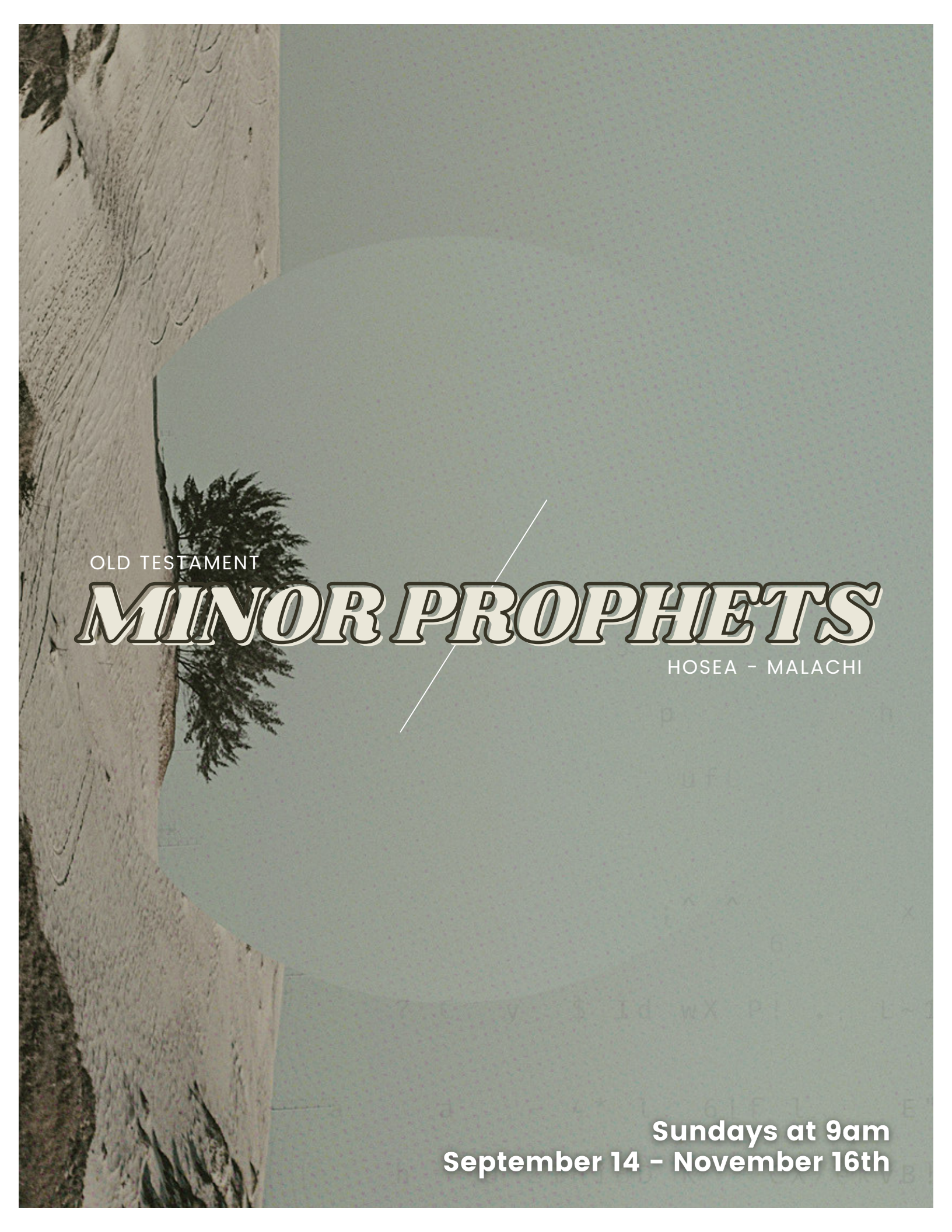




OLD TESTAMENT

MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA - MALACHI

Sundays at 9am
September 14 - November 16th

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OT: MINOR PROPHETS

SUNDAYS | SEPTEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 16
9:00AM - 10:30AM | CLASSROOM 1

COURSE CONTACT: JALDERMAN@2RIVERSCHURCH.ORG

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the Old Testament Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi) in historical and cultural context with a focus on OT covenants and canonicity.

BOOK

Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey by Arnold + Beyer

SCHEDULE

September 14

Week 1: Introduction | Chap 24

September 21

Week 2: Hosea | Chap 32

September 28

Week 3: Joel | Chap 32

October 5

Week 4: Amos | Chap 32

October 12

Week 5: Obadiah and Jonah |
Chap 33

October 19

Week 6: Micah and Nahum |
Chap 33

October 26

Week 7: Habakkuk and
Zephaniah | Chap 33

November 2

Week 8: Haggai, Zechariah, and
Malachi | Chap 34

November 9

Week 9: Intertestamental
History

November 16

Week 10: Conclusion

WEEK 1

OLD TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION

HOSEA - MALACHI

TRAVELLING THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

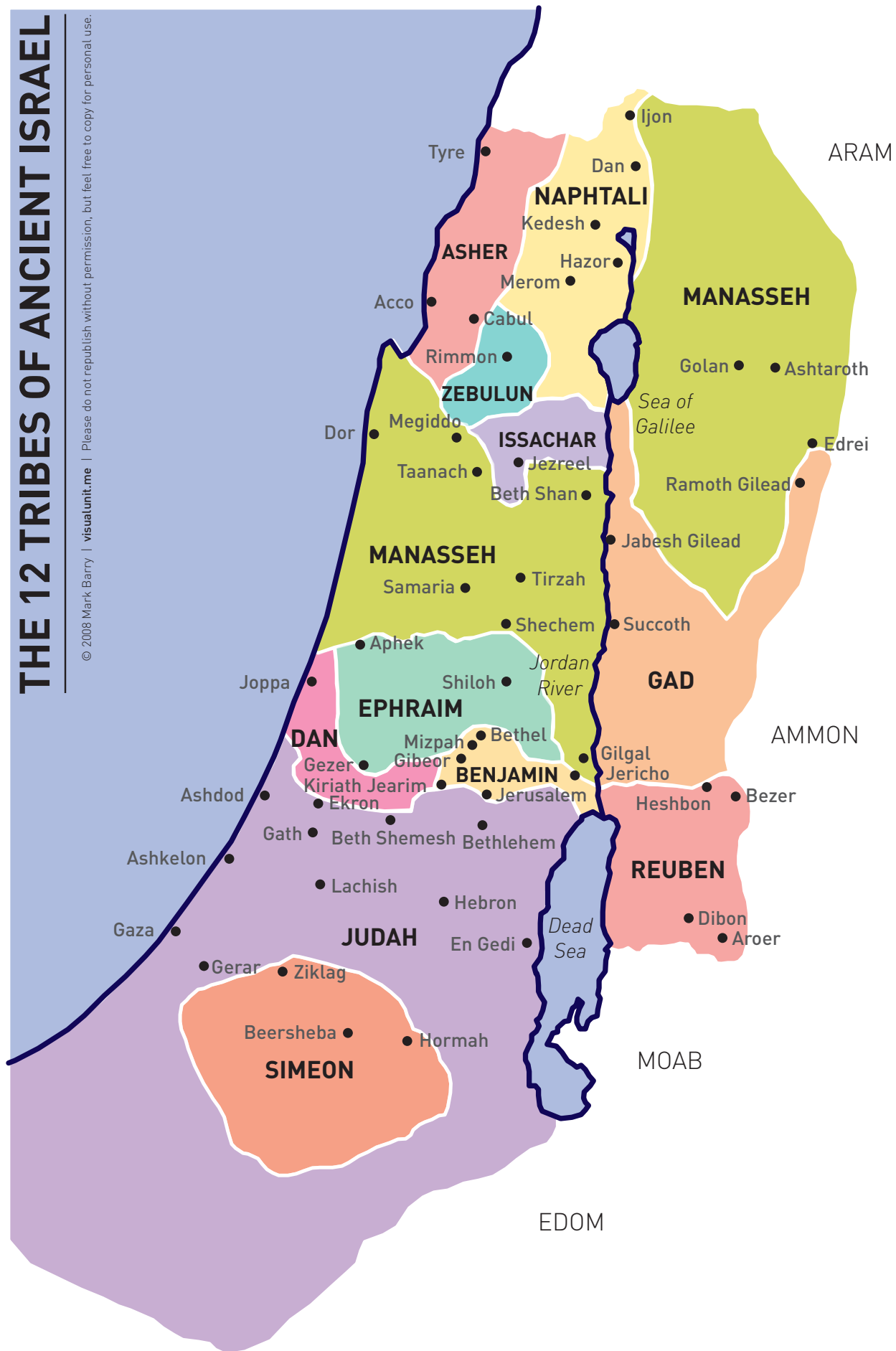
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*The order of the prophets are approximate, as some of the books are not dated.



