Prophetic Perspectives in Israel’s History

fact that Joshua-Kings called “former prophets” in Jewish tradition suggests that early readers recognized prophetic perspectives in these books—Chronicles also has similar, though not identical, prophetic perspectives which prophets?—not all writing prophets see Israel’s history in the same way or from the same perspective—for example:

- Micah represents the rural population decimated by Hezekiah’s acts of rebellion against the kings of Assyria, but Isaiah represents the population of Jerusalem, especially the ruling classes, and is thrilled with Hezekiah’s opposition to Assyria
- Amos calls forth God’s judgment on Israel from the perspective of an inhabitant of Judah, with a certain amount of satisfaction, but Hosea speaks from the perspective of an inhabitant of Israel, who sorrowfully warns of God’s imminent judgment but hopes for a better future for Israel
- Jeremiah announces the end of the Davidic lineage on the throne, stating that God will form a new covenant with the people, but Isaiah, Haggai, and Zechariah all expect the restoration of the Davidic line and promise a new messiah

identifying distinct perspectives associated with each writing prophet is complicated by the composite nature of some prophetic books (e.g., Isaiah, Zechariah) and by heavy editorial reworking by later redactors (e.g., Hosea, Jeremiah)—Jeremiah in particular probably heavily edited by Deuteronomist or someone associated with the Deuteronomistic school (cf. Jer 52 = 2 Kgs 24:18-25:30)

Narratives about Prophets

both DtrH and ChrH preserve numerous accounts in which prophets play a major role—for example:

- Samuel—1 Sam 1-3, 7-10, 12-13, 15-16, 28
- Nathan—1 Kgs 1, 1 Chron 17
- “man of God” and “old prophet”—1 Kgs 13
- Elijah—1 Kgs 17-19, 21, 2 Kgs 1-2
- Elisha—1 Kgs 19, 2 Kgs 1-9, 13

Prophetic Oracles

- Gad—1 Sam 22, 2 Sam 24, 1 Chron 21
- Nathan—2 Sam 7, 12
• Ahijah—1 Kgs 11, 14
• Shemaiah—1 Kgs 12, 2 Chron 11-12
• King Abijah(!)—2 Chron 13
• Azariah—2 Chron 15
• Hanani—2 Chron 16
• two unnamed prophets—1 Kgs 20
• Micaiah—1 Kgs 22, 2 Chron 18
• Jehu—2 Chron 19
• Jahaziel—2 Chron 20
• Elijah (in a letter)—2 Chron 21
• Zechariah—2 Chron 24
• “man of God”—2 Chron 25
• priest Azariah(!)—2 Chron 26
• Oded—2 Chron 28
• Isaiah—2 Kgs 19-20, 2 Chron 32
• Huldah—2 Kgs 22, 2 Chron 34
• Pharaoh Neco(!)—2 Chron 35
• King Cyrus(!)—2 Chron 36

**Prophetic Themes**

common prophetic themes:

1. judgment
2. hope
3. social justice
4. God's sovereignty in history
5. Day of Yahweh
6. emphasis on exodus & wilderness wanderings

7. remnant

8. judgment on Israel's enemies

9. eschatological kingdom

10. messiah

of these themes, #1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 present in large or small part in Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles