



## Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together

Fifth Series: “The Left Edge” Old Testament: Prophets

Lesson 16: Major Prophets

### I. An overview of the prophets

- A. Times of the prophets (attached)
- B. The Divided Kingdom chart (attached)

Northern Kingdom	Southern Kingdom	Both Kingdoms	Other Nations	Post Exile
Amos Hosea	Joel Zephaniah Jeremiah Habakkuk Ezekiel	Isaiah Micah	Jonah (Ninevah) Obadiah (Edom) Nahum (Assyria) Daniel (“The Nations”)	Haggai Zechariah Malachi

- C. Old Testament chart (attached)

### II. Isaiah

- A. Interestingly, Isaiah resembles the Bible in miniature.
  - 1. Chapters 1-39 focus on the Old Testament theme of condemnation (stressing God’s holiness and the need to respond correctly )
  - 2. Chapters 40-66 focus on the New Testament theme of consolation or compassion (emphasizing God’s undeserved mercy).
- B. Purpose / Theme: Yahweh is salvation
 

Isaiah was a prophet in Judah during the eighth century, when the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians. He is often called the “Messianic prophet,” since his message of future judgment and deliverance pointed forward to the coming of Christ.
- C. Main People:
 

Isaiah; (his wife was a prophetess and he had at least 2 sons – 7:3, 8:3) the Judean kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh.
- D. Outline: His 40 year ministry spanned 4 kings
  - 1. God’s message of judgment (Isaiah 1-39)

- a. Under Kings Uzziah and Jotham (Isaiah 1-6)
- b. Under King Ahaz (Isaiah 7-14)
- c. Under King Hezekiah (Isaiah 25 – 39)
- 2. God’s message of comfort (Isaiah 40 – 66)
  - a. God’s promise to free His people and bring them again to the land He gave them (Isaiah 40 – 52)
  - b. The coming of God’s Servant (Jesus Christ) to be the Messiah King (Isaiah 52, 53)
  - c. The future glory of God’s people (Isaiah 54 – 66)

### III. Jeremiah

- A. Jeremiah is known as the “weeping prophet.” He delivered the message of impending judgment to the southern kingdom. For 40 years he rallied against their spiritual decay. But he did it with a broken heart.
- B. Special Note: the book of Jeremiah does not follow the order in which things happened. Jeremiah and his assistant, Baruch, wrote Jeremiah’s messages on a long scroll. Probably, while writing down one message, Jeremiah would be reminded of another message he had spoken before. The earlier message would then be added to the scroll where he had left off writing. This mixing of early and late messages makes it very difficult to know the order in which his messages were given.
- C. Purpose / Theme:
 

This records the prophet Jeremiah’s tragically unsuccessful calls for Judah to repent of idolatry and immorality, thus avoiding Babylonian captivity; and his predictions that a remnant will be saved.
- D. Main people:
 

Jeremiah; important Judaeans kings; Manasseh, Josiah, Zedekiah
- E. Outline
  - 1. Before the fall of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 1 - 38)
  - 2. After the fall of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 39 – 52)

### IV. Lamentations

- A. This book is a series of 5 “lament” poems written to express Jeremiah’s deep sorrow over the fallen city of Jerusalem.
- B. Purpose / Theme:

1. Lamentations is a “funeral dirge over the desolation of Jerusalem” (Halley), probably written in 586 BC by the prophet Jeremiah.

C. Outline:

1. The tragic state of Jerusalem (Lamentations 1)
2. The wrath of God (Lamentations 2)
3. Jeremiah’s grief (Lamentations 3)
4. The reason for the tragedy (Lamentations 4,5)

## V. Ezekiel

- A. Ezekiel preached to the “Jewish captives in Babylon before and after the fall of Jerusalem. Similar to Jeremiah, he was trying to convince the people that judgment was coming and that Jerusalem was doomed.”

B. Purpose / Theme:

Ezekiel was a prophet of the Babylonian captivity. He was given visions and dreams about the fall of Jerusalem, God’s wrath toward the nations and the return of a remnant from Babylon.

C. Outline

1. Ezekiel’s call (Ezekiel 1-3)
2. Ezekiel’s prophecies
  - a. Against Judah and Jerusalem (Ezekiel 4 – 24)
  - b. Against the nations (Ezekiel 25 – 32)
  - c. About Israel and the last days (Ezekiel 33 – 48)

Vision of the 4 figures – wheel within a wheel
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Gog and war with Israel
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## VI. Daniel

- A. In addition to the remarkable story of a man of God filled with character, this book gives detailed visions and prophecies about the future.

B. Purpose / Theme:

1. This book is the story of some Hebrew captives who gained the favor of both God and their captors. Daniel’s vision and dreams symbolized the sovereignty of God and His coming kingdom over all the kingdoms of the earth.

