

THE PROPHETS

July 31, 2013 – Minor Prophets & Hosea, Joel, Amos
Lakeside Institute of Theology
Ross Arnold, Summer 2013

Prophets (OT4)

1. Introduction – the Place of the Prophets
2. Major Prophets and Isaiah
3. Jeremiah and Lamentations
4. Ezekiel and Daniel
5. Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets) –
Hosea, Joel and Amos
6. Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk
and Zephaniah
7. Post-Exilic Prophets – Haggai, Zechariah
and Malachi
8. The Message of the Prophets; Final Exam

THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Law/History (5+12)

Wisdom (5)

Prophets (5+12)

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
EZEKIEL
DANIEL

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

Number of books
in the
Old Testament:
39

Number of books
in the
New Testament:

27

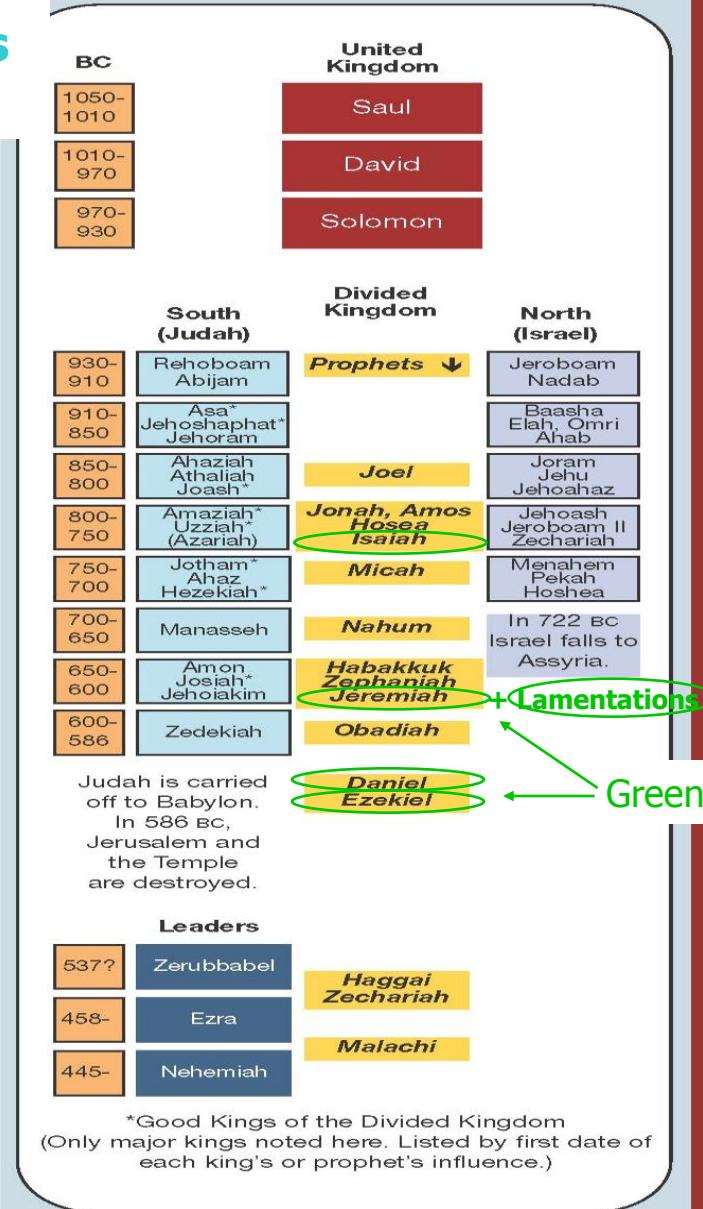
Number of books
in the Bible:

