

# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



## RECAP

- ▶ Luke 24:27 | And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- ▶ Remember, the critical dates here are 721 BC & 586 BC. Northern Israel fell to **Assyria** in 721 & Southern Israel fell to **Babylon** in 586.
- ▶ The prophets are consistent reminders to the people of Israel & to their kings that they need to repent & follow God.

## HABAKKUK

*Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 8th Minor Prophet • Written by Habakkuk around 607 BC*

- ▶ God is the God of **Sovereignty**
- ▶ In his book, Habakkuk struggles to understand God's **goodness** in the midst of the evil & injustice in the world.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Habakkuk 2:19-20 | Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. 20 But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."
- ▶ Habakkuk sees the increased **wickedness** among the people & wants to know why God allows such iniquity to go unpunished.
- ▶ God told Habakkuk that **Babylon** would be His chastening rod against Judah.

## ZEPHANIAH

*Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 9th Minor Prophet • Written by Zephaniah between 640-612 BC*

- ▶ God is the God of **Judgment**
- ▶ In his book, Zephaniah wants that God will **judge** sin & rebellion in the world, but there is hope by looking to the character & promises of God.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Zephaniah 3:17 | 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.
- ▶ Southern Israel is less than **50** years from falling to Babylon. Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of King Josiah, who led significant reforms in Israel.
- ▶ Zephaniah exemplifies how God's judgment on His people is always paired with His covenant **love** for them. Zephaniah opens with idolatry, wrath, & judgment, but closes with true worship, rejoicing & blessing.

# JEREMIAH

**Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 2nd Major Prophet • Written by Jeremiah & scribe Baruch between 627-580 BC**

- ▶ God is the God of **Weeping**
- ▶ In his book, Jeremiah announces that God will judge Israel's sins with an exile to Babylon. Then, he lives through the horror of his predictions.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Jeremiah 1:9-10 | Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."
- ▶ Jeremiah was known as "The **Weeping** Prophet" because of his brokenness over the state of Israel & the knowledge of God's judgment coming against His people.
- ▶ Jeremiah's father was Hilkiah, who served as priest during the days of **Josiah**. Hope was restored because the king was instructed in the ways of the Lord because the Book of the Law was found (2 Kings 22). Jeremiah's father was the one who found the Book of the Law & instructed Josiah to seek Israel's reformation.
- ▶ A landmark prophecy by Jeremiah happens in chapter 31, where Jeremiah gives detail about how God was going to deal with the continual rebellion of Israel, namely that He would give them new **hearts** which would be a sign of the new covenant.

# LAMENTATIONS

**Genre: Wisdom Poetry • Written by Jeremiah around 586 BC**

- ▶ God is the God of **Faithfulness**
- ▶ The book itself is a collection of 5 **funeral** poems offered on behalf of Jerusalem after its destruction by Babylon.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Lamentations 3:31-32 | For the Lord will not cast off forever, 32 but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
- ▶ Jeremiah writes his lament in an acrostic or alphabetic fashion. There are five poems. Each of them begin with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet & then proceeds through each letter in successive statements.

# OBADIAH

**Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 4th Minor • Written by Obadiah around 586 BC**

- ▶ God is the God of **Mountain**
- ▶ After Southern Israel fell, the people of **Edom** piled on to Israel's defeat by coming in to plunder & loot the areas conquered by Babylon. So, in his book, Obadiah warns Edom that they will be judged on the Day of the Lord with the rest of the nations.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Obadiah 1:15 | For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.
- ▶ Obadiah prophesied that Edom would be "cut off forever" (v. 10) & that "no survivor would remain" (v. 18). When the second temple of Jerusalem was destroyed in **AD 70**, the Edomites disappeared from history.

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