



What is It?

Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah are the first four books of the Old Testament's minor prophets (minor in length, not necessarily in message or importance).

Who, What, When, Where and WHY

Who – There is no convincing reason to not trust that the names on the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah are not themselves the authors. They vary in background from farmer (Amos) to completely unknown (Obadiah). They were written to the peoples of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Judea before, during and after the calamities that led to exile. Of course, they have a message for us too.

What – Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah's is the shared main theme of warning concerning God's coming judgement of Israel and Judea, a call to turn back to God and His covenant, and the promise of redemption. Hosea does this through the story of his relationship with an unfaithful wife.

When – Hosea and Amos were written in the 8th Century BC (the 700's); Joel and Obadiah was written in the 6th Century BC (the 500's).

Where – All four books were written in and about events in Israel and Judea – modern day Israel (Palestine) on the Eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea.

Why – God is always calling His people back to himself. All the minor prophets, including Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah here, has a message similar to the major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel - repent and turn back to God. If you do there is salvation; if you don't, there is judgement.

Reading Advice

To read through Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah in one week you will need to read 4 to 5 chapters a day (27 combined chapters/6 days = 4.5 per day). We recommend at least 15 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you can reduce the chapters and/or minutes per day a little. Like the other prophetic books, don't get bogged down in the details; just read through them, then reflect back.