

# Unpacking the Book

---

## #15 The Prophets

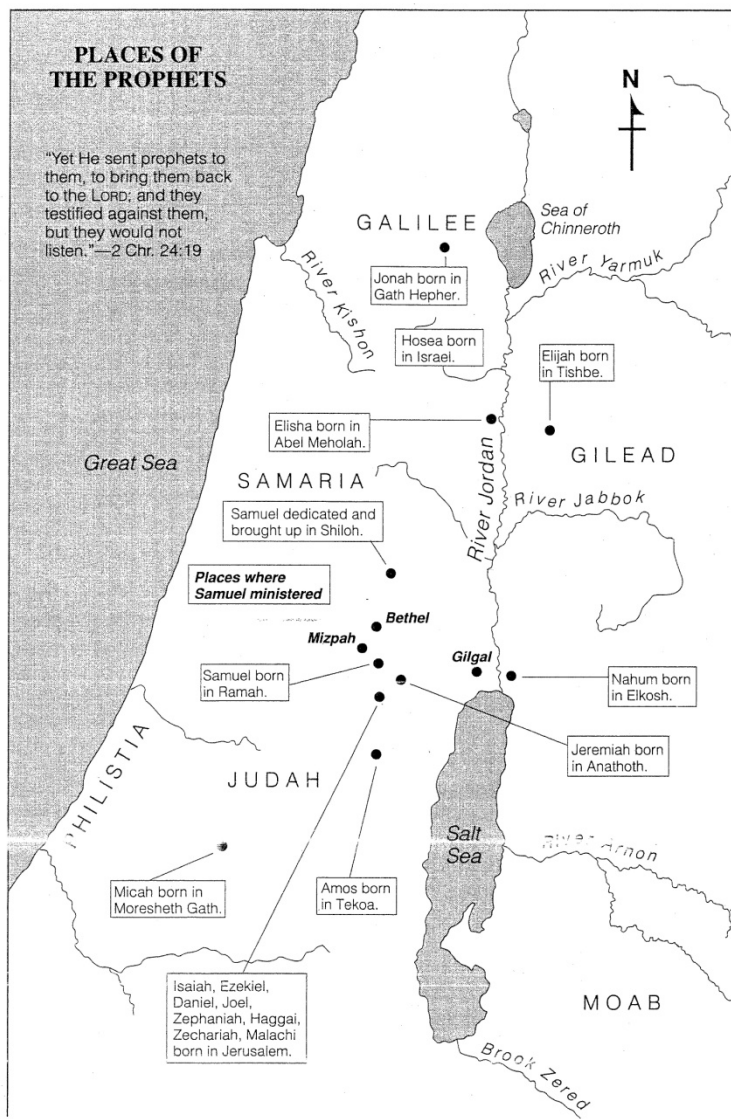
### I. Purpose of the Prophets

- A. Historical context: Entering the Promised Land (Deut. 18:14-22)
  - 1. God wanted a spokesman
  - 2. God provided a spiritual guide who could warn the people regarding Canaanite false worship etc.
- B. There were two major tasks for Old Testament Prophets
  - 1. Spokesman for God (Forth Teller)
  - 2. Explainer of future things (Fore Teller)
- C. Old Testament Terms
  - 1. “Navi”: spokesman – an announcer (Ex. 4:15-16, 7:1)
  - 2. “Reoh” and “Hozeh”: seer – person who “sees” the message given him by God (Isa. 30:10)
- D. English word for “prophet” comes from two Greek words that literally mean “to speak for”

### II. Prophets did not “inherit the office or receive it by human appointment but were chosen, prepared and called by God.” Amos 7:15

- A. Examples:
  - 1. Samuel: 1 Sam. 3:1-20
  - 2. Jeremiah: Jer. 1:4-10
  - 3. Ezekial: Eze. 1:1-3:15
- B. God communicated with them via dreams, visions, angels, nature, miracles and an audible voice.
- C. They came from all over Israel

## Places of the Prophets



### III. Classification of the prophets

- A. Originally the Old Testament was divided into two sections  
The Law and the Prophets (Matt. 7:12, Luke 16:16, 29, 31)

B. Later it was divided into three sections

The Law	The Prophets	The Writings
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	Psalms Job Proverbs Ruth Song of Solomon Ecclesiastes Lamentations Esther Daniel Ezra Nehemiah 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles

