

Unit 1: Minor prophets

- Week 1: Hosea
- Week 2: Joel
- Week 3: Amos
- Week 4: Obadiah
- Week 5: Jonah
- Week 6: Micah
- Week 7: Nahum
- Week 8: Habakkuk
- Week 9: Zephaniah
- Week 10: Haggai
- Week 11: Zechariah - 1
- Week 12: Zechariah - 2
- Week 13: Malachi

Week 1: Hosea

Objective:

- Hosea's Unfaithful Wife
- Hosea's family
- God's Continuing Love for Israel
- Fruits of repentance

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
- Catena Bible Commentary
- Fr Dawoud Lamie Bible study (Arabic)
- Minor Prophets SUSCOPTS
- Metropolitan Youssef - Hosea

Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Hosea 1
- Hosea 2:6-7, 14-23
- Hosea 6:1-3
- Hosea 11
- Hosea 14

Key verse(s):

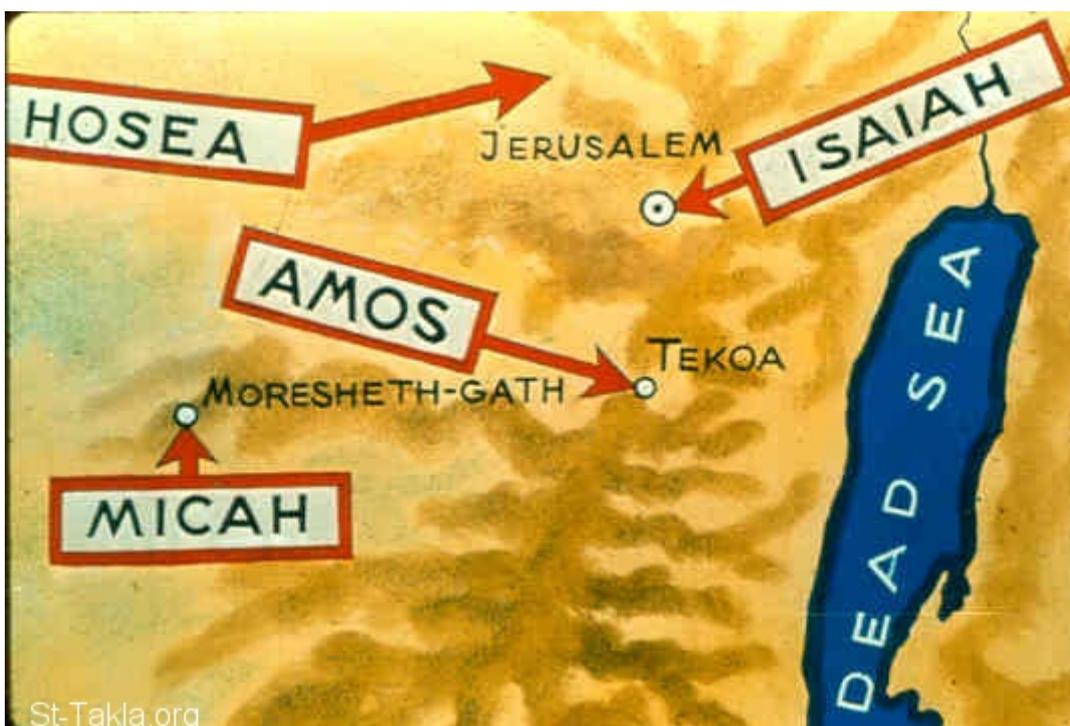
“When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.” Hosea 11:1

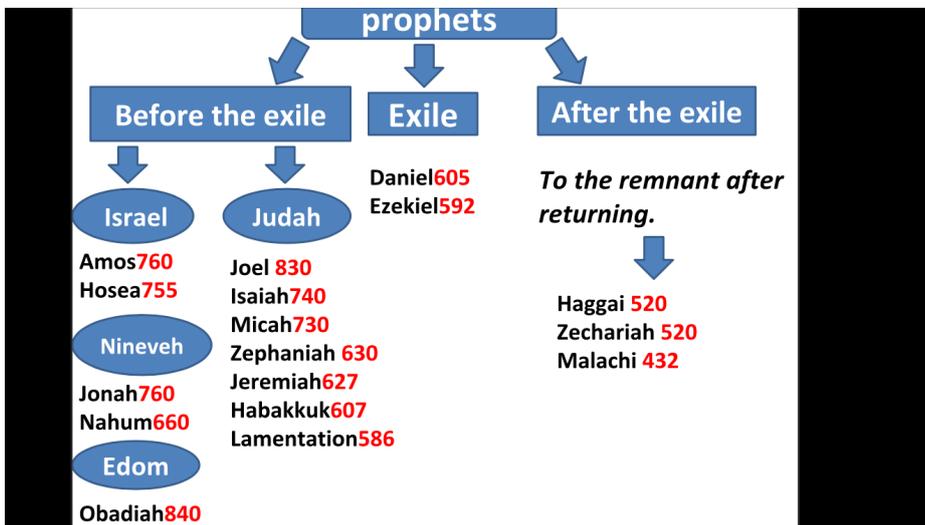
NOTE TO SERVANT:

- Please plan to ask and review these questions every week:
 - Who are the minor prophets? Can you recite them?
 - The theme for last week's minor prophet
 - Highlight Messianic prophecy

Minor Prophets introduction:

- The Major and Minor Prophet division of the Holy Bible does not denote the importance or rank of the writing prophets, but the length of the Holy Books which bear their prophecies.
 - Ex: Jonah 4 chapters - Isaiah 66 chapters
- There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets (5 books including Lamentations)
- In the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), all these books were listed under "prophets". In the Septuagint and Vulgate translations, this classification of major and minor was mentioned.
- The prophet in the OT was someone who passed God's message to the people. A prophet in the NT is also someone who passes God's message or news (God's love and salvation for all mankind).
- In the OT, there were many prophets (Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, etc.), but when we refer to the "Prophets", we refer to the ones who recorded their prophecy.
- All prophecies had one goal: Repentance!
- Recorded prophecies were split into three groups: Before, during, and after the exile.
 - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
 - During: Repent so God can end the exile and take us back to our land
 - After: Repent because the Messiah is coming
- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
- The prophetic books always start with a strong tough message and then end with a joyful promising message.
- All books have different themes. All books have the same message (repentance).





| <i>Minor Prophets (in biblical order)</i> | <i>Main Themes of their Writings</i> |
|---|--|
| Hosea | Salvation |
| Joel | The Day of the Lord |
| Amos | God's Judgment, The Day of the Lord , Israel's redemption |
| Obadiah | The destruction of Edom, The Day of the Lord |
| Jonah | Serving the Lord, His mercy |
| Micah | Injustice, oppression |
| Nahum | Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel |
| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
| Haggai | Restoration of the Temple |
| Zechariah | The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom |
| Malachi | The messenger to come, The Day of the Lord |

Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS

The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.



Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.

Jeremiah was heavily persecuted for his prophecies during the Babylonian Siege. He often used metaphors such as the potter and clay (Jeremiah 18:1-7) to illustrate God's message to the people. Known as the weeping prophet, he is also believed to be the author of Lamentations.

Ezekiel prophesied during Israel's captivity in Babylon. He often received elaborate visions from God such as the Vision of Dry Bones where skeletons come to life to form a great army. Almost every aspect of his life served a symbolic purpose, from how he cooked his food to the way he slept at night.

Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at a young age. His gift to translate dreams gave him favor with kings. He often received prophetic visions of his own about the distant future. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.



Hosea was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.

Joel prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locusts. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God and a precursor to the Day of the Lord.

Amos was a sheep breeder and a vinder of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for siding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.

Jonah is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their ungodliness.

Michah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh, the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Josiah did not last long.

Habakkuk identifies himself as a prophet from Judah. He laments the lack of redemption and grace to be placed on striped instruments by the temple worship leaders.

Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.

Haggai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews' return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophecies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some revelations include things like a flying scroll, olive trees, and women with wings. Several of the passages are Messianic in nature.

Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1971 King James Bible

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Where did they prophesy?

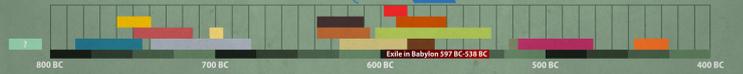
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When did they prophesy?

The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.

Timeline

All dates approximate



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The Minor Prophets

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2. [Joel](#) - "Jehovah is God" (830 BC)
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12. [Malachi](#) - "My Messenger" (445-432 BC)

| Minor Prophets | | |
|---|---|--|
| Before Assyrian Captivity Directed to the North Kingdom | After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities Directed to the South Kingdom | After Captivity |
| 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah (Edom) 5. Jonah | 6. Micah 7. Nahum (Nineveh) 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah | 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi |

Comments:

Theme of Hosea: God's salvation

Messianic Prophecy: The Lord's entry to Egypt (11:1)

- Hosea is one of the minor prophets.
- The book of Hosea was written for the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Outwardly, the nation was enjoying a time of prosperity and growth; but inwardly, moral corruption and spiritual adultery permeated the lives of the people.
- The prophet Hosea was instructed by God to marry an unfaithful woman, and he found in his own life a vivid illustration of the unfaithfulness of God's people and the faithfulness of God.
- Hosea repeatedly echoes his threefold message: God abhors the sins of His people; judgment is certain; but God's love stands firm.
- Hosea, whose name means "Salvation."
- The book of Hosea is a story of one-sided love and faithfulness that represents the relationship between Israel and God.

- As Gomer is married to Hosea, so Israel is betrothed to God. Both relationships gradually disintegrate—Gomer runs after other men, and Israel runs after other gods.
- Israel's spiritual idolatry is illustrated by Gomer's physical adultery. The development of the book can be traced in two parts: the adulterous wife and faithful husband (ch. 1-3), and the adulterous Israel and faithful Lord (ch. 4-14).
- Hosea's message reflects the terrible fascination of Israel with Baal worship.
- Baal means "husband" or "lord," and his worship involved fertility rites that included ritual prostitution. Baal was the other lover to whom the unfaithful Israel often turned.
- Hosea provides one of the Old Testament's most eloquent expressions of God's mercy.
- Chapter 1:
 - God asked Hosea to marry Gomer. She gave birth to three children. Each child's name was a message from God.
 - First Child: Boy: Jezreel - God sows/scatters. What God sows from hardships/punishments are the seeds of our actions.
 - Second Child: Girl: Lo-Ruhamah - No mercy. When man doesn't stop sinning and takes advantage of God's patience, he doesn't receive mercy, but judgment.
 - Third Child: Boy: Lo-Ammi - Not my people. If many can't separate from sin, how can they belong to God? Therefore, sin leads to separation from God and not being from his people.
- Chapter 2:
 - V6-7: God builds walls of thorns around us sometimes so we don't go back to our pleasures and lusts. Things happen and people come and go, which are ways of God's protection for us
 - V14-23: A symphony of love and hope after all the tough messages.
 - V.15: "Valley of Achor" is where Achan cheated and stole (Joshua 7). This area became known for cheating and disobedience. God will use this same area to make it a door of hope if His people repent.
 - V.19: Betrothal or engagement days tend to be the most romantic and the couple love each other a lot. God used this metaphor a lot in the Bible to symbolize His relationship to humanity. "Forever" means the strong love will be forever and the second coming will be the "wedding."
 - V.23: Strong message of hope. The message has NT tone.
- Chapter 6:
 - Another message of hope.
 - V.2: Hosea with the prophetic spirit spoke about the "third day"
 - Former rain: Comes early to help after seed sowing. Latter rain: Comes towards the end to help with budding and producing fruits. God's blessings come at the beginning and end and are countless.
- Chapter 11:
 - Verse 1 Talks about how God saved his people a long time ago with Moses from Egypt. The number was small (child) and now they are a big nation (adult).
 - Verse 1: Prophecy that God will flee to Egypt
 - St. Matthew linked this verse to Christ's entry to Egypt (Matt. 2:15)
 - Egypt was a symbol of idolatry and sin. This is a prophecy that God will accept the Gentiles and Egypt will become sanctified (Isaiah 19.)
- Chapter 14:

- Fruits of the repentance
- V.1-3: Human's role in repentance
- V.4-9: God's role in sanctification

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. What are the meanings of these names: Hosea, Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, Lo-Ammi?
2. Why did God ask Hosea to take for himself a wife of harlotry?
3. Why did God say to the House of Israel "You are not My people and I will not be your God"?
4. What did God promise the people of Israel?
5. Find a prophecy in this book and when it was fulfilled. Give verses.

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Hosea's wife was called _____.
2. The number of the children of Israel shall be as:
 - a) the stars b) the sand of the sea c) the waves of the ocean
3. When Israel was a _____, I loved him, and out of _____ I called My _____.
4. I will not execute the _____ of My anger; I will not again _____ Ephraim. For I am God, and not man, the _____ One in your midst; and I will not come with _____.
5. I will be like the _____ to _____; he shall grow like the _____, and lengthen his _____ like Lebanon. 2. Who walks in the ways of the Lord? a) the poor b) transgressors c) the righteous

Week 2: Joel

Week 2: Joel 1-3

Objective:

- The Locust Plague
- Mourning for the Land
- The Day of the Lord
- God's Spirit Poured Out
- God Blesses His People

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- Joel 2:1-32
- Joel 3:18-21

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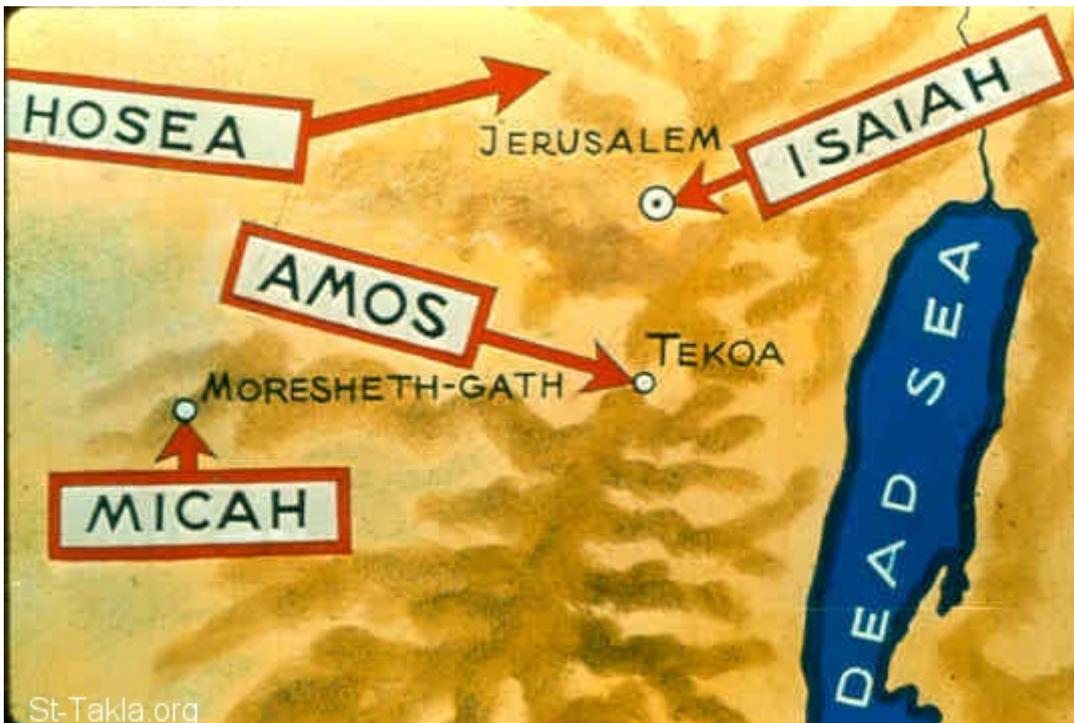
"And it shall come to pass afterward, That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh" Joel 2:28

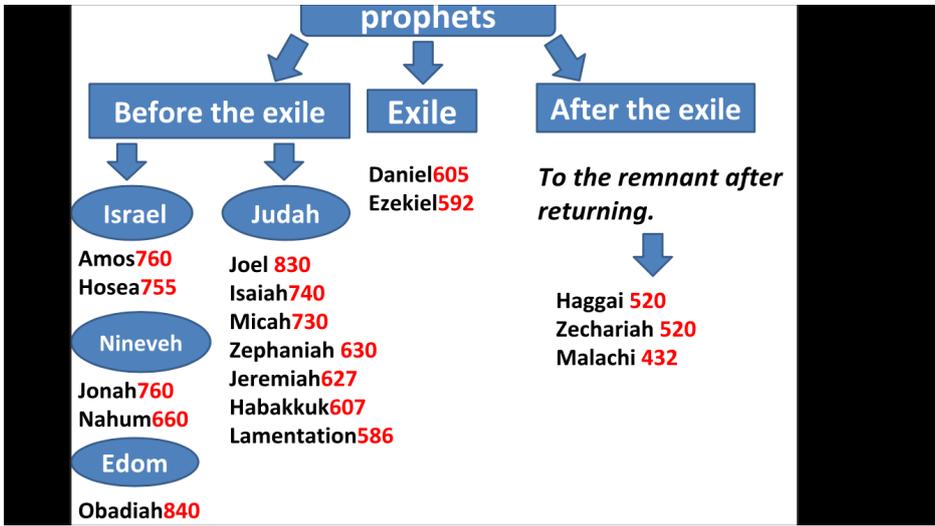
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Comments:

Theme of Joel: The Day of the Lord

Messianic Prophecy: The Holy Spirit on Pentecost (2:28)

- Joel is one of the minor prophets.
- The book of Joel was written for the Southern Kingdom of Israel
- Joel means "Jehovah is God"
- The book of Joel can be divided into two major sections: the day of the Lord in retrospect (ch. 1); and the day of the Lord in prospect (chs. 2,3).
- Chapter 1:
 - The waves of locusts are like levels of sin:
 - Chewing locust: small - can't move much. Small thoughts into the heart and mind
 - Swarming locust: started to move.
 - Crawling locust: developed small wings.
 - Consuming locust: Strong wings that can fly. Sins when they completely grow and take over the human
 - St. Jerome symbolizes these four waves to the four kingdoms that disciplined Judah (Southern kingdom): Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.
 - V.6: Symbolizes the nations that will be very strong and take them to captivity
 - V.9-10: No worship is taking place due to the lack of everything = no joy or communion with God
- Chapter 2:
 - V.1-11: The day of the Lord will be fearful to those who didn't listen to his voice/warnings (locusts). Those who fear God, wait for this day joyfully.
 - V.12-17: God is calling for repentance.
 - V.13: God wants our hearts to follow Him and offer true repentance. Not just an outside fake repentant look.
 - V.15-17: God is calling everyone to repent
 - V.23: Rain/water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Former rain comes at the beginning right after sowing to help the seeds grow and bud. Latter rain comes later to help the small buds become big trees and produce fruits. The Holy Spirit (Former rain) comes on the day of baptism to purify us and keeps coming again (latter rain) during our life to sanctify us until the end of our life.
 - V.28: A prophecy on the day of Pentecost. When His Spirit was poured on His disciples. St. Peter quoted Joel in his sermon (Acts 2).
- Chapter 3:
 - V.18: There will be joy and happiness after we receive the Holy Spirit. The dry mountains are now dripping with wine (wine is a symbol of Joy in the Bible).
 - The Book ends with a message of hope and joy in seeing God's work in His Church.
 - Egypt and Edom: symbols of sin. Sin and violence will end, and God will reign forever (V.20)

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Whom do the locusts represent?
2. What is meant by the day of the Lord?
3. Who quoted the prophet Joel in the NT?
4. Find a prophecy in this book and when it was fulfilled. Give verses.
5. How can the people escape this invasion?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Joel asked the priests to a) Consecrate a fast b) Call a sacred assembly c) cry out to the LORD d) all of those
2. To whom should the beasts of the field cry out? a) each other b) the Lord c) the hunters d) Joelan
3. What do verses 28-29 in chapter 2 prophesy about?

