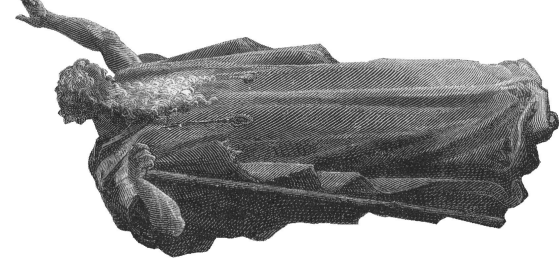


A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

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Chronology of Prophets	Main Audience	Biblical Setting	Purpose, Theme	Significant Texts	Symbolism
Obadiah	Judah/Edom	2 Chr 21:15-16; Isa 34:5-17	To declare God's judgment upon Edom because Edom rejoiced when Jerusalem was conquered and plundered.	1:3 "You who live in the clefts of the rock," refers to the strong city of Petra, accessible only through a 2000 ft. gorge. 2:28-32 "...I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind... whoever calls upon the name of the LORD will be delivered."	Edom's fortress was like an <i>eagle's nest among the stars</i> . A <i>locust plague</i> is compared to the Day of the Lord.
Joel	Judah	2 Kings 12	To remind the people that God will judge their sin and that the Day of the Lord will come upon all nations.	2:8-9 – Jonah's prayer from the belly of the great fish. 4:11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh...?"	God uses a <i>shade-plant</i> to make His point.
Jonah	Israel/Nineveh	2 Kings 14:25	To show that God is sovereign over all people and that He can have compassion on and save whomever He desires.	2:6-15; 4:1-3 – Israel's social evils; 7:14-15 "I am not a prophet... I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. The LORD said to me, "Go prophesy to...Israel."	Amos was a farmer, so many agricultural allusions. <i>Plumb line</i> : <i>summer fruit</i> .
Amos	Israel	2 Kings 14	To call affluent Israel to repentance for her social evils and to warn of coming judgment, arguing that their blessings should have turned them to God.	3:1-5 "...Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel."	Hosea's wife <i>Gomer</i> is unfaithful, yet he restores her.
Hosea	Israel	2 Kings 14-17	To tell Israel that, although they have sinned and their judgment is coming, God loves them and desires to restore them.	5:2 – Bethlehem; 4:1-12 – the glory of the coming Kingdom; 6:8 "...what does the LORD require of you...to do justice...love kindness...walk humbly with your God?"	Future kingdom like a <i>great mountain</i> into which all people will stream.
Micah	Judah	2 Kings 15-20	To the common people of Judah; to warn of Judah's coming judgment and to speak of deliverance through a coming King.	1:3 "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished." 3:9-20 describes future blessings for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. "The LORD your God is in your midst...."	Many metaphors of destruction; image of a <i>ruined city</i> .
Nahum	Judah/Nineveh	2 Kings 21-23	To declare that Nineveh will surely be destroyed. (The generations after Jonah had gone back to their wicked ways.)	2:4 "The righteous will live by faith." 3:17-19 – Despite hardship, "Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation."	The time to repent is passing quickly like <i>chaff</i> blowing away. The LORD is a Rock; He is described as brilliant sunlight.
Zephaniah	Judah	2 Kings 22-23	To declare that Judah will surely be judged for her sins; yet God will save a remnant of His people.	2:6-9 – The coming kingdom with a temple of great glory; 2:23 – Promise of the continuance of the Davidic line	
Habakkuk	Judah	2 Kings 22-24	To answer to questions: Why does God put up with the wickedness of Judah? Why will God use people to punish Judah even more wicked than she?	9:9 "Behold your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey...."	The coming Messiah is the <i>Branch</i> ; many colorful visions.
Haggai	Judah	Ezra 5-6	To call the people of Jerusalem and their leaders to finish building the temple. Presented in four, brief sermons.	4:5 "Behold I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD."	The shaking of the heavens and the nations.
Zechariah	Judah	Ezra 5-6	To encourage the people to finish the temple and especially to proclaim the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom.		
Malachi	Judah	Nehemiah 13	To rebuke the people for their lack of genuine worship and to call them to repentance for various sins.		The coming of Christ called <i>sun of righteousness</i> .

Scripture quotations taken from NASB.

Shalmaneser III | Tiglath-pileser III | Sargon | Sennacherib | Esarhaddon | Ashurbanipal | 612 Nineveh falls to Babylonia

Neo-Assyrian Empire, Capital = Nineveh

605 Egypt defeated by Babylonia at Carchemish

605 Egypt defeated by Babylonia at Carchemish

Nabopolassar | Nebuchadnezzar | Nabonidus

Neo-Babylonian Empire

539 Babylon falls to Persia

Ezekiel

Daniel

Cyrus the Great

Darius I

Xerxes

Artaxerxes I

Persian Empire

Jeroboam 930-913
Baasha 908-886
Ahab 874-853
Joram 852-841
Jehu 841-814
Jehoahaz, 814-798
Joash 798-782
Jeroboam II 793-753

“Israel,” or “Ephraim”
Capital = Samaria

Assyria conquers Israel, 733
Assyria invades Israel, 733
Assyria fails to conquer Judah, 701
Assyria conquers Israel 722

Amos 752-742
Menahem 722
752-732 Pekah
Hosea c. 755-710
Hosea

Daniel and others exiled to Babylon, 605
Second Jewish exile to Babylon, 598-597
Final Babylonian exile, 586; Jerusalem & Temple destroyed

Esther

50,000 Jews return to rebuild the Temple, 538
Zechariah, 520-515
Haggai 520
Ezra returns with more Jews, 458
Nehemiah returns to rebuild Jerusalem's wall, 444

931 Israel Divided

Obadiah c. 840*

Jonah c. 760

Nahum 663-612

“Judah”
Capital = Jerusalem

Zephaniah c. 630-625
Habakkuk c. 606-604

Micah 740-690

Joel c. 835-796

930-913	Rehoboam	Asa	910-869	872-848	Jehoshaphat	848-841	841-835	Jehoram	Athaliah	835-796	Joash	792-740	Azariah (Uzziah)	735-715	Jotham	Ahaz	715-686	Hezekiah	697-642	Manasseh	640-609	Josiah	609	Jehoiachin	597	Jehoiakim	597-586	Zedekiah
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Zerubbabel
443
Wall of Jerusalem finished

The Temple is Rebuilt:
535, Temple begun
530, Temple halted
520, Temple restarted
516, Temple completed

Jeremiah

Isaiah

Jerusalem invaded by Philistines and Arabians

*Obadiah takes place after some invasion of Jerusalem. On that basis, some scholars place Obadiah after the fall of Jerusalem in 586.