THE 12 TRIBES OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

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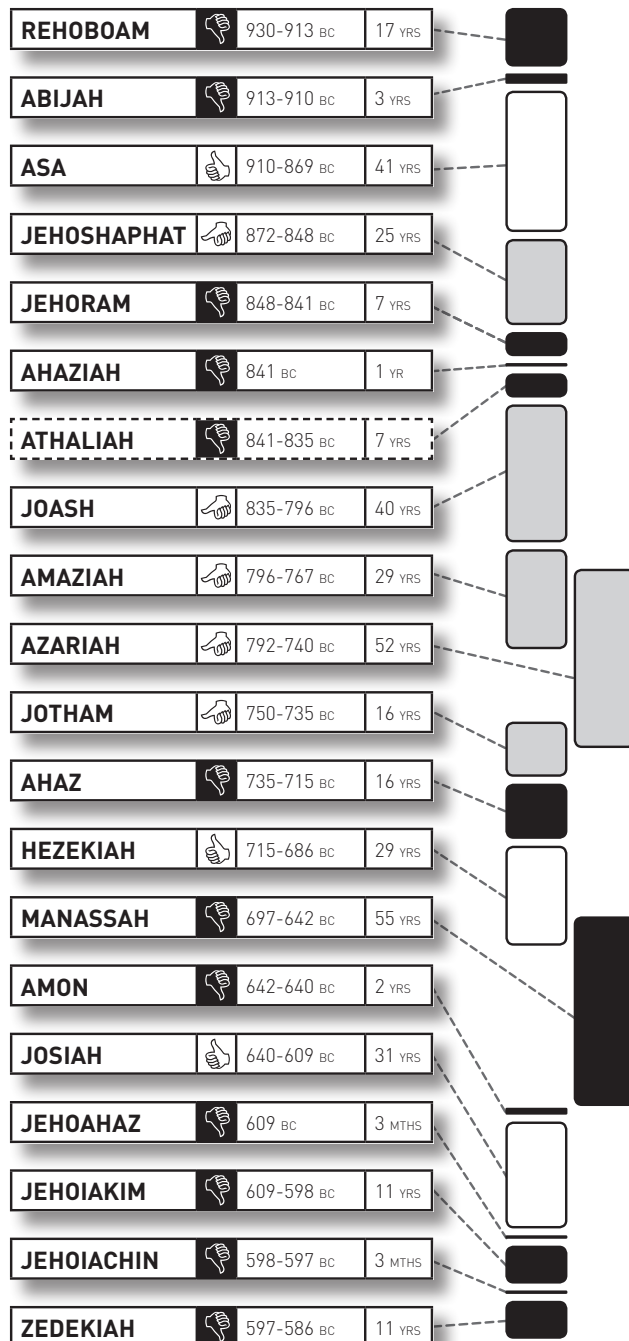