Week 3: Amos

Week 3: Amos 1-9

Objective:

- Amos's introduction
- Authority of the Prophet's Message
- Punishment of Israel's Sins
- Israel Did Not Accept Correction
- A Call to Repentance
- Visions of the locusts, the fire, and the plumb line
- Amaziah's Complaint
- Vision of the Summer Fruit

Resources:

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- Fr. Daoud Lamie - Amos (Full)
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Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Amos 1:1
- Amos 3:1-8
- Amos 4:6-13
- Amos 5:4-15
- Amos 7:10-17
- Amos 8

Key verse(s):

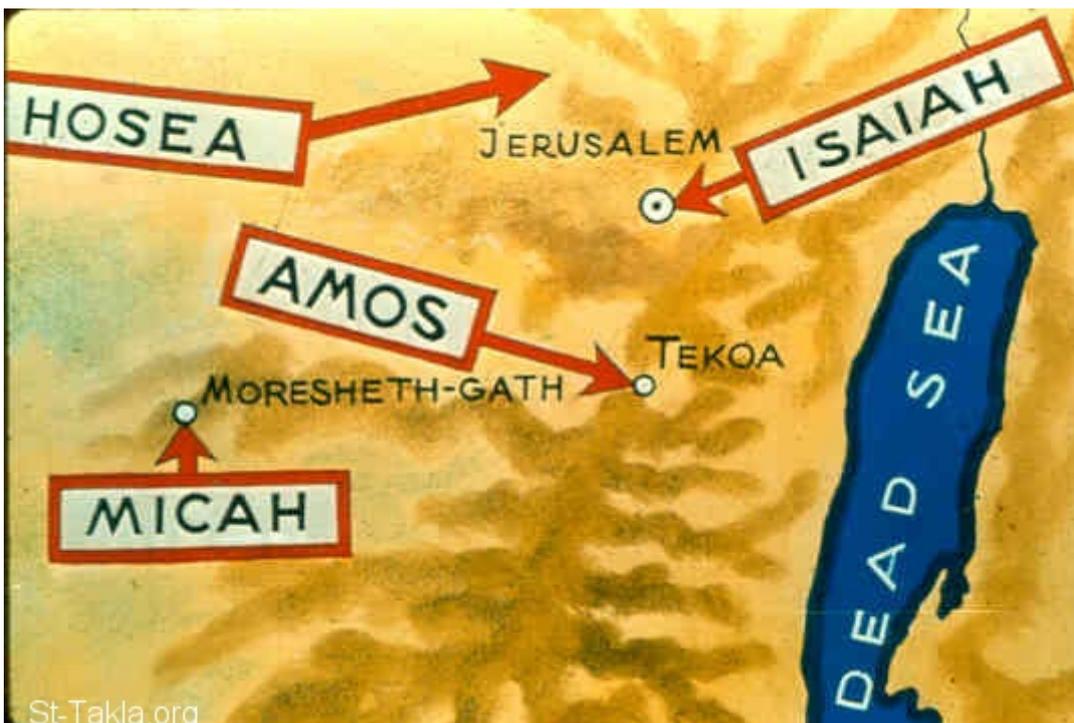
"And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord God, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight" Amos 8:9

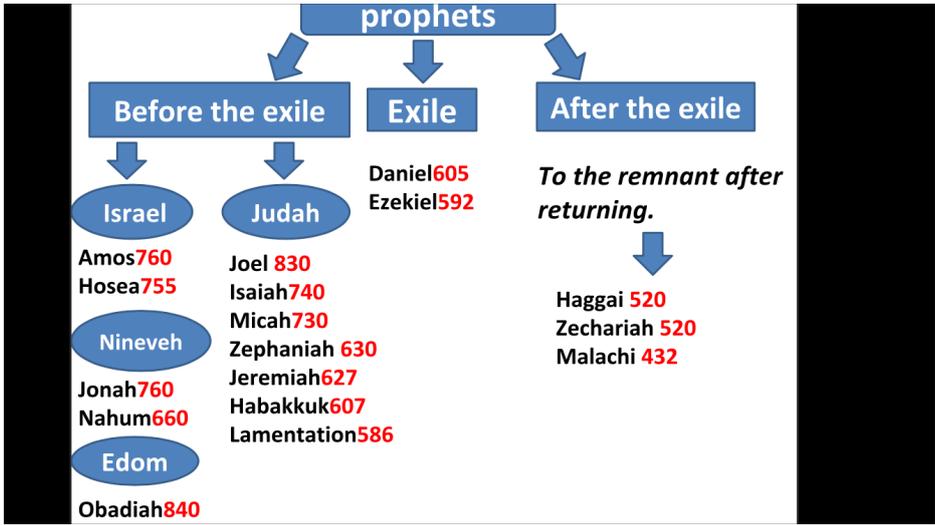
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 - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
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 - After: Repent because the Messiah is coming
- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
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-





Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS

The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the Tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.



Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.

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Amos was a sheep breeder and a vinder of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for siding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.

Jonah is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their ungodliness.

Michah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh, the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Jonah did not last long.

Habakkuk identifies himself as a prophet. His complaint to God is answered by a promise of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.

Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.

Haggai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews' return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophecies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some revelations include things like a flying scroll, olive trees, and women with wings. Several of the passages are Messianic in nature.

Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1971 King James Bible

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Where did they prophesy?

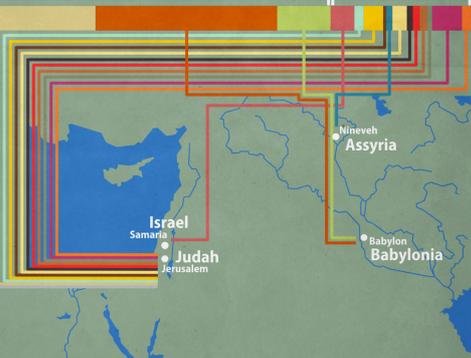
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When did they prophesy?

The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.

Timeline

All dates approximate



| <i>Minor Prophets (in biblical order)</i> | <i>Main Themes of their Writings</i> |
|---|--|
| Hosea | Salvation |
| Joel | The Day of the Lord |
| Amos | God's Judgment, The Day of the Lord , Israel's redemption |
| Obadiah | The destruction of Edom, The Day of the Lord |
| Jonah | Serving the Lord, His mercy |
| Micah | Injustice, oppression |
| Nahum | Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel |
| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
| Haggai | Restoration of the Temple |
| Zechariah | The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom |
| Malachi | The messenger to come, The Day of the Lord |

The Minor Prophets

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| Minor Prophets | | |
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| Before Assyrian Captivity Directed to the North Kingdom | After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities Directed to the South Kingdom | After Captivity |
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Comments:

Theme of Amos: God's judgment - The Day of the Lord

Messianic Prophecy: Darkness at noon (8:9)

- Amos is one of the minor prophets.
- The book of Amos was written for Israel, the Northern Kingdom
- Amos means: “Burden” or “Burden-bearer”
 - Amos lived up to the meaning of his name by bearing up under his divinely given burden of declaring judgment to rebellious Israel
- Amos was from Tekoa (1:1) which is south of Jerusalem. Even though Amos was from the South kingdom, God chose him to prophesy to the North Kingdom
- Amos mentioned that he was a sheep breeder (1:1) and a tender of sycamore fruit (7:14-15)
 - Even though he was a simple man and not a prophet or a son of a prophet (7:14), God chose him to prophesy
 - His prophecy has deep meanings and is very poetic
- According to 1:1, Amos prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, king of Judah (767–739 B.C.), and Jeroboam, king of Israel (782–753 B.C.), thus leaving a possible time frame from 767 to 753 B.C.
- Amos ministered after the time of Joel and Jonah, and just before Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah. At this time Uzziah reigned over a prosperous and militarily successful Judah.
- In the north, Israel was ruled by the capable king Jeroboam II. Economic and military circumstances were almost ideal, but prosperity only increased the materialism, immorality, and injustice of the people.
- Assyria, Babylon, Syria, and Egypt were relatively weak during these years.
- Thus, the people of Israel found it hard to imagine the coming disaster predicted by Amos—a disaster that occurred barely three decades later.
- Chapter 3:1-8
 - God asked 7 questions and all are to be answered with "No"
 - Question 1: God wanted to walk with His people but they did not keep the agreement
 - Question 2: The Lion will only roar if there is prey. The devil is roaring cause of their actions
 - Question 3: A young lion will roar out happiness that he found a prey. The devil is happy he found a prey
 - Question 4: The bird will fall because of a trap/snare. God's people should be aware of satan's traps/snares
 - Question 5: A snare will not be removed unless it catches something. The devil is removing the traps as they caught many souls
 - Question 6: The trumpet was a sign of war. People would be scared when they hear it. God's voice is loud and clear like a trumpet and the people ignore Him.
 - Question 7: Any calamity happens from God for the people’s correction and repentance. If they witnessed all these calamities and did not repent, this is a sign of their ignorance.

- Discuss with the youth about different calamities that happen around us (Ex. COVID) or hardships that happen to us and how God uses these things so we can repent and get back to him. You can give Biblical examples.
- V.7: God doesn't do anything unless He tells his prophets. The people should listen to Amos. We shall listen to the priests and bishops when they tell us to repent.
- Amos 4:6-13: God has done many things to correct His people. The message is very strong which reflects the people's spiritual status at this time. Reflect on things that happen nowadays for our correction and repentance.
 - Soon after all these messages and things God allowed for their repentance, they were taken into captivity. That shows that God's messages are real if people do not repent. God is merciful and compassionate, but he is also just, judges, and keeps his word.
- Amos 5:4-15: A call from God to repentance
 - Amos 5:6: It's also translated (Seek the Lord and you shall live)
- Amos 7:10-17: Amaziah the priest of Bethel was not a faithful priest. Instead of supporting God's prophet and his message, he attacked him and complained to the king.
 - Amos 7:14: We see Amos's humility
 - Amos mentioning his profession is proof of his humility. He is saying he is poor and from a low-class family as these jobs were meant for these people at the time. It also shows that God chooses the poor and the humble people.
- Amos 8:9: A Messianic prophesy
 - For the Israelites, it meant that their happiness would be turned into darkness. The joy will be switched to sorrow

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. What was Amos' job?
2. Find a prophecy in this book and when it was fulfilled. Give verses.
3. To whom does God reveal His secret?
4. Describe God's judgment on the day of the Lord

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Amos was: a) king b) a sheep breeder c) soldier d) prince
2. God reveals His secrets to: a) the kings b) the princes c) the prophets d) the slaves
3. Seek _____ and not evil, that you may _____; so the LORD God of _____ will be with you, as you have spoken.
4. The Day of the Lord will be _____. a) darkness b) light c) cold d) rainy

Week 4: Obadiah

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Objective:

- The Judgment on Edom
- Edom Mistreated His Brother
- Israel's Final Triumph

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
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Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Obadiah 1-21

Key verse(s):

"For the day of the Lord upon all the nations *is* near; As you have done, it shall be done to you"
Obadiah 1:15

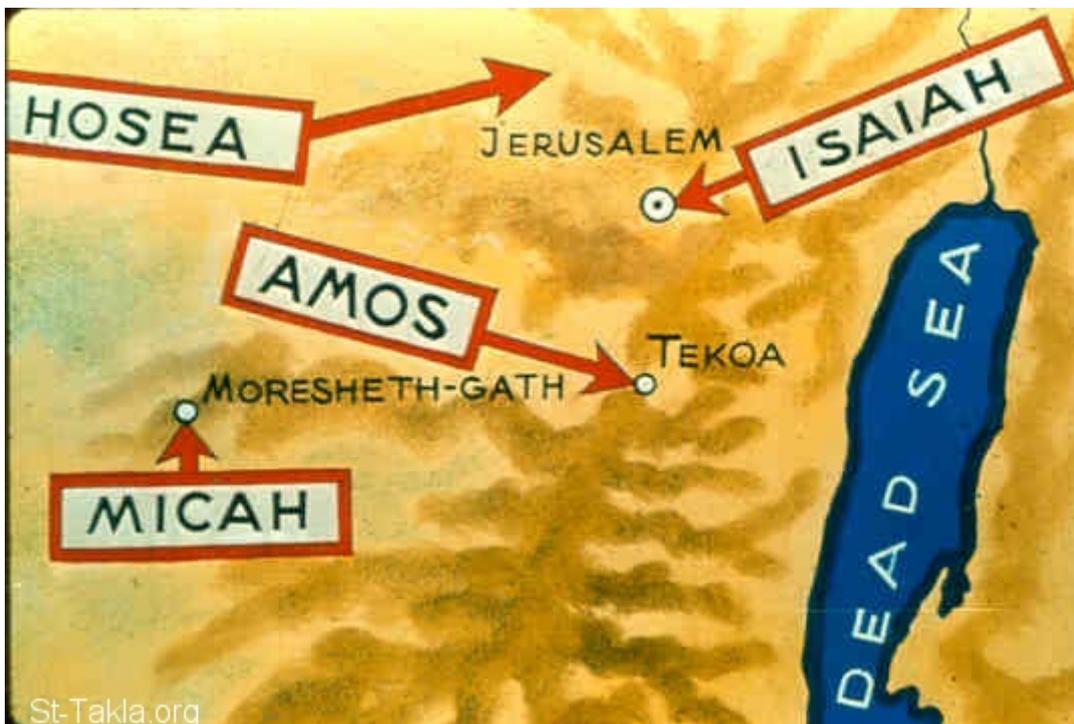
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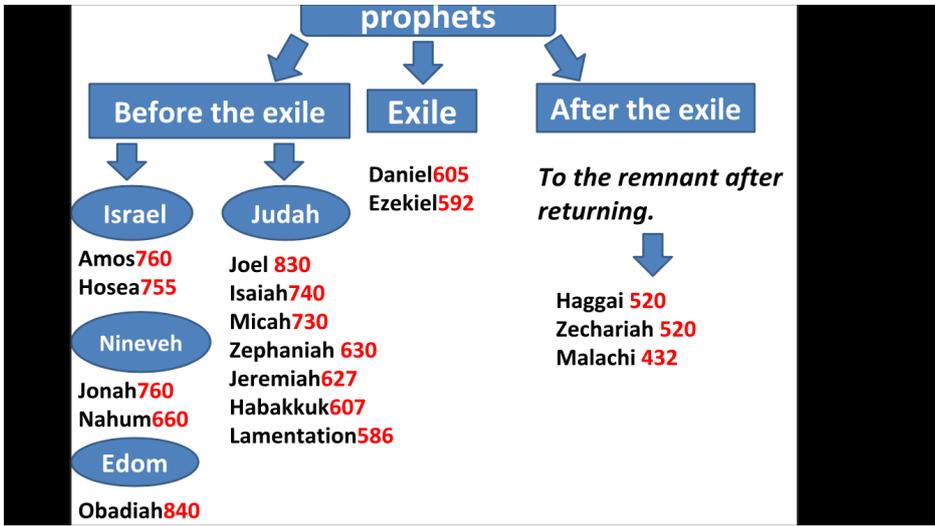
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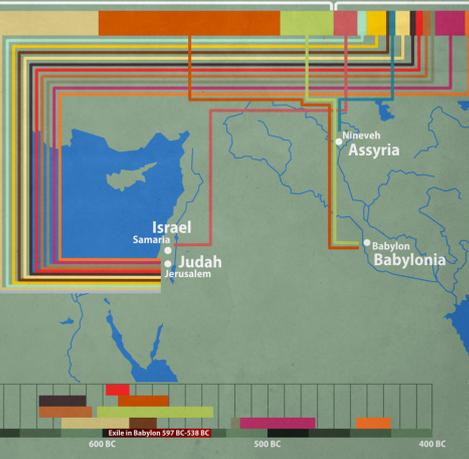
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800 BC 700 BC 600 BC Exile in Babylon 597 BC-538 BC 500 BC 400 BC

