

Major
Prophets
Ezekiel
Lamentations
Daniel
Isaiah
Jeremiah

Minor
Obadiah
Amos
Malachi
Nahum
Zechariah
Joel
Habakkuk
Haggai
Jonah
Zephaniah
Micah
Hosea
Prophets

The Prophetic Books of the Old Testament

Prophets were men raised up of God in times of declension and apostasy in Israel. They were primarily revivalists and patriots, speaking on behalf of God to the heart and conscience of the nation. The prophetic messages have a twofold character: first, that which was local and for the prophet's time; secondly, that which was predictive of the divine purpose in future.

The terms **Major Prophets** and **Minor Prophets** are simply a way to divide these books.

The **Major Prophets** are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

The **Minor Prophets** are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The Minor Prophets are also sometimes called *The Twelve*.

The Major Prophets are described as "major" because their books are longer and their content has broad, even global implications. The Minor Prophets are described as "minor" because their books are shorter (although Hosea and Zechariah are almost as long as Daniel) and the content is more narrowly focused. That does not mean the Minor Prophets are any less inspired than the Major Prophets. It is simply a matter of God choosing to reveal more to the Major Prophets than He did to the Minor Prophets.

Both the Major and Minor Prophets are usually among the least popular books of the Bible for Christians to read. This is understandable with the often unusual prophetic language and the seemingly constant warnings and condemnations recorded in the prophecies. Still, there is much valuable content to be studied in the Major and Minor Prophets. We read of Christ's birth in Isaiah and Micah. We learn of Christ's atoning sacrifice in Isaiah. We read of Christ's return in Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah. We learn of God's holiness, wrath, grace, and mercy in all of the Major and Minor Prophets. For that, they are most worthy of our attention and study.

Chronological Order of the Prophets

I. Prophets Before the Exile

(1) To Nineveh Jonah, 862 B.C.

(2) To the 10 tribes "Israel" Amos, 787 B.C. Hosea, 785-725 B.C. Obadiah, 887 B.C. Joel, 800 B.C.

(3) To Judah, Jeremiah 626-582 B.C., Isaiah, 760-698 B.C. Micah, 750-710 B.C. Nahum, 713 B.C. Habakkuk, 626 B.C. Zephaniah, 630 B.C.

II. Prophets During the Exile

Ezekiel, 595-574 B.C. Daniel, 607-534 B.C.

III. Prophets After the Exile

Haggai, 520 B.C. Zechariah, 520-518 B.C. Malachi, 397 B.C.

Major Prophets--5 books

1. **Isaiah**--Looks at the sin of Judah and proclaims God's judgment. Hezekiah. Coming restoration and blessing.
2. **Jeremiah**--Called by God to proclaim the news of judgment to Judah, which came. God establishes a New Covenant.
3. **Lamentations**--5 lament poems. Description of defeat and fall of Jerusalem.
4. **Ezekiel**--He ministered to the Jews in Captivity in Babylon. Description of the end of times.
5. **Daniel**--Many visions of the future for the Gentiles and the Jews.

Minor Prophets--12 books

1. **Hosea**--Story of Hosea and his unfaithful wife, Gomer. Represents God's love and faithfulness and Israel's spiritual adultery. Israel will be judged and restored.
2. **Joel**--Proclaims a terrifying future using the imagery of locusts. Judgment will come, but blessing will follow.
3. **Amos**--He warned Israel of its coming judgment. Israel rejects God's warning.
4. **Obadiah**--A proclamation against Edom, a neighboring nation of Israel that gloated over Jerusalem's judgments. Prophecy of its utter destruction.
5. **Jonah**--Jonah proclaims a coming judgment upon Nineveh's people, but they repented and judgment was spared.
6. **Micah**--Description of the complete moral decay in all levels of Israel. God will judge but will forgive and restore.
7. **Nahum**--Nineveh has gone into apostasy (approx. 125 years after Jonah) and will be destroyed.
8. **Habakkuk**--Near the end of the kingdom of Judah, Habakkuk asks God why He is not dealing with Judah's sins. God says He will use the Babylonians. Habakkuk asks how God can use a nation that is even worse than Judah.
9. **Zephaniah**--The theme is developed of the Day of the Lord and His judgment with a coming blessing. Judah will not repent except for a remnant, which will be restored.
10. **Haggai**--The people failed to put God first by building their houses before they finished God's temple. Therefore, they had no prosperity.
11. **Zechariah**--Zechariah encourages the Jews to complete the temple. Many messianic prophecies.
12. **Malachi**--God's people are negligent in their duty to God. Growing distant from God. Moral compromise. Proclamation of coming judgment._____

Interesting Facts about the Major Prophets:

Isaiah:

1. There are 66 chapters in Isaiah
2. Isaiah means *the Lord Saves*.
3. Isaiah was ministering when the Northern Kingdom was taken captive by Assyria.
4. Isaiah's prophecies are mainly directed to the Southern Kingdom of Judah - Isaiah 1:1
5. *Esaias* is the Greek name for Isaiah found in the New Testament.
6. Isaiah's 66 chapters fall in line with the 66 books of the Bible.
7. Chapters 1 through 39 deal with the Judgment of Israel.
8. Chapters 40 through 66 deal with the Redemption of Israel.
9. Three excellent chapters in Isaiah are:
 - a) The calling of Isaiah - Chapter 6
 - b) The Devil - Chapter 14
 - c) The Lord's Crucifixion - Chapter 53
10. In Isaiah 14:12 the name Lucifer appears and is the only place in the Bible that refers to the Devil by that name.

Some fulfilled prophecies in Isaiah

1. The Virgin birth. (7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-28)
2. The Lord on His throne. (6: 1; John 12:41)
3. Every knee bowing to Jesus. (45:23; Philippians 2:10)
4. Jesus to sit and rule on David's throne. (9:6-7; Luke 1:31-33)
5. Jesus of the lineage of David. (11:1-2; Romans 15:2)
6. Jesus, the cornerstone laid in Zion. (28: 16; 1 Peter 2:6)
7. John the Baptist's preparatory work. (40:3-5; Matt. 3:3)
8. Christ's death on the cross. (53:1ff; Acts 8:32-35)
9. The Messiah's kingdom established. (2:2-4; Acts 2:16; 1 Timothy 3:15; Eph. 2:13)

Jeremiah:

1. Jeremiah contains 52 chapters.
2. Jeremiah was a prophet to the South.
3. Jeremiah was known as *the Weeping Prophet*.
4. God's phone number is Jeremiah 33:3.

