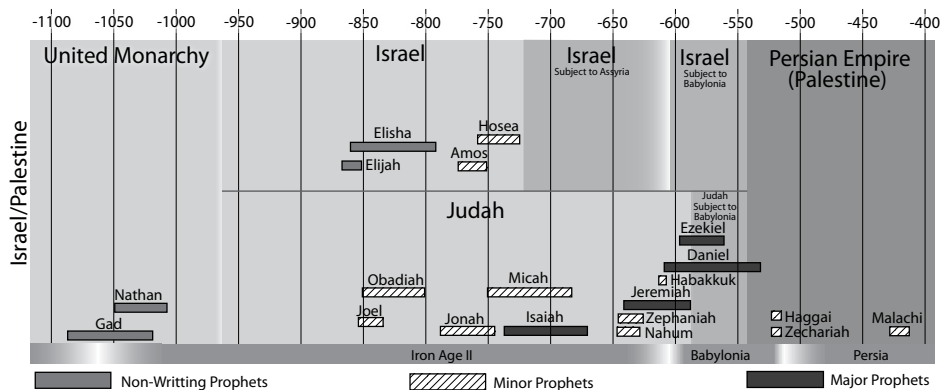


The Big Picture:

Here is a brief outline of the Old Testament history. The biblical materials that record the events that happened during each time period are included. The MINORS are in **bold**. Those in parenthesis are optional dates because of uncertainties.

1. The Age of the Beginnings (from Creation to 1800 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: Genesis 1-11
2. The Age of the Patriarchs (1800 to 1300 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: Genesis 12-50, Job
3. The Age of Moses (1300 to 1250 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: Exodus 1-40, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
4. The Age of the Conquest (1250 to 1200 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: Joshua
5. The Age of the Judges (1200 to 1020 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: Judges, Ruth, I Samuel 1-7
6. The Age of the United Monarchy (1020 to 922 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: I Samuel 8-31, II Samuel, I Kings 1-11, I Chronicles, II Chronicles 1-9
7. The Age of the Two Kingdoms (922 to 722 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: I Kings 12-22, II Kings 1-17, II Chronicles 10:1-28:5,
Amos, Joel, Hosea, Obadiah, Isaiah 1-12, Jonah, (Micah)
8. Judah from the Fall of the Ten Tribes to Her Own Fall (722 to 587 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL: II Kings 18:1-25:24, II Chronicles 28:26-36:20a, Isaiah 13-39,
Micah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, Daniel
9. The Babylonian Exile and the Resettling of Judah (587 to 150 B.C.)
BIBLICAL MATERIAL (for the Exile): II Kings 25:25-30, II Chronicles 36:20b-23, Ezra 1, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah 40-66, Daniel
BIBLICAL MATERIAL (for the resettling): Ezra 2-10, Nehemiah, Esther, **Haggai, (Obadiah), Zechariah, (Joel), Malachi**



Minors TEAM PROGRAM

Fall 2010

God called 12 guys during a 300-year period to be his voice. They were teammates who didn't always know each other. They are *The Minors* (often referred to as the Minor Prophets). Their lives and their messages were tough, but they changed the world and they have the power to do it again. This teaching series will let their voices be heard and the God behind them to speak again. We will listen to at least one of them through their book in the Bible each week. In order to help you along the journey, this Team Program has been created just for you.

The Lineup:

- September 12:** Hosea reminds us of God's unrelenting love wandering people.
- September 19:** Joel declares a day when we will come face-to-face with God.
- September 26:** Amos calls us to a consistent life of love and social justice.
- October 3:** Obadiah sees the problem of secular wisdom and unchecked evil.
- October 10:** Jonah's fish story challenges us to reach all nations.
- October 17:** Micah demands us to walk in harmony with God.
- October 24:** Nahum models for us how to stand and speak for God.
- October 31:** Habakkuk teaches us to trust God in difficult circumstances.
- November 7:** Zephaniah calls us to purity in belief and worship and ethics..
- November 14:** Haggai & Zechariah push people to truly put God first.
- November 22 (Thanksgiving):** Malachi warns us about spiritual apathy.

Who Were the PROPHETS?

Both the Greek and the Hebrew words for prophet mean, "one called by God to speak for God." That is pretty much who they were.

There were 100s of prophets and they are all over the Old Testament (i.e., Enoch, Miriam, Moses, Samuel, Gad), but only 16 had written books. The point of their books is not really to learn about them but to hear what God said through them.