66

HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

Kings of the Old Testament

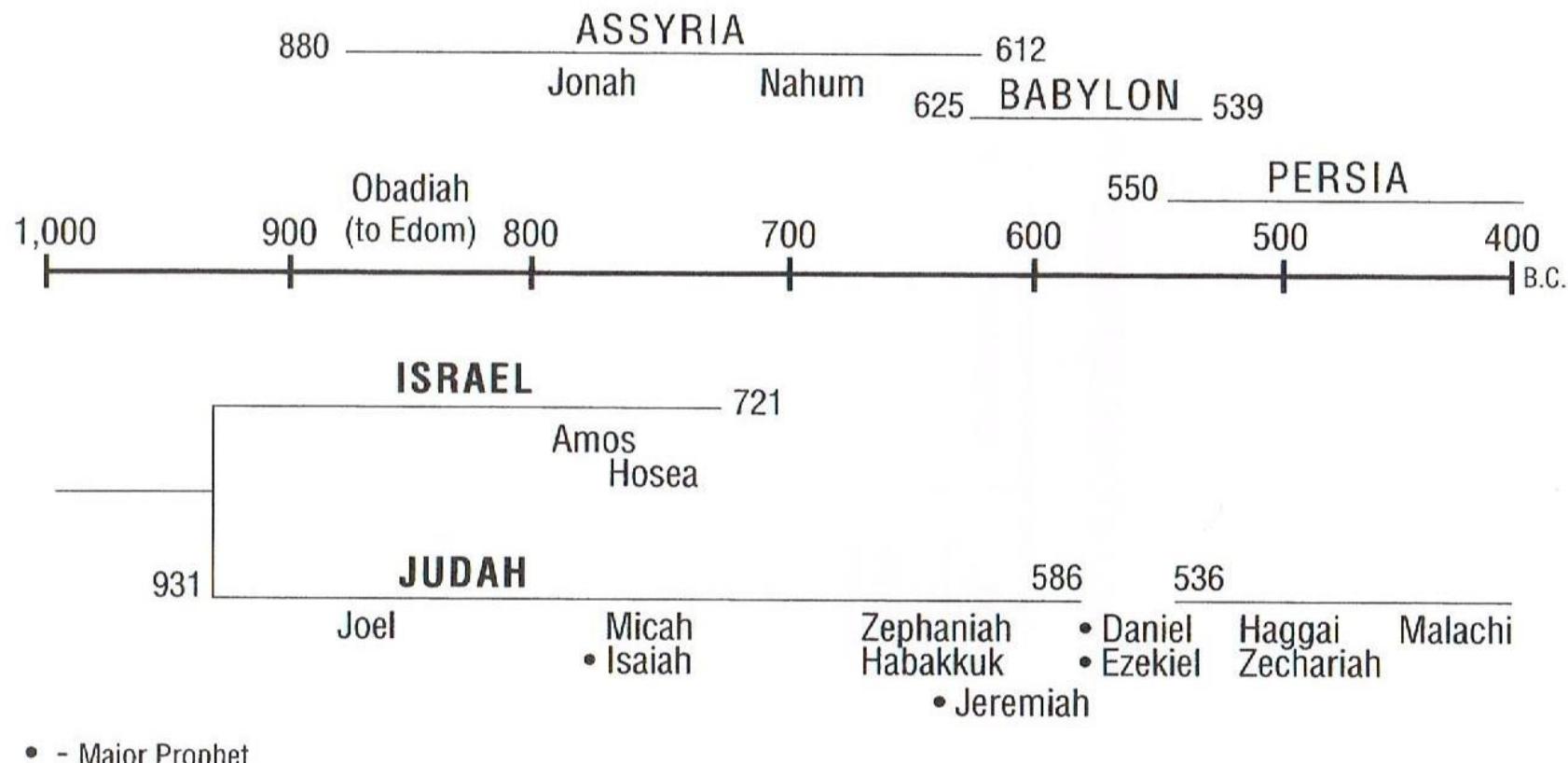
Timeline of Bible Kingdoms, Kings and Prophets



Old Testament Time Line

Green circles are Major Prophets

CHRONOLOGY OF THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH



+The 12 Books of the Minor Prophets+

- **Hosea** – Israel condemned, but God's love remains and He will redeem.
- **Joel** – Prediction of foreign invasion as God's judgment.
- **Amos** – Eight declarations of judgment against Israel.
- **Obadiah** – Prophesy of the destruction of Edom.
- **Jonah** – Reluctant prophet leads Nineveh to repent.
- **Micah** – Prediction of destruction and messianic restoration.
- **Nahum** – Prophesy of destruction of Nineveh.
- **Habakkuk** – God is questioned and then praised for the approaching judgment against Judah.
- **Zephaniah** – Prediction of judgment and tremendous blessing.
- **Haggai** – Call to rebuild the Temple.
- **Zechariah** – Messianic prophesy calling for completion of the Temple.
- **Malachi** – God continues to love, despite Israel's lethargy in following God in the completed Temple and Jerusalem.