Lamentations:

1. Lamentations was probably written shortly after the destruction of Jerusalem.
2. Lamentations is an Acrostic Arrangement which is a verse or arrangement of words in which certain letters in each line, as the first or last, when taken in order spell out a word, motto, etc.
3. In Lamentations each chapter has 22 verses or a multiple of 22 verses.
4. The 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet are used in succession to begin each verse in chapters 1-5.
5. In chapter 3 each of the 22 Hebrew letters are used in succession after every third verse.

Ezekiel:

1. Ezekiel is the Prophet of the Exile.
2. Ezekiel means *God Strengthens*.
3. There are 48 chapters in Ezekiel.
4. Ezekiel was a priest as well as a prophet.
5. Ezekiel chapter 28 describes the Devil.
6. Ezekiel probably knew Daniel.

Daniel:

1. The book of Daniel contains 12 chapters.
2. Daniel is the prophet of the exile.
3. Daniel means *God is Judge*.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ states that Daniel was a prophet.
5. Daniel is written in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages.
6. Daniel was of royal descent and rose to the highest position in the kingdoms of Babylon, Media, and Persia though a captive because he never compromised.

The Major & Minor Prophets

The division of *major* and *minor* prophets come from the Old Testament. There are 17 books of prophecy in the Old Testament and they are divided into two groups: the long books (the major prophets) and the short books (the minor prophets).

The Major Prophet books are:

1. **Isaiah**
2. **Jeremiah**
3. **Lamentations**
4. **Ezekiel**
5. **Daniel**

The Minor Prophet books are:

1. **Hosea**
2. **Joel**
3. **Amos**
4. **Obadiah**
5. **Jonah**
6. **Micah**
7. **Nahum**
8. **Habakkuk**
9. **Zephaniah**
10. **Haggai**
11. **Zechariah**
12. **Malachi**

Isaiah

I. **Condemnation (1-39) (The defeat of Assyria)**

- A. Sermons against Judah and Israel (1-12)
- B. Burdens of judgment on the other nations (13-23)
- C. Songs of future glory for the nation (24-27)
- D. Woes against the sins of the people (28-35)
- E. Historical Interlude (36-39) (King **Hezekiah**)
 - 1. His victory over Assyria (36-37)
 - 2. His sin with Babylon (38-39)

II. **Consolation (40-66) (The remnant returns home)**

- A. God's **Greatness** (40-48)
 - The true God vs. the false gods of the heathen
 - Emphasis on the Father, Jehovah God
- B. God's **Grace** (49-57)
 - The Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ, dies for men
 - Emphasis on the Son, Jesus Christ
- C. God's **Glory** (58-66)
 - The glory of the future kingdom and Emphasis on the Spirit (59:19, 21; 61:1; 63:10-14)

Jeremiah

Introduction—The prophet's call (1)

I. **National**—Messages to Judah (2-33)

- A. Condemnation (2-24)
 - 1. The nation generally (2-20)
 - 2. The leaders specifically (21-24)
- B. Captivity (25-29)
- C. Restoration (30-33)

II. **Personal**—Jeremiah's sufferings (34-45)

- A. Before the siege of **Jerusalem** (34-39)
- B. After the siege, with the remnant (40-45)

III. **International**—Messages to the nations (46-51)

- A. **Egypt** (46)
- B. **Philistia** (47)
- C. **Moab** (48)
- D. **Ammon** (49:1-6)
- E. **Edom** (49:7-22)
- F. **Syria, Kedar, Elam** (49:23-39)
- G. **Babylon** (50-51) (Babylon is mentioned **168** times in Jeremiah)

Conclusion—the Prophet's captivity and release (52)

Lamentations

This book is a series of “funeral poems” marking the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. It is written in acrostic form: each of the twenty-two verses in chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5 starts with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet; in chapter 3, there are three verses given to each letter. No book in the Bible reveals the suffering heart of God over sin as does this one. See Jer. 13:17 and Matt. 23:36-38.

Lamentations 1-5

This is a collection of five “lamentations” or “funeral dirges” commemorating the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Jeremiah was witness to this tragic event. His heart was broken as he saw Jerusalem and the temple destroyed, the people slain, and the prisoners taken off to captivity in Babylon. We can see the prophet’s tears all through the book. From this book we can learn five important lessons about God and His will.

- I. The **Awfulness** of God’s Judgments (1:1-6)
- II. The **Righteousness** of God’s Wrath (1:18-22)
- III. The **Truthfulness** of God’s Word (2:17)
- IV. The **Tenderness** of God’s Heart (1:12-16)
- V. The **Faithfulness** of God’s Mercy (3:18-36)

In times of trouble we need to imitate Jeremiah who looked away from himself to the Lord, and who waited on the Lord in patience and faith (3:24-26). Too often we look at ourselves and our problems and become so discouraged that we quit. Instead, we must “look away unto Jesus” (Heb. 12:1-2) and let Him see us through. It is difficult to wait on the Lord. Our fallen nature craves activity, and usually what we do only makes matters worse. Jeremiah waited on the Lord, trusted in His mercy, and depended on His faithfulness. He knew the truth of Isa. 40:31, “Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Ezekiel

I. The Ordination of the Prophet (1-3)

II. The Condemnation of Judah (4-24)

- A. A disobedient nation (4-7)
- B. A departed glory (8-11)
- C. A disciplined nation (12-24)

III. The Condemnation of the Gentile Nations (25-32)

IV. The Restoration of God's People (33-48)

- A. They return to their land (33-36)
- B. They experience new life and unity (37)
- C. They are protected from their enemies (38-39)
- D. They worship the Lord acceptably (40-48)