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Comments:

Theme of Obadiah: The destruction of Edom - The Day of the Lord

Messianic Prophecy: N/A

- Background story to understand Obadiah:
 - The Book contains condemnation against Edom and prophesies their total destruction because of their persistent opposition to God's chosen people.
 - Edomites aligned with the Chaldeans to defeat and destroy the Israelites
 - They assisted the Babylonians on how to enter and take down the Kingdom (2 Kings 25)
 - Their Joy in seeing Israel taken to captivity is like the devil rejoicing in seeing God's people look defeated
 - Two years later, Nebuchadnezzar came and destroyed them. The devil is a cheater has no alliance with anyone
 - Psalm 137 "By the rivers of Babylon" talks about this incident.
 - Obadiah directed his prophecy toward the Edomites and told them "As you have done, it shall be done to you."
- Obadiah is the shortest book in the OT with only 21 verses
- Obadiah means "Worshiper of Yahweh" or "Servant of Yahweh"
- The Book deals with the bitter rivalry between Edom, the descendants of Jacob's twin brother Esau, and the people of Israel.
- Though the shortest of the Old Testament books, Obadiah carries one of the strongest messages of judgment.
- Because of the long history of opposing God's people, Edom's fate is sealed, and there is no possibility of deliverance. God will bring total destruction upon Edom, and there will be no remnant.
- V.2-4: That their pride should be humbled.
- V.5-7: That their wealth should be plundered.
- V.8-9: That their wisdom should be taken.
- V.10-16: That their spiteful behavior towards God's Israel should be avenged.
- V.17-20: Gracious promises to Israel; that they shall be restored and reformed, and shall be victorious over the Edomites, and become masters of their land and the lands of others of their neighbors.
- V.21: The kingdom of the Messiah shall be set up by the bringing in of the great salvation.
- The prophetic theme of the day of the Lord is prominent in verses 15-21. As in the prophecy of Joel, this day brings both judgment and deliverance. For Edom, this is a pronouncement of judgment (V.15-16), but for Judah it will bring deliverance as they experience blessing and restoration to their land (V.17-21).

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. What is the shortest Book in the OT? How many chapters/verses?
2. What does the name Obadiah mean?
3. What will happen to the House of Esau?

4. What deceived Edom?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. What did Edom do to deserve the wrath of God?
2. "For the _____ of the LORD upon all the nations is _____; as you have done, it shall be _____ to you; your reprisal shall return upon your own _____."
3. The House of Jacob shall be a _____, and the house of _____ a flame; But the House of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no _____ shall remain of the House of Esau," For the _____ has spoken."

Week 5: Jonah

Week 5: Jonah

Objective:

- Jonah's Disobedience
- Jonah Thrown into the Sea
- Jonah's Prayer and Deliverance
- The Ninevites' repentance
- Jonah's Anger and God's Kindness

Resources:

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Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Jonah 1-4

Key verse(s):

"I have been cast out of Your sight, Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple."

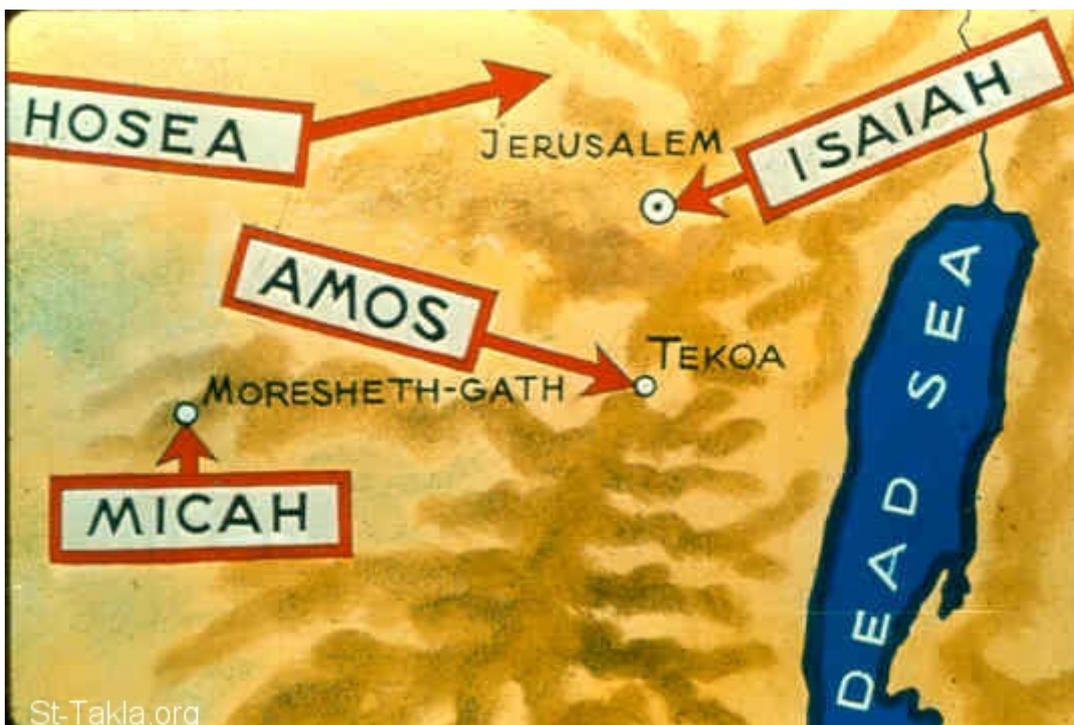
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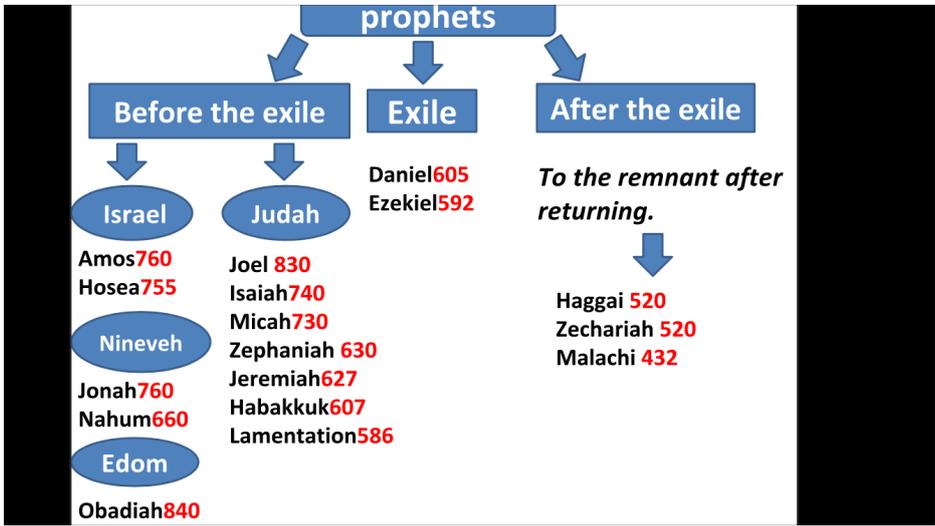
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- All prophecies had one goal: Repentance!
- Recorded prophecies were split into three groups: Before, during, and after the exile.
 - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
 - During: Repent so God can end the exile and take us back to our land
 - After: Repent because the Messiah is coming
- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
- The prophetic books always start with a strong tough message and then end with a joyful promising message.
- All books have different themes. All books have the same message (repentance).





Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS

The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the Tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.



Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.

Jeremiah was heavily persecuted for his prophecies during the Babylonian Siege. He often used metaphors such as the potter and clay (Jeremiah 18:1-7) to illustrate God's message to the people. Known as the weeping prophet, he is also believed to be the author of Lamentations.

Ezekiel prophesied during Israel's captivity in Babylon. He often received elaborate visions from God such as the Vision of Dry Bones where skeletons come to life to form a great army. Almost every aspect of his life served a symbolic purpose, from how he cooked his food to the way he slept at night.

Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at a young age. His gift to translate dreams gave him favor with kings. He often received prophetic visions of his own about the distant future. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.



Hosea was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.

Joel prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locusts. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God and a precursor to the Day of the Lord.

Amos was a sheep breeder and a vender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for siding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.

Jonah is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their ungodliness.

Micah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh, the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Josiah did not last long.

Habakkuk identifies himself as a prophet from Judah. He laments the delay of redemption and grace to be placed on striped instruments by the temple worship leaders.

Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.

Haggai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews' return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophecies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some revelations include things like a flying scroll, olive trees, and women with wings. Several of the passages are Messianic in nature.

Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1971 King James Bible

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Where did they prophesy?

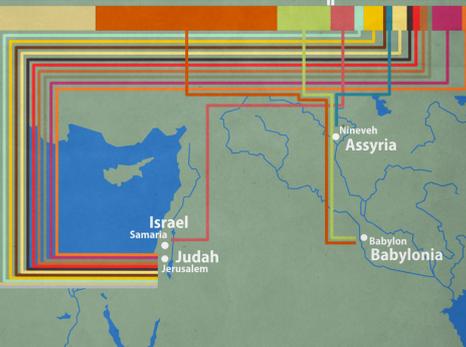
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When did they prophesy?

The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.

Timeline

All dates approximate



| <i>Minor Prophets (in biblical order)</i> | <i>Main Themes of their Writings</i> |
|---|--|
| Hosea | Salvation |
| Joel | The Day of the Lord |
| Amos | God's Judgment, The Day of the Lord , Israel's redemption |
| Obadiah | The destruction of Edom, The Day of the Lord |
| Jonah | Serving the Lord, His mercy |
| Micah | Injustice, oppression |
| Nahum | Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel |
| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
| Haggai | Restoration of the Temple |
| Zechariah | The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom |
| Malachi | The messenger to come, The Day of the Lord |

The Minor Prophets

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2. [Joel](#) - "Jehovah is God" (830 BC)
3. [Jonah](#) - "Dove" (780 BC)
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11. [Zachariah](#) - "Whom Jehovah Remembers" (520-518 BC)
12. [Malachi](#) - "My Messenger" (445-432 BC)

| Minor Prophets | | |
|---|---|--|
| Before Assyrian Captivity | After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities | After Captivity |
| Directed to the North Kingdom | Directed to the South Kingdom | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah (Edom) 5. Jonah | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Micah 7. Nahum (Nineveh) 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi |

JONAH LOCATION MAP

Search Maps

Show search options

FRANCE

ITALY

SPAIN

TURKEY

EGYPT

ISRAEL

JUDAH

BABYLONIA

Mediterranean Sea

Tarshish?

Joppa

Nineveh

ASSYRIA

THE FLIGHT

THE MISSION

Gath-hepher

Jerusalem

The Assyrian king (3:6)

The great fish (1:17)

The Temple (2:4,7)

Tarshish ☆
An unknown port city in the Western region of the Mediterranean (1:3), i.e. in the opposite direction to Nineveh.
Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼

Nineveh ☆
"That great city" (1:2), namely the capital of Assyria and home to 120,000 of Israel's enemies (as well as many cattle). Also, the mission destination of Jonah.
Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼

Joppa ☆
A port city in Judah (1:3), where Jonah disobediently boarded a ship for Tarshish.
Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼

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JONAH STRUCTURE

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | 1:1-3 | GOD SENDS HIS WORD TO JONAH |
| GOD & JONAH |  | God commissions Jonah to go to Nineveh |
| |  | Jonah disobediently flees to Tarshish |
|  | 1:4-16 | GOD SENDS A GREAT STORM ON JONAH |
| GOD, JONAH & THE PAGANS |  | The sailors turn to their own pagan gods |
| | | The sailors turn to Jonah and throw him overboard |
| | | "I worship the LORD... who made the sea and the dry land!" (1:9) |
| |  | The sailors turn to the God of the storm |
|  | 1:17 - 2:10 | GOD SENDS A GREAT FISH TO JONAH |
| GOD & JONAH |  | Jonah's thankful prayer for life |
| | | "Salvation belongs to the Lord!" (2:9) |
| | | God commands the fish to vomit out Jonah |
|  | 3:1-3a | GOD SENDS HIS WORD TO JONAH (AGAIN) |
| GOD & JONAH |  | God re-commissions Jonah to go to Nineveh |
| |  | Jonah obediently goes to Nineveh |
|  | 3:3b-10 | GOD SENDS HIS WORD TO THE GREAT CITY |
| GOD, JONAH & THE PAGANS | | "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." (3:4) |
| |  | The pagan city and king turn from their evil |
| |  | God turns from his judgement |
|  | 4:1-11 | THE GREAT GOD SENDS A MESSAGE TO JONAH |
| GOD & JONAH |  | Jonah's angry prayer for death |
| | | "I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God" (4:2) |
| |  | God sends a plant, worm and wind to teach Jonah |
| |  | God teaches Jonah about his compassion |
| | | "Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh?" (4:11) |

Comments:

Theme of Jonah: The Lord's mercy and forgiveness

Messianic Prophecy: Jonah is a type of Jesus Christ (He came out alive after three days and the Ninevites were saved. Our Lord rose on the third day and delivered His people)

- Jonah is a book that shows God's greatest love and forgiveness.

- Many people pinpoint Jonah's arrogance and his escape from God, but we shall meditate on his strong faith and repentance.
- At his time, prophets like Hosea, Joel, and Amos strongly urged the people to repent before the Assyrian captivity came as a punishment.
- Ninevah was the capital of Assyria. Jonah hesitated to go because he knew the Assyrians were coming to destroy his people and take them captive.
- For Jonah, it did not make sense to preach about this 'extremely bad nation' who is coming to rule over his nation.
- God knew their hearts and knew they would repent.
- This generation that Jonah evangelized to repent. But the following generation was bad and they started to head towards Israel to take them to exile.
- We will see later that Nahum prophesied against Ninevah (The Assyrians) as they exiled God's people. He prophesied the Assyria would be punished by Babylon.
- In summary:
 - Hosea, Joel, and Amos: told the people to repent lest the Assyrians come to destroy the North Kingdom (Israel)
 - **Minor prophets and the Assyrian captivity:**
 - (Before) Jonah: Went to evangelize to the Assyrians
 - (During) Micah: Prophesied to the South Kingdom (Judah). His message to them was to repent or the Babylonians will punish Judah
 - (After) Nahum: Prophesied against the Assyrians. Babylon will punish Assyria
- In the Jewish Tradition, Jonah is thought to be the son of the widow whom Elijah arose from the dead (1 Kings 17)
- Some people doubt Jonah is a symbolic story and not real. However, our Lord pointed out this story in Matthew 12 and Luke 11.
- Jonah is also mentioned in 2 Kings 14
- Jonah 1
 - Everything and everyone obeyed, except Jonah (Sea, ship, wind, mariners, fish)
 - The mariners:
 - They knew from experience what happened in the sea was abnormal. Most likely due to someone's sin/fault
 - They prayed to their gods before doing any actions (throwing cargo)
 - They made sure everyone prays (life of fellowship)
 - They did not agree initially to throw Jonah into the sea as they cared about him
 - They rebuked Jonah for not obeying his God
 - They prayed to Jonah's God and feared Him
 - They offered sacrifices and took vows to Jonah's God
- Jonah 2
 - Jonah is God's man
 - The first thing he did was pray and praise in the middle of his hardships
 - His deep faith is highlighted in Jonah 2:4
 - "*I will look again toward Your holy temple*" - He was in the belly of the fish when he said that!
 - Jonah 2:7 - "*And my prayer went up to You*" He is sure God is listening to him
 - God didn't prevent Jonah from service. He accepted Jonah and returned him to his service. Similar to St. Peter after the Cross at the Sea of Tiberias (Jonah 21)

- Jonah 3
 - The people didn't question Jonah but believed right away
 - They instantly offered true repentance
 - This chapter shows that repentance does not need a long period of time, but a true repentant heart
 - Jonah didn't tell them what to do. He only said they would be destroyed.
 - The people's faith led them to understand that repentance will allow God to not relent (3:9)
- Jonah 4
 - Jonah was not happy they repented and God accepted them
 - He was like the older son who didn't like the return of his younger brother
 - The plan is like the Jews who grew but went astray from God and the Ninevites are the Gentiles whom God cared for their repentance.

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Why did Jonah run from God?
2. What effect did God stirring and stilling the storm have on the sailors?
3. How do you see Jonah's prayer: a cry for help, for forgiveness or for thanksgiving?
4. Give verses showing Jonah's assurance of the deliverance of God.
5. What was the Ninevites' reaction to Jonah's message?
6. Mention four commands in the decree given by the king.
7. Show Jonah's selfishness through this Holy Book.
8. After reading the Book of Jonah, prove that salvation comes from the Lord to everyone who believes.