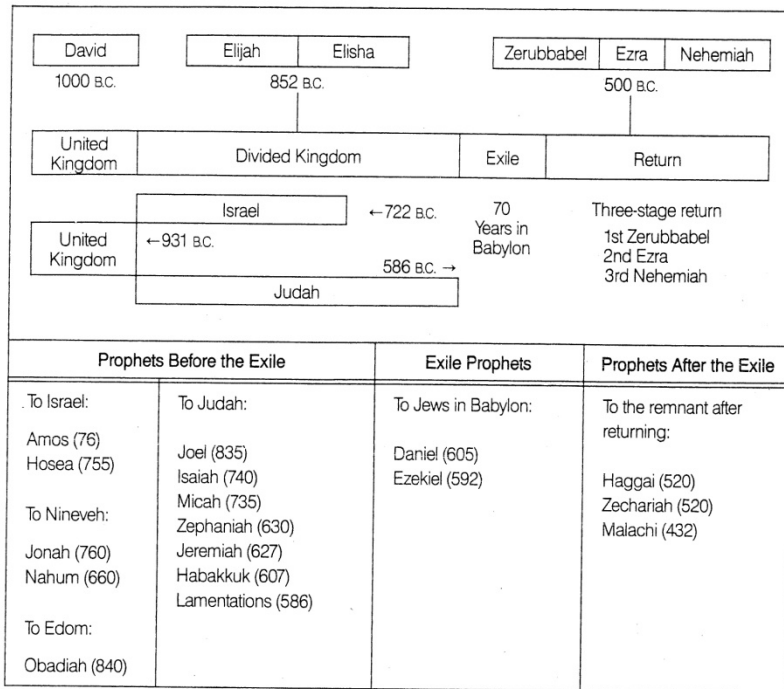
#### IV. Characteristics of the Prophets

- A. Some prophets left written records of the preaching
- B. Some were “oral” prophets and we have no record of their ministry (Nathan, Iddo, Elijah, Elisha, Huldah, etc)
- C. Some prophets lived in colonies (1 Sam. 19:20, 2 Kings 6:1)
- D. Definition of a true prophet: his prophecies came true 100% of the time (Deut. 18:20)
- E. Tests for false prophets:
  1. “Tests: 1) By signs [Ex. iv.8; Is. Vii. 11, 14]. But signs alone were not sufficient for they might occasionally come to pass accidentally or be wrought by artifice [Deut. iii. 1, 2, cp. Ex. vii. 11, 22; 2 Thes. ii.9] 2) By the fulfillment of his predictions [Deut. xviii. 21, 22]. This credential gains in evidencing power as time goes on and the historic events and developments take place which the prophets foretold of old. 3) By his teaching [Deut. xiii. 1-5; Is. viii. 20]. If the doctrine taught by the claimant of a call from God let men away from the Ten Commandments, the speaker was manifestly not a man of God. The true prophet’s teaching was found to agree

with the doctrine of the law concerning God, his nature, character, and worship, and concerning the conduct of man.”(Smith’s Bible Dictionary, p. 657)

- F. Their messages extended from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC
1. 12 were pre exilic
  2. 2 were exilic
  3. 3 were post exilic

### The Prophetic Books



### V. The focus of their messages

A. The message itself:

1. Condemnation: because of man’s sin
2. Consolation: because God’s grace is greater
  - a. The messages often took the form of a “lawsuit.” Initiated by God against His people for breach of covenant, the prophetic lawsuit typically included: (1) arraignment in the divine court; (2) accusations; (3) pronouncements of judicial sentence; (4) description of coming punishment; and (5) promise of restoration.

B. The focus on time frame of the messages

1. Their own day

2. The captivity and return from exile
3. The first coming of Christ
4. The second coming of Christ and His messianic kingdom

