

Unleashing the Old Testament

with Alan Gilman
Bible Teacher

Session 16



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The Prophets: The Twelve



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The Books of the Prophets

<i>Major Prophets</i>	<i>The Twelve</i>	
Isaiah	Hosea	Nahum
Jeremiah	Joel	Habakkuk
Lamentations	Amos	Zephaniah
Ezekiel	Obadiah	Haggai
Daniel	Jonah	Zechariah
	Micah	Malachi



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The Prophets

Books Overview

- ❖ Book by book in order
- ❖ General introduction to each book (timing, content)
- ❖ Sample passage(s)



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Hosea (Hoshea)

- ❖ Contemporary of Isaiah
- ❖ Marries a promiscuous woman to demonstrate God's love for Israel



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The Books of the Prophets

Hosea (Hoshea)

And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.' For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more. And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. (Hosea 2:16-20)



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Joel (Yoel)

- ❖ No explicit date
- ❖ Locust devastation
- ❖ Promise of Spirit



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The Books of the Prophets

Joel (Yoel)

I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else...



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The Books of the Prophets

Joel (Yoel)

And my people shall never again be put to shame. “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. (Joel 2:25-29)



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Amos (A-mos')

- ❖ Shepherd/farmer from Judah sent to Ephraim



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The Books of the Prophets

Amos (A-mos')

“Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’ The LORD God has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks. And you shall go out through the breaches, each one straight ahead; and you shall be cast out into Harmon,” declares the LORD.
(Amos 4:1-3)



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The Books of the Prophets

Amos (A-mos')

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.” (Amos 7:12-14)



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Obadiah (Ovadya')

- ❖ One chapter
- ❖ Prophet to Edom
- ❖ Perhaps soon after Babylonian captivity
- ❖ Edom condemned for attacking the Judeans when weak



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The Books of the Prophets

Obadiah (Ovadya')

The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negeb. Saviors shall go up to Mount Zion to rule Mount Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord's. (Obadiah 20-21)



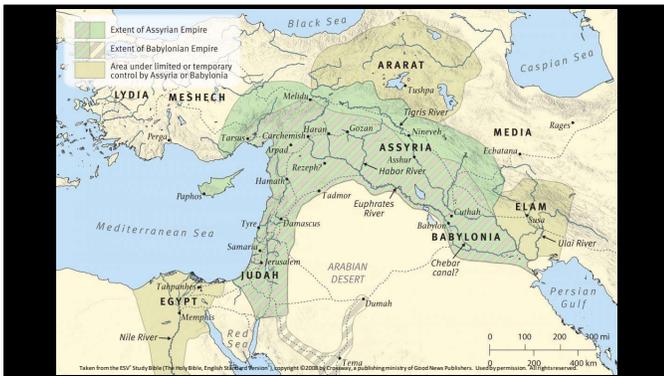
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Jonah (Yonah)

- ❖ Undated, but during Assyrian empire
- ❖ Called to prophesy doom to Nineveh
- ❖ Reluctant prophet (runs away to Tarshish)
- ❖ Fish story
- ❖ God is gracious to non-Israelite nations



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The Books of the Prophets

Jonah (Yonah)

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?" (Jonah 3:10 - 4:4)



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The Books of the Prophets

Jonah (Yonah)

But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?" (Jonah 4:9-11)



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Micah (Micha)

- ❖ Contemporary of Isaiah
- ❖ Prophet to both kingdoms



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The Books of the Prophets

Micah (Micha)

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:6-8)



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Nahum (Nachum)

- ❖ Prophecy against Nineveh, the capital of Assyria
- ❖ Some time after Jonah
- ❖ God is still in charge



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The Books of the Prophets

Nahum (Nachum)

Thus says the Lord, "Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more. And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart."
(Nahum 1:12-13)



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Habakkuk (Chavakkuk)

- ❖ No specific timeframe provided, but before Babylonian captivity (1:6)
- ❖ The problem of evil



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The Books of the Prophets

Habakkuk (Chavakkuk)

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?
Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?
(Habakkuk 1:2)



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The Books of the Prophets

Habakkuk (Chavakkuk)

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

(Habakkuk 3:17-19)



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The Books of the Prophets

Habakkuk (Chavakkuk)

LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

(Habakkuk 3:2; NIV 1984)



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Zephaniah (Tzefanya)

- ❖ Royal family
- ❖ During Josiah's reign
- ❖ Turbulent time



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The Books of the Prophets

Zephaniah (Tzefanya)

“I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

(Zephaniah 1:2)



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The Books of the Prophets

Zephaniah (Tzefanya)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing...



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The Books of the Prophets

Zephaniah (Tzefanya)

...I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

(Zephaniah 3:14-20)



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The Books of the Prophets

Zephaniah (Tzefanya)

*Roni, roni bat tzion
Hari-oo yisrael
Simchi v'altsi
B'chol lev
Bat yerushalayim*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! (Zephaniah 3:14)



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Haggai (Chaggai)

- ❖ Early part of the return during rebuilding of temple.
- ❖ Contemporary of Zechariah



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The Books of the Prophets

Haggai (Chaggai)

Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them. Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to rebuild the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.

(Ezra 5:1-2)



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The Books of the Prophets

Haggai (Chaggai)

Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. (Haggai 1:2-6)



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Zechariah (Zecharya)

- ❖ Early part of the return; rebuilding of temple.
- ❖ Contemporary of Haggai
- ❖ Prophet of visions

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The Books of the Prophets

Zechariah (Zecharya)

And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."...



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The Books of the Prophets

Zechariah (Zecharya)

And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"

(Zechariah 4:1-7)



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Malachi (Malachi')

- ❖ Probably around the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (due to the terms and theme)
- ❖ Calls for reform



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The Books of the Prophets

Malachi (Malachi')

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts...”



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The Books of the Prophets

Malachi (Malachi')

“Remember the law (torah) of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel...”



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The Books of the Prophets

Malachi (Malachi')

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

(Malachi 4:1-6)



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