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. The Lord asked Jonah to go to:
 - a) Tarshish b) Nineveh c) Joppa
2. What was Jonah doing when the storm started?
 - a) praying b) eating c) sleeping
3. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for:
 - a) forty days b) one week c) three days and three nights
4. While in the belly of the fish Jonah was:
 - a) praying b) singing c) crying d) all of these
5. How many days did the Ninevites have before the city was overthrown?
 - a) three b) ten c) forty
6. When the Ninevites heard Jonah's message they:
 - a) proclaimed a fast b) believed God c) put on sackcloth d) all of these
7. The plant was damaged by:
 - a) fire b) a worm c) wind d) rain
8. How many people lived in Nineveh?
 - a) 20,000 b) 200 c) 120,000

Week 6: Micah

Objective:

- Judgment on Israel and Judah
- Woe to Evildoers
- Lying Prophets
- The Lord's Reign in Zion
- Zion's Future Triumph
- The Coming Messiah
- God Pleads with Israel
- Israel's Confession and Comfort
- God Will Forgive Israel

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
- Catena Bible Commentary
- Fr Dawoud Lamie Bible study (Arabic)
- Minor Prophets SUSCOPTS

Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Micah 1:1-9
- Micah 2:1-11
- Micah 4:1-13
- Micah 5:1-5
- Micah 6:1-8
- Micah 7:1-20

Key verse(s):

"Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise" Micah 7:8

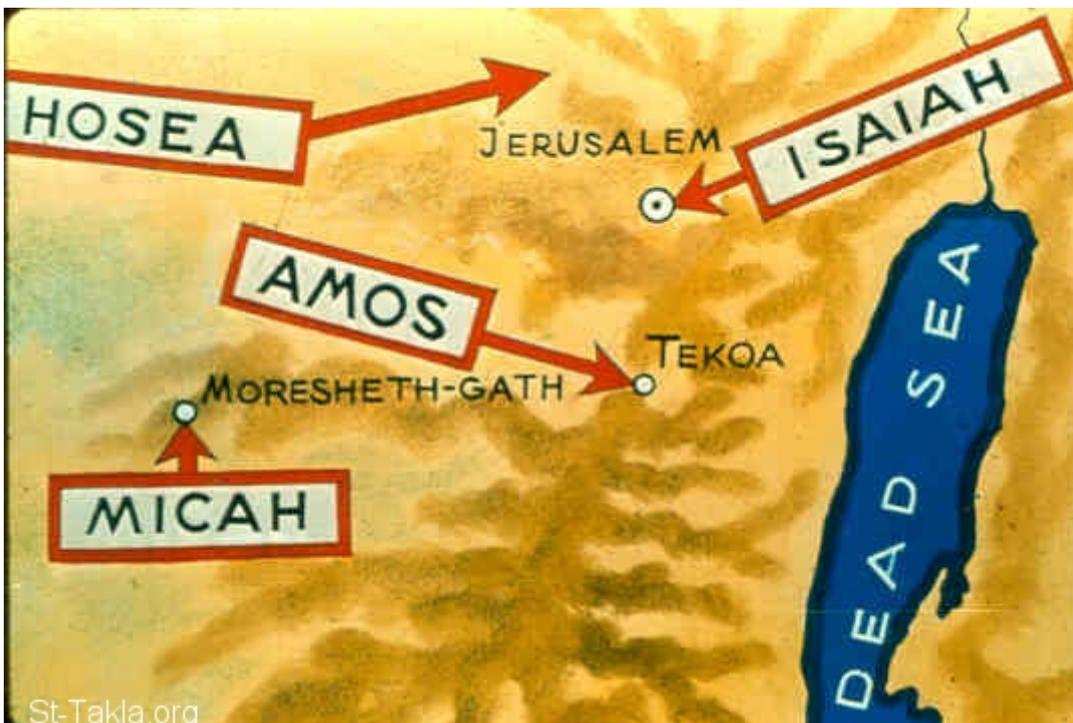
NOTE TO SERVANT:

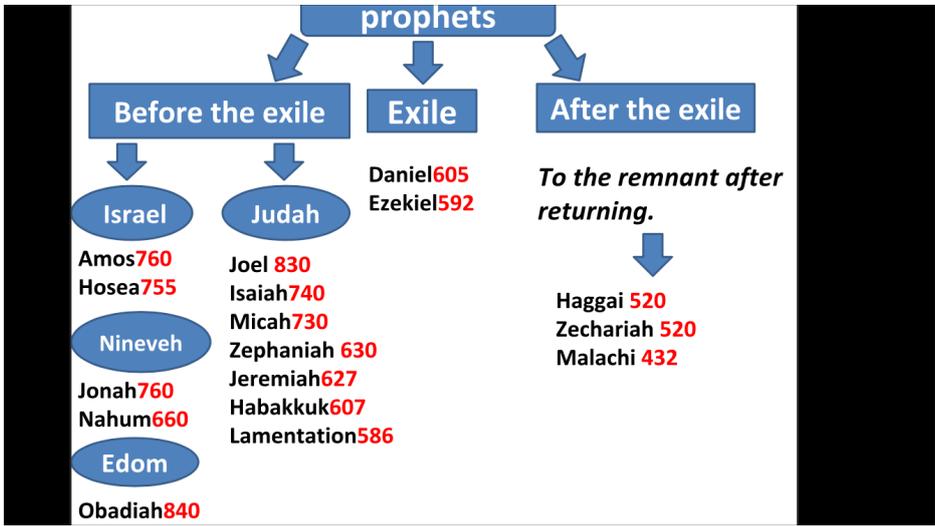
- Please plan to ask and review these questions every week:
 - Who are the minor prophets? Can you recite them?

- The theme for last week's minor prophet
- Highlight Messianic prophecy

Minor Prophets introduction:

- The Major and Minor Prophet division of the Holy Bible does not denote the importance or rank of the writing prophets, but the length of the Holy Books which bear their prophecies.
 - Ex: Jonah 4 chapters - Isaiah 66 chapters
- There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets (5 books including Lamentations)
- In the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), all these books were listed under "prophets". In the Septuagint and Vulgate translations, this classification of major and minor was mentioned.
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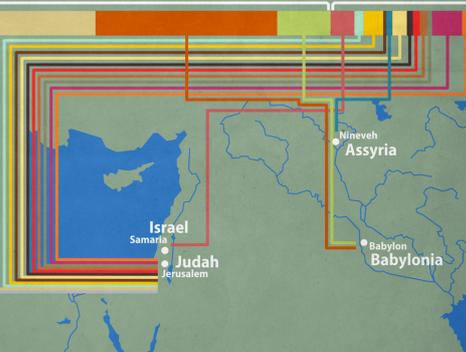
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Timeline

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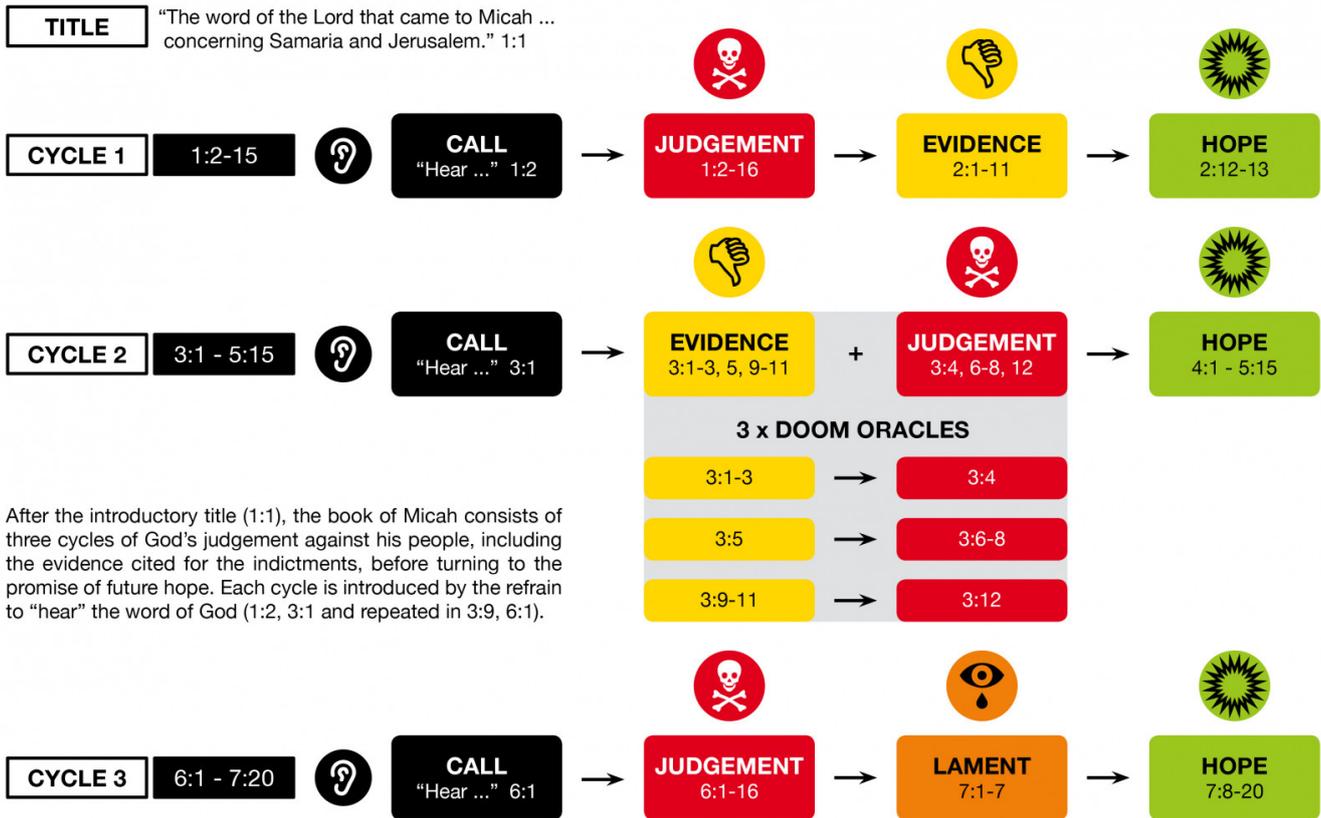
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| Minor Prophets | | |
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MICAH OVERVIEW

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After the introductory title (1:1), the book of Micah consists of three cycles of God's judgement against his people, including the evidence cited for the indictments, before turning to the promise of future hope. Each cycle is introduced by the refrain to "hear" the word of God (1:2, 3:1 and repeated in 3:9, 6:1).

Comments:

Theme of Jonah: Insrael's injustice

Messianic Prophecy: The Lord's incarnation (1:3) - The Lord's birth in Bethlehem (5:2)

- Micah is short for Michael: "Who is like God"
- He was one of the eighth-century prophets with Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, and Jonah.
- He is mentioned in Jeremiah 26:18.
- He directed his prophecy to the Kingdom of Judah.
- Micah's home was Moresheth Gath (1:14), a town probably located about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
- The book of Micah rebukes anyone who would use social status or political power for personal gain.
 - One-third of Micah exposes the sins of his countrymen
 - other third pictures the punishment God is about to send
 - The final third holds out the hope of restoration once that discipline has ended.
- Through it all, God's righteous demands upon His people are clear: "To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8).
- Micah 1:3: A prophecy on the Lord's incarnation

- Micah 1:8: He prophesied stripped and naked to show the people what the exile (their sins) will do to them. God asked him to prophesy in this way to show the Israelites what would happen to them if they didn't repent.
 - Isiah also did the same: Isaiah 20:2-4
- Chapter 2 talks about what will happen to the evildoers and the false prophets
- Chapter 3: The triumph after overcoming sin. The good days will take place after their dark exile days.
- Micah 5:2: The famous verse on the Lord's birth in Bethlehem. This prophecy is mentioned in many Nativity hymns.
- Micah 5:5: 7 refers to the perfect earthly servants. 8: refers to the heavenly angels.
- Micah 7:8: is very important to discuss with high school youth.
- Micah 7:18: Talks about God's forgiveness.

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. How was Samaria the transgression of Jacob?
2. Would Micah really go stripped and naked?
3. What was the sin of the false prophets?
4. Mention the prophecies in this book and their fulfillment in the New Testament.
5. Why should Israel's enemy not rejoice?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Who will be a witness against the people?
 - a) Micah b) Israel c) the Lord God d) Samaria.
2. Make yourself bald and cut off your _____, Because of your precious _____; enlarge your baldness like an _____, for they shall go from you into _____.
3. The evildoers covet:
 - a) fields b) houses c) both of these
4. The boundaries were determined by _____.
5. The One to be ruler in Israel will come out of _____.
6. For now He shall be _____ to the ends of the _____; and this One shall be _____.
7. Who did God send to redeem Israel from the house of bondage?
 - a) Moses b) Aaron c) Miriam d) all of these

Week 7: Nahum

Objective:

- God's Mercy and Judgment
- The Destruction of Nineveh
- The Woe of Nineveh

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
- Catena Bible Commentary
- Fr Dawoud Lamie Bible study (Arabic)
- Minor Prophets SUSCOPTS

Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Nahum 1:1-15
- Nahum 2:1-13
- Nahum 3:1-19

Key verse(s):

"Behold, on the mountains, The feet of him who brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace!" Nahum 1:15

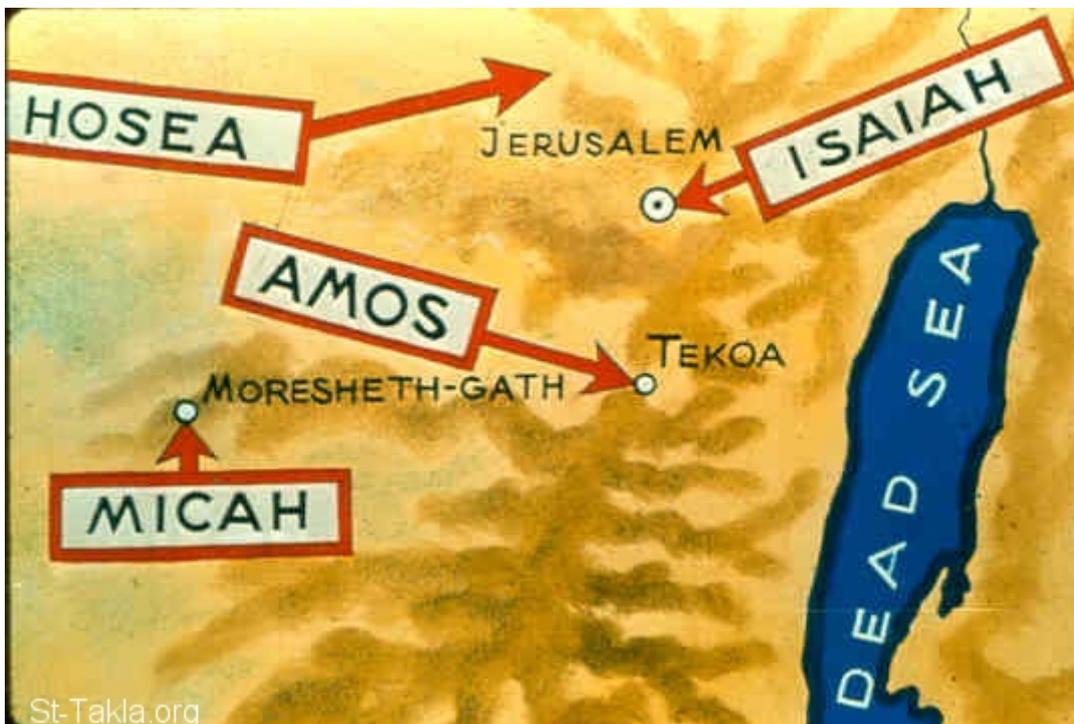
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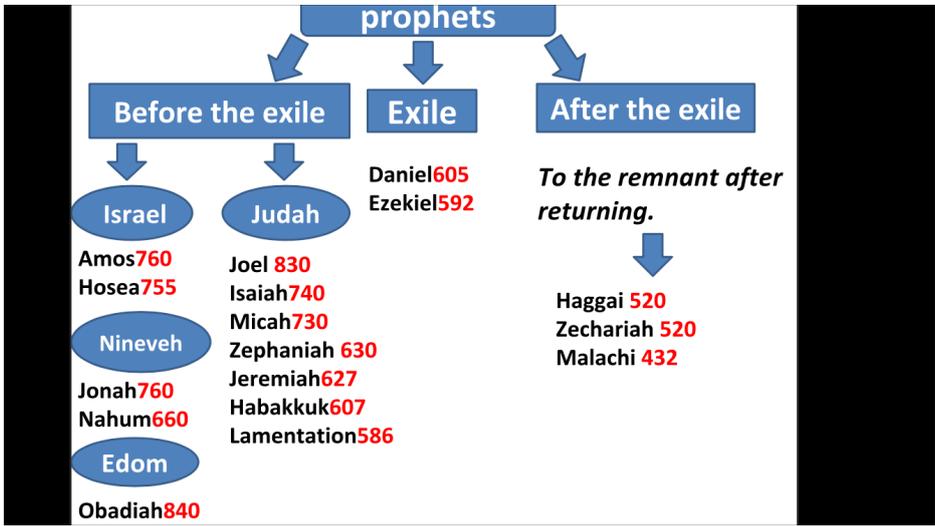
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 - The theme for last week's minor prophet
 - Highlight Messianic prophecy

Minor Prophets introduction:

- The Major and Minor Prophet division of the Holy Bible does not denote the importance or rank of the writing prophets, but the length of the Holy Books which bear their prophecies.
 - Ex: Jonah 4 chapters - Isaiah 66 chapters
- There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets (5 books including Lamentations)

- In the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), all these books were listed under "prophets". In the Septuagint and Vulgate translations, this classification of major and minor was mentioned.
- The prophet in the OT was someone who passed God's message to the people. A prophet in the NT is also someone who passes God's message or news (God's love and salvation for all mankind).
- In the OT, there were many prophets (Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, etc.), but when we refer to the "Prophets", we refer to the ones who recorded their prophecy.
- All prophecies had one goal: Repentance!
- Recorded prophecies were split into three groups: Before, during, and after the exile.
 - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
 - During: Repent so God can end the exile and take us back to our land
 - After: Repent because the Messiah is coming
- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
- The prophetic books always start with a strong tough message and then end with a joyful promising message.
- All books have different themes. All books have the same message (repentance).





Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS

The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the Tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.



Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.

Jeremiah was heavily persecuted for his prophecies during the Babylonian Siege. He often used metaphors such as the potter and clay (Jeremiah 18:1-7) to illustrate God's message to the people. Known as the weeping prophet, he is also believed to be the author of Lamentations.

Ezekiel prophesied during Israel's captivity in Babylon. He often received elaborate visions from God such as the Vision of Dry Bones where skeletons come to life to form a great army. Almost every aspect of his life served a symbolic purpose, from how he cooked his food to the way he slept at night.

Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at a young age. His gift to translate dreams gave him favor with kings. He often received prophetic visions of his own about the distant future. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.



Hosea was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.

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Michah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh, the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Josiah did not last long.

Habakkuk identifies himself as a prophet from Judah. His book with a hymn of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.

Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.

Haggai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews' return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophecies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some revelations include things like a flying scroll, olive trees, and women with wings. Several of the passages are Messianic in nature.

Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1971 King James Bible

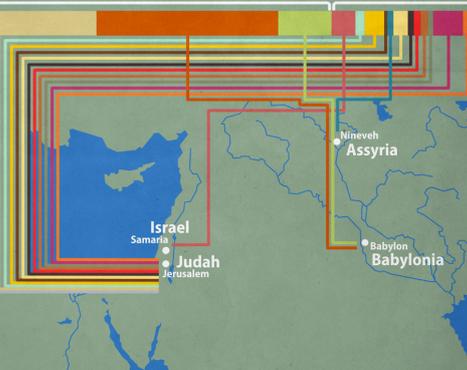
Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Where did they prophesy?

Following the reign of Solomon the nation of Israel divided into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom retained the name Israel and made Samaria the capital. The Southern Kingdom came to be known as Judah and possessed the city of Jerusalem as its capital. Because the temple remained in Jerusalem the majority of the prophets centered their ministry in Judah.

When did they prophesy?

The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.



Timeline

All dates approximate



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| <i>Minor Prophets (in biblical order)</i> | <i>Main Themes of their Writings</i> |
|---|--|
| Hosea | Salvation |
| Joel | The Day of the Lord |
| Amos | God's Judgment, The Day of the Lord , Israel's redemption |
| Obadiah | The destruction of Edom, The Day of the Lord |
| Jonah | Serving the Lord, His mercy |
| Micah | Injustice, oppression |
| Nahum | Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel |
| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
| Haggai | Restoration of the Temple |
| Zechariah | The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom |
| Malachi | The messenger to come, The Day of the Lord |

The Minor Prophets

1. [Obadiah](#) - "Servant of Jehovah" (845 BC)
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| Minor Prophets | | |
|---|---|--|
| Before Assyrian Captivity | After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities | After Captivity |
| Directed to the North Kingdom | Directed to the South Kingdom | |
| 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah (Edom) 5. Jonah | 6. Micah 7. Nahum (Nineveh) 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah | 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi |

Comments:

Theme of Nahum: Destruction of Nineveh

Messianic Prophecy: Christ in the New Testament (1:15)

- Nahum means "comfort" or "consolation"
- Nahum prophesied against Nineveh after Jonah went there (approximately 130 years) and after they took Israel into captivity.
- Since the message of the book is a prediction of the destruction of Nineveh, it must have been delivered sometime before 612 B.C., when the city was destroyed by the Babylonians.
- The message of the prophecy is clearly stated in Nahum 3:7.
- Nahum 1:15: A Prophecy on Christ in the New Testament. Christ will come and will proclaim peace on earth. Our lives will be in constant rejoicing (feasts) because Christ reconciled the earthly with the heavenly.
- Nahum 2 talks about God's mercy and goodness to those who believe in Him after he punished them (His judgments). The chapter also talks about what will happen to those who reject God after numerous chances to return to him and offer repentance.
- Nahum 2:11 shows the Assyrians as lions who controlled the whole world and everyone feared them.
- Nahum 3:7: What Nineveh (The Assyrians) did to other nations, it will return on them. It is also a message for us that sin enslaves us. Sin needs to be amputated from its roots or will take the person down as it took many others slaves.

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Nahum is prophesying against the city of :
a) Samaria b) Egypt c) Nineveh
2. What is the Messianic prophecy in chapter 1?
3. What will God do to those who conspire against Him?
4. Why compare Nineveh to lions?
5. List the sins of Nineveh according to chapter 3.

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Nahum is prophesying against the city of :
a) Samaria b) Egypt c) Nineveh
2. The LORD is _____, a stronghold in the day of _____; and He knows those who _____ in Him.
3. The shields of his mighty men are made _____, the valiant men are in _____.
4. The lion tore in pieces enough for his _____, killed for his _____, filled his caves with _____, and his dens with _____.

5. All your strongholds are _____ trees with ripened figs: if they are _____, they fall into the _____ of the eater.
6. Those who hear the news of Nineveh will:
a) cry b) clap their hands c) sing songs

Week 8: Habakkuk

Objective:

- The Prophet Questions God's Judgments
- The Lord's Reply
- The Just Shall Live by Faith
- Woe to the Wicked
- The Prophet's Prayer

Resources:

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Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Habakkuk 1
- Habakkuk 2
- Habakkuk 3

Key verse(s):

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" Habakkuk 3:18

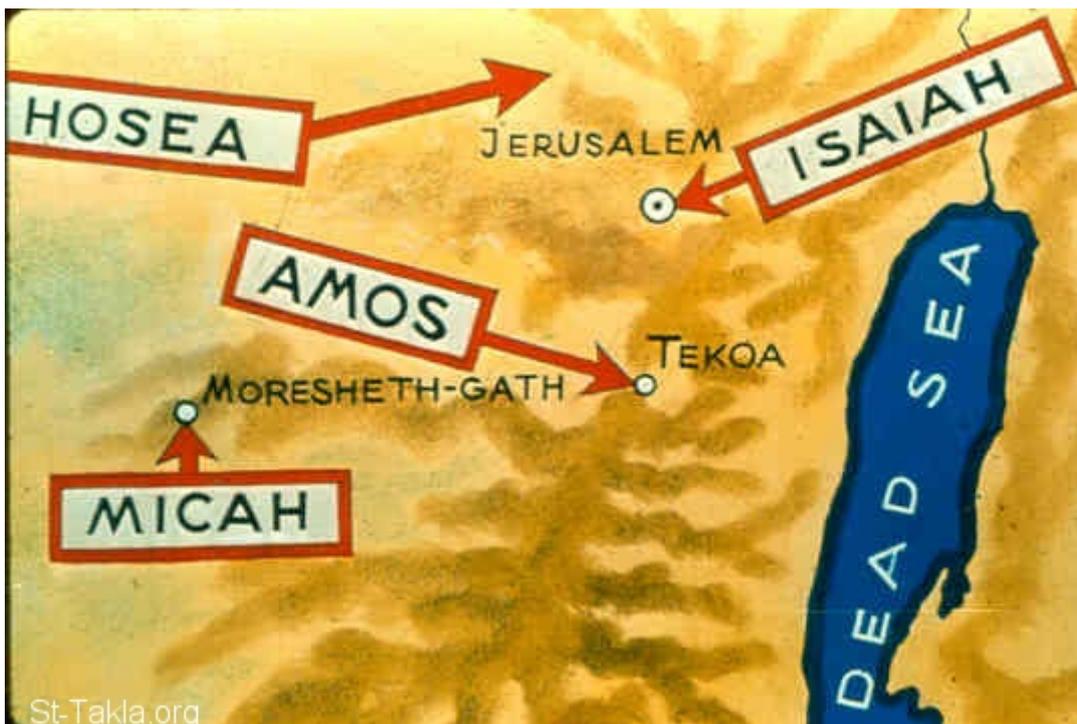
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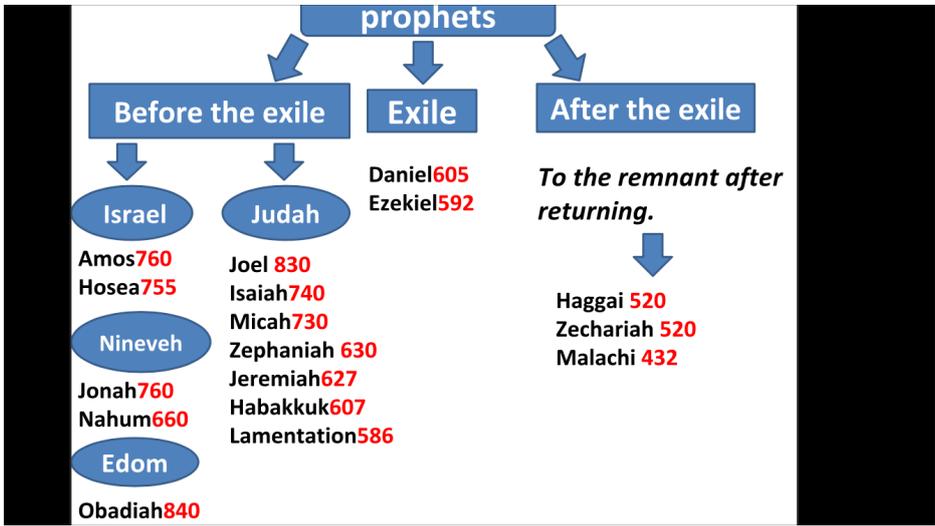
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| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
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Comments:

Theme of Habakkuk: God edifies His people through Babylon - Destruction of Babylon Messianic Prophecy: The Lord's incarnation (3:13)

- Habakkuk means "Embrace"
- Habakkuk was a Levite (Hab. 3:19)
- The book takes place before the exile of the South Kingdom.
- Although the book of Habakkuk does not mention a king's reign, internal evidence indicates a date between King Josiah's death (609 B.C.) and the beginning of the Babylonian captivity (605 B.C.).
- Habakkuk is the prophet mentioned in the book of Daniel (Daniel 14:33-36).
- A contemporary of Zephaniah and Jeremiah, Habakkuk warned of God's approaching judgment through the approaching Babylonians.
- The prophecy was fulfilled in 605 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar deported ten thousand of Jerusalem's prominent citizens to Babylon.
- The book can be divided into two parts:
 - Chapter 1-2: Habakkuk cries to the Lord - Expressing his problems
- Chapter 3: Habakkuk praises the Lord - Expressing his thanksgiving
- The main idea of the book:
 - Habakkuk stresses God's sovereign freedom as God to accomplish His good ends in His way. In spite of appearances to the contrary, God is still on the throne as the Lord of history and the Ruler of the nations.
- *The book contains questions the prophet directed to God.*
 - **Question 1: Why does God not respond to the wrong and injustice in the land (1:2-4)?**
 - **Answer 1: He is about to respond by using Babylon as a tool of judgment (1:5-11).**
 - **Question 2: Why does God use the wicked Babylonians to punish those more righteous than themselves (1:12, 13)?**
 - **Answer 2: God has chosen this action plan (2:2, 3). The just person will live by faith in God (2:4). Woe to the unrighteous (2:6-20).**
- **Chapter 1:**
 - The book starts with Habakkuk asking God "Why?"
 - God allows His people to ask Him why when the intention is to learn and feel comfortable. It's not good to ask God why to question Him and think that we can do better.
 - Obviously God hears everyone's cry and He always provides His comfort.
 - Habakkuk asked why does God allow His people to suffer and be attacked by the Babylonians. Later, Habakkuk would learn that God allowed this for His people's edification and salvation. He will reward the righteous and will avenge His people against the Babylonians.
- **Chapter 2:**
 - Habakkuk asked God what to do

- God answered by saying that Habakkuk should write the prophecy and make it very clear that the person running shall be able to read it.
- God's message to his people is very clear:
 - The proud's soul is not upright
 - The just shall live by his faith
- Habakkuk 2:4 summarizes the spiritual life. They just shall be faithful and know that everything will come to an end and that God is in control (The Pantocartor).
- Chapter 3:
 - After Habakkuk asked all his questions and the Lord answered them, he wrote a beautiful praise expressing God's mercy and compassion towards mankind.
 - 3:13 is a Messianic prophecy. God will incarnate and will save His people through His Anointed One. He "struck the head of the wicked" on the Cross.
 - Habakkuk understood that if the people repented, God would come, live with them, and will save them.
 - Chapter 3:17-19
 - A beautiful hymn by Habakkuk
 - Starts with "though" shows Habakkuk's great faith
 - Everything might not seem good. Things might not seem bright. "Though" things are not going well, Habakkuk will rejoice in the Lord.

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Habakkuk questions God's righteousness. Give verses.
2. By what shall the just live?
3. Find a prophecy about the Lord Jesus Christ in chapter 3.
4. Habakkuk rejoiced in the Lord under hard conditions. Give verse.

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. What kind of nation is the Chaldeans?
 - a) bitter b) terrible c) hasty d) all of these
2. Their horses also are swifter than _____, and more fierce than evening _____. Their chargers charge ahead; their cavalry comes from afar; they fly as the _____ that hastens to eat.
3. For the earth will be filled with the _____ of the _____ of the LORD, as the waters cover the _____.
4. But the LORD is in His holy _____. Let all the earth keep _____ before _____."
5. Yet I will _____ in the LORD, I will _____ in the God of my _____.
6. The LORD God is my _____; He will make my feet like _____'s feet, and He will make me walk on my _____ hills.

Week 9: Zephaniah

Objective:

- The Great Day of the Lord
- A Call to Repentance
- Judgment on Nations
- The Wickedness of Jerusalem
- A Faithful Remnant
- Joy in God's Faithfulness

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
- Catena Bible Commentary
- Fr Dawoud Lamie Bible study (Arabic)
- Minor Prophets SUSCOPTS

Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Zephaniah 1
- Zephaniah 2:1-3
- Zephaniah 3:8-20

Key verse(s):

"At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time, I gather you" Zephaniah 3:20

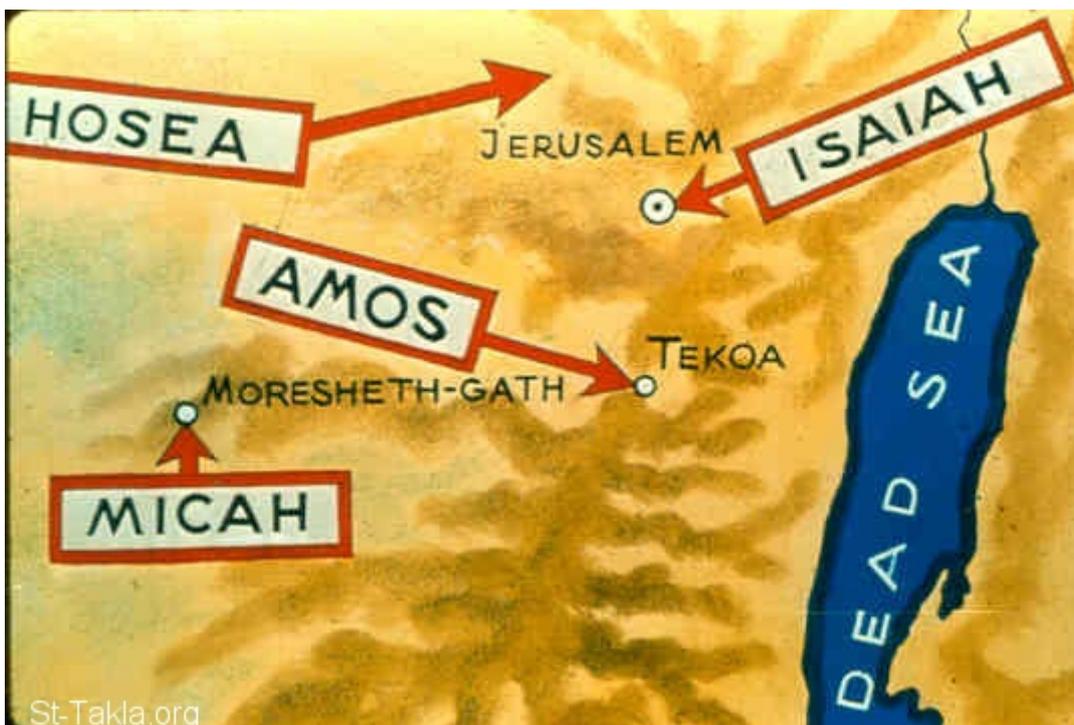
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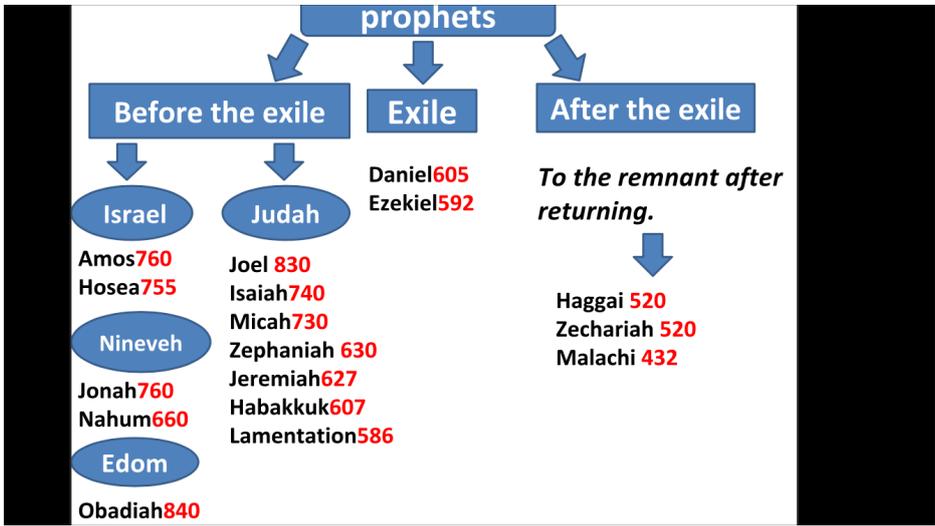
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- The prophet in the OT was someone who passed God's message to the people. A prophet in the NT is also someone who passes God's message or news (God's love and salvation for all mankind).
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 - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
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- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
- The prophetic books always start with a strong tough message and then end with a joyful promising message.
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Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS

The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the Tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.



Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.

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Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at a young age. His gift to translate dreams gave him favor with kings. He often received prophetic visions of his own about the distant future. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.



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Michah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh, the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Josiah did not last long.

Habakkuk identifies himself as a prophet from Judah. His book with a hymn of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.

Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.

Haggai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews' return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

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Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1971 King James Bible

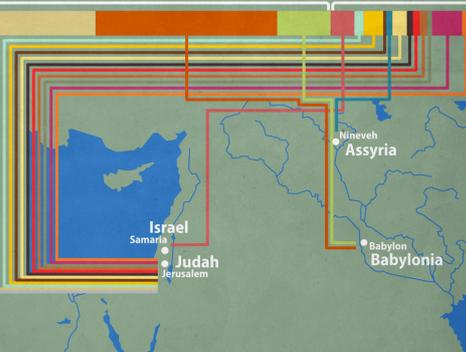
Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Where did they prophesy?

Following the reign of Solomon the nation of Israel divided into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom retained the name Israel and made Samaria the capital. The Southern Kingdom came to be known as Judah and possessed the city of Jerusalem as its capital. Because the temple remained in Jerusalem the majority of the prophets centered their ministry in Judah.

When did they prophesy?

The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.



Timeline

All dates approximate



| <i>Minor Prophets (in biblical order)</i> | <i>Main Themes of their Writings</i> |
|---|--|
| Hosea | Salvation |
| Joel | The Day of the Lord |
| Amos | God's Judgment, The Day of the Lord , Israel's redemption |
| Obadiah | The destruction of Edom, The Day of the Lord |
| Jonah | Serving the Lord, His mercy |
| Micah | Injustice, oppression |
| Nahum | Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel |
| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
| Haggai | Restoration of the Temple |
| Zechariah | The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom |
| Malachi | The messenger to come, The Day of the Lord |

The Minor Prophets

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| Minor Prophets | | |
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| Before Assyrian Captivity | After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities | After Captivity |
| Directed to the North Kingdom | Directed to the South Kingdom | |
| 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah (Edom) 5. Jonah | 6. Micah 7. Nahum (Nineveh) 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah | 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi |

Comments:

Theme of Zephaniah: The judgment and blessing of Jerusalem

Messianic Prophecy: The Lord's sacrifice (1:7)

- Zephaniah means "God hides"
- Zephaniah was a priest from the family of King Hezekiah
- Normally the genealogy of a prophet is traced no further than his father. Zephaniah, however, traces his ancestry back four generations to demonstrate his royal lineage as the great-great-grandson of King Hezekiah (1:1).
 - Thus, he was a distant relative of King Josiah and those to whom he addresses his prophecy.
- Zephaniah lived at the time of Jeremiah and the destruction of the Temple
 - Therefore the book sends a final warning to the people before the Babylonian Exile
- The book focuses on "The Day of the Lord" which is mentioned 7 times
 - This refers to the destruction of Jerusalem as a result of sin
- Chapter 1:
 - V.1: Shows the genealogy of Zephaniah and the time of his prophecy during the reign of King Josiah
 - V.7-9:
 - "Be silent in the presence of the Lord God" because the people are waiting for God to see what He will do
 - V. 7: Refers to the NT. A man usually prepares the sacrifice. But this time, God Himself will prepare the sacrifice. This means that God Himself will offer Himself as a sacrifice on behalf of His people
 - God made a Holy sacrifice. His people are not worthy, therefore he will "sanctify" His people. Invited them = sanctified them. They can not be invited without sanctification
 - Very similar to the Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matt. 22 & Lk. 14)
 - The "clothed with foreign apparel" means not clothed with Baptism. Not clothed with Christ and the Grace of the NT. They will be cast out. They want to take a shortcut and not go through baptism (they want to leap over) (V.9)
- Chapter 2:
 - Talks about the people's repentance
 - He called them an "undesirable nation" as they needed to repent to be desired
 - "Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth" This Invitation for everyone to go to God
 - "Seek righteousness, seek humility" so that you may be saved in the day of the Lord's anger AKA be saved and accepted by God.
- Chapter 3:
 - Praise regarding the joy of the NT (V.14-20)
 - "Daughter of Zion" is the Church of the NT
 - God removed the judgments and defeated Satan (V.15)

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Who was king at the time of Zephaniah?
2. What sacrifice would the Lord prepare and who are His guests?
3. Describe the Day of the Lord.
4. What does the prophet urge the nation to do?
5. Why should the faithful of Jerusalem rejoice?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. God will punish those who fill their master's house with:
a) money b) lies c) fruits d) violence
2. (Zephaniah 1:14) The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the Day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. Who said this?
3. What will the people do with a pure language?
4. (Zephaniah 3:17) "The LORD your God is in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." What does this mean?

Week 10: Haggai

Objective:

- The Command to Build God's House
- The People's Obedience
- The Coming Glory of God's House
- Promised Blessing
- Zerubbabel Chosen as a Signet

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
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Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Haggai 1
- Haggai 2

Key verse(s):

"I will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you," says the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2:23

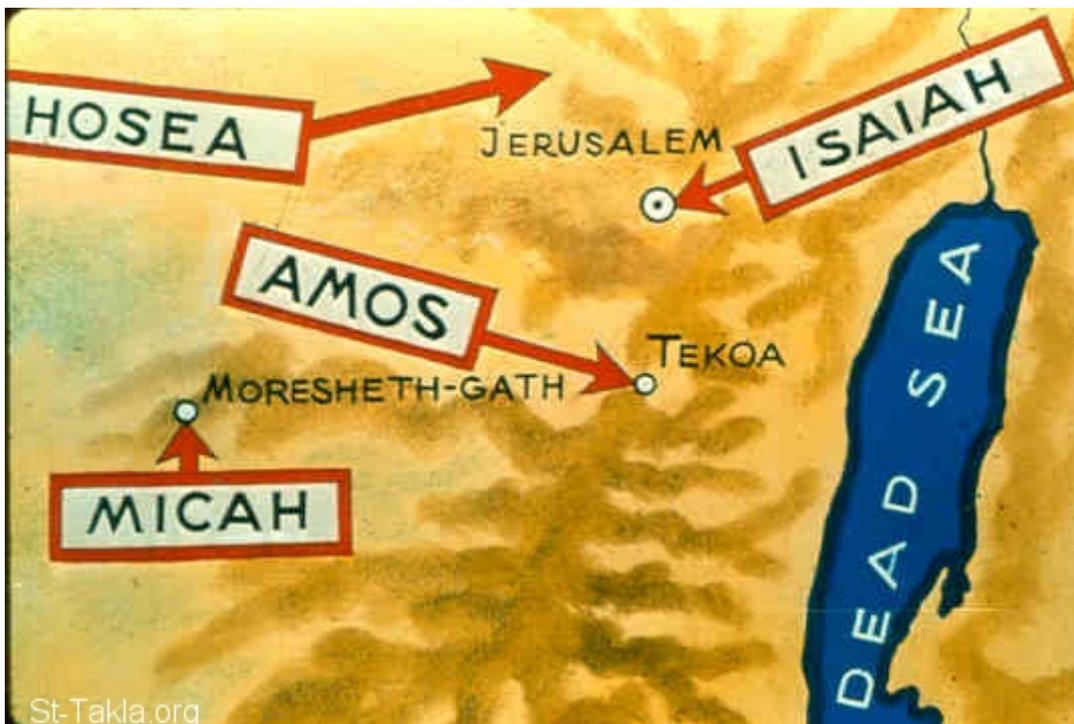
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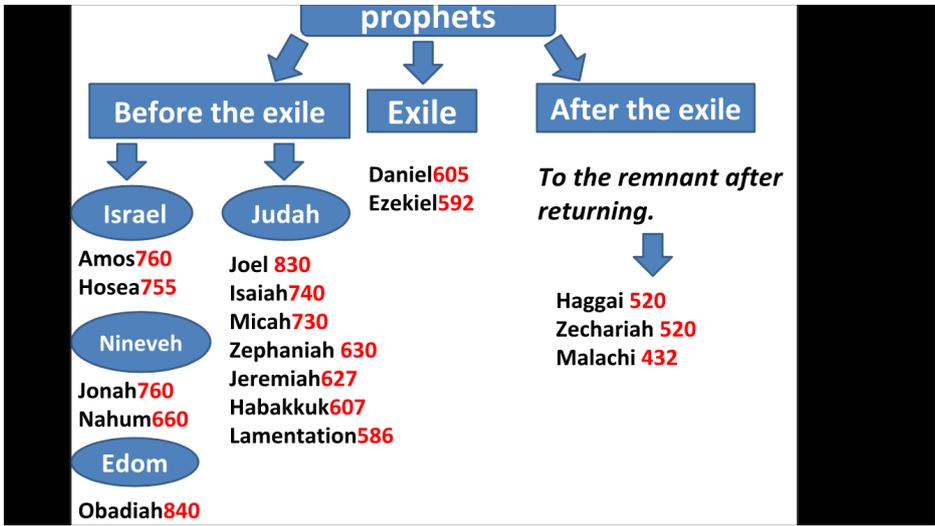
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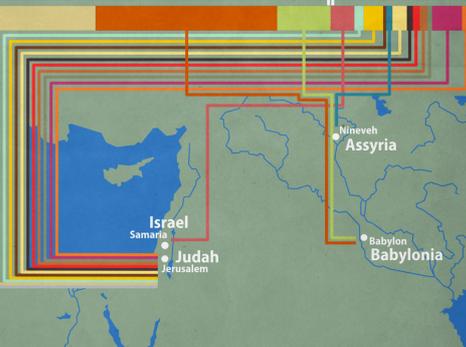
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Comments:

Theme of Haggai: The restoration of the Temple

Messianic Prophecy: The Desire of All Nations (2:7)

- Haggai means "festive or My feast"
- Haggai was one of the three minor prophets who appeared after the return from exile
- Haggai started his prophecy before Zechariah the prophet
- The prophet Haggai is known only from this book and two other references to him in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14.
- Haggai returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel and lived in Jerusalem
- Haggai and Zechariah prophesied at the same time and both encouraged the people to continue building the Temple (Ezra 5)
 - People had started rebuilding the Temple then stopped (Ezra 5)
- The destruction of Jerusalem had humbled a once-proud people and they were influenced by the Persian view of all religions as equal in value.
- The postexilic prophets ministered to discouraged and apathetic people who were tempted to believe that nothing they did made any difference from a religious standpoint.
- Haggai 1:
 - V.1 Darius is a Persian King. The Israelites returned during the Persian kingdom
 - V.2 The people quit rebuilding God's house and started building their own houses
 - This is like the people who leave God and the Church and focus only on their work, school, job, family, etc.
 - V.3 "Consider your ways" is a warning and to be attentive
 - V.6 They did many things, but there are no blessings
 - V.7-8 Invitation to return to God
 - They thought that they couldn't rebuild another Temple that was as glorious as Solomon's Temple. God reassured them that He was awaiting on this new Temple and that He will glorify it
 - It is a beautiful message that God is looking at the heart of the giver and not the gift
 - V.12-15 Show the people's obedience after they heard God's words from Haggai
 - After the people got scared of not following God's ways, God wanted to encourage them (V.13 "I am with you")
 - God is like a good father who threatens his children to improve and become more serious but doesn't leave them all the way and returns to encourage them
- Haggai 2:
 - V.6 "a little while" means that God's coming is not too far. We should be ready and waiting for him
 - Haggai called God the "Desire of all nations"
 - A prophecy that God will be desired and sought by all nations (not just Jews)
 - A prophecy on God's acceptance of the Gentiles

- V.8-9 show that God has everything and He can provide His people with everything and sustain them if they return to Him
- V.23 The book ends with a special and joyful message
 - The Royal Signet at that time represented huge importance and value as who owned this signet was someone who was in charge and owned the kingdom
 - God will give His servants the kingdom and will make them heirs
 - God's message to His people: "I have chosen you"

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Give verse that proof God will be with His people.
2. With what will God fill this temple?
3. Why did the temple look as nothing in the eyes of some people?
4. Who was chosen as a signet ring?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Who was high priest at the time of Haggai?
 - a) Zerrubabbel b) Joshua c) Darius d) Shealtiel
2. God asked the people to bring _____ to build the temple
 - a) Gold b) silver d) wood d) all of those
3. God will fill the temple with
 - a) gold b) silver d) wood d) glory
4. God said He will make Zerubbabel
 - a) king b) signet ring c) prophet d) prince

Week 11: Zechariah - 1

Zechariah 1-7

Objective:

- Vision of the Horses
- The Lord Will Comfort Zion
- Vision of the Horns
- Vision of the Measuring Line
- Future Joy of Zion and Many Nations
- Vision of the High Priest
- The Coming Branch
- Vision of the Lampstand and Olive Trees
- Vision of the Four Chariots
- Obedience Better than Fasting
- Disobedience Resulted in Captivity

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Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Zechariah 1:7-21
- Zechariah 2:1-13
- Zechariah 3:1-10
- Zechariah 4
- Zechariah 6:1-8
- Zechariah 7

Key verse(s):

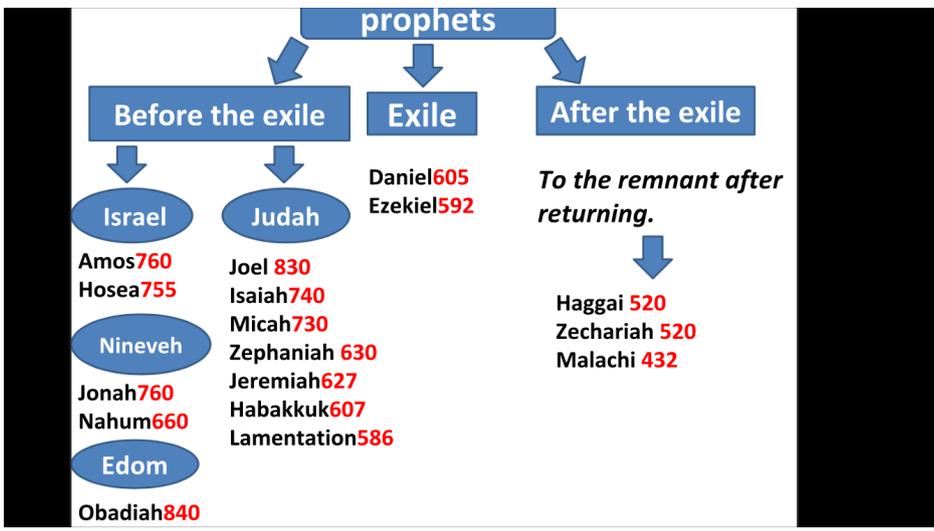
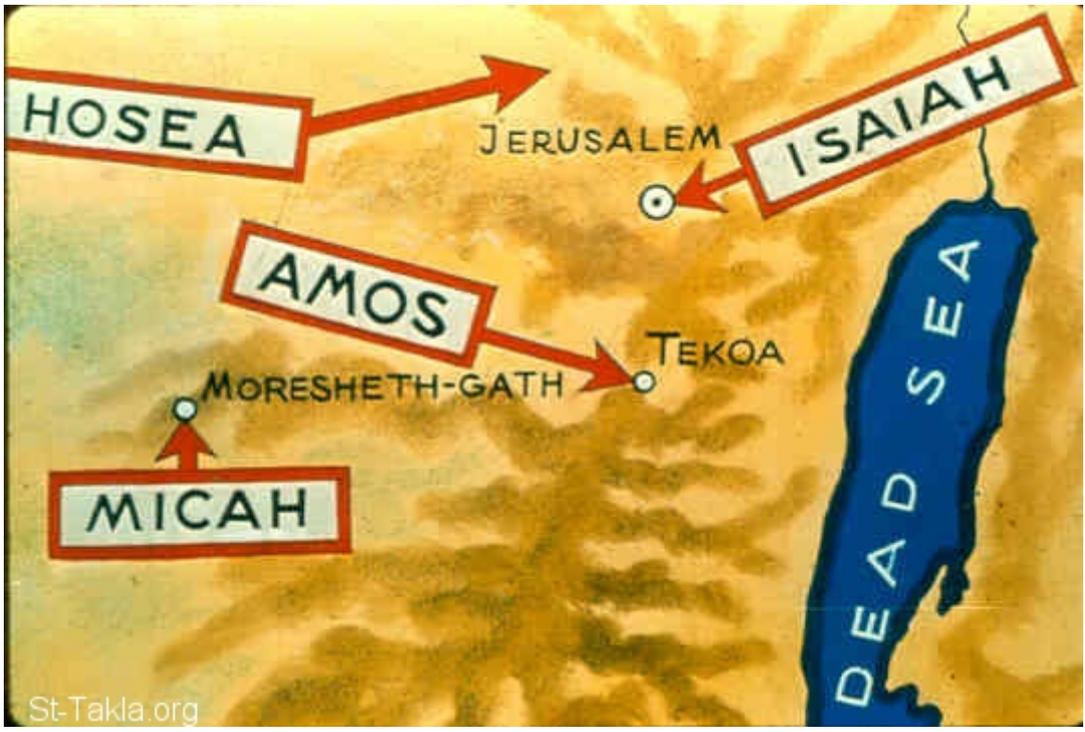
“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6

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- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
- The prophetic books always start with a strong tough message and then end with a joyful promising message.
- All books have different themes. All books have the same message (repentance).
-



Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS

The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.



Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.

Jeremiah was heavily persecuted for his prophecies during the Babylonian Siege. He often used metaphors such as the potter and clay (Jeremiah 18:1-7) to illustrate God's message to the people. Known as the weeping prophet, he is also believed to be the author of Lamentations.

Ezekiel prophesied during Israel's captivity in Babylon. He often received elaborate visions from God such as the Vision of Dry Bones where skeletons come to life to form a great army. Almost every aspect of his life served a symbolic purpose, from how he cooked his food to the way he slept at night.

Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at a young age. His gift to translate dreams gave him favor with kings. He often received prophetic visions of his own about the distant future. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.



Hosea was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.

Joel prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locusts. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God and a precursor to the Day of the Lord.

Amos was a sheep breeder and a vinder of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for siding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.

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Micha in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh, the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Jonah did not last long.

Habakkuk identifies himself as a prophet. His complaint to God is answered by a promise of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.

Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.

Haggai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews' return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophecies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some revelations include things like a flying scroll, olive trees, and women with wings. Several of the passages are Messianic in nature.

Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1971 King James Bible

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micha, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Where did they prophesy?

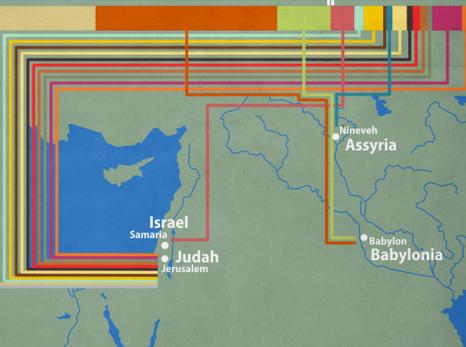
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When did they prophesy?

The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.

Timeline

All dates approximate



| <i>Minor Prophets (in biblical order)</i> | <i>Main Themes of their Writings</i> |
|---|--|
| Hosea | Salvation |
| Joel | The Day of the Lord |
| Amos | God's Judgment, The Day of the Lord , Israel's redemption |
| Obadiah | The destruction of Edom, The Day of the Lord |
| Jonah | Serving the Lord, His mercy |
| Micah | Injustice, oppression |
| Nahum | Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel |
| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
| Haggai | Restoration of the Temple |
| Zechariah | The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom |
| Malachi | The messenger to come, The Day of the Lord |

The Minor Prophets

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12. [Malachi](#) - "My Messenger" (445-432 BC)

| Minor Prophets | | |
|---|---|--|
| Before Assyrian Captivity | After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities | After Captivity |
| Directed to the North Kingdom | Directed to the South Kingdom | |
| 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah (Edom) 5. Jonah | 6. Micah 7. Nahum (Nineveh) 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah | 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi |

NOTE TO SERVANT:

- **Zechariah will be divided into two parts to be covered over two weeks:**

- Week 1: Ch.1-7 --> Zechariah's visions
- Week 2: Ch.9-14 --> Zechariah's prophecies

Comments:

Theme of Zechariah: The coming of God's kingdom

Messianic Prophecy: Entering Jerusalem (9:9), Thirty pieces of silver (11:12), His wounds (13:6), The piercing (12:10), The suffering shepherd (13:7)

- Zechariah means "Jehovah remembers"
- Zechariah was one of the three minor prophets who appeared after the return from exile
- Zechariah started his prophecy before Haggai the prophet by only a few months
- As the son of Berechiah and grandson of Iddo, he came from one of the priestly families of the tribe of Levi
- He was born in Babylon and was brought by his grandfather to Palestine when the Jewish exiles returned under Zerubbabel
- Zechariah uses a series of eight visions, four messages, and two burdens to portray God's plans for His people
- The book is second to Isaiah in prophecies
- The book is second to Ezekiel in visions
- The book can be broken down into three parts:
 - Part 1: Ch. 1-6: Visions
 - Part 2: Ch. 7-8: Fasting
 - Part 3: Ch. 9-14: Messianic Prophecies
- The book has some clear prophecies about Christ:
 - Entering Jerusalem (9:9)
 - Thirty pieces of silver (11:12)
 - His wounds (13:6)
 - The piercing (12:10)
 - The suffering shepherd (13:7)
- Zechariah 1:
 - Vision of the Horses
 - The angels came and surveyed the earth and went back to God (the man riding on a red horse who stood among the myrtle trees)
 - Man riding a red horse is similar to the one in Revelation
 - The angles reported to God that the earth was ready for Him to come
 - Zechariah 1:12: The Son is talking to the Father
 - Vision of the Horns
 - V.19: The four kingdoms that ruled over them (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome)
 - The four craftsmen: The four evangelists
 - They will "coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up *their* horn against the land of Judah to scatter it"
 - They will come to deliver the Good news to people
- Zechariah 2:
 - Vision of the measuring line

- After measuring Jerusalem, the angel found it was very big. This will lead to having a "multitude of men and livestock in it"
- This represents that the earth (Jerusalem) will have no limit to who will be with Christ. This Jerusalem that was able to have everyone, has no walls. God is the one protecting His people and also is in their midst
- This is the Heaven in the book of Revelation "of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues"
- V.6: God is telling the rest of the Israelites to come back from the land of captivity (north) because Jerusalem is big and can fit everyone
- V.8: The Son is telling His people that the Father sent Him to gather everyone (all nations). And "who touches us touches the apple of His eye" means God will protect us
- V.12-13: Talks about the Lord's crucifixion "He is aroused" and saving those who were captives "the Lord will take possession"
- Zechariah 3:
 - Vision of the High Priest
 - Joshua the high priest was being judged in front of God. Satan was there to oppose Joshua
 - God defended Joshua and asked the angels to cloth him with new clothes and turban
 - The clothe resemble Joshua's sin, and the new clothes represent God forgiving his sins and clothing him with new clothes
 - V.10:
 - Servant: Christ took the form of man and looked like a servant
 - Branch: it's the same meaning as "Nazarene"
 - Stone: He is the chief corner stone
 - All these three titles are Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled by Christ
- Zechariah 4:
 - Vision of the Lampstand and Olive Trees
 - Lampstand = Church
 - Gold = Pure - Heavenly
 - Bowl = Christ
 - Lamps = Sacraments
 - Seven = Complete number
 - Source of oil = Two olive trees
 - The lampstand represents the Church that is full of oil Which is the Holy Spirit. The works of the Holy Spirit in the church is complete/perfect (seven) through the sacraments (lamps). Works of the Church is always connect with Christ (Bowl). The two olive trees are the source of the oil that tell us the source is a heavenly and continuous source.
 - V.7: A comforting verse to Zerubabel and us that God will transform any mountain (problem/sorrow) to a plain (solution/joy/blessing)
 - V.14: The verse shows the three hypostases.
 - God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (the two olive trees) will fill the Church (Lampstand) with the spiritual heavenly works.



○ **The Vision Zechariah 4**

- Zechariah 5:
 - Vision of the Flying Scroll
 - Vision of the Woman in a Basket
 - Not discussed
- Zechariah 6:
 - Vision of the Four Chariots
 - Red Horses: Babylonian kingdom
 - Was already defeated in history at the time of Zechariah. That is why it was not mentioned again
 - Black Horses: Persian kingdom
 - Going up North = Going North to defeat Babylon
 - White Horses: Greek kingdom
 - Dappled Horses: Roman kingdom
 - Bronze mountains = Strong mountains
 - The four horses came out of the Bronze Mountains. These are the four kingdoms that ruled over the world in the OT before the coming of Christ. Bronze means that God's will and judgments are firm and unchangeable.
 - We learn that everything that happens in the world is God's will. He allows kingdoms to rule and things to happen for our purification and salvation. He is strong and in control of everything (Pantocrator).
- Zechariah 7:
 - The chapters discuss the spirituality of the fast
 - V.4-5
 - They asked about fasting about the fifth month, but God answered regarding the fifth and seventh months
 - God does not want (or wait) for our fast. We fast because we need to show our meekness and humility and because of our sins. We humble ourselves in front of Him through our fast.
 - V.6
 - When we eat or fast we do it for ourselves, not for God
 - God is reminding us that even when we eat or break our fast, we should do it with the spirit of Thanksgiving
 - V.7 - God is reminding them that he had spoken to them about these things through His prophets who told them that there are consequences to their sin
 - V.8-10 - God is reminding them to be fair in their judgments

- V. 11 - "shrugged their shoulders" means they refused to listen to God and the prophets
- This chapter can be summarized that God wants mercy not sacrifice. God wants the heart to fast and repent, not just fast from food and show our supplications only on the outside without changing our heart.

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

- CHAPTER 1
 - What do the colored horses represent and who is the one riding on the red horse?
 - Who do the horns and the craftsmen represent?
- CHAPTER 2
 - Why measure Jerusalem? And where else in the Holy Bible was this mentioned?
 - Why should Zion flee from the hand of the North?
- CHAPTER 3
 - Why the filthy garment?
 - Who is the BRANCH?
- CHAPTER 4
 - Who are the anointed ones?
- CHAPTER 6
 - How did God's Spirit find rest in the North?
- CHAPTER 7
 - What commandments did the people refuse to obey?
 - What was God's reply when asked about fasting? Explain. What do we personally learn about fasting from this chapter?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

- CHAPTER 1
 - In Zechariah's vision the man was riding:
 - a) a donkey b) a red horse c) a white horse
 - God' house shall be built in:
 - a) the temple b) the North c) Jerusalem d) Samaria
- CHAPTER 2
 - The Lord said that he who touches Zion touches:
 - a) His heart b) His head c) the apple of His eye d) His Son
 - "And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His _____ in the _____, and will again choose _____."
- CHAPTER 3
 - "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If you will walk in My _____, And if you will keep My _____, Then you shall also judge My _____, And likewise have charge of My _____.'"
 - In that day,' says the LORD of Hosts, ' _____ will invite his _____ under his vine and under his _____.'

- CHAPTER 4
 - Whose hands laid the foundation of the temple?
 - a) Zachariah b) God c) Zerubbabal d) the servant
 - The lampstand was made of
 - a) gold b) silver c) bronze d) copper
- CHAPTER 5
 - What will God send out to the house of the thief?
 - a) gifts b) a letter c) a prophecy d) a curse
 - The woman sitting in the basket represents:
 - a) the mother b) wickedness c) poverty d) Jerusalem
- CHAPTER 7
 - For how many years of exile did the people fast on the 5th and 7th months
 - a) 10 b) 30 c) 70
 - "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Do not oppress-----."
 - a) the widow b) the fatherless c) the poor d) all of these

Week 12: Zechariah - 2

Zechariah 9-14

Objective:

- The Coming King
- Restoration of Judah and Israel
- Desolation of Israel
- Prophecy of the Shepherds
- Mourning for the Pierced One
- The Shepherd Savior
- The Day of the Lord
- The Nations Worship the King

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
- Catena Bible Commentary
- Fr Dawoud Lamie Bible study (Arabic)
- Minor Prophets SUSCOPTS

Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Zechariah 9:9-10
- Zechariah 10:4
- Zechariah 11:4-13
- Zechariah 12:9-14
- Zechariah 13:6-9
- Zechariah 14:1-9

Key verse(s):

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you" Zechariah 9:9

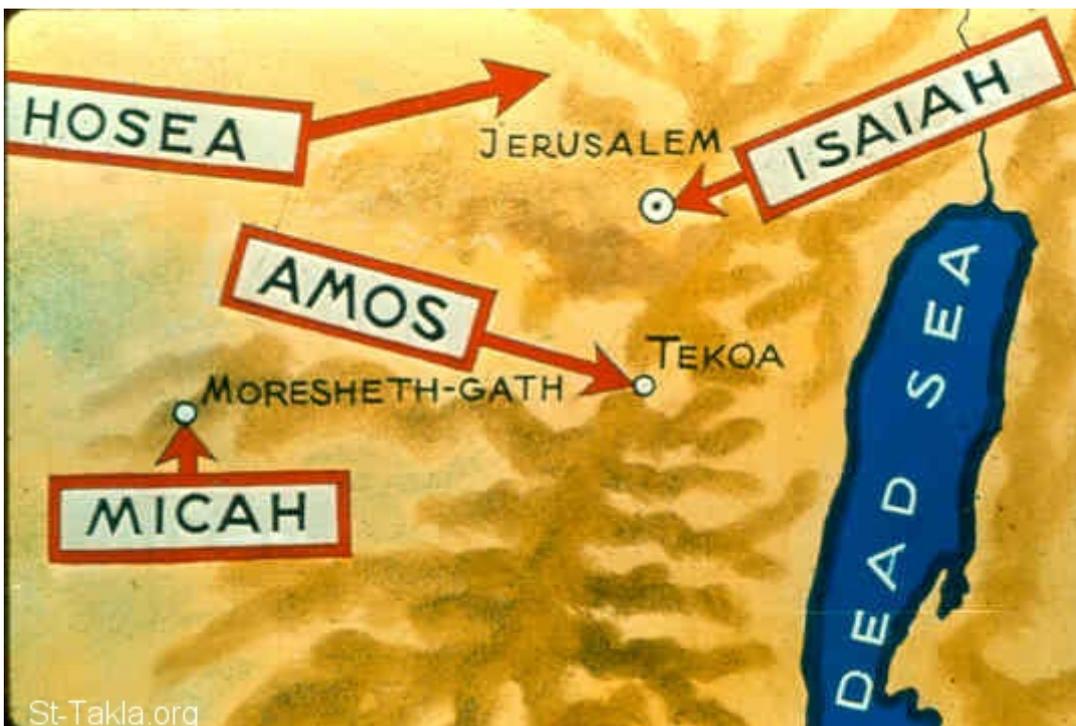
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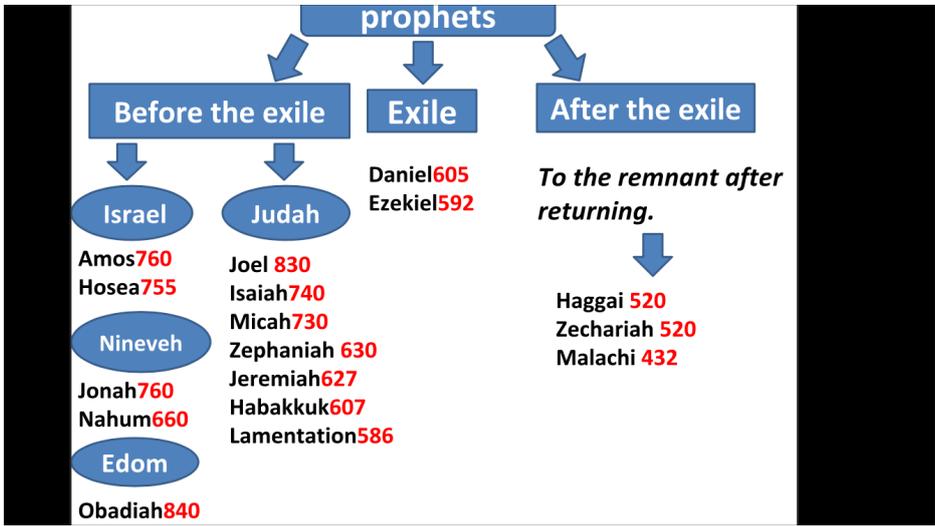
- Please plan to ask and review these questions every week:

- Who are the minor prophets? Can you recite them?
- The theme for last week's minor prophet
- Highlight Messianic prophecy

Minor Prophets introduction:

- The Major and Minor Prophet division of the Holy Bible does not denote the importance or rank of the writing prophets, but the length of the Holy Books which bear their prophecies.
 - Ex: Jonah 4 chapters - Isaiah 66 chapters
- There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets (5 books including Lamentations)
- In the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), all these books were listed under "prophets". In the Septuagint and Vulgate translations, this classification of major and minor was mentioned.
- The prophet in the OT was someone who passed God's message to the people. A prophet in the NT is also someone who passes God's message or news (God's love and salvation for all mankind).
- In the OT, there were many prophets (Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, etc.), but when we refer to the "Prophets", we refer to the ones who recorded their prophecy.
- All prophecies had one goal: Repentance!
- Recorded prophecies were split into three groups: Before, during, and after the exile.
 - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
 - During: Repent so God can end the exile and take us back to our land
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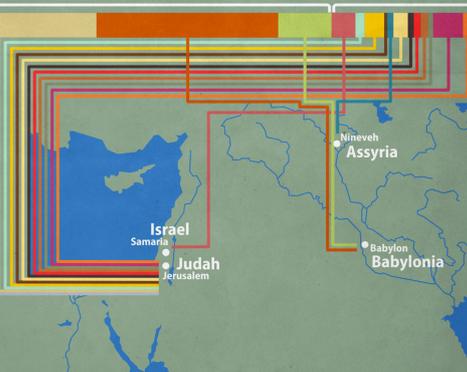
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Major Prophets

Minor Prophets



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- Zechariah 9
 - V.9-10: A prophecy on Palm Sunday when the Lord entered Jerusalem as a king
- Zechariah 10
 - V. 4: Christ is the Chief cornerstone (Acts 4:11 - Ephesians 2:19-22 - Matthew 21:42)
- Zechariah 11
 - V.4 The shepherds are not taking care of the people. The shepherds mislead the people
 - V.7 God took two staves (The Cross). Beauty and Bonds are God's two characteristics of Mercy and Judgment.
 - v.8 the "three shepherding" are thought by the Fathers to be the Pharisees, Scribes, and Chief Priests who were dismissed by the "Two staves - the Cross"
 - V.10-12 They rejected Christ and did not accept His mission. The staff is broken because they rejected Him. God respected their wishes of denying them and asked them to give him His wages for all the years that he cared for them and guided them. So they calculated His wages and it was 30 pieces of silver.