Daniel

I. The **Personal History of Daniel (1-6)**

- A. Maintaining his **godly** walk (1)
- B. Interpreting the “image dream” (2)
- C. The **golden** image—Daniel not present here (3)
- D. Interpreting the “tree dream” (4)
- E. Interpreting the **handwriting** on the wall (5)
- F. Maintaining his godly devotion—the lions’ **den** (6)

II. The **Prophetical Ministry of Daniel (7-12)**

- A. His vision of the **four** beasts (7)
- B. His vision of the **ram** and **he goat** (8)
- C. His prayer of confession—the **seventy** weeks (9)
- D. His final vision of the future (10-12)

The Kingdoms in Daniel: Keep in mind that **six** different kingdoms are identified in Daniel:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Babylon (606-539 B.C.) | 4. Rome (ca. 150 B.C.-ca. A.D. 500) |
| The head of gold (2:36-38) | Legs of iron (2:33, 40) |
| The lion with eagle’s wings (7:4) | The “dreadful beast” (7:7) |
| 2. Media-Persia (539-330 B.C.) | 5. Antichrist’s kingdom |
| Arms and chest of silver (2:32, 39) | Ten toes of iron and clay (2:41-43) |
| Bear with three ribs (7:5) | Little horn (7:8) |
| 3. Greece (330-ca. 150 B.C.) | 6. Christ’s kingdom |
| Thigh of brass (2:32, 39) | The stone that smites the image (2:34-35, 44-45) |
| Leopard with four heads (7:6) | The Ancient of Days (7:9-14) |

Minor Prophets--12 books

1. **Hosea**--Story of Hosea and his unfaithful wife, Gomer. Represents God's love and faithfulness and Israel's spiritual adultery. Israel will be judged and restored.
2. **Joel**--Proclaims a terrifying future using the imagery of locusts. Judgment will come, but blessing will follow.
3. **Amos**--He warned Israel of its coming judgment. Israel rejects God's warning.
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9. **Zephaniah**--The theme is developed of the Day of the Lord and His judgment with a coming blessing. Judah will not repent except for a remnant, which will be restored.
10. **Haggai**--The people failed to put God first by building their houses before they finished God's temple. Therefore, they had no prosperity.
11. **Zechariah**--Zechariah encourages the Jews to complete the temple. Many messianic prophecies.
12. **Malachi**--God's people are negligent in their duty to God. Growing distant from God. Moral compromise. Proclamation of coming judgment.

The Minor Prophet books are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Hosea</u> | 7. <u>Nahum</u> |
| 2. <u>Joel</u> | 8. <u>Habakkuk</u> |
| 3. <u>Amos</u> | 9. <u>Zephaniah</u> |
| 4. <u>Obadiah</u> | 10. <u>Haggai</u> |
| 5. <u>Jonah</u> | 11. <u>Zechariah</u> |
| 6. <u>Micah</u> | 12. <u>Malachi</u> |

The Minor Prophets

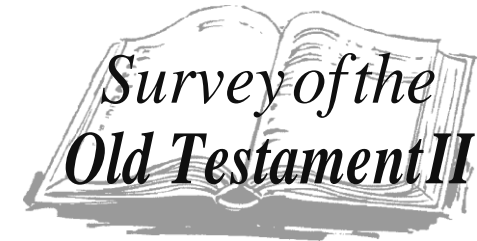
Books and Themes

1. Hosea (14)	- <u>Spiritual Adultery</u>	Key Verse 1:2
2. Joel (3)	- <u>The Day of the LORD</u>	Key Verse 1:15
3. Amos (9)	- <u>National Accountability</u>	Key Verse 4:12
4. Obadiah (1)	- <u>The Destruction of Edom</u>	Key Verse 1:10
5. Jonah (4)	- <u>Obedience</u>	Key Verse 1:3
6. Micah (7)	- <u>Purest Religion</u>	Key Verse 5:2
7. Nahum (3)	- <u>The Destruction of Nineveh</u>	Key Verse 2:13
8. Habakkuk (3)	- <u>The Mystery of Providence</u>	Key Verse 1:5
9. Zephaniah (3)	- <u>God's Searching Judgment</u>	Key Verse 1:12
10. Haggai (2)	- <u>Working for God First</u>	Key Verse 2:4
11. Zechariah (14)	- <u>The Hope of the Future</u>	Key Verse 1:3
12. Malachi (3)	- <u>Ignorant Opposition</u>	Key Verse 3:16

SCHOOL

Of the *Bible*

ISAIAH



AUTHOR

Isaiah= "*Salvation of Jehovah*" or "*Jehovah is salvation*"

- Greatest of the writing prophets
- Quoted more in NT than all other prophets combined (over 300 times)
- Speaks of the Messiah more than any other prophet
- Prophet primarily to Judah; ministered for 50+ years

DATE

- His life spanned the reigns of 4 kings of Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah (see 1:1)
- This time period was ca. 745-680 B.C.
- The historical setting of Isaiah is II Kings 14-21

THEME

"THE LORD, HIGH AND LIFTED UP"

• In Isaiah 's day, the northern kingdom was swiftly heading toward captivity, and Judah was moving steadily down the same path. God's people were in rebellion, and they needed a renewed vision of who God is.

- Isaiah presents Jehovah as...
 1. Lifted up on the Throne
 - *He is the Holy One who will judge sin (ch. 1-39)
 2. Lifted up on the Cross
 - *He is the Saviour who will bring comfort and salvation. (ch. 40-66)

OUTLINE

- I. Oracles of Retribution & Restitution (ch. 1-39)
- II. Oracles of Redemption & Consummation (ch. 40-66)

KEY VERSE

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

Isaiah 45:22

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Isaiah's favorite name for the Lord is "*Holy One of Israel*," used 25 times in the book.
- The book of Isaiah is a microcosm of the whole Bible:

<u>The Bible</u>	<u>The book of Isaiah</u>
66 books	66 chapters
O.T.-39 books	1st section-39 chapters
N.T.-27 books	2nd section-27 chapters
O.T. theme-Law	1st section theme-Judgment
N.T. theme-Grace	2nd section theme-Hope

