

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP

- ▶ Abraham's family, delivered from Egypt, defined by God's presence, entered the Promised Land, sought a king & has experienced devastation & exile because of their transgressions against God.
- ▶ **Northern** Israel fell to Assyria in 721BC. **Southern** Israel fell to Babylon in 586 BC.
- ▶ Beginning with Samuel, God sent prophets to apply the Law & correct God's people when they strayed. They were individuals sent to declare a specific **message** to a specific group of people at a specific **time**.

HOSEA

Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 1st Minor Prophet • Written by Hosea between 755-725 BC

- ▶ God is the God of the **Unfaithful**
- ▶ Sometimes the message that prophets were called to deliver wasn't only preached, it was **portrayed** in the life of the prophet.
- ▶ Hosea was called to marry a prostitute who leaves him, & he must bring her back: a picture of God's relationship with **Israel**.
- ▶ Summary >> Hosea 3:1 | And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins."
- ▶ Hosea had a long-term prophetic ministry that spanned 4 kings in Judah & 6 kings in Israel. He was a younger contemporary of Amos & served alongside Isaiah & Micah.

ISAIAH

Genre: Prophecy/Poetry • 1st Major Prophet • Written by Isaiah between 740-680 BC

- ▶ Isaiah had a long-term prophetic ministry that spanned **40-60** years & saw the fall of the Northern Kingdom. However, most of his ministry took place in Judah (southern Israel).
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Isaiah 66:1-2 | Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? 2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.
- ▶ 96 years before **Babylon** became a world power, Isaiah prophesied that they would be involved in the judgment of Judah.
- ▶ Significant Moments in Isaiah's Writings:
 - ▶ Isaiah's calling >> Isaiah sees God, but God purifies Isaiah & graciously imputes **holiness** to him.

- Judgment & Hope >> God gives Isaiah various prophecies & visions about judgment for Jerusalem & the nations. But God's **kingdom** will one day rule, righting the world's wrongs.
- Isaiah records the faith of Hezekiah & how God saved Judah (southern Israel) from Assyria's attempt to conquer them.
- A Holy Seed >> God's servant, the **Messiah**, will rise from Israel's burnt stump. Even though He is despised, rejected, & killed, He will be resurrected. His death pays for the sins of everyone.
- New Heaven & New Earth >> Isaiah prophesies that the Servant will rule God's kingdom, creating a New Jerusalem. The wicked are expelled & the righteous stay, but all **nations** are welcome.

MICAH

Genre: Prophetic History • 6th Minor Prophet • Written by Micah between 735-710 BC

- God is the God of **Justice**
- Micah announced that God's justice is coming in order to create a new future of **love** & faithfulness on the other side of Israel's sin & exile.
- Summary Verse >> Micah 6:8 | 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 primarily prophesied to Judah (southern Israel), but he also addressed Israel (the northern kingdom) & predicted the fall of its capital, **Samaria** (Micah 6:1).

NAHUM

Genre: Prophecy • 7th Minor Prophet • Written by Nahum between 663-612 BC

- God is the God of **Wrath**
- Nahum's prophetic ministry has to do with the fall of Assyria & its capital city of **Nineveh**.
- Summary Verse >> Nahum 1:7 | The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.
- Nahum prophesied that:
 - Nineveh would end with "an overwhelming **flood**" (1:8).
 - Nineveh would "be hidden" (3:1). After its destruction in 612 BC the city truly was hidden in that it was not discovered until **1842 AD**.



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