- V.13: After Judas gave them the money back, they took it and bought a potter's field (Matt. 27:1-8)
- Zechariah 12
 - V.10- God will fill them with His Spirit of grace and supplication, but they will pierce Him
 - A prophecy that they will pierce Him
- Zechariah 13
 - V.6 A prophecy on His wounds and the nails in His hands
 - V.7-8 When the Lord was on the Cross "Strike the Shephard", the disciples ran away "Sheep will be scattered"
 - This was mentioned in Matthew 26:31
- Zechariah 14
 - V.4 The Ascension from the Mountain of Olives
 - A symbolic meaning that God's Glory will split the mountain in two - shows the power of God
 - V.5 The Lord will come back with His saints - The second coming
 - V.6 Prophecy on Darkness on Good Friday
 - V.6-9 The Day of the Cross - Good Friday
 - V.8 God will extend His love and mercy to bring people together from east and west

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. CH.9
 1. Find a prophecy in this chapter that was fulfilled in the New Testament. Give verse.
2. CH.10
 1. What does the Lord promise His flock the House of Judah?
3. CH. 11
 1. What do the 30 pieces of silver represent? And what do they remind you of?
 2. Who are the three shepherds that were dismissed?
4. CH.12
 1. Find a prophecy in this chapter fulfilled in the New Testament. Give verse.
5. CH.13
 1. Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered. Who quoted this verse and on what occasion
6. CH. 14
 1. Who are the saints that will come with the Lord?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. The king of Israel will come riding on:
 - a) a horse b) a mule c) a colt d) a car
2. The LORD their God will _____ them in that day, as the _____ of His people. For they shall be like the _____ of a crown, lifted like a _____ over His _____.

3. The people were in trouble because there is no:
a) king b) prophet c) priest d) shepherd
4. "So I will _____ them in the LORD, and they shall _____ up and down in His _____,"
Says the LORD."
5. The names of Zechariah's staffs were _____ and _____.
6. How much was the wage given to Zechariah?
a) 30 pieces of silver b) 30 pieces of gold c) 10 pieces of silver d) a crown
7. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones." Who were the sheep?
8. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" Who will call God's Name?

Week 13: Malachi

Objective:

- Polluted Offerings to God
- Corrupt Priests
- The Coming Messenger
- Do Not Rob God
- The Great Day of God

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
- Catena Bible Commentary
- Fr Dawoud Lamie Bible study (Arabic)
- Minor Prophets SUSCOPTS

Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Malachi 1
- Malachi 2:10-17
- Malachi 3
- Malachi 4

Key verse(s):

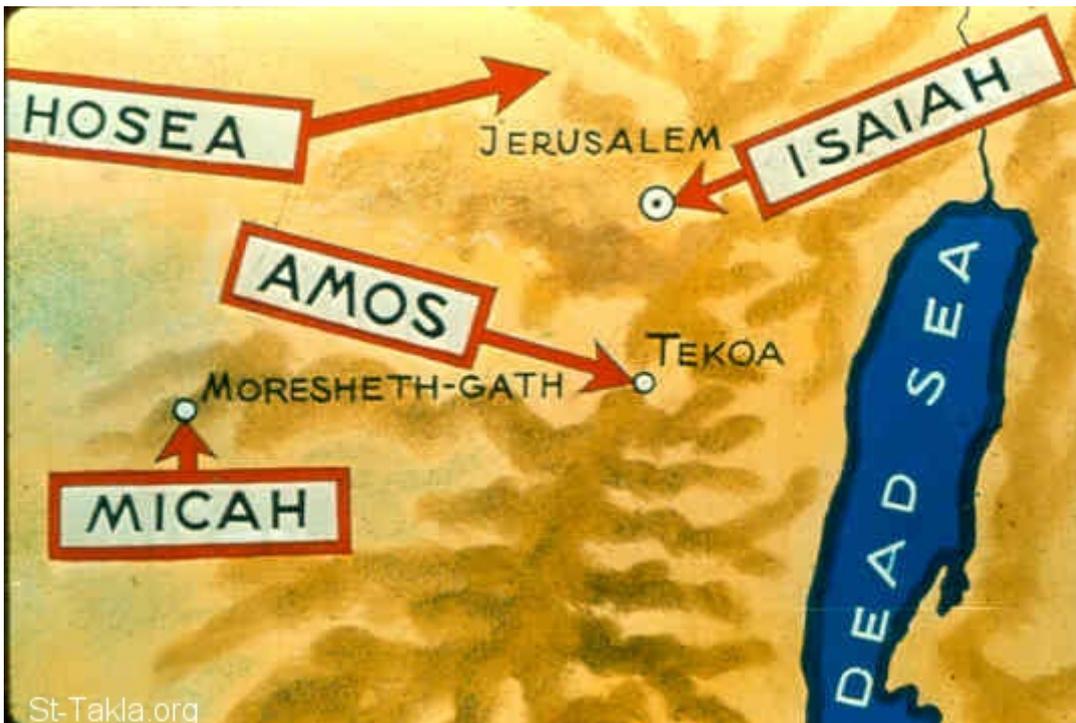
"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me." Malachi 3:1

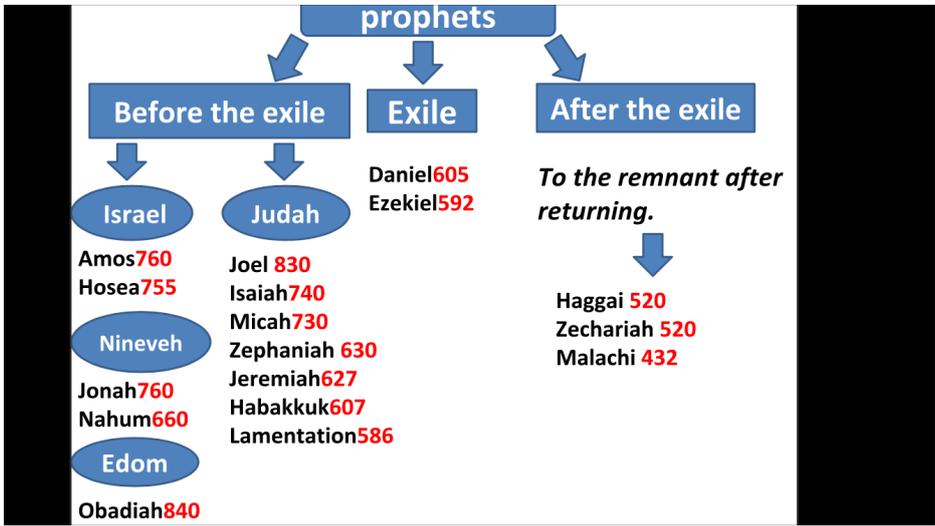
NOTE TO SERVANT:

- Please plan to ask and review these questions every week:
 - Who are the minor prophets? Can you recite them?
 - The theme for last week's minor prophet
 - Highlight Messianic prophecy

Minor Prophets introduction:

- The Major and Minor Prophet division of the Holy Bible does not denote the importance or rank of the writing prophets, but the length of the Holy Books which bear their prophecies.
 - Ex: Jonah 4 chapters - Isaiah 66 chapters
- There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets (5 books including Lamentations)
- In the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), all these books were listed under "prophets". In the Septuagint and Vulgate translations, this classification of major and minor was mentioned.
- The prophet in the OT was someone who passed God's message to the people. A prophet in the NT is also someone who passes God's message or news (God's love and salvation for all mankind).
- In the OT, there were many prophets (Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, etc.), but when we refer to the "Prophets", we refer to the ones who recorded their prophecy.
- All prophecies had one goal: Repentance!
- Recorded prophecies were split into three groups: Before, during, and after the exile.
 - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
 - During: Repent so God can end the exile and take us back to our land
 - After: Repent because the Messiah is coming
- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
- The prophetic books always start with a strong tough message and then end with a joyful promising message.
- All books have different themes. All books have the same message (repentance).





Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS

The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the Tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.



Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.

Jeremiah was heavily persecuted for his prophecies during the Babylonian Siege. He often used metaphors such as the potter and clay (Jeremiah 18:1-7) to illustrate God's message to the people. Known as the weeping prophet, he is also believed to be the author of Lamentations.

Ezekiel prophesied during Israel's captivity in Babylon. He often received elaborate visions from God such as the Vision of Dry Bones where skeletons come to life to form a great army. Almost every aspect of his life served a symbolic purpose, from how he cooked his food to the way he slept at night.

Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at a young age. His gift to translate dreams gave him favor with kings. He often received prophetic visions of his own about the distant future. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.



Hosea was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.

Joel prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locusts. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God and a precursor to the Day of the Lord.

Amos was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for siding with the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.

Jonah is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their ungodliness.

Micah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh, the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Jonah did not last long.

Habakkuk identifies himself as a prophet. His complaint to God is answered by a promise of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.

Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.

Haggai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews' return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophecies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some revelations include things like a flying scroll, olive trees, and women with wings. Several of the passages are Messianic in nature.

Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1971 King James Bible

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Where did they prophesy?

Following the reign of Solomon the nation of Israel divided into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom retained the name Israel and made Samaria the capital. The Southern Kingdom came to be known as Judah and possessed the city of Jerusalem as its capital. Because the temple remained in Jerusalem the majority of the prophets centered their ministry in Judah.

When did they prophesy?

The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.

Timeline

All dates approximate



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| <i>Minor Prophets (in biblical order)</i> | <i>Main Themes of their Writings</i> |
|---|--|
| Hosea | Salvation |
| Joel | The Day of the Lord |
| Amos | God's Judgment, The Day of the Lord , Israel's redemption |
| Obadiah | The destruction of Edom, The Day of the Lord |
| Jonah | Serving the Lord, His mercy |
| Micah | Injustice, oppression |
| Nahum | Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel |
| Habakkuk | God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea |
| Zephaniah | God's anger, The Day of the Lord , Israel repents and is spared |
| Haggai | Restoration of the Temple |
| Zechariah | The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom |
| Malachi | The messenger to come, The Day of the Lord |

The Minor Prophets

1. [Obadiah](#) - "Servant of Jehovah" (845 BC)
2. [Joel](#) - "Jehovah is God" (830 BC)
3. [Jonah](#) - "Dove" (780 BC)
4. [Amos](#) - "Burden-bearer" (755 BC)
5. [Hosea](#) - "Salvation" (750-725 BC)
6. [Micah](#) - "Who is like the Lord?" (740-700 BC)
7. [Zephaniah](#) - "Jehovah Hides" (625 BC)
8. [Nahum](#) - "Consolation" (630-612 BC)
9. [Habakkuk](#) - "Embrace" (612-606 BC)
10. [Haggai](#) - "Festive or Festival" (520 BC)
11. [Zachariah](#) - "Whom Jehovah Remembers" (520-518 BC)
12. [Malachi](#) - "My Messenger" (445-432 BC)

| Minor Prophets | | |
|---|---|--|
| Before Assyrian Captivity | After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities | After Captivity |
| Directed to the North Kingdom | Directed to the South Kingdom | |
| 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah (Edom) 5. Jonah | 6. Micah 7. Nahum (Nineveh) 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah | 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi |

Comments:

Theme of Malachi: The coming of God's kingdom

Messianic Prophecy: St. John the Baptist preparing the way before the Messiah (3:1)

- Malachi means "My Messenger/angel"
- Malachi was one of the three minor prophets who appeared after the return from exile
 - Malachi was the last prophet before the NT
 - He appeared about 400 years before Christ
- He prophesied about the prophet coming after him to prepare the way
 - The prophet is St. John the Baptist
- Nehemiah led the third and final returning wave from captivity
 - After he finished his ministry and built the walls, he returned to the King as he promised him before leaving (Nehemiah 1)
- Malachi appeared when Nehemiah left the people
- The people were living in prosperity at that time, so they fell into the sin of 'lukewarmness'
- Chapter 1
 - V.2 "I have loved you" summarizes the OT and God's relationship with mankind. He loved us which is why he came for us, did miracles for us, sent the Israelites to captivity and brought them back, etc.
 - The book has questions from the people to God that show their lukewarmness
 - Question 1: Mal. 1:2- Questioning how God loved them
 - One way to avoid lukewarmness is to remember God's mercy in our lives and always to give thanksgiving
 - Question 2: Mal. 1:6- Questioning God's sovereignty and honor
 - Getting used to the thing leads to lukewarmness sometimes. One way to avoid lukewarmness is to remember God's honor and always have God's fear in our hearts
 - Question 3: Mal. 1:10- God is questioning their spiritual life
 - They pray in the Temple, but not at their homes
 - Lukewarmness is shown in praying with groups but not alone at home
 - Malachi 1:11: A prophecy that the Gentiles will be accepted in the NT. The incense was only offered in the Temple only. It also shows the use of incense in the worship
 - Question 4: Mal. 1:13
 - Lukewarmness is shown in the signs of being weary and complaining
 - Avoiding the urge to complain and realizing God's blessings in our lives is a way of defeating lukewarmness
- Chapter 2
 - Question 5: Mal. 2:14
 - Lukewarmness is shown in breaking the law
 - Having a 'favorite' sin in our hearts leads to lukewarmness. Certain sins, lusts, wrong feelings, etc lead to lukewarmness
 - God used marriage as a sin where the consequences will last for a long time

- This part shows the holiness of marriage and what God intended for the couple. It is a covenant, not a contract
 - V.16: Shows that God doesn't like divorce and in certain cases, it is the last resort as a solution
 - Question 6: Mal. 2:17
 - Lukewarmness is shown in not realizing God's judgment and thinking that God doesn't reward the righteous and judge the sinners. It's the way of thinking the world has no one in control and that the righteous and the sinners are 'just living' and no rewards/consequences
 - Lukewarmness can be avoided if the person realizes his/her faults and always ask God for His mercy and forgiveness
- Chapter 3
 - A famous chapter where Malachi prophesies about the prophet coming after him: St. John the Baptist
 - St. John the Baptist is the angel coming before God to prepare the way (people) as mentioned in Mark 1:1
 - Question 7: Mal. 3:7
 - Lukewarmness in the spiritual life can result from drifting away from tradition and from what the Church, as mothers, taught us to do. Thinking the church is old, God is not important, or the Clergy does not know anything causes lukewarmness.
 - Question 8: Mal. 3:8
 - We feel lukewarm towards God when we don't give the tithes. When we feel that God needs our tithes, not that we need to give, the heart becomes lukewarm.
 - Bringing the tithes (10%) is the beginning of giving. God wants the people to show their love. "Try me" means see what I will do to reward your love.
 - Question 9: Mal. 3:13
 - Lukewarmness is shown when people are harsh in their language with God. People think serving God is useless. Instead of feeling that we need to serve God for our edification, we take it as a burden and think it has no fruits/rewards. The same applies to prayers, fasting, repentance, etc.
- Chapter 4
 - V.1 The day of judgment will make the proud and the wicked be like stubble
 - V.2 The same day for the righteous will be a day of light and healing
 - Our Lord Jesus Christ "The Sun of Righteousness" in the second coming will judge the wicked and reward the righteous. That day will bring healing and good news for the righteous who were waiting for this day.

Review/recap questions:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. Where incense shall be offered to God's Name?
2. What did the priests offer on God's Altar?
3. What does God say about divorce?
4. In what did the people rob the Lord?

5. Who is the messenger that will prepare the way? Give a verse from the New Testament to support your answer.
6. Who will arise with healing in His wings?

Homework:

***Servant may add more questions*

1. For from the rising of the _____, even to its going down, My _____ shall be great among the _____; in every place _____ shall be offered to My name, and a pure _____."
2. For I am a great _____," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My _____ is to be feared among the _____."
3. The lips of the priest should keep:
a) praise b) knowledge c) lies d) jokes
4. What was written before the Lord?
a) the Holy Bible b) prophecies c) a book of remembrance d) letters
5. Then you shall again discern between the _____ and the wicked, between one who _____ God and _____ who does not serve Him.
6. But to you who fear My name The _____ shall arise with healing in His _____.
7. Behold, I will send you _____ the prophet before the coming of the _____ and dreadful _____ of the _____.