



Series: Bible Survey

**Lesson: 28. Introduction to the
Prophetic Books**

- **Introduction**

- Authors: Named in their titles (except Lamentations)
- Dates: Late 8th Century to mid 5th Century BC
- Context:
 - All of them happen during the events of 1–2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and/or Nehemiah—use them as references!
 - Even though Israel had everything they needed to be blessed on earth and fulfill their national purpose, they failed repeatedly.
 - Most prophetic books were written in response to major unrighteousness and/or to give encouragement in the face of great challenges.
 - God knew the _____
would need to be replaced, so He spelled out the lessons from Israel's failure and pointed to the future when humanity's needs would finally and fully be addressed in Jesus Christ.

- **The Role of the Prophet**

- A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of another.

*Ex. 7:1 – Then the Lord said to Moses, “See, I make you as God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your **prophet**.”*

- Prophets in the Old Testament received, _____, and shared God’s messages to His people:
 - The Patriarchs –
 - Moses –
 - The Former Prophets –
 - The Latter Prophets –
- All Old Testament prophets were near fulfilments of (and pointed to) the prophecy of Deut. 18:15–22 (cf. Deut. 13:1–5; Acts 3:18–26).
- How the latter prophets functioned:
 - They weren’t normally around: they were concentrated more when Israel or Judah was facing _____.
 - They spoke for God, especially by revealing His will.
 - Their prophecies often included ‘forthtelling,’ but they always had a point that pertained to their contemporary audience.
 - They were rarely heeded and often faced consequences for speaking out.

- The main themes of the prophetic books:
 - They speak for YHWH (cf. 2 Pet. 1:21).
 - God pays attention to what's happening.
 - They are most often speaking in terms of God's relationship with _____.
 - They explain why Israel's history played out the way it did.
 - They look forward to future judgment and _____.

- **How We Should Read the Minor Prophets Today**

- _____ to the real people/concerns situations to which they were written.
- Get a sense of the scope of God's plan and how we fit into it.
- Pay attention to how God is _____ Himself to His people.
- Live in light of a God Who is sovereign, watching, and responding.

Discussion:

1. How is our ministry as believers today similar/different from Old Testament prophets?
2. How is Jesus the ultimate Prophet?

FOR REFLECTION: Do you find yourself only reading the prophets to learn about the past and/or future instead of how they inform your today? How can you keep those balanced?

Activity of the Writing Prophets during the Reigns of the Kings of Israel and Judah

Timeline	King of Judah // Event	Prophet to Judah	Prophet to Israel	King of Israel // Event
780 B.C.				Jeroboam II (781–753)
770				
760	Uzziah (Azariah) (767–740)		(c. 760) Amos (c. 760) Jonah (c. 755) Hosea	
750	Jotham (750–735)	Micah (c. 742)		Zechariah (753–752) Shallum (752) Menahem (752–742) Pekahiah (742–740) Pekah (740–732) Hoshea (732–722)
740	Ahaz (735–715)	Isaiah (c. 740)		Fall of Samaria (722)
730				
720	Hezekiah (715–686)			
710				
700				
680	Manasseh (686–642)	Nahum (c. 660–630)		
660	Amon (642–640)	Zephaniah (c. 640–609) Habakkuk (c. 640–609)		
640	Josiah (640–609)	(c. 627) Jeremiah		
620				
600	Jehoahaz (609) Jehoiakim (609–597) Jehoiachin (597) Zedekiah (597–586)		(c. 605) Daniel	
	Fall of Jerusalem (586)	Obadiah (after 586)	(c. 597) Ezekiel	
580				
560				
540				
520	1st return of exiles (538) Temple rebuilt (516/515)	Haggai (c. 520) Zechariah (c. 520)		
500				
480				
460	2nd return of exiles (458)	Malachi (c. 460)		
440	3rd return of exiles (445)			

Major prophets
 Minor prophets

Joel is not displayed as the dates are uncertain and estimates range from the 9th to the 4th centuries B.C.
 Micah's prophecy was likely directed toward both Judah and Israel.

Blanks: Old Covenant, lived out, judgment, Israel, restoration, Relate, revealing