## C. Main People:

1. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego; King Nebuchadnezzar

## D. Outline:

1. Daniel's life in Babylon (Daniel 1 – 6)
  - a. Daniel, a young man in Babylon (Daniel 1)
  - b. Nebuchadnezzar's dream: the great image (Daniel 2)
  - c. The fiery furnace (Daniel 3)
  - d. Nebuchadnezzar's dream: a great tree (Daniel 4)
  - e. Belshazzar: the handwriting on the wall (Daniel 5)
  - f. Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6)
2. Daniel's visions (Daniel 7 – 12)

3 Hebrew children in furnace
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Lion's den
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**VII. So what?**

- A. Remember that fulfilled prophecy is one of the strongest apologetic arguments supporting the veracity of the scriptures. Rely on it!! Jesus did! (See Matt. 12:40-41)

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think it is important to be able to place the prophets in an Old Testament time line? Why is it hard to do so?
2. Which major prophet is most difficult for you to understand and apply? Why do you think that is?
3. Look at Isaiah 53 and discuss its importance to scripture (and us!)

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NOTE: some of the material in this lesson was adapted (with permission) from Gospel Light Publications.

## The Divided Kingdom

### Northern Kingdom: Israel

Date (B.C)	King of Israel	Years Reigned	Reign Good/Bad	Prophet	Scripture
928-906	Jeroboam I	22	Bad	Ahijah Iddo	1 Kings 11-12 2 Chron 10-13
907-905	Nadab	2	Bad	---	1 Kings 15
906-882	Baasha	24	Bad	Jehu	1 Kings 15-16
883-881	Elah	2	Bad	---	1 Kings 16
881	Zimri	7 days	Bad	---	1 Kings 16
881-876	Tibni	5	Bad	---	1 Kings 16
882-870	Omri	5	Extra Bad	---	1 Kings 16
871-851	Ahab	22	The Worst	Elijah Elisha	1 Kings 16-22 2 Chron 18
851-850	Ahaziah	2	Bad	Elijah Elisha	1 Kings 22 - 2 Kings 1 2 Chron 20
850-839	Joram (Jehoram)	12	Bad mostly	Elisha	2 Kings 3-9
839-811	Jehu	28	Bad mostly	Elisha	2 Kings 9-10
812-795	Jehoahaz	17	Bad	Elisha	2 Kings 13
797-781	Joash (Jehoash)	16	Bad	---	2 Kings 13-14 2 Chron 25
792-751	Jeroboam II	41	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea	2 Kings 14
750-749	Zechariah	6 months	Bad	Hosea	2 Kings 15
749	Shallum	1 month	Bad	Hosea	2 Kings 15
749-739	Menahem	10	Bad	Hosea	2 Kings 15
738-736	Pekahiah	2	Bad	Hosea	2 Kings 15
736-730	Pekah	20	Bad	Hosea	2 Kings 15 2 Chron 28
731-722	Hoshea	9	Bad	Hosea	2 Kings 15-18
722-721	Fall of SAMARIA				
718	Fall of ISRAEL				

