





The Minor Prophets


MINOR PROPHETS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE

How well do you know them?
Give book/context/significance...

- ▶ Jezreel
- ▶ Ephraim
- ▶ Pethuel
- ▶ Jehoshaphat
- ▶ Hazael
- ▶ Beersheba
- ▶ Teman
- ▶ Joppa
- ▶ Omri
- ▶ Achzib
- ▶ Thebes
- ▶ Chaldeans
- ▶ Shigionoth

- 
- ▶ Jezreel (Hosea) – The second capital of the Northern Kingdom. The site of the confrontation between Elijah and King Ahab.
 - ▶ Ephraim (Hosea) – One of the tribes of Israel which, combined with the tribe of Manasseh, formed the house of Joseph. The most dominant tribe of Israel and thus the name became synonymous to the entire kingdom.
 - ▶ Pethuel (Joel) – Joel's father. Name means "vision of God."
 - ▶ Jehoshaphat (Joel) – ("YHWH is judge") Son and successor of Asa, King of Judah. Besieged by the Moabites in 2 Chron. 20.

- 
- ▶ Hazael (Amos) – “God Has Seen;” Court official and Aramean King who led the Arameans in battle against Israel and Judah.
 - ▶ Beersheba (Amos) – the largest city in the Negev desert of Israel
 - ▶ Teman (Obadiah) – a clan of the Edomites
 - ▶ Joppa (Jonah) – the city to which Jonah fled and boarded a ship for Tarshish.
 - ▶ Omri (Micah) – King of Israel and father of Aham.
 - ▶ Achzib (Micah) – Coastal town in ancient Palestine near Tyre.
 - ▶ Chaldeans (Habakkuk) – a part of Babylonia near Ur that became independent and a constant war-threat



Conclusion: We Don't Know Them Well **But Why?**

1. Location in the canon
2. Lack of familiarity with themes; weird concepts
3. Lack of familiarity with history (names, places, events)
4. Trouble with the genre – should we believe the prophets

So we need to:

Learn the history

Learn the genre

Bible History Timeline

▶ 2100 BC (about 4100 years ago)

God promises Abraham many descendants

Abraham lived around 2100 BC in what is now Iraq. God told him to move to Canaan, which later became Israel. Unlike many people, Abraham believed in the one true God. God rewarded Abraham's faith, making him the father of a great nation (Israel), and an ancestor to the Messiah (Jesus Christ).

▶ 2000 BC (about 4000 years ago)

Jacob (Israel) is born

Jacob, the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham, is born in Canaan. Jacob's name is changed to Israel. (Canaan is later renamed Israel, after Jacob). He has 12 sons, for whom the 12 Tribes of Israel are named.

▶ 1900 BC (about 3900 years ago)

Joseph sold into slavery

Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel), is sold into slavery by his brothers, who are jealous of him. Joseph ends up in Egypt, where he rises to power as a trusted assistant of a pharaoh. His father and his brothers later leave Canaan, because of a famine, and move to Egypt. They are later saved from harm by Joseph.

▶ **1446 BC (about 3400 years ago)**

Exodus begins

The Hebrews, or Israelites (descendants of Jacob), are enslaved for 400 years in Egypt until Moses leads them out of Egypt. They wander the desert for 40 years. Moses then brings them to the border of Canaan, the land that God had previously promised to their forefather Abraham.

▶ **1406 BC (about 3400 years ago)**

Israel begins establishing itself as a sovereign country

After Moses dies, Joshua leads the Israelites into Canaan and begins conquering the land, establishing a sovereign country of Israel for the first time in history.

▶ **1400 BC (about 3400 years ago)**

Israel is ruled by judges, not kings

From about 1400 BC to about 1050 BC, Israel was not ruled by kings. The people think of God as their King. Instead of an earthly king, Israel is led by judges who settled disputes.

▶ **1050 BC (about 3000 years ago)**

Saul becomes Israel's first king

After about 350 years of being ruled by judges, the people of Israel demand to have a king, like the neighboring countries. By demanding a king, the people are turning away from their faith in God as their king. Saul become king and reigns about 40 years.

▶ **1010 BC (about 3000 years ago)**

David becomes King of Israel

David becomes king of Israel in about 1010 BC and reigns for 40 years. David, unlike Saul, follows the commands of God. He makes mistakes, but he repents for them. He seeks to please God. He expands the size of Israel and rules over surrounding territories.

▶ **970 BC (about 3000 years ago)**

Solomon becomes king, builds Temple

Solomon, son of David, becomes king in about 970 BC. He too reigns for about 40 years. Solomon builds the Temple in honor of God. The work is completed in about 960 BC. But, Solomon eventually turns away from God and worships false gods.

▶ **926 BC (about 2900 years ago)**

Israel becomes a divided kingdom

Shortly after the reign of Solomon, Israel becomes a divided kingdom. The southern kingdom, called Judah, includes the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. The northern kingdom continued to be called Israel. The two often war with each other.