THE KINGS OF JUDAH & ISRAEL

FROM 1 & 2 KINGS

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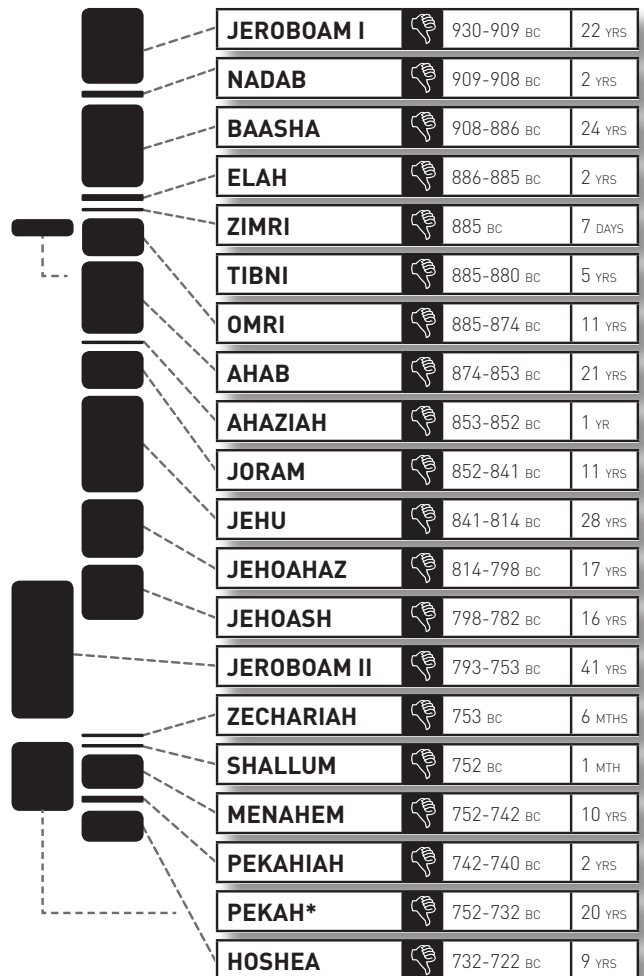
KINGS OF JUDAH



JUDAH EXILED BY BABYLON (586 BC)

KINGDOM DIVIDES (922 BC)

KINGS OF ISRAEL



ISRAEL ASSIMILATED BY ASSYRIA (722 BC)

KEY



"Did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done."



"Did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not as his father David had done." (i.e. completely rid the land of idolatry)



"Did what was evil in the eyes of the LORD."

* Pekah's 20-year reign presumably includes a period of rule as rival to Menahem. **6**

THE BASICS

- In Jesus' time, the 12 minor prophets were compiled into one single, unified book.
- They were placed near the middle, closer to the Law and before the Writings.
- Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah provide a theological commentary on Israel's checkered history while also pointing ahead to a brighter day.
- The 12 minor prophets functioned in the OT much like the 12 apostles do in the NT – as emissaries and ambassadors of God's truth and as a foundation for God's house.
- Note that there are 15 writing prophets (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and the 12). This matches the number of patriarchs and the tribes (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 tribes).
 - In a way, the prophets were a mini-Israel calling back the larger nation to its covenant with the Lord.
- In the English Bible, the Minor Prophets are separated and positioned at the end of the OT.
 - Malachi's prophecy about Elijah coming to prepare the way before the great and terrible day of Yahweh provides a powerful transition into the NT, which begins with John the Baptist and his ministry of preparation and repentance.