Four prophets are called "The Major Prophets" because their books are long: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel. We aren't going to study them.

Twelve prophets are called "The Minor Prophets" because their books are short (not because they are less important). We are going to study them and what God said through them. **Amos** and **Hosea** were in the north and the rest were in the south.

They were "covenant enforcement mediators." Israel's law was a covenant with God that contained rules with punishments and blessings that God would deliver accordingly (Leviticus 26:1-39; Deuteronomy 4:15-28, 32-40; and Deuteronomy 28:1-32:42). The blessings fell into six categories: life, health, prosperity, agricultural abundance, respect, and safety. The curses fell into these categories (all beginning with "d" in case you want to memorize them): death, disease, drought, dearth, danger, destruction, defeat, deportation, destitution, and disgrace. The blessings and curses were always for the nation, not for individuals.

The prophets were more "forth-tellers" than "foretellers." They did predict some future events that have occurred (and a few that are yet to come), but mostly they spoke God's warnings and lessons about the present.

Why Follow THE MINORS

1. Their writings are part of God's Word, and an often-misunderstood part.
2. They model godly teaching and witnessing (with character, empathy, skill).
3. They were major players in history.
4. They influenced the history of the "game" (you can't understand the New Testament unless you understand The Minors).
5. Their messages are relevant to our lives today.
6. They show us the nature of God.
7. They show us the actions of God.
8. They were cool before it was cool to be cool.

Why They Were Recruited

They all played 760-460 B.C. Three major things prompted God to call in The Minors: 1) unprecedented political, military, economic, and social upheaval, 2) an enormous level of religious unfaithfulness and disregard for the original Mosaic covenant, and 3) shifts in populations and national boundaries.

A History of Their League

Israel was God's chosen people. They were a united nation led by Kings until 922 B.C. By 760 B.C. Israel was divided permanently, Israel (also called "Ephraim") in the north and Judah in the south.

The northern tribes were more disobedient and destruction came soon. **Amos** and **Hosea** announced the impending destruction. In 722 B.C., the north fell to Assyria.

Judah then became more and more sinful, and Babylon (a new superpower) was on the rise. **Joel**, **Micah**, **Nahum**, **Habakkuk**, **Zephaniah** and probably **Jonah** and **Obadiah** spoke about that until they were destroyed in 587 B.C.

After that destruction, God spoke through **Haggai**, **Zechariah**, and **Malachi** about the restoration of his people (which began with the return from Babylonian Exile in 538 B.C.), the rebuilding of the nation, and the reinstatement of orthodoxy.

Discerning the Signs (Interpreting Accurately)

Some of The Minors writings can get a little gummy and confusing. Like reading the signs of the third base coach, however, if you know what to look for, it's easier. Here are a few interpretation guidelines for the prophetic books. Use these when you study on your own, but, of course, you aren't on your own. Come Sundays and to C'Nex Group and we will do it together, sort of like a baseball team.

1. Know the HISTORY so you can understand what they are saying.
2. Think ORACLES (like thinking paragraphs in Paul's writings or verses in a Harry Carey song). Many of the books are collections of several oracles without any clear division. They are just lumped together.
3. Know the different FORMS of oracles. The prophets used different forms to teach. Here are the three most used: a) The LAWSUIT (ex: Hosea 3:3-17; 41-19). God is the prosecuting attorney, plaintiff, judge and bailiff; the court is called, the charge is made, evidence is presented, and judgment and punishment are given; b) The WOE (ex: Hab. 2:6-8; Micah 2:1-5; Zeph. 2:5-7). "Woe" was the term of grieving or an expression used when facing disaster ("woe is me"). There was an announcement of distress, the reason for the distress, and a prediction of doom; and c) The PROMISE (ex: Amos 9:11-15; Hosea 2:16-20; 2:21-23). It included reference to the future, mention of radical change, and a description of the coming blessing.
4. Some of the issues that are dealt with in the prophets directly apply to us today (ex: selling the needy for a pair of shoes, Amos 2:6; mixing modern idolatries with the Gospel, Hosea 13:2-4). When you see these, then directly APPLY them.
5. Follow this 1-2-3 PROCESS:
 - ▶ Listen to what the original hearers would have heard.
 - ▶ Find the timeless, theological principle.
 - ▶ Apply the principle to your daily life and win the game.