▶ **721 BC (about 2700 years ago)**

Assyrians conquer northern kingdom of Israel

The Assyrian Empire conquers the northern kingdom of Israel in about 721 BC. The Assyrians torture and decapitate many. They force many Israelites (10 of the 12 Tribes of Israel) out of Israel and bring in foreigners.

▶ **612 BC (about 2600 years ago)**

Babylon conquers Nineveh (Assyrian Empire)

The Assyrian Empire's capital city - Nineveh - is attacked by coalition of Babylonians and others. As explained by the prophet Nahum in the Bible, Nineveh was to be destroyed because of the Assyrian Empire's treatment of Israelites and other people.

▶ **605 BC (about 2600 years ago)**

Babylon exerts influence over Judah

The neo-Babylonian Empire, under the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar, begins forcing Judah into submission. Nebuchadnezzar takes many Jews as captives to Babylon to ensure Judah's obedience.

▶ **597 BC (about 2600 years ago)**

Babylon attacks Judah

Babylonian army attacks Judah and takes more Jews as captives to Babylon. Ezekiel, one of the captives, becomes a prophet of God. Ezekiel explains that God is allowing Babylon to punish Judah because the people have been unfaithful to God.

▶ **586 BC (about 2600 years ago)**

Babylon destroys Jerusalem and the Temple

Babylon attacks Judah again. This time, the Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and the Temple that Solomon had built. More Jews are taken as captives to Babylon.

- ▶ **586 BC to 573 BC (about 2600 years ago)**
King Nebuchadnezzar attacks Tyre mainland
Babylon begins a 13-year siege of the mainland of the Phoenician city of Tyre.
- ▶ **539 BC (about 2500 years ago)**
Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon
After the death of Nebuchadnezzar, the neo-Babylonian Empire begins to lose power. Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon in 539 BC, establishing the Medo-Persian Empire.
- ▶ **538 BC (about 2500 years ago)**
Cyrus releases Jews from Babylonian Captivity
After conquering Babylon, Cyrus offers the Jews their freedom to leave Babylon and to return to Judah. Cyrus' kingdom rules over Judah and many other parts of the Middle East, but Cyrus allows people more cultural and religious freedom than did the neo-Babylonian Empire.
- ▶ **536 BC (about 2500 years ago)**
Work begins to rebuild Temple
Some of the Jews in Babylon return to Judah and begin work in about 536 BC to rebuild the Temple, which had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.
- ▶ **516 BC (about 2500 years ago)**
Second Temple is dedicated
The Temple is consecrated for worship, 70 years after the Babylonians had destroyed it in 586 BC.

▶ **333 BC (about 2300 years ago)**

Greeks begin rule over land of Israel

The Greeks, under the leadership of Alexander the Great, defeat Persian armies in Macedonia in 333 BC. This marks the fall of the Medo-Persian Empire and the rise of the Grecian Empire.

▶ **332 BC (about 2300 years ago)**

Alexander conquers Tyre (Phoenician Empire)

Alexander wars against the island fortress of the Phoenician city of Tyre. He takes rubble from the mainland of Tyre and builds a walkway to the island. Alexander's forces then conquer the island fortress, bringing an end to the Phoenician Empire.

▶ **250 BC (about 2300 years ago)**

The Old Testament is translated into Greek

A Greek ruler asks the Jews to translate all or part of the Old Testament into the Greek language. The translation is called the Septuagint.

▶ **175 BC (about 2200 years ago)**

Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes torments the Jews

Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes rules Syria from about 175 BC to about 164 BC. He reigns over Judah and tries to destroy the Jewish religion. He also defiles the Temple.

▶ **164 BC to 63 BC (about 2200 years ago)**

Jews have independence

The Maccabees, a group that fought for Jewish independence, stage a revolt against the Greeks and establish the Hasmonean royal dynasty, as well as sovereignty over all or part of the land of Israel for about 100 years, from about 164 BC to 63 BC.

▶ **63 BC (about 2100 years ago)**

The Romans take over land of Israel

After the death of Alexander the Great, the empire of the Greeks is divided up and becomes weaker. During this time, the Roman Empire becomes increasingly powerful. The Roman general named Pompey seizes control over the land of Israel.

▶ **About 5 BC (about 2000 years ago)**

Jesus is born in Bethlehem

Jesus is born in the town of Bethlehem. The Apostle Matthew later points out that Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled a prophecy delivered by the prophet Micah, about 700 years beforehand. (See Micah 5:2).

▶ **About 25 AD (about 2000 years ago)**

Jesus begins His ministry

Jesus is about 30 years old when he begins his ministry. He announces that he is the Messiah (the Christ) who was promised by the prophets of the Old Testament. Jesus promises salvation and eternal life to those who believe in him (See John 3:16, as an example).

▶ **About 28 AD (about 2000 years ago)**

Jesus is crucified and resurrected

Jesus is falsely accused and is sent to Pontius Pilate, the Roman ruler of the land of the Jews, to be crucified. Jesus is resurrected, and his followers began evangelizing him to others, allowing Christianity to spread very quickly throughout the Roman world and to eventually become the first religion to spread throughout the world.