World Power	Prophetic Period	Israel	Judah	Foreign Nation
Assyria (870-626 BC)	8 th -early 7 th century	Jonah (770)		Assyria
		Amos (760)		
		Hosea (760-730)	Isaiah (740-700)	
			Micah (737-690)	
			Nahum (650)	Assyria
Babylon (626-539 BC)	Late 7 th -early 6 th century		Habakkuk (630)	
			Zephaniah (627)	
			Jeremiah (627-580)	
			Joel (600?)	
			Obadiah (586?)	Edom
			Ezekiel (593-570)	
Persia (539-323 BC)	Late 5 th -6 th century		Haggai (520)	
			Zechariah (520-518)	
			Malachi (433)	

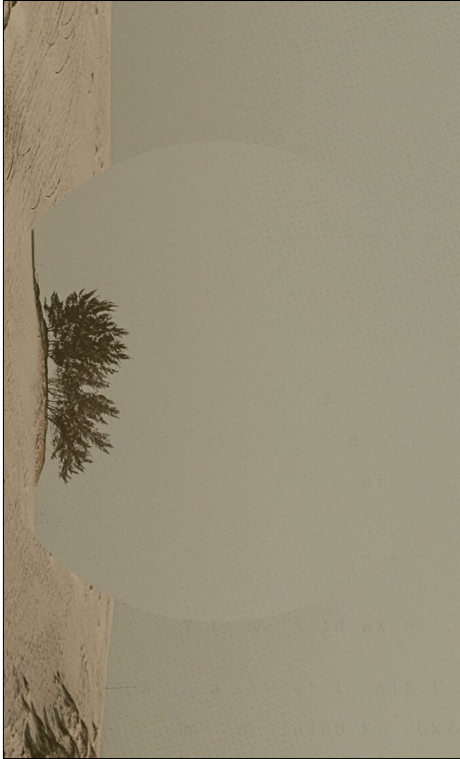
ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE 7-8TH CENTURY B.C.

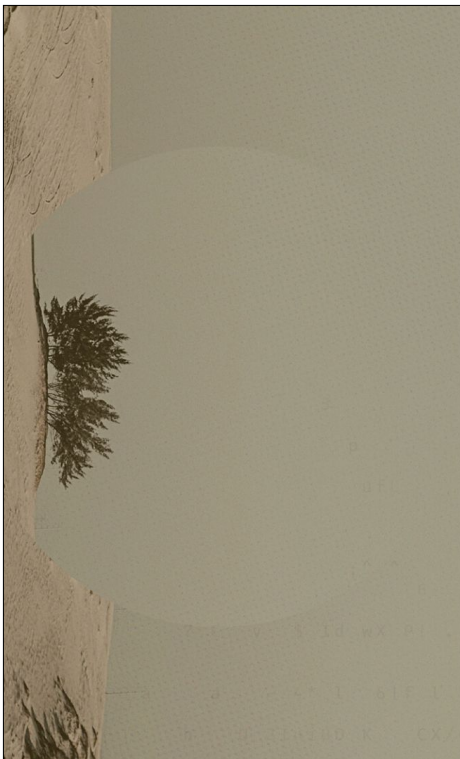
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- 770 — Jonah delivered his message to Assyria.
- 760 — Amos delivered a warning against injustice in Israel.
- 760 — Hosea warned the people of Israel about idolatry.
- 752 — Israel became a vassal state of Assyria.
- 740 — Isaiah is commissioned. He warned Judah about a coming captivity because of their injustice and failure to trust Yahweh.
- 737 — Micah spoke against the injustice of the upper class towards the poor.
- 735 — Ahaz became King of Judah (see Isaiah 7-12).
- 732 — Pekah of Israel and Rezin of Damascus tried to force Ahaz into an alliance with them against Assyria.
 - Ahaz does not want to do this, so he asked Tiglath-pileser III to ally with him.
 - Tiglath complied, forcing Damascus to surrender, and Pekah was assassinated.



- **732** — Hoshea is now King of Israel under Assyrian control, but declared himself free of Assyria.
- **725** — Shalmaneser V came to Israel to demand Hoshea's loyalty and began a siege on Israel.
- **722** — Samaria fell, and Israel was sent into exile (Judah is spared, but they must make a large tribute).
- **715** — Hezekiah became King of Judah and asserted his loyalty to Yahweh.
- **701** — Hezekiah rebelled against Assyria with the encouragement of Egypt.
 - Sennacherib attempted to siege Jerusalem, but Yahweh intervened.
 - Isaiah 36-39 covers Hezekiah's reign
 - The shift from the Assyrian Empire to the Babylonian Empire begins.