Characteristics of the Minor Prophets

- These books are “Minor” only in length (from one to 14 chapters), compared to the much longer “Major Prophets.”
- The arrangement found in current Bibles is roughly chronological: first the prophets of the early Assyrian Period (Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah); followed by those of the later Assyrian/Babylonian Period (Nahum, Habakkuk & Zephaniah); and finally those in the Persian, or Post-Exilic, period (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi).
- The Book of Joel is undated and the date is widely disputed. It is placed in the Bible based on parts of a verse near the end of the Joel (3:16) being identical to a verse early in Amos (1:2); and both Joel & Amos describe a plague of locusts.
- Six of the twelve books (Hosea, Amos, Micah, Zephaniah, Haggai and Zechariah) open with specific historical superscriptions. The other six have no specific historical markers, making them more difficult to place on a timeline.

Characteristics of the Minor Prophets

- Earlier scholarship tended to study the Twelve as separate books with heavy emphasis on their respective historical settings, even though they are combined in the Hebrew Bible. More recently, however, there is a move back towards seeing the Book of the Twelve as one document, with consistent and interconnected theological messages.
- Taken together, the Book of the Twelve fulfills the three-part prophetic message found in the Major Prophets, namely:
 1. *You (Israel/Judah) have broken the covenant; you had better repent!*
 2. *No repentance? Then judgment! Judgment will also come on all nations.*
 3. *Yet there is hope beyond the judgment, of a glorious future restoration for both Israel/Judah and for the nations.*

Hosea



Joel



Amos



The Book of Hosea

- Author: Prophet Hosea, son of Beeri
- Date: c. 755 BC - 715 BC
- Theme: Israel will be judged, but God's love remains and He will redeem.
- Purpose: To show God's faithfulness to an unfaithful people thru Hosea's marriage.
- Outline:
 - *Adulterous Wife & Faithful Husband (1-3)
 - *Adulterous Israel & Faithful Lord (4-14)

Book of Hosea

The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel:

² When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.” ³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵ In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”

⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. ⁷ Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them.”

⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹ Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

Hosea 1:1-9

“Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’¹¹ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

2:1 “Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’ and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’

Hosea 1:10-2:1

I will not show my love to her children, because they are the children of adultery.

⁵ Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.’

⁶ Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.

⁷ She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them.

Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.’

⁸ She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold— which they used for Baal.

Hosea 2:4-8

“In that day,” declares the Lord, “you will call me ‘my husband’; you will no longer call me ‘my master.’”

¹⁷ I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked.

¹⁸ In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground.

Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety.

¹⁹ I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.

²⁰ I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord.

²³ I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

Hosea 2:16-20, 23

The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³ Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

⁴ For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.

Hosea 3:1-5

“When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his sores, then Ephraim turned to Assyria, and sent to the great king for help.

But he is not able to cure you, not able to heal your sores.

14 For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a great lion to Judah. I will tear them to pieces and go away; I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them.

15 Then I will return to my lair until they have borne their guilt and seek my face— in their misery they will earnestly seek me.”

Hosea 5:13-15

“What can I do with you, Ephraim?

What can I do with you, Judah?

Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. ⁵ Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth— then my judgments go forth like the sun.

⁶ For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

⁷ As at Adam, they have broken the covenant; they were unfaithful to me there. ⁸ Gilead is a city of evildoers, stained with footprints of blood. ⁹ As marauders lie in ambush for a victim, so do bands of priests; they murder on the road to Shechem, carrying out their wicked schemes.

¹⁰ I have seen a horrible thing in Israel: There Ephraim is given to prostitution, Israel is defiled.

¹¹ “Also for you, Judah, a harvest is appointed.

Hosea 6:4-11

“Ephraim mixes with the nations; Ephraim is a flat loaf not turned over. ⁹ Foreigners sap his strength, but he does not realize it. His hair is sprinkled with gray, but he does not notice.

¹⁰ Israel’s arrogance testifies against him, but despite all this he does not return to the Lord his God or search for him.

¹¹ “Ephraim is like a dove, easily deceived and senseless— now calling to Egypt, now turning to Assyria.

¹³ Woe to them, because they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, because they have rebelled against me! I long to redeem them but they speak about me falsely.

¹⁴ They do not cry out to me from their hearts but wail on their beds. They slash themselves, appealing to their gods for grain and new wine, but they turn away from me.

¹⁵ I trained them and strengthened their arms, but they plot evil against me.

¹⁶ They do not turn to the Most High; they are like a faulty bow. Their leaders will fall by the sword because of their insolent words. For this they will be ridiculed in the land of Egypt.

