

Old Testament Survey - Part 5

The Minor Prophets

General Overview

- Minor Prophets or “The Twelve”
- Minor because of length, not because of importance.
- Arranged in roughly chronological order.

Hosea

- “Hosea” = “Salvation”
- Time Period: 758-722 B.C. (see 2 Kings 15-17)
 - Northern Kingdom; pre-exile
- Historical Setting: Prophesying to Israel preceding their captivity by Assyria.
- Major Theme: God’s unfailing love for an unfaithful people.

Joel

- Time Period: Unknown
 - Southern Kingdom; probably pre-exile
- Historical Setting: Following a locust plague among God’s people.
- Major Theme: The “Day of the Lord” will be a day of judgment and salvation.

Amos

- “Amos” = “Burden”
- Time Period: 765-750 B.C. (see 2 Kings 14:23-15:7)
 - Northern Kingdom; pre-exile
- Historical setting: Prophesying in a time of prosperity approximately 25 years before Israel’s destruction.
- Major Theme: God has rejected Israel's religious and social practices.

Obadiah

- Time period: 586 B.C.
 - Southern Kingdom; during the time of exile
- Historical Setting: Probably just after the fall of Jerusalem.
- Major Theme: Prophecy of God’s judgment on Edom for their sins against God’s people.
 - Edom – descendants of Esau
 - Israel – descendants of Jacob

Jonah

- Time Period: 780-750 B.C.
 - Northern Kingdom; pre-exile
- Historical Setting: A time when the Assyrians were a cruel, heartless people, hated by the people of Israel.
- Major Theme: The people of God are reluctant to acknowledge the compassion of God for the nations.

Micah

- Time Period: 740-686 B.C.
 - Southern Kingdom (also spoke to Northern Kingdom); pre-exile
- Historical Setting: A contemporary of Isaiah; sometime around Assyria's destruction of Israel.
- Major Theme: God's judgment on idolatry and injustice.

Nahum

- Time Period: 630-610 B.C. (see 2 Kings 17-23)
 - Southern Kingdom; pre-exile
- Historical Setting: Assyria had conquered Israel and was at the peak of power, and Nahum prophesied concerning her destruction.
- Major Theme: God is sovereign and will execute judgment against evil.

Habakkuk

- Time Period: 625-586 B.C. (see 2 Kings 22-23)
 - Southern Kingdom; pre-exile
- Historical setting: The time period leading up to Babylon's attack on Jerusalem.
- Major Theme: God's people can trust in His justice, power, and faithfulness.

Zephaniah

- Time Period: 640-609 B.C. (see 2 Kings 22-23)
 - Southern Kingdom; pre-exile
- Historical setting: A contemporary of Habakkuk; leading up to Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem.
- Major Theme: God is bringing present judgment and future salvation to Judah.

Haggai

- Time Period: Around 520 B.C. (see Ezra 1-6)
 - Southern Kingdom; post-exile
- Historical Setting: The people had returned to Jerusalem from the exile and had stalled work on rebuilding the temple.
- Major Theme: God's people must rebuild His temple to restore their worship.

Zechariah

- "Zechariah" = "The Lord Remembers"
- Time Period: Starting in 520 and extending into the 400s.
 - Southern Kingdom; post-exile
- Historical Setting: A contemporary of Haggai in post-exilic Jerusalem.
- Major Theme: Israel's will be restored by the coming Messiah.

Malachi

- "Malachi" = "My Messenger"
- Time Period: 460-400 B.C.
 - Southern Kingdom; post-exile
- Historical Setting: Postexilic Jerusalem close to the time of the reforms of Nehemiah and Ezra.
- Major Theme: The Lord is faithful to His covenant and requires faithfulness from his covenant people.