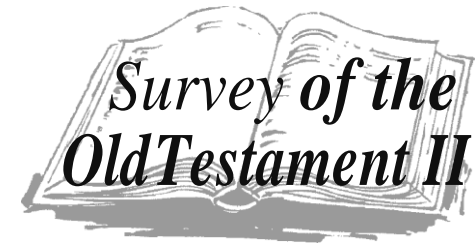
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- No other O.T. book reveals Christ in such fullness. Isaiah gives vivid prophecy of Christ's:
 1. Virgin birth (7:14)
 2. Sacrifice on Calvary (e.g. 50:6, 52:14, 53:1-12)
 3. Future kingdom reign (e.g. 59:20, 60:18-21)
- Isaiah 53 is the greatest O.T. passage on the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SCHOOL BIBLE

JEREMIAH

BOOK OF WARNING



AUTHOR

- Jeremiah - He is known as "the weeping prophet."
- His ministry lasted over 40 years.
- He was called by God from the womb (1:4-10).
- He showed sympathy and compassion for his people, yet he was utterly faithful to declare the Word of God. (e.g. 4:18-19; 8:20-22; 20:8-9)

DATE

- Jeremiah ministered from ca. 626-580 B.C.
- He is the prophet of Judah's midnight hour, ministering just before and during her captivity by Babylon.
- The historical setting is found in II Kings 22-25.

THEME

"THE FALL OF JERUSALEM"

- The judgment on Judah that was foretold by Isaiah one hundred years earlier is now witnessed by Jeremiah. He is called to speak for God as Judah runs her final lap of iniquity and plunges into destruction. (see Jer. 5:14)
- Jeremiah's message is two-fold...
 - I. Judgment is at hand.
 - *God will exercise His wrath to the full. (See Jer. 19:1-13 - a broken vessel)
 - II. Restoration is promised.
 - *God will express His love to the end. (See Jer. 18:1-6 - a vessel made over again!)

OUTLINE

- Introduction - Jeremiah's Commission (ch. 1)
 - I. Prophecies, General & Undated (ch. 2-20)
 - II. Prophecies, Particular & Dated (ch. 21-39)
 - III. Prophecies After the Fall of Jerusalem (ch. 40-44)
 - IV. Prophecies Upon Gentile Nations (ch. 45-51)
- Conclusion - Jerusalem is Overthrown (ch. 52)

KEY VERSE

"For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me the fountain of living water, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

Jeremiah 2:13

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Other prophets who ministered during Jeremiah's days: Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, Ezekiel
- Jeremiah was told by God not to marry. This was a sign to God's people. (16:1-11)
- The key words in the book are "return" & "tum."

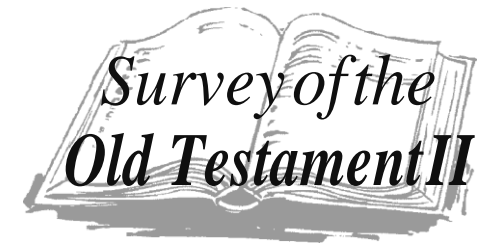
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the Balm of Gilead. (8:22)
- Christ is the Hope of Israel. (14:8)
- Christ is the Righteous Branch. (23:5a)
- Christ is the reigning King. (23:5b)

SCHOOL BIBLE

LAMENTATIONS

BOOK OF MOURNING



AUTHOR

- Jeremiah - He is a prophet with a broken heart.
- This book is an "appendix" to the previous book.
- The writings of both books revolve around the fall of Jerusalem to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

DATE

- Jerusalem fell on July 19, 586 B.C. and the city and temple were burned and destroyed just a few weeks later.
- Lamentations was written soon after this tragedy.

THEME

"THE FUNERAL OF A CITY"

- This five-fold poem has been called "an elegy written in a graveyard." It is "a cloudburst of grief, a river of tears, a sea of sobs." (Baxter)
- The prophet's sorrow is a reflection of the Lord's sorrow.
 1. He sorrows *over* His people, because of their sin.
 2. He sorrows *with* His people, as they are chastised.
- In the midst of overwhelming sorrow, there is hope!
Lamentations 3:21-32 is the heart of the book and the hope of the prophet. Our hope is in our merciful God.

OUTLINE

- I. Jerusalem's Plight (ch. 1)
- II. Jehovah's Anger (ch. 2)
- III. Jeremiah's Grief (ch. 3)
- IV. Jehovah's Anger (ch. 4)
- V. Jerusalem's Prayer (ch. 5)

KEY VERSE

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

SPECIAL FEATURES

- This book is a five-fold Hebrew poem given in the form of an acrostic. Chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5 each have 22 verses. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, and each verse begins with the next consecutive letter. Chapter 3 is 66 verses; the acrostic is maintained, but verses are given in triplets.
 - *Jeremiah is expressing his utter brokenness and complete sorrow--he is weeping "from A to Z."

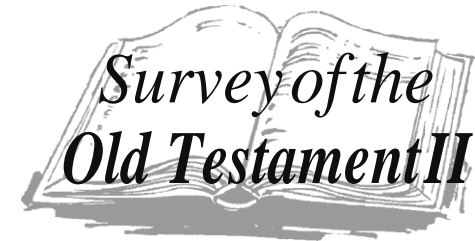
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Jeremiah himself is a picture of the Lord Jesus. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
(Matthew 16:13-14; 23:37-39)

SCHOOL BIBLE

EZEKIEL

BOOK OF THE [LORD'S] GLORY



AUTHOR

- Ezekiel - His name means "God strengthens me."
- He was a priest, then called to be a prophet (1:3).
- He was taken captive during the second siege of Jerusalem by Babylon (1:1).

DATE

- Ezekiel's ministry spanned from 592-571 B.C.
- He was the prophet among the captives in Babylon while Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem, and while Daniel ministered in the palace.

THEME

"Gav's GLORY, LOST & REGAINED "

- Ezekiel was one of three men to have a vision of God in His glory (Isaiah, Ezekiel, & John). He speaks about *"the glory of the LORD"* 11 times in the first 11 chapters.
- His message is two-fold:
 1. The Glory is Gone! (ch.I - 33:20)
 - *God's judgment on His people and His city
 2. The Glory Will Come Again! (33:21 - ch. 48)
 - *God's coming mercy on His people and His city
- Over 70 times we read the phrase, *"they shall know that I am the LORD."* God makes Himself known in His judgments (in removing the glory), and God makes Himself know in His mercy (in restoring the glory).

