

A Study of the Minor Prophets



Old Testament Books

The Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

History

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 & 2 Samuel
- 1 & 2 Kings
- 1 & 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

Poetry

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

Minor

Prophets

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

Value of...

- **The Old Testament**

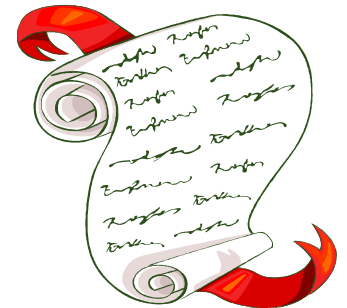
- Great value for our learning, **Romans 15:4**
- Written for our admonition, **1 Corinthians 10:11**
- All scripture is profitable, **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

- **The Minor Prophets**

- Last 12 books of the Old Testament
 - Hosea to Malachi

- **Study life enriching**

- Learn God's holiness, righteousness, & mercy
- Understand God's dealings with mankind
- Appreciate the richness of God's word



Who & What Were Prophets?

- **OLD LAW** had different types of prophets
 - **Moses**, lawgiver, **Neh. 8:1,14**
 - **Priests**, administrators of the law, **Lev. 10:8-11**
 - **Wise men**, counselors, **2 Sam. 14:1-24**
 - **Psalmists**, singers of God's message, **2 Sam. 23:1**
 - **PROPHETS**, all, speakers for God, **2 Pet. 1:21**
- **PROPHETS**, guided by the Holy Spirit...
 - Given something to say, had to say it, **Jer. 20:7-9**
 - Were primarily “forth tellers” of future events
 - Provided convincing proof of God's power as prophecies were fulfilled



Who & What Were Prophets?

- **Prophets also known as...**

- “Seers”, **1 Samuel 9:9**
- “Man of God”, **1 Samuel 9:6**
- “Servant of God”, **1 Kings 18:36**
- “Messengers”, **Isaiah 42:19**
- “Watchmen”, **Ezekiel 3:17; 33:7**

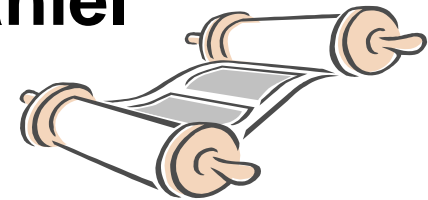


- **Prophets were servants...**

- Divinely appointed & inspired by God
- Messengers speaking God's words
- Watchmen & seers of the present & future

Classification of Prophets

- **“Oral” and “Literary” Prophets**
 - “Oral” prophets left no writings w/their names
 - **Elijah**-1 Kgs. 17, **Elisha**-2 Kgs. 2, **Nathan**-2 Sam. 12, **Gad**-2 Sam. 24:11, **Ahijah**-1 Kgs. 11:29
 - “Literary” prophets left writings w/their names
- **“Literary” Prophets (2) Classifications**
 - Major prophets include books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
 - Minor Prophets include the 12 books from Hosea to Malachi



Prophetic Books Are Not Chronological

Prophets: Chronological Order

• Ninth Century (Early Assyrian Period)

- **Obadiah**-845 B.C., **Joel**-830 B.C., **Jonah**-790-750 B.C.
- Period of Divided Kingdom

• Eighth Century (Assyrian Period)

- **Amos**-755 B.C., **Hosea**-750-725 B.C.,
Isaiah 740-700 B.C., **Micah**-735-700 B.C.
- 721 B.C, Israel (NK) taken captive



• Seventh Century (Chaldean Period)

- **Jeremiah**-626-686 B.C., **Zephaniah**-630-625 B.C.,
Nahum-625-612 B.C., **Habakkuk**-625-605 B.C.
- Babylon defeats Assyria, Judah (SK) threatened

Prophets: Chronological Order

- **Sixth Century (The Exile)**

- **Ezekiel**-593-570 B.C., **Daniel**-605-536 B.C.
- Like their countrymen, these prophets captured by Babylon and served as God's messengers to both the captives and kings



- **Sixth & Fifth Century (Post Exile Period)**

- **Haggai**-520 B.C., **Zechariah**-520-518 B.C., **Ezra** & **Nehemiah**-440-430 B.C., **Malachi**-440-400 B.C.,
- Jews returned home from Babylonian captivity
- Haggai & Zechariah encourage temple rebuilding
- Ezra, Nehemiah, & Malachi served during rebuilding & post rebuilding

Understanding Their Message

Three Keys to Studying “Minor Prophets”

1. Know the political, social, & religious situation

- OT prophecy understood through NT writers
- Guard against speculative interpretations
- Modern events must harmonize with scripture

2. Consider God’s relations w/heathen nations

- Prophets often revealed how God directed them
- Provides insights as to how God rules today

3. Gave words concerning coming of Messiah

- First job of prophets was to save God’s people
- Failing that, that were to announce judgment
- They then announced the coming of HOPE.



Great Themes of the Prophets

- **The Holiness of God**
 - He is pure, righteous, merciful & longsuffering
- **The Sovereignty of God**
 - He rules the universe and is above all
- **The Ageless Nature of God**
 - He never changes, always fulfills promises
- **The Terribleness of Sin**
 - He hates sin (no toleration, no excuses)
- **Repentance and righteousness**
 - This is the call of all the prophets...**REPENT**
- **The Worship Due God...reverence, awe**



Conclusion of the Matter

Why study “The Minor Prophets”?

- **To learn about the nature of God**
 - His holiness, justice, righteousness, & mercy
- **To learn about the workings of God**
 - How He dealt with nations
 - How He brought judgment to the guilty
 - How He reacts to those who fail him
 - How He forgives when man repent of our sins
 - How He gives us comfort & hope in the future
 - How He is in control of everything