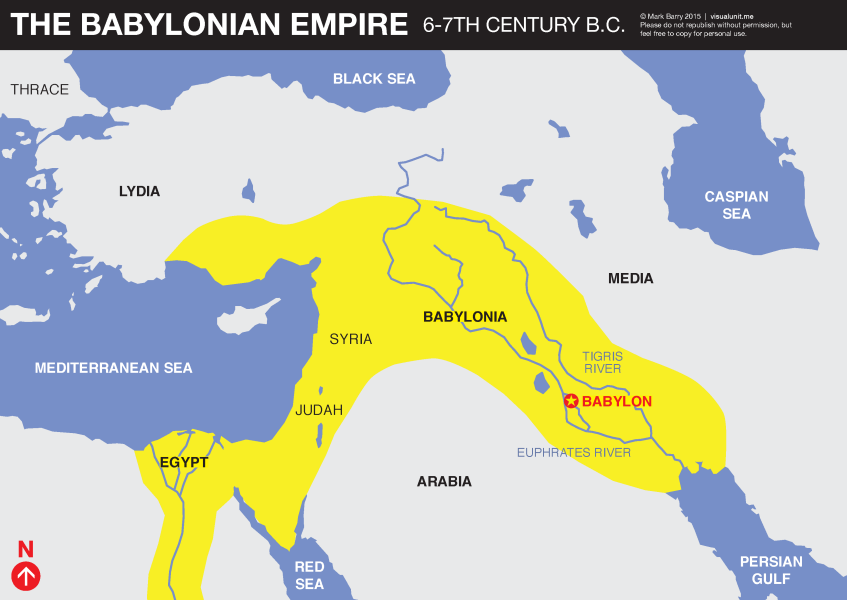


- After Hezekiah, life in Jerusalem experienced increasing levels of syncretism and moral failures.
- **668** — Ashurbanipal came to the Assyrian throne.
- In the mid-650s, civil war broke out in Assyria. As a result, the Pharaoh pushed Assyria out of Egypt.
- **642** — Amon became king and revived paganism in Judah.
- **640** — Josiah became king and attempted spiritual formation.
- **640** — Nahum foretold Assyria's fall.
- **630** — Habakkuk learned that Babylon would be the nation to judge Judah.
- **630** — Ashurbanipal gave over control of Assyria to his son.



- 627 — Ashurbanipal died // Babylon was seized by Shamash-shum-ukin.
- 627 — The Chaldeans pushed Shamash out, then established an independent Babylonian state, ruled by Nabopolassar.
- 627 — Jeremiah and Zephaniah were commissioned.
- 622 — King Josiah celebrates Passover.
- 612 — Fall of Ninevah.
- 609 — Josiah died in battle against Neco, and Jehohaz became king.
- Assyria falls to Babylon.
- Jehohaz is taken into exile by Neco.
- Jehoakim becomes king.

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE



- 605 — Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah, 1st deportation.
 - Daniel was deported.
- 598 — Jeohiakim rebelled.
- 597 — Jehoachin briefly became king but was exiled in the 2nd deportation, and Zedekiah was made a puppet king.
 - Ezekiel was exiled (he was commissioned in 593).
- 595 — In Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar had his vision of the statue.
 - Statue: Gold head, silver chest and arms, bronze belly and thighs, iron legs, iron and clay feet, standing on a stone platform.
- 592 — In Babylon, Ezekiel had a vision of the temple in Jerusalem.
 - This is located in Ezekiel chapters 40 through 48.
- 589 — Zedekiah rebelled, and Babylon moved to destroy Jerusalem.
- 586 — Babylonian Exile.
- 585 — Jeremiah is carried off to Egypt.
- 573 — Ezekiel had a vision of the new Temple.

