

THE PROPHETS

July 10, 2013 – Major Prophets; Isaiah
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

Structure & Form of the Old Testament

Traditional Protestant Structure:

– 39 Books in Four Sections:

- The Law (5) – “Torah” in Hebrew; “Pentateuch” or “Five Books”
- History (12) – Joshua thru Esther.
- Wisdom (5) – Job thru Song of Songs.
- **Prophecy (17)** – Isaiah thru Malachi, (sometimes broken up into *Major Prophets: Isaiah thru Daniel*, and *Minor Prophets: Hosea thru Malachi*)

Major Oral Prophets

Major Literary Prophets

Prophet*	Prophesied	Kings Who Ruled During Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (bc)	Prophet's Place of Birth
Elijah	To Israel	Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram	870-845	Tishbe
Elisha	To Israel	Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz	845-800	Abel Meholah
Isaiah	To Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	760-673	Jerusalem
Jeremiah	To Judah	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	650-582	Anathoth
Ezekiel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-570	Jerusalem

Minor Literary Prophets

Hosea	To Israel	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	758-725	Israel
Joel	To Judah	Governor Ezra	450	Jerusalem
Amos	To Israel	Jeroboam II	765-754	Tekoa**
Obadiah	Concerning Edom	Zedekiah	590	Jerusalem
Jonah	To Nineveh	Jeroboam II	781	Gath Hepher**
Micah	To Judah	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	738-698	Moresheh-gath**
Nahum	Concerning Nineveh	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	658-615	Elkosh**
Habakkuk	To Judah	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin	608-598	Unknown
Zephaniah	To Judah	Amon, Josiah	640-626	Unknown
Haggai	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	520	Jerusalem
Zechariah	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	522-509	Jerusalem
Malachi	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	465	Jerusalem

* Prophets are listed in the order they are found in the Bible.

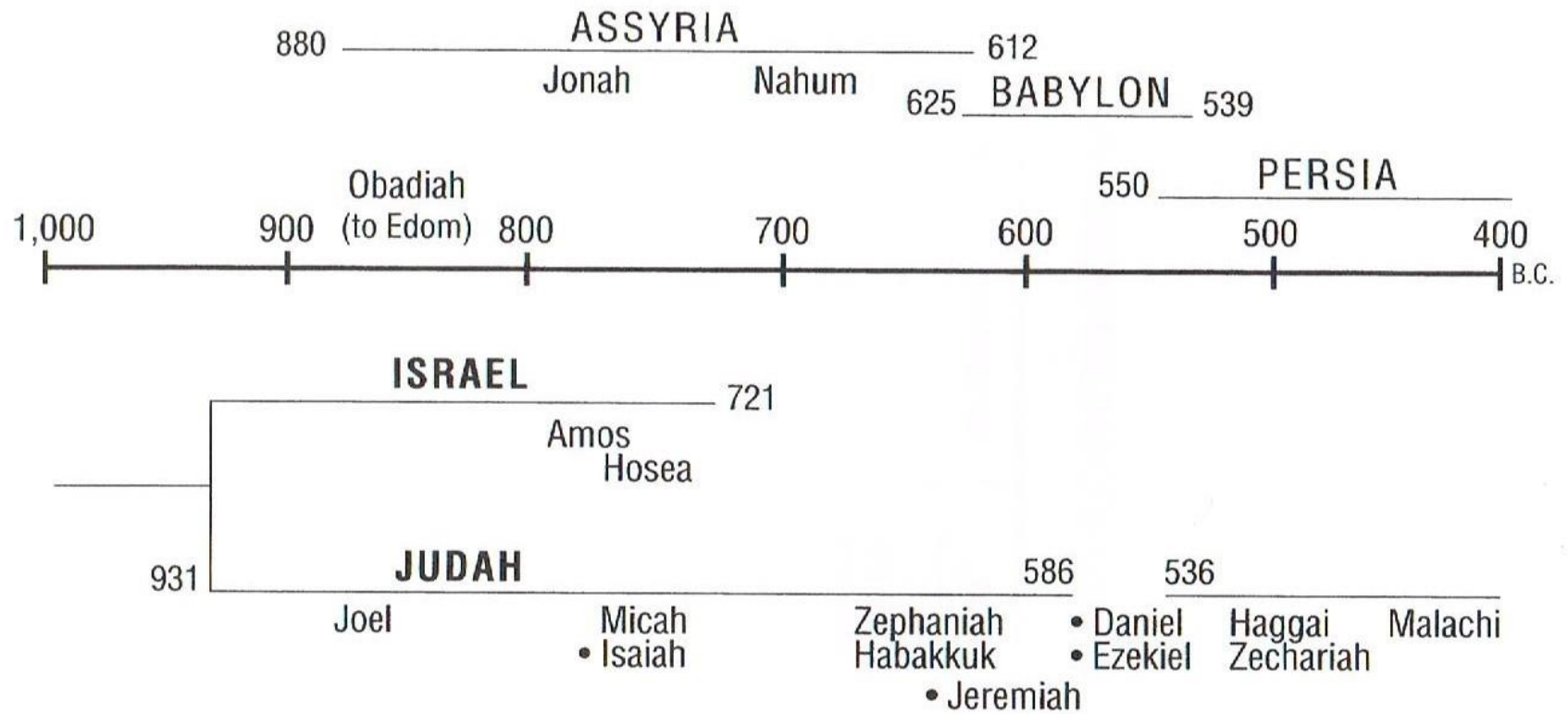
** Exact location unknown.

The Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- *Lamentations*
- Ezekiel
- Daniel



CHRONOLOGY OF THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH



• - Major Prophet

	Isaiah	Jeremiah	Ezekiel	Daniel
TO WHOM	Jews in Judah/ Jerusalem	Jews in Judah & Captivity	Jews Captive in Babylon	Jews in Babylon & Gentile Kings
ABOUT	Judah & Jerusalem (Isaiah 1:1,2:1)	Judah & Nations (Jer. 1:5, 9-10; 2:1-1)	Whole House of Israel (Ezek. 2:3-6; 3:4-10, 17)	Israel & Gentile Nations (Daniel 2:36ff; 9)
DURING REIGNS OF:	<u>Kings of Judah:</u> Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah	<u>Kings of Judah:</u> Josiah, Jehoahaz Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	<u>King of Judah:</u> Zedekiah <u>King of Babylon:</u> Nebuchadnezzar	<u>Kings of Judah:</u> Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah <u>King of Babylon:</u> Nebuchadnezzar
DATES	740-680 BC	627-585 BC	592-570 BC	605-536 BC
HISTORICAL SETTING	2 Kings 15-21; 2 Chron. 26-30	2 Kings 22-25	Daniel 1-6	Daniel 1-6

The Message of Isaiah

The 3-Point message of the Old Testament prophets is epitomized in the Book of Isaiah:

- 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.*

The specific failings of the Hebrew people were especially **idolatry**, **social injustice**, and **reliance on religious ritualism** instead of true worship.

The Message of Isaiah

- Date of the Book: 740-680 BC
- Title of the Book: Obviously taken from the prophetic author, Isaiah, whose name means “*Yahweh is salvation.*”
- Theme and Purpose: Theme is “Yahweh is salvation” (“Isaiah”) with the word “salvation” appearing 26 times. This has led to Isaiah being called “the evangelical prophet” because of the emphasis on salvation and the redemptive work of the Messiah.
- Key Chapter: Chapter 53, which presents the Messiah as the Suffering Servant who must die for our sins.

Key Verses in Isaiah

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14-15

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Key Verses in Isaiah

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Isaiah 53:4-7

The Message of Isaiah

1. Isaiah 1-39 focuses on Judgment, but also contains glimpses of deliverance.
 - A. Chapters 1-12 stress judgment on Judah.
 - B. Chapters 13-35 emphasize Yahweh's righteousness and authority over the nations.
 - C. Chapters 36-39 is a narrative account of Yahweh's delivery of Judah from the Assyrians.
2. Isaiah 40-55 focuses on deliverance and restoration through the "Servant" but also contains glimpses of judgment.
3. Isaiah 56-66 focuses on righteous living by Yahweh's true people in the meantime.

The Message of Isaiah Chapters 1-39

- Isaiah 1-3 – The Covenant Lawsuit.
- Isaiah 4 – The Branch of Yahweh.
- Isaiah 5 – The Vineyard of Yahweh.
- Isaiah 6 – The Call of Isaiah.
- Isaiah 7-12 – The Coming Child.
- Isaiah 13-23 – Judgment on the Nations.
- Isaiah 24-27 – Yahweh's Judgment on the World.
- Isaiah 28-35 – Judgment Followed by Deliverance.
- Isaiah 36-39 – Hezekiah and the Assyrians.

The Message of Isaiah Chapters 40-66

1. The primary people Isaiah addresses are those in exile.
2. No specific historical events are mentioned.
3. “Fear not!” is a major theme, often accompanied by words of comfort.
4. Israel is being charged with violating the covenant – as in Isaiah 1-39.
5. Salvation is promised (as in Isaiah 1-39) both in near-term and long-term, and includes Gentiles.
6. Yahweh refers to His people in personal, intimate terms.
7. Yahweh is praised for his many awesome attributes.
8. There are strong polemics against idols and the nations (as in chapters 1-39).
9. Cyrus, King of Persia, is presented as Yahweh’s instrument for judgment (on Babylon) and deliverance (for Israel).

The Message of Isaiah Chapters 40-66

- Isaiah 40 – Be Comforted & Soar as an Eagle.
 - Isaiah 41:1-44:23 – Fear Not, for I Am With You.
 - Isaiah 44:24-48:22 – Cyrus.
 - Isaiah 49-55 – The Servant and Zion.
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- Isaiah 56-59 – Israel's Inability to Live Righteously.
 - Isaiah 60-62 – Future Salvation.
 - Isaiah 63-66 – A Call to Ethical Living.

