

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:

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

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):

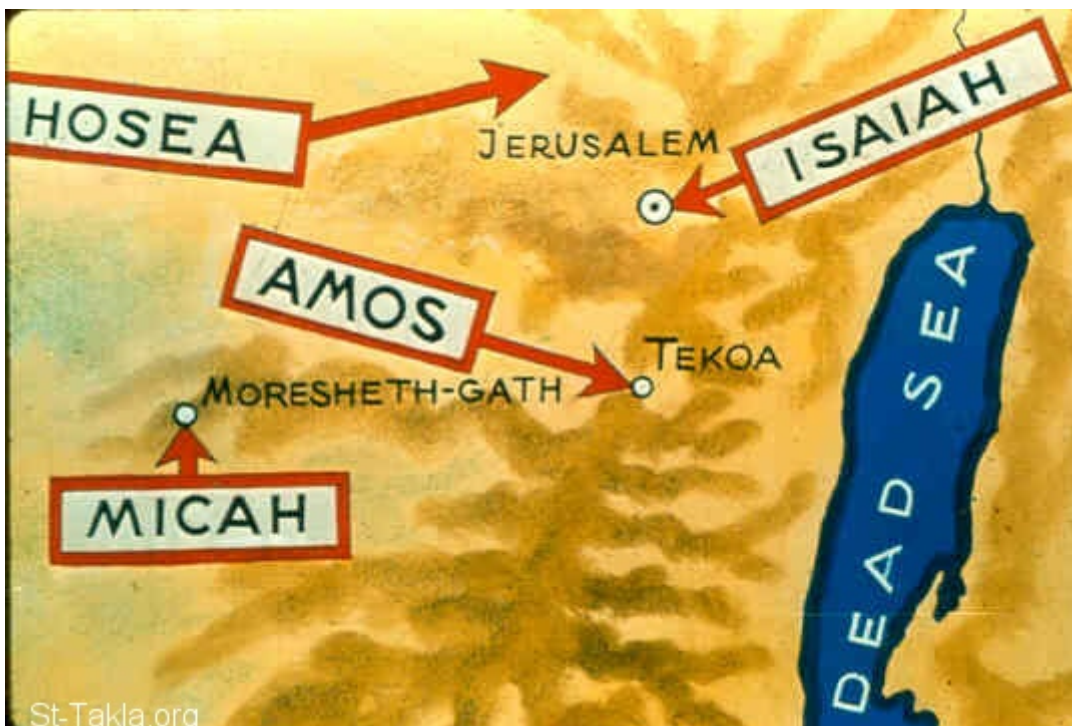
"And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord God, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight" Amos 8:9

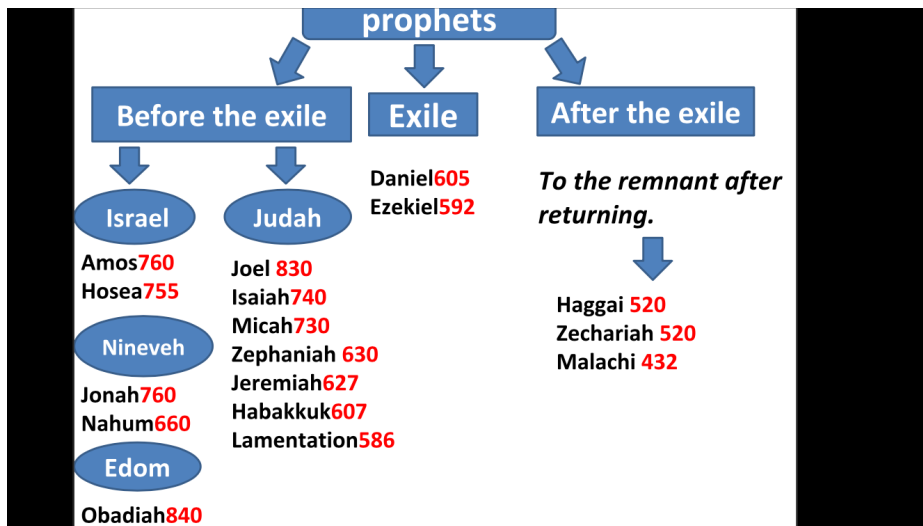
NOTE TO SERVANT:

- 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:

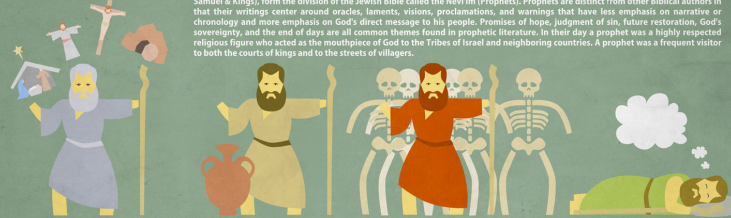
- The Major and Minor Prophet division of the Holy Bible does not denote the importance or rank of the writing prophets, but the length of the Holy Books which bear their prophecies.
 - Ex: Jonah 4 chapters - Isaiah 66 chapters
- There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets (5 books including Lamentations)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

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 priest. 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.

Hagai made his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrew's 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 directed his message toward corrupt priests and those who withheld 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 1911 King James Bible

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.

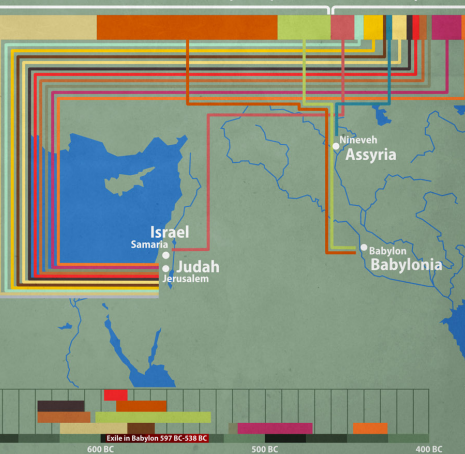
Timeline

All dates approximate



Major Prophets

Minor Prophets



| <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 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 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

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