▶ **70 AD (about 1900 years ago)**

Romans destroy Jerusalem and Temple

In 70 AD, the Roman Army, under Titus, destroys Jerusalem and the Temple to suppress an uprising of the Jews. According to the historian Josephus, about 1.1 million Jews were killed. Others were taken as slaves.

The Two Kingdoms of Israel – Division in 931 BC (1 Kings 12, 2 Chron 10)

Southern Kingdom

- ▶ Rehoboam
 - ▶ “Judah did evil”
- ▶ Abijah
 - ▶ “Walked in the sins of his father”
- ▶ Asa
 - ▶ “Did what was right”
- ▶ Jehoshaphat
 - ▶ “Did what was right”

Northern Kingdom

- ▶ Jeroboam
 - ▶ “The sin of the house of Jeroboam”
- ▶ Nadab
 - ▶ “Did evil”
- ▶ Baasha
 - ▶ “Did evil”
- ▶ Elah
 - ▶ “Made Israel sin”

Southern Kingdom

- ▶ Jehoram
 - ▶ “walked in the ways of the house of Israel”
- ▶ Ahaziah
 - ▶ “walked in the ways of the house of Ahab”
- ▶ Athaliah
 - ▶ “the city was quiet for they had slain Athaliah”
- ▶ Joash
 - ▶ “did what was right”
- ▶ Amaziah
 - ▶ “did what was right”

Northern Kingdom

- ▶ Zimri
 - ▶ “doing evil”
- ▶ Omri
 - ▶ “did evil – worse than all before him”
- ▶ Ahab
 - ▶ “did evil – more than all before him”
- ▶ Ahaziah
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Joram
 - ▶ “did evil...but not like his parents”

Southern Kingdom

- ▶ Uzziah
 - ▶ “did what was right”
- ▶ Jotham
 - ▶ “did what was right”
- ▶ Ahaz
 - ▶ “did not do what was right”
- ▶ Hezekiah
 - ▶ “did what was right”
- ▶ Mannasseh
 - ▶ “did evil” but repented
- ▶ Amon
 - ▶ “did evil as his father”

Northern Kingdom

- ▶ Jehu
 - ▶ “took no heed to walk in the way of the Lord”
- ▶ Jehoahaz
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Jehoash
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Jeroboam II
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Zechariah
 - ▶ “did evil”

Southern Kingdom

- ▶ Josiah
 - ▶ “Did what was right”
- ▶ Jehoahaz
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Jehoiakim
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Jehoiachin
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Szedekiah
 - ▶ “did evil”

Conquered (fall of Jerusalem) in 587BC

-Temple destroyed

-Deportation to Babylon

Northern Kingdom

- ▶ Shallum
 - ▶ Led a conspiracy
- ▶ Menahem
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Pekahiah
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Pekah
 - ▶ “did evil”
- ▶ Hoshea
 - ▶ “did evil but not like the kings before him”

Conquered by Assyria 722BC


What do we learn from the history lesson about Israel and its kings?


- ▶ Turmoil!
 - ▶ While some kings ruled for many years (Ahab – 22, Uzziah – 52) many times there was constant turnover
 - ▶ Elah – 2 years, Zimri – 7 days, Ahaziah – 2 years, Zechariah – 6 months, Shallum – 1 month
- ▶ Wickedness!
 - ▶ More good kings or bad kings?
- ▶ Fear
 - ▶ Military and political threats abound

What is prophecy?

How do we
interpret
prophecy?

1. Prediction
2. Proclamation


- 
1. Predictions qualified by assurances
 - a. Amos 1 – “I will not turn back”
 - b. Jer 22:24-27 – “As I live” (a solemn oath)
 2. Predictions qualified by conditions
 - a. Bipolar (two options based on the people’s response) - Is 1:19-20
“If you are willing and obedient...if you refuse and rebel...”
 - b. Unipolar – Is 7:9 “If you are not faithful you will not stand at all;”
Jer 7:5-7 “If you will mend your ways...then I will cause you to dwell in this place.”
 3. Predictions without expressed qualifications
 1. Jonah 3:4 – “Yet forty days...”

- 
- ▶ The prophet sees the events of the future as taking place at one time

- ▶ Joel 2:28-32

- ▶ I will pour out my spirit on all flesh
- ▶ I will show wonders in the heavens and earth
- ▶ Whoever calls on the name will be saved
- ▶ I will bring back the captives of Judah
- ▶ I will gather all nations for judgment

Salvation -----Judgment

- 
- ▶ Three options
 - ▶ Prophecies and promises to Israel have nothing to do with the Church (National Israel)
 - ▶ Prophecies and promises to Israel apply both to Israel (national) and the Church
 - ▶ Prophecies and promises to Israel apply only to the Church in light of the coming of Christ.