Hosea 7:8-16

Israel cries out to me, ‘Our God, we acknowledge you!’³ But Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him.

⁴ They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction.⁵ Samaria, throw out your calf-idol!

My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity?⁶ They are from Israel! This calf—a metalworker has made it; it is not God. It will be broken in pieces, that calf of Samaria.

⁷ “They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up.

⁸ Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like something no one wants.⁹ For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey wandering alone. Ephraim has sold herself to lovers.¹⁰ Although they have sold themselves among the nations, I will now gather them together. They will begin to waste away under the oppression of the mighty king.

Hosea 8:2-10

“Though Ephraim built many altars for sin offerings, these have become altars for sinning.¹² I wrote for them the many things of my law ,but they regarded them as something foreign.

¹³ Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the Lord is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt.

¹⁴ Israel has forgotten their Maker and built palaces; Judah has fortified many towns. But I will send fire on their cities that will consume their fortresses.”

Hosea 8:11-14

“When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert;
when I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig
tree.

But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves
to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved.

¹¹ Ephraim’s glory will fly away like a bird— no birth, no
pregnancy, no conception. ¹² Even if they rear children, I will bereave
them of every one. Woe to them when I turn away from them!

¹³ I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place.
But Ephraim will bring out their children to the slayer.”

¹⁴ Give them, Lord— what will you give them? Give them
wombs that miscarry and breasts that are dry.

¹⁵ “Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I hated them there.
Because of their sinful deeds, I will drive them out of my house. I will
no longer love them; all their leaders are rebellious.

¹⁶ Ephraim is blighted, their root is withered, they yield no fruit.
Even if they bear children, I will slay their cherished offspring.”

¹⁷ My God will reject them because they have not obeyed him;
they will be wanderers among the nations.

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. ³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek ,and I bent down to feed them.

⁵ “Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? ⁶ A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans. ⁷ My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

Hosea 11:1-7

“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiyim?

My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. ⁹ I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again.

For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.

¹⁰ They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.

¹¹ They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves.

I will settle them in their homes,” declares the Lord.

Hosea 11:8-11

“But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me.

⁵ I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat. ⁶ When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.

⁷ So I will be like a lion to them, like a leopard I will lurk by the path. ⁸ Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open; like a lion I will devour them— a wild animal will tear them apart. ⁹ “You are destroyed, Israel, because you are against me, against your helper.

¹⁰ Where is your king, that he may save you? Where are your rulers in all your towns, of whom you said, ‘Give me a king and princes’?

¹¹ So in my anger I gave you a king, and in my wrath I took him away. ¹² The guilt of Ephraim is stored up, his sins are kept on record.

¹³ Pains as of a woman in childbirth come to him, but he is a child without wisdom; when the time arrives, he doesn’t have the sense to come out of the womb.

Hosea 13:4-13

“I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death.

Where, O death, are your plagues?

Where, O grave, is your destruction? ...

Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! ² Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: “Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.

³ Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses. We will never again say ‘Our gods’ to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion.”

⁴ “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. ⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; ⁶ his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. ⁷ People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine— Israel’s fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

⁸ Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes from me.”

Hosea 13:14;14:1-8

The Book of Joel

- Author: Prophet Joel, son of Pethuel
- Date: c. 605 BC - 587 BC
- Theme: Judgment of the great and terrible Day of the Lord is like a locust plague.
- Purpose: To call for Judah's repentance by promising God's mercy if they do.
- Outline:
 - *The Day of the Lord Past (1:1-20)
 - *The Day of the Lord Future (2-3)

Book of Joel

The word of the Lord that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

² Hear this, you elders; listen, all who live in the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your ancestors? ³ Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.

⁴ What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten.

Joel 1:1-4

Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine; wail because of the new wine, for it has been snatched from your lips.

⁶ A nation has invaded my land, a mighty army without number; it has the teeth of a lion, the fangs of a lioness. ⁷ It has laid waste my vines and ruined my fig trees. It has stripped off their bark and thrown it away, leaving their branches white.

⁸ Mourn like a virgin in sackcloth grieving for the betrothed of her youth. ⁹ Grain offerings and drink offerings are cut off from the house of the Lord. The priests are in mourning, those who minister before the Lord.

¹⁰ The fields are ruined, the ground is dried up; the grain is destroyed, the new wine is dried up, the olive oil fails.

¹¹ Despair, you farmers, wail, you vine growers; grieve for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field is destroyed.

¹² The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and the apple tree—all the trees of the field—are dried up.