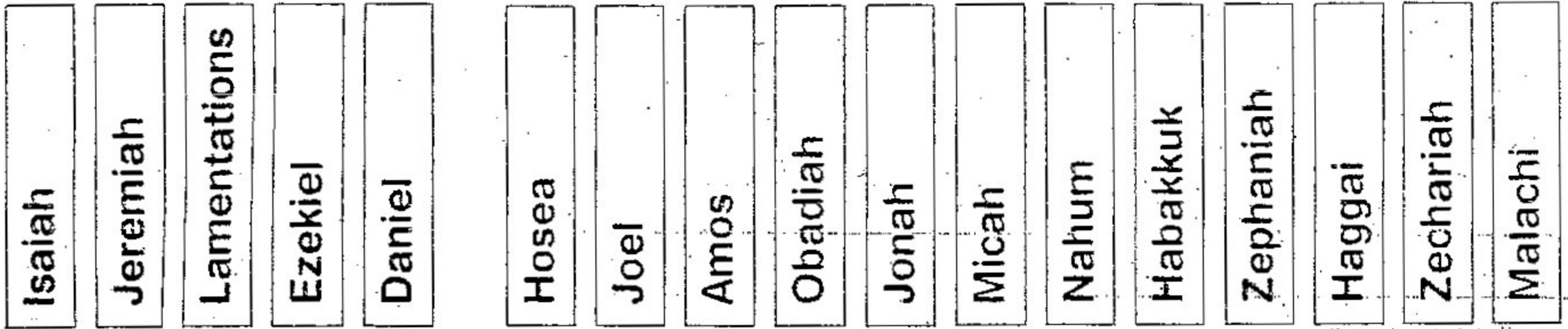
### Southern Kingdom: Judah

Date (B.C)	King of Israel	Years Reigned	Reign Good/Bad	Prophet	Scripture
928-911	Rehoboam	17	Bad mostly	Shemaiah Iddo	1 Kings 14 2 Chron 9-12
911-908	Abijam (Abijah)	3	Bad mostly	Iddo	1 Kings 15 2 Chron 13-14
908-867	Asa	41	Good	Azariah Hanani	1 Kings 15 2 Chron 14-16
870-845	Jehoshaphat	25	Good	Jenu Jahaziel Eliezer	1 Kings 22 2 Chron 17-21
851-840	Jehoram (Joram)	8	Bad	Obadiah Elijah	2 Kings 8 2 Chron 21
840	Ahaziah (Azariah)	8	Bad	---	2 Kings 8 2 Chron 22
839-833	Athaliah (Queen)	6	Devilish	---	2 Kings 11 2 Chron 22
833-794	Joash (Jehoash)	40	Good mostly	Joel	2 Kings 11 2 Chron 24
795-764	Amaziah	29	Good mostly	Unnamed	2 Kings 14 2 Chron 25
787-735	Uzziah (Azariah)	52	Good	Isaiah Zechariah	2 Kings 15 2 Chron 26
794-733	Jotham	16	Good	Isaiah Micah	2 Kings 15 2 Chron 27
732-716	Ahaz	16	Wicked	Isaiah Micah	2 Kings 16 2 Chron 28
715-686	Hezekiah	29	The Best	Isaiah Micah	2 Kings 18-20 2 Chron 29-32
697-642	Manasseh	55	The Worst	Nahum	2 Kings 21 2 Chron 33
642-640	Amon	2	The Worst	---	2 Kings 21 2 Chron 33
640-609	Josiah	31	The Best	Jeremiah Zephaniah	2 Kings 22 2 Chron 34
609	Jehoahaz (Shallum)	3 months	Bad	Jeremiah	2 Kings 23 2 Chron 36 Jer. 22
608-597	Jehoiakim	11	Wicked	Jeremiah Habakkuk	2 Kings 23-24 2 Chron 36 Jer. 22, 26, 36
597	Johoiachin (Jeconiah)	3 months	Bad	Jeremiah Daniel	2 Kings 24 2 Chron 36 Jer. 22, 52
597-587	Zedekiah (Mattariah)	11	Bad	Jeremiah Daniel Ezekiel	2 Kings 24-25 2 Chron 36 Jer. 39, 52
587	Fall of JERUSALEM Fall of JUDAH				

