ezek 13:18-21	205
Life and death matters: Ezek 13:19,22	205
Judgment against the women: Ezek 13:23	206
5.3 Comparison of Deviant Prophet Material in Jer 3 and Ezek 13	207
The gender of the prophet	207
The heart	208
The divine council	209
Prophetic visions and dreams	209
Divination	210
Objects associated with prophecy	211
The lifestyle of the prophet	211
The role of the prophet	212
<i>The prophet as wall-builder</i>	213
Standing against opposition	215
Deception of a prophet	216
Language of emotion and metaphor.	216
Conclusion	218
CHAPTER 6	
CONCLUSIONS.	221
Bibliography	225
Author Index	237
Subject Index	241
Scripture Index.	243