Surely the people's joy is withered away.

Joel 1:5-12

Put on sackcloth, you priests, and mourn; wail, you who minister before the altar.

Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you who minister before my God; for the grain offerings and drink offerings are withheld from the house of your God.

¹⁴ Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly.

Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.

¹⁵ Alas for that day! For the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Joel 1:13-15

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand – ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come.

¹¹The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?

Joel 2:1-2, 11

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

²⁷ Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.

²⁸ 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³²And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.

Joel 2:12-13, 27-32

“In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,² I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.

³ They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink.

¹²“Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. ¹⁶ The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Joel 3:1-3,12,14-16

“Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her.

18 “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias.

19 But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood.

20 Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations. 21 Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged?

No, I will not.”

Joel 3:17-21

The Book of Amos

- Author: Prophet Amos, of Tekoa
- Date: c. 760 BC
- Theme: Eight declarations of judgment against Israel.
- Purpose: To declare judgment against Israel, but to promise eventual restoration.
- Outline:
 - *The Eight Prophesies (1-2)
 - *The Three Sermons (3-6)
 - *The Five Visions (7:1-9:10)
 - *The Five Promises (9:11-15)

The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel.

² He said: “The Lord roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”

³ This is what the Lord says:

“For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not relent. Because she threshed Gilead with sledges having iron teeth, ⁴ I will send fire on the house of Hazael that will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad.

⁵ I will break down the gate of Damascus; I will destroy the king who is in the Valley of Aven and the one who holds the scepter in Beth Eden.

The people of Aram will go into exile to Kir,” says the Lord.

Amos 1:1-5

This is what the Lord says:

“For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed,

5 I will send fire on Judah that will consume the fortresses of Jerusalem.”

6 This is what the Lord says:

“For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals.

7 They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed.

Amos 2:4-7

Hear this word, people of Israel, the word the Lord has spoken against you—against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt:

² “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.”

³ Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

⁴ Does a lion roar in the thicket when it has no prey? Does it growl in its den when it has caught nothing?

⁵ Does a bird swoop down to a trap on the ground when no bait is there? Does a trap spring up from the ground if it has not caught anything?

⁶ When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it?

⁷ Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. Amos 3:1-7

Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“An enemy will overrun your land, pull down your strongholds and plunder your fortresses.”

¹² This is what the Lord says:

“As a shepherd rescues from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, so will the Israelites living in Samaria be rescued, with only the head of a bed and a piece of fabric from a couch.”

¹³ “Hear this and testify against the descendants of Jacob,” declares the Lord, the Lord God Almighty.

¹⁴ “On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will destroy the altars of Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.

¹⁵ I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished,” declares the Lord.

Amos 3:11-15

This is what the Lord says to Israel: “Seek me and live;⁵ do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.”

⁶ Seek the Lord and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

⁷ There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.

⁸ He who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns midnight into dawn and darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land— the Lord is his name.

⁹ With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold and brings the fortified city to ruin.

¹⁴ Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ¹⁵ Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph. Amos 5:4-9,14-15

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord!

Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light.

¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

²⁰ Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

²¹ “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. ²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.

²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:18-24

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: “Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹ For this is what Amos is saying:

“Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.”

¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.

¹³ Don’t prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king’s sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴ Amos answered Amaziah, “I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵ But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ¹⁶ Now then, hear the word of the Lord. You say, “Do not prophesy against Israel, and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac.”

¹⁷ “Therefore this is what the Lord says:

“Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be measured and divided up, and you yourself will die in a pagan country. And Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.”

Amos 7:10-17

This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit.

² “What do you see, Amos?” he asked.

“A basket of ripe fruit,” I answered.

Then the Lord said to me, “The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

³ “In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!”

⁹ “In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord,

“I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. ¹⁰ I will turn your religious festivals into mourning and all your singing into weeping. I will make all of you wear sackcloth and shave your heads. I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

Amos 8:1-3,9-10

“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.

¹² People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it.

¹³ “In that day the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst.

¹⁴ Those who swear by the sin of Samaria— who say, ‘As surely as your god lives, Dan,’ or, ‘As surely as the god of Beersheba lives’— they will fall, never to rise again.”

Amos 8:11-14

“In that day

“I will restore David’s fallen shelter— I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will rebuild it as it used to be,¹² so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name,” declares the Lord, who will do these things.

¹³“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,

“when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes.

New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,¹⁴ and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.

“They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

¹⁵ I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.

Amos 9:11-15