OUTLINE

- Introduction - Ezekiel's vision & call (ch. 1-3)
 - I. Present Judgments on Jerusalem (ch. 4-24)
 - II. Future Destinies of Nations (ch. 25-39)
 - III. The Final Temple, Worship, & City (ch. 40-48)

KEY VERSE

"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me."

Ezekiel 33:7

SPECIAL FEATURES

- An emphasis is laid on the working of the Spirit of God. No less than 15 times Ezekiel refers to the leading of the Spirit of the Lord.
 - Isaiah* - prophet of faith - emphasizes the Son
 - Jeremiah* - prophet of love - emphasizes the Father
 - Ezekiel* - prophet of hope - emphasizes the Spirit
- Ezekiel's prophecies are filled with visions, symbolic actions (12:6), symbolic stories, and apocalyptic imagery.

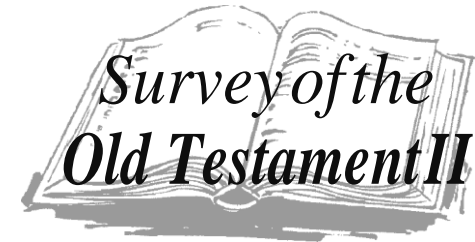
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Over 90 times in this book, Ezekiel is called *"son of man."* This is Christ's favorite title for Himself.
- Christ is the rightful King (21:26-27).
- Christ is the tender Twig (17:22-24; cf. Is. 53:2)

SCHOOL BIBLE

DANIEL

BOOK OF WORLD KINGDOMS



AUTHOR

- Daniel - His name means "God is my judge."
- He was taken captive during the first siege of Jerusalem by Babylon (605 B.C.).
- What John is to the apostles, Daniel is to the prophets. Both were "beloved"; both received visions from God.
- Daniel is a picture of unwavering godliness. He is one of the few men in the Bible about whom nothing evil is said.

DATE

- Daniel ministered during the entire 70 years of captivity and lived to be about 90 years old.
- He probably wrote this book ca. 530 B.C.

THEME

"TT-TE GODLESS KINGDOMS & THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

- Daniel's prophecies reveal the rising and falling of the Gentile nations and the coming kingdom of God. All the kingdoms of earth have an end, but the kingdom of God will last forever.
- Daniel is the prophet of *"the times of the Gentiles."* (See Lk. 21:24.) This is the time period in which the Gentile nations have dominion over Israel. It began with the Babylonian captivity, and it will end when Christ comes to rule and reign at His Second Advent.

OUTLINE

- Introduction - Jews in a Gentile world (ch. 1)
 - I. Historic Narratives - Gentile Nations (ch. 2-7)
 - II. Apocalyptic Visions - The Hebrew Nation (ch. 8-12)

KEY VERSE

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Daniel 2:44

SPECIAL FEATURES

- The interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream reveals the unfolding of Gentile dominion on earth. (2:31-45)
- This book is filled with the supernatural (i.e. fiery furnace, den of lions, handwriting on the wall, etc.).
 - *These miracles were signs:
 1. To discouraged, unbelieving Jews
 2. To heathen, unbelieving Gentiles

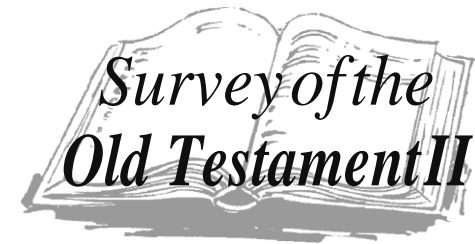
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the Stone. (2:35, 45)
- Christ is the Ancient of days. (7:9)
- Christ is the Prince of princes. (8:25)
- Christ is the Messiah. (9:25)

SCHOOL BIBLE

HOSEA

Book of God's
Faithfulness



AUTHOR

- Hosea - He is the prophet of Israel's zero hour.
- He was primarily a prophet to the northern kingdom, Israel, and he was ministering when Israel was conquered by Assyria (722 B.C.)

DATE

- Hosea's ministry took place ca. 754-714 B.C.
- This was a time of unprecedented spiritual darkness and political unrest in Israel. The historical setting is found in II Kings 15-17.

THEME

"UNFATTHFUL ISRAEL & HER FATTHFUL Goo"

- In chapters 1-3 we read of tragedy in Hosea's marriage. His wife, Gomer, went into adultery and harlotry. Hosea was outraged, yet he continued to love her, and, eventually redeemed her back to himself.
- Hosea's persevering love served as a picture of Jehovah's undying love for Israel. She had gone after other gods and was guilty of spiritual adultery. She had been unfaithful, but God had remained faithful to her.
- As Gomer had sinned against the love of Hosea, so Israel had sinned against the love of God. Israel had sinned not only against God's *law*, but also against God's *love*!

OUTLINE

- I. The Prologue, a Symbolic Story (ch. 1-3)
- II. Israel's Sin Intolerable: God Is Holy (ch. 4-7)
- III. Israel Shall Be Punished: God Is Just (ch. 8-10)
- IV. Israel Shall Be Restored: God Is Love (ch. 11-14)

KEY VERSE

"Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."

Hosea 4:1

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Hosea often uses "*Ephraim*" to refer to the entire northern kingdom because it was the largest of the ten tribes.
- Hosea was contemporary with Isaiah and Micah. They were prophets to Judah, the southern kingdom, while Hosea was a prophet to Israel, the northern kingdom.

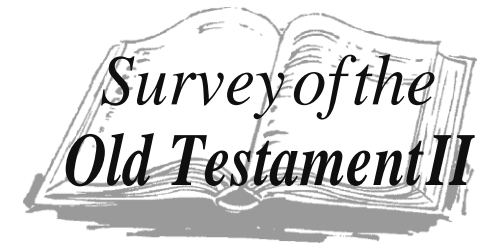
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Hosea pictures Christ in that he suffered over sin, he loved the unlovely, and he went after the one in sin to redeem that one back to himself

SCHOOL BIBLE

JOEL

Book OF THE
DAY OF THE LORD



AUTHOR

- Joel - his name means "*Jehovah is God*"
- He was a prophet primarily to Judah during the reign of King Joash

DATE

- This book was written ca. 835-796 B.C.
- Many believe Joel to be the oldest of the writing prophets. He may have known Elijah & Elisha.