- 563 — Nebuchadnezzar died, then the Persian empire began to build up its empire under the leadership of Cyrus the Great.
- 553 — Daniel had the vision of the 4 beasts.
 - Lion with eagle's wings, a bear, a leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads, and a dreadful and powerful beast with 10 horns.
- 551 — Daniel had the vision of the ram and the goat.
- 539 — Daniel interpreted Balshazzar's dream about the writing on the wall.
 - This is located in Daniel chapter 5.
- 539 — Gabriel gave Daniel the message of 70 weeks.
 - Daniel realized captivity was coming to an end.

PERSIAN EMPIRE

THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE 4-6TH CENTURY B.C.



- 539BC — Cyrus gained control over Babylon and allowed deported Jews to return to their homes (538).
- 539 — Babylon fell to Persia.
- 538 — Cyrus' decree.
 - Decree: All Jewish people return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.
- 535 — Daniel was thrown into the lion's den.
- 536 — Daniel saw his final vision.
- 536 — First group returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel.
- 520 — Zechariah and Haggai.
- 478 — Esther becomes queen.
- 458 — Ezra returned to Jerusalem.
- 444 — Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem.
- 430 — Malachi (possibly also 470-480).

REVIEW: PRE-CLASSICAL PROPHECY

- Pre-classical prophecy (or non-literary prophecy) is not recorded in book form.
- Examples of pre-classical prophets are Elijah and Elisha. They gave military advice and pronouncements of rebuke or blessings. We only have accounts of these ministries through the historical books. These prophets tended to focus on the king and his court rather than large-scale messages to the people.
- Pre-monarchy prophets like Deborah gave messages of national guidance.

REVIEW: CLASSICAL PROPHECY

- Began in the 8th century with the reign of Jeroboam II (Israel).
 - In the north, the earliest examples were Hosea and Amos.
 - In the south, the earliest examples are Micah and Isaiah.
- Based on the covenant relationship between Yahweh and his people.
 - There was no ANE (Ancient Near East) counterpart.
- Announced God's agenda for the people.
- Rebuked concerns about the current condition of society.
- Warned of captivity, destruction, and exile.
- Called for justice and repentance.

HEBREW TERMS FOR PROPHET

- The terms **hozeh** and **roeh** are usually translated seer and come from the verbal root "to see, gaze, or look at." They suggest someone who saw the very things of God. The prophets had a special insight that God gave them directly.
- The term **navi** may mean someone whom God especially called to bring His divine message to His people. Navi is the most common of the three terms in the OT, occurring over 300 times. It is similar to an Akkadian word *navu* which means a "called one."

ORDERING OF THE BOOKS

- In the Hebrew ordering, the books are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
- This may reflect a rough chronological order through the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian empires.
 - A significant aspect is the 'catchword'; prophetic books are linked by words or phrases that appear at the end of one book and the beginning of the next. For example, the phrase 'the LORD roars from Zion', in the closing verses of Joel (3:16), and reappears in Amos (1:2). The phrase '(the LORD) does not retain his anger forever', in Mic (7:18), is similar to the phrase 'the LORD is slow to anger' at the beginning of Nahum (1:3). The phrases 'that time' in Zeph (3:19) and 'the time has not come' in Hag (1:2). These passages demonstrate a similar continuity between these books.

ORDERING OF THE BOOKS

- In the LXX, there is a different ordering in the first 6 books — Hosea, Amos, Micah, Joel, Obadiah, and Jonah, which seems to be based on the size of the book.
- LXX is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible.
- This is what our English Bibles are influenced by.
- However, remember that they were initially one book called “The 12” and really should be read and considered in unity.

THEMES

- The minor prophets affirmed God's amazing love for Israel as well as the reality of sin's horrific nature.
- They clarified the implications of Yahweh's covenantal commitment to Israel.
- They stressed the need for God's people to reflect God's character.
- They emphasized the future day of judgment for the wicked and salvation for the righteous.
- They announced the coming of a new David who would bring God's kingdom.