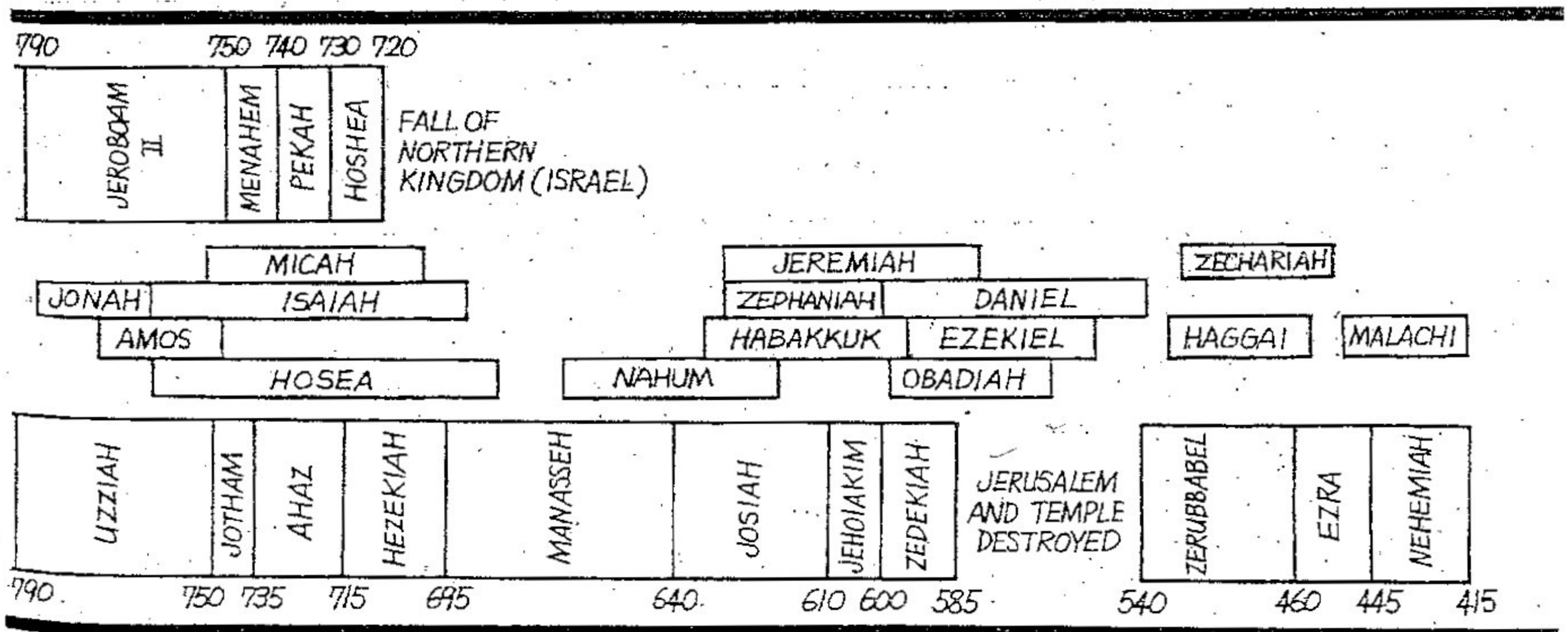
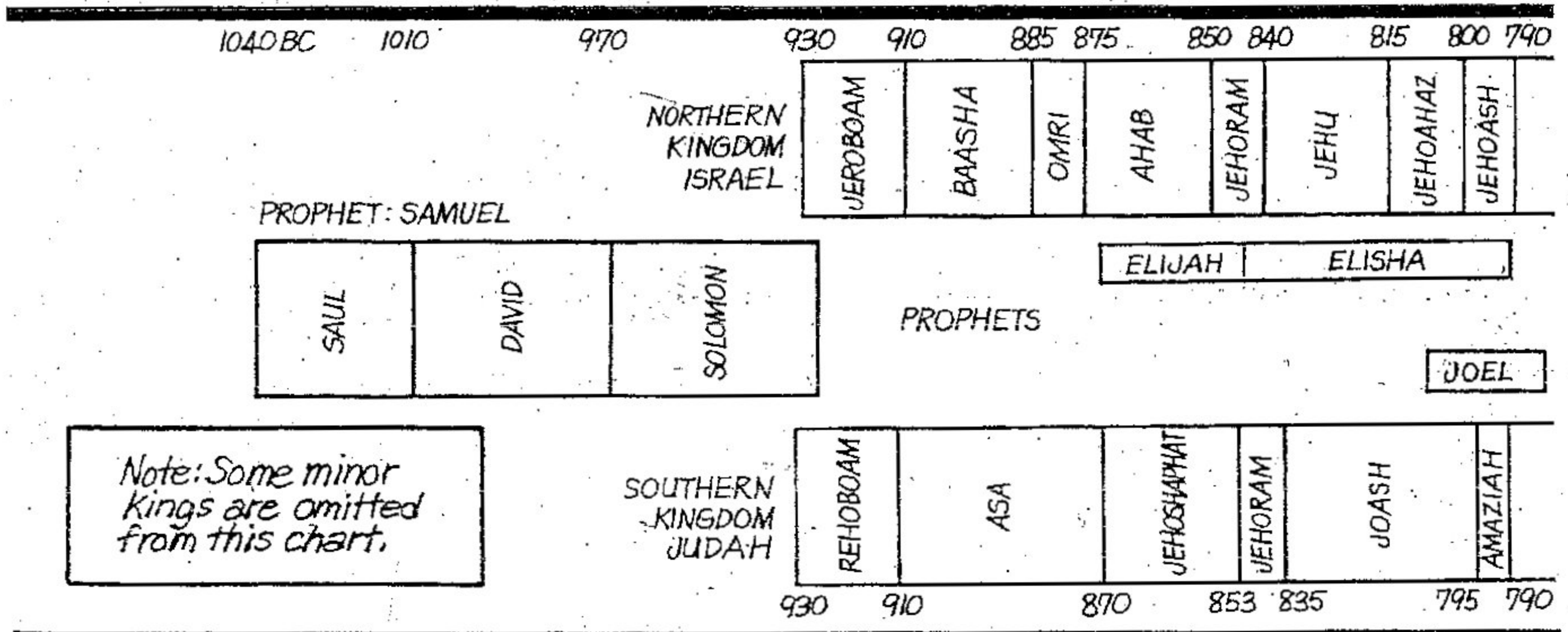
# Times of the Prophets

## Books of Major Prophets

## The Books of Minor Prophets



Israel's prophets are a built-in "reformation" aspect of Old Testament faith. The word "prophet" means "to speak out"—to *forth-tell* God's word as much as to foretell the future. They spoke out against hypocrisy, injustice, immorality and idolatry, warning God's people that He would punish them for such continued disobedience. The prophets also foretold the time when God would save a remnant of His people through whom all nations would be blessed.



B. Old Testament Flow Chart