THEME

"THE DAY OF THE LORD"

The phrase "*day of the LORD*" is used 30 times in the O.T., five times in this book. It refers to two distinct "days":

1. The Immediate "*Day of the LORD*"

-In Joel's day, this was an invasion of locusts (1:1-7; 2:1-11)

2. The Impending "*Day of the LORD*"

-This is when God will judge all Gentile nations and restore Judah & Jerusalem (2:28-3:21)

- The first "*day of the LORD*" was literally fulfilled, and the second will be also!

OUTLINE

- I. An Alarm - Invasion by Plague (1:1-2:11)
- II. An Appeal - Eleventh-hour Hope (2:12-27)
- III. An Annex - On the After Days (2:28-3:21)

KEY VERSE

"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."

Joel 2:13

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Joel is the "prophet of the Pentateuch."
 - This book includes 25 references to the Books of Moses.
 - The invasion of locusts had been foretold by Moses (Deut. 28:38-39)
- Joel is also called the "prophet of Pentecost."
 - Acts 2:14-21 is a partial fulfillment of Joel 2:28-29. (Note: The perfect/complete fulfillment will be during the end times.)

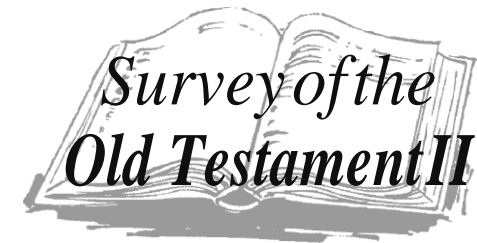
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- As Joel promised the coming of the Spirit, so did Christ (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:13)
- Compare Joel 3:16 and John 3:16 -- Christ is the Saviour and Hope in both!

SCHOOL BIBLE

AMOS

BOOK OF FIERY JUDGMENT



AUTHOR

- Amos -- His name means "burden-bearer." (1:1)
- He was not trained in the school of the prophets, but was a herdsman of Tekoa, a wilderness region west of the Dead Sea. (7:14-15)
- He prophesied in Israel, but was a native of Judah.

DATE

- This book was written ca. 765-755 B.C.
- Amos preached when Israel was at the zenith of her power (6:1). His ministry was just before that of Hosea.

THEME

" JUDGMENT FOR A BUS ED P RTVT LEGE"

I. The Privilege of the People

- *With great privilege comes great responsibility. Israel was privileged above all others (3:1-2).

II. The Promise of Judgment

- *Because Israel rejected God's Word sent through His prophets, God would send the fire of His judgment! (2:11-12; 4:2, 12; 5:21-27)
- *This is pictured clearly in the vision of the plumbline. Israel did not meet God's divine standard (7:7-9).

III. The Prospect of Restoration

- *In the future kingdom, Christ will restore Israel *"as in the days of old."* (9:11-15)

OUTLINE

- I. Eight "Burdens" (ch. 1-2)
- II. Three Sermons (ch. 3-6)
- III. Five "Visions" (ch. 7-9)

KEY VERSE

"Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

Amos 4:12

SPECIAL FEATURES

- The phrase *"thus saith the LORD"* occurs 40 times in this book. Amos spoke with authority, the authority of the Word of God.
- One narrative passage in the book shows us a great deal about Amos (7:10-17).
 1. His Call -- *"the LORD took me"*
 2. His Courage -- *"hear thou the word of the LORD"*
 3. His Conviction - *"thus saith the LORD..."*

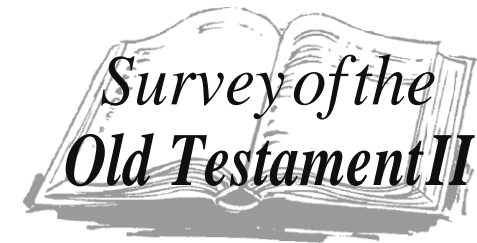
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Amos himself pictures Christ.
 - *He was of lowly birth. He depended wholly on God's Word. He was charged with treason . He suffered reproach from religious leaders.

SCHOOL BIBLE

OBADIAH

BOOK OF DOOM FOR EDOM



AUTHOR

- Obadiah - means "worshiper or servant of Jehovah"
- This was a common Hebrew name and is found many times in the Bible, but this is the only reference to this particular prophet.
- Obadiah is known as "the prophet of poetic justice."

DATE

- This book was written ca. 597 B.C., just a few years before the final destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon. (See Psalm 137:7.)

THEME

"THE EVTLs OF EDOM"

- This book is about judgment on Edom, a hostile kingdom in a rugged region called Mt. Seir, southeast of Judah.
- The Edomites, descendants of Esau, were antagonistic toward their brother, Jacob (the nation of Judah).
- There are two great truths emphasized:
 - I. *"Pride goeth before destruction."* (Prov. 16:18)
 - *Although Edom had many evils, at the root of them all was pride. (vs. 3a)
 - *Edom's pride gave them a false sense of security. (vs. 3-4)
 - II. *"whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."* (Gal. 6:7)
 - *As Edom had treated Judah with cruelty, so she would be judged cruelly. (vs. 9-10, 15-16)

OUTLINE

- I. The Destruction of Edom (vs. 1-16)
- II. The Salvation of Israel (vs. 17-21)

KEY VERSE

"The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?"