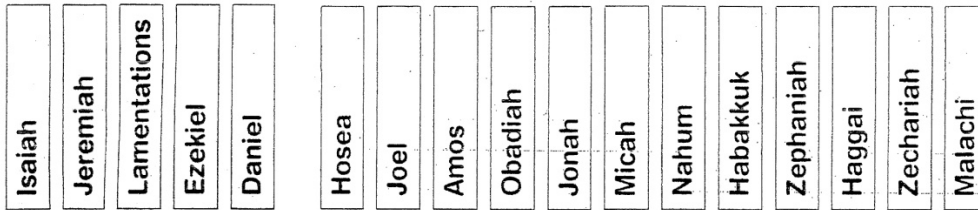
C. The content

<b>Minor Prophets</b>				
<b>Date Written (BC)</b>	<b>Name of Prophet</b>	<b>Theme of Book</b>	<b>Prophecies To/About</b>	<b>Major Sins Addressed</b>
798	Jonah	Jonah as type of Jesus Christ. Mercy to Repentant	Nineveh, with implications to all people.	Cruelty of Assyrians
796	Amos	Day of the Lord. The Eternal will roar.	Israel, Judah, Benjamin and all nations.	Oppression of poor. Sexual immorality. Wanton luxury. Corrupt law and men.
796-719	Hosea	Salvation	Israel (Ten Tribes of Israel)	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness.
740-711	Micah	The Eternal is a just judge	Samaria, Jerusalem, All Nations	Lack of justice. Oppression.
711	Nahum	Judgment on Nineveh. Comfort to Israel	Assyrians, primarily city of Nineveh	Cruelty of Assyrians, overstepped boundaries
626	Habakkuk	God embraces Judah through destroying the Chaldeans	Babylon with implications for all people	Aggression, plunder, greed, graft, idolatry and inhumanity.
626	Zephaniah	God's indignation. Who may be hidden? Israel repents then God saves them	Judah, Jerusalem, ALL people about Day of the Lord.	Spiritual fornication
596-586	Joel	Day of the Lord	Israel	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness
590	Obadiah	Day of the Lord. Edom's destruction. Israel's restoration.	Against Edom	Edom had continual violence toward Jacob.
520	Haggai	The restoration Temple points to the Church	Zerubbabel, Joshua and the returned remnant	Neglect in building God's House. Procrastination.
520-518	Zechariah	The coming of God's Kingdom preceded by building of Temple	Zerubbabel, Joshua and the returned remnant	Joshua's filthy garments. Lack of judgment, mercy and peace. Living in evil ways.
c. 400	Malachi	Be prepared for the Messenger that is to come	Israel and 'Israel of God' today (the church)	Priest neglect duties. People chided for divorce, adultery, criticizing, robbing God.

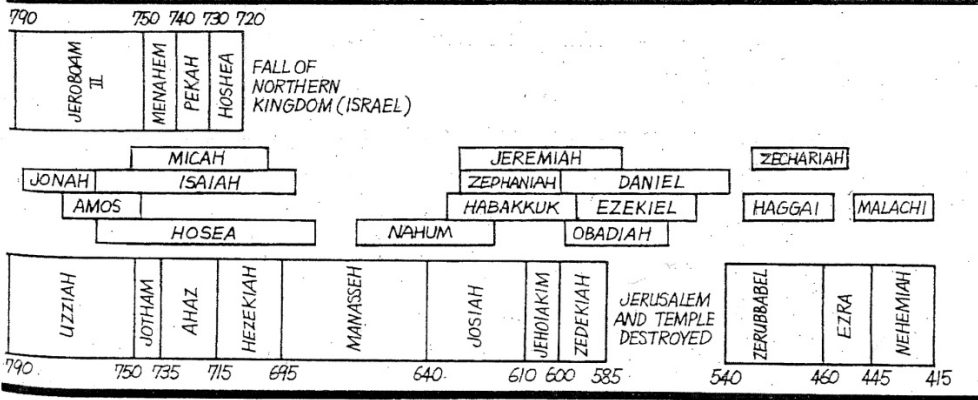
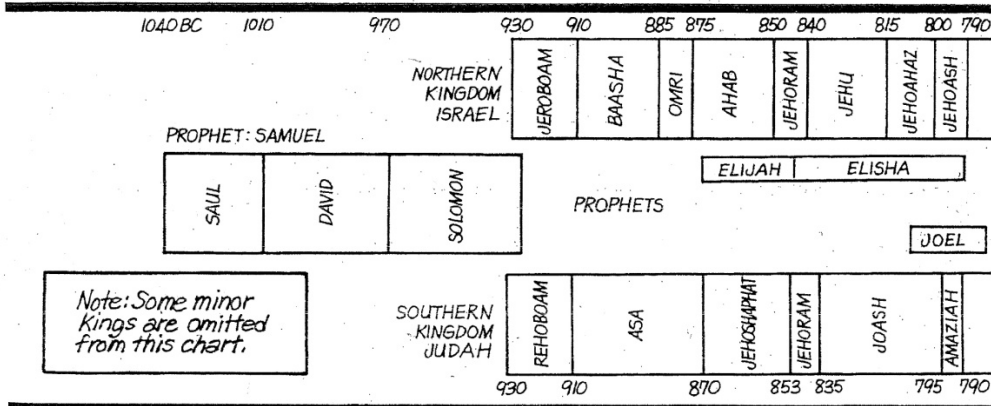
# Times of the Prophets

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.



© 1989 by Gospel Light Publications. Permission granted to purchaser to reproduce this Sheet for class purposes only.

## 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	<b>Fall of SAMARIA</b>				
718	<b>Fall of ISRAEL</b>				

### 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	Jehoiachin (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	<b>Fall of JERUSALEM Fall of JUDAH</b>				

## VI. So what?

God's message today is remarkably similar to His Old Testament message delivered by the prophets: "Clean up your act, judgment is coming!"

### Discussion Question:

Does God utilize Prophets today in the same way He did throughout the Old Testament? Why? Why not?