



JOURNEY
— THROUGH THE —
OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 5
The Early Prophets

The Minor Prophets are...

**Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Joel,
Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk,
Zephaniah, Obadiah, Haggai,
Zechariah and Malachi**

The Major Prophets are...

**Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations,
Ezekiel and Daniel**

**Assyria conquered Israel in 722 BC,
Babylon conquered Judah in 586 BC.
Persia conquered the Babylonians in 539 BC**

**Jonah, Amos and Hosea prophesied in the
Northern Kingdom to Israel.**

**Joel, Isaiah and Micah prophesied to the
Southern Kingdom to Judah**

The following prophesied during the Babylonian Kingdom....

Pre-exile Prophets were Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Obadiah and Jeremiah, Lamentations.

The Exile Prophets were Ezekiel and Daniel.

The following prophesied during the Persian Kingdom. The post-exile prophets were Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.



1. ISRAEL'S EARLY PROPHETS

(Jonah, Amos, Hosea)

Jonah: The Fleeing Prophet

The author of this small book is uncertain but Hebrew tradition names Jonah himself as the author. The date of the book is approximately 760 BC

**Of the sixteen prophets we'll talk
about only Jonah and Hosea were
born and raised in Israel**

**Ninevah was 500 miles from
Jonah's home. It's ruins are
still present near the town
of Mosul, Iraq.**

**One of the questions raised in
this book is
“Does God Change His Mind?”**

**Jonah is the first book in the Bible
that addresses reaching those
outside of Israel with the good news**

”Do we feel compassion only for those who are like us? Do we feel compassion for ALL people?”

Amos: The Prophesying Shepherd

**Amos authored this book around
760-755 BC**

**The name Amos means
Burden Bearer**

The main theme of this book is found in Amos 5:24 “Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream.”

**The book begins by Amos
pronouncing judgment on 8 Nations.
The first six were Israel's enemies
Damascus, Philistia, Phoenicia,
Edom, Ammon and Moab**

**But then the tables turn and he
pronounces the severest judgment
of all against ISRAEL**

**The three main reasons for judgment
were...**

1. Privilege Brings Responsibility

**The three main reasons for judgment
were...**

**2. The Purpose of Discipline is to
lead to Repentance**

**The three main reasons for judgment
were...**

**3. God is “with” those who seek good
and against those who seek evil!**

The book ends on a positive with God reminding them of two things. First, His promise to David to restore Israel. Second, a future of agricultural bounty (9:12)...

Hosea: The Prophet and the Prostitute

Hosea means “The Lord Saves”

Written between 715-710 BC

Hosea's prophecy was a last attempt by God to call the nation to repentance

Scholars believe that she was a prostitute before they married and then reverted to that lifestyle after she married Hosea. This book is an allegory of Israel's relationship with God.

**Hosea continued to love Gomer
no matter what!**

2. JUDAH'S EARLY PROPHETS

(Joel, Isaiah, Micah)

2. Joel: The Prophet of Pentecost

The name Joel means “The Lord is God.” Most scholars favor a date of 835 BC for this book.

The theme of the book is “The Day of the Lord.” That phrase refers to the day when judgment will fall and people will have to give account to God for how they lived.

There are Four Reasons for Joel's prophecies...

**1. To explain to Judah why
these calamities or judgments
were being experienced
(locusts, drought and famine)**

There are Four Reasons for Joel's prophecies...

**2. To warn them of the greater
danger ahead, which was the
army that was getting ready to
march on them**

**There are Four Reasons for
Joel's prophecies...**

3. To call the people to Repentance

**There are Four Reasons for
Joel's prophecies...**

**4. To declare a future “Day of
the Lord” that would bring
blessing and judgment**

Isaiah: The Prophet of the Messiah

**Most of OT prophecy is not
Foretelling but Forthtelling, which
is Declaring things that already
are and bringing them to the light**

Isaiah likely wrote this book around 700 BC. Isaiah served in Judah's Royal Court as a Prophet and was very educated. His name means "The Lord is Salvation."

**The famous line is,
“Whom Shall I Send?”
to which Isaiah’s replies,
“Here am I, Send Me!”**

**The three purposes of Isaiah
were...**

**1. To warn Judah and other
nations that God was going to
judge their sins**

**The three purposes of Isaiah
were...**

**2. To prophecy that a remnant of
Jews would return to the land
after the captivity**

**The three purposes of Isaiah
were...**

**3. To prophesy that God was
sending a Messiah to be the
Savior of all nations**

Micah: Prophet of Judgment and Mercy

Micah ministered sometime between 750 and 686 BC. He ministered at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea. Like Amos, Micah was a country prophet from a town called Gath.

There are 3 themes in this book...

1. Social Justice

There are 3 themes in this book...

2. What Constitutes True Worship

There are 3 themes in this book...

3. A False Sense of Security

**A key verse from Micah is Micah 6:8,
“He has shown you O man what is
good. And what does the Lord require
of you? To act justly, love mercy and
walk humbly with your God.”**