Obadiah 3

SPECIAL FEATURES

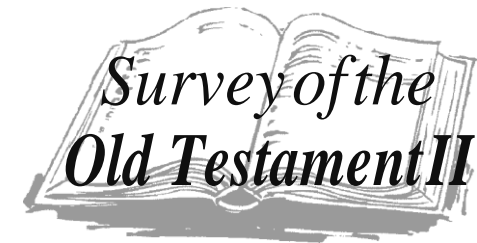
- The capital city of Edom was Sela, or Petra. This was considered to be an "impregnable" fortress. It was built within the rocks of a canyon in the mountains of Seir.
- The people of Edom, like their father Esau, were marked by a hardy earthiness. They were proud, profane, fierce, and cruel.
- Edom typifies the "natural man" & the "self-life." Notice how the description of this carnal nation parallels the life of a carnal man.

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the "LORD" of the "kingdom" - vs. 21
 - *He will destroy His enemies.
 - *He will reign in Mt. Zion.
 - *He will restore the nation of Israel.

SCHOOL BIBLE

JONAH BOOK of GOD'S MISSIONARY HEART



AUTHOR

- Jonah - He is known as "the runaway prophet."
- He was a prophet to the northern kingdom, Israel; but this book concerns his ministry to Nineveh, capital of the Assyrian empire.
- Jonah did not run from a *place*; he ran from a *Person!* (1 :3)

DATE

- Jonah's ministry dates ca. 784-772 B.C.
- He prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel (see II Kings 14:23-25).

THEME

"THE MERCY OF GOO"

- This book is about more than a boat, a storm, a fish, a gourd, and a worm. It gives us a two-fold picture of the mercy of God.
- I. God's Mercy on *Repenting Sinners* (Nineveh)
- A. Nineveh was a "*great city*." - great in size, but also great in its sinfulness. (1:2)
 - B. God honored their repentance and had mercy on the worst of sinners. (2:4-10)
- II. God's Mercy on a *Rebelling Saint* (Jonah)
- A. The fish was sent not to *punish* Jonah, but to *preserve* him and bring him back to God. (1:17, 2:1)
 - B. Over and over, God in His mercy worked in the life of His unwilling child.

OUTLINE

- I. Jonah and the Storm (ch. 1)
- II. Jonah and the Fish (ch. 2)
- III. Jonah and the City (ch. 3)
- IV. Jonah and the Lord (ch. 4)

KEY VERSE

"Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee."

Jonah 3:2

SPECIAL FEATURES

- In this book, we see the missionary heart of God.
 - *God's love extends to all people, not just Israel.
 - *Jonah is the first foreign missionary sent from Israel.
 - *The central statement of the book is found in Jonah 2:9, "*Salvation is of the LORD.*"
- In this story, God "*prepared*" four things: a great fish, a gourd, a worm, and a wind.
- The book of Jonah is filled with many miracles, both physical and spiritual.

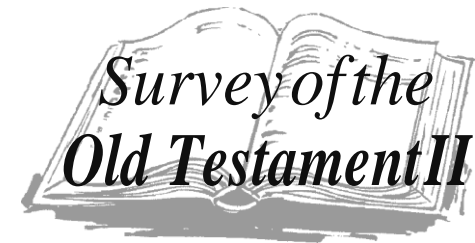
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Jonah is the only prophet in the O. T. to whom Christ likened Himself He was a "*sign*."
(See Mt. 12:39-41 & Lk. 11:29-32.)

SCHOOL BIBLE

MICAH

BOOK of THE GREAT QUESTION



AUTHOR

- Micah - his name means, "Who is like Jehovah?"
- This book is filled with questions, but it culminates with the great question in Micah 7:18, "*Who is a God like unto thee...?*" (Notice the play on Micah's name.)
- Micah was a prophet primarily to Judah and Jerusalem

DATE

- This book was written ca. 734-722 B.C.
- Micah was contemporary with Isaiah. Isaiah was probably older than Micah, and he likely ministered more among the upper class while Micah dealt more with the common people.

THEME

"PRESENT JUDGMENT BUT FUTURE BLESSING"

- I. Present Judgment -- due to the persistent unfaithfulness of God's people
 - Micah exposes the evils of God's people, particularly the corruption of her leaders (3:1-12).
- II. Future Blessing -- due to the unchanging faithfulness of God
 - Micah reveals the future kingdom (ch. 4) and the future King (ch. 5).

OUTLINE

- I. Imminent Judgment Declared (ch. 1-3)
- II. Ultimate Blessing Promised (ch. 4-5)
- III. Present Repentance Pleaded (ch. 6-7)

KEY VERSE

"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy."

Micah 7:18

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Micah presents the Lord as being holy and just, yet full of compassion and mercy.
 - *God's holiness/justice - (1:2-4; 5:15; 7:16-17)
 - *God's compassion/mercy - (6:3-4; 7:7; 7:18-19)
- In Micah's day, the people performed outward displays of worship (i.e. sacrifices) but were sinful in their private lives. Micah showed them the the essence of true religion is a personal walk with God. (See 6:7-8.)

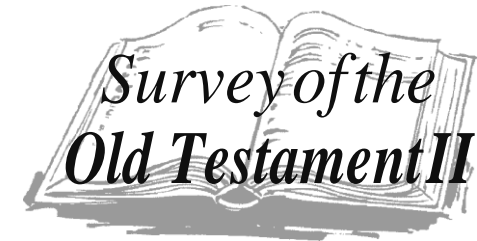
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the smitten Judge of Israel. (5:1)
- Christ is the Ruler of Israel. (5:2)

SCHOOL BIBLE

NAHUM

BOOK OF DOOM FOR NINEVEH



AUTHOR

- Nahum - very little is known of his personal life
- He was a prophet of Judah, but this book gives prophecy concerning the capital city of the Assyrian empire, Nineveh.

DATE

- This book was written ca. 663-612 B.C.
- At the beginning of Nahum's ministry, Nineveh was the world's greatest city and Assyria was the dominating world empire.

THEME

"GOD WILL JUDGE THE SINFUL & SPARE THE RIGHTEOUS"

- This entire book is a pronouncement of judgment upon Nineveh. The prophecies in this book were fulfilled in detail when Nineveh was utterly destroyed in 612 B.C.

I. Judgment to the Wicked - (see 1:2-6)

- Those who spurn the mercy of God will ultimately face the wrath of God -- *"The LORD... will not at all acquit the wicked."* (1:3)

II. Comfort to the Godly - (see 1:7)

- It is a comfort to know that evil-doers, in the end, will certainly be brought to justice by the righteous government of God.

OUTLINE

- I. The Certainty of Nineveh's Overthrow (ch. 1)
- II. The Siege and Capture of the City (ch. 2)
- III. The Wickedness Which Provokes Retribution (ch. 3)

KEY VERSE

"God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies."

Nahum 1:2

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Two books in the Minor Prophets deal with Nineveh - Jonah & Nahum.
 - * In Jonah's day, Nineveh was called to repentance and God sent revival.
 - * About 100 years later in Nahum's day, Nineveh was called to judgment and God destroyed them.
- Nineveh serves as a two-fold object lesson:
 1. A lesson for the present - godless kingdoms will fall
 2. A lesson for the future - Christ will judge all nations

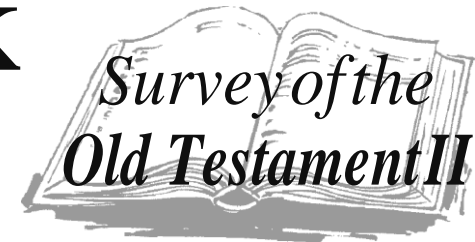
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is our Stronghold. (1:7)
- Christ is the Bringer of good tidings and peace. (1:15)

SCHOOL BIBLE

HABAKKUK

BOOK OF FAITH



AUTHOR

- Habakkuk - his name means "one who embraces"
- He was contemporary with Jeremiah

DATE

- This book was written ca. 622-605 B.C.
- Babylon's first siege of Jerusalem was in 605 B.C.
Jerusalem was fully destroyed in 586 B.C.

THEME

"THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH"

- This book is the record of a conversation between the Lord and the prophet Habakkuk as God reveals to him that judgment on Judah is at hand.

I. Ch. 1 - Habakkuk was a man with a burden.

- He desired for God to work in his nation.

II. Ch. 2 - Habakkuk waited for God to answer.

- The Lord said He would judge Judah & also Babylon.

III. Ch. 3 - Habakkuk prays for revival and praises God.

- He knew judgment was inevitable, yet he sought God for revival and rejoiced in the Lord.

- How did this prophet move from a burden to a blessing, from sobbing to singing? The answer is in the heart of the book--it is *"by faith"* (2:4).

OUTLINE

- I. A "Burden" (ch. 1)
- II. A "Vision" (ch. 2)
- III. A "Prayer" (ch. 3)

KEY VERSE

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

Habakkuk 2:4

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted three times in the N.T. --
Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, & Hebrews 10:38
- The nation of Israel had three great enemies of long ago -- the Edomites, the Assyrians, and the Babylonians.
 1. Obadiah - seals the fate of Edom
 2. Nahum - prophesies the destruction of Assyria
 3. Habakkuk - shows the judgment coming to Babylon

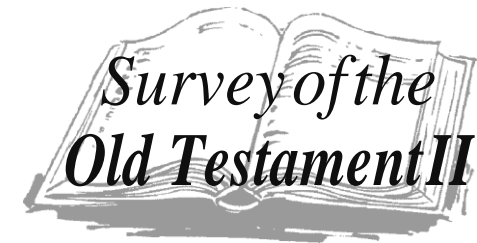
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the One who justifies by faith (2:4)
*See Acts 13:38-39 & Galatians 2:16.
- Christ is the God of our salvation. (3:18)

SCHOOL BIBLE

ZEPHANIAH

BOOK OF
DESTRUCTION & DELIVERANCE



AUTHOR

- Zephaniah - meaning, "hidden/protected by Jehovah"
- He ministered during the reign of Judah's last good king, King Josiah.
- It is likely that he was of royal blood.

DATE

- This book was written ca. 636-623 B.C.
- See II Kings 22-23 & II Chronicles 34-35 for the historical background of this time period.

THEME

"THROUGH JUDGMENT TO BLESSING"

- Zephaniah's two-fold message is seen by contrasting the beginning and ending of the book:

"I will utterly consume..." (1:2)

"I will make you a name and a praise..." (3:20)

I. The Fire of Judgment

- Judah's present sin called for present judgment.
- "The day of the LORD is at hand." (1:7, 14-18)* This prophecy was given 50 years before Judah's fall.

II. The Fulness of Blessing

- Even in the midst of present judgment, God has a glorious end and purpose in view.
- "The LORD hath taken away thy judgments." (3:15)*

OUTLINE

- I. Look Within! (1:1-2:3)
- II. Look Around! (2:4-3:8)
- III. Look Beyond! (3:9-20)

KEY VERSE

"And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil."

Zephaniah 1:12

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Zephaniah was contemporary with Jeremiah, although Jeremiah evidently outlived him by many years. (See Jer. 1:2)
- Zephaniah's message is marked by a tone of urgency for immediate action (1:14-15, 2:1-2). It is the prophet's role to awaken the unconcerned nation (1:12) by proclaiming the Word of God.

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the *"king of Israel."* (3:15)
- Christ is *"the LORD in the midst of thee."*
 - He is in the midst to *judge* (3:5).
 - He is in the midst to *save* (3:15-17).

SCHOOL BIBLE

HAGGAI

BOOK OF BUILDING



AUTHOR

- Haggai - (See 1:1, Ezra 5:1, 6:14)
- Haggai was contemporary with Zechariah.
- Haggai was born in captivity and went to Jerusalem in the first return under Zerubbabel.

DATE

- This book was written ca. 520 B.C.
- For the historical background, read Ezra 1-6.

THEME

"BUILD THE HOUSE"

I. The Indifference of God's People

- After Cyrus issued a decree for the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4), a remnant of about 50,000 returned from the land of captivity under the leadership of Zerubbabel.
- They laid the foundation of the temple within two years, but then the work ceased due to opposition. For fourteen years the work was at a standstill. Then God used Haggai and Zechariah the prophets to stir the people to finish the work and *"build the house."*

II. The Message of the Prophet

- A. It is time to build. (1:2, 8)
- B. It is time to consider. (1:4-7)
- C. It is time to be stirred up. (1:14)
- D. It is time to work. (2:4)
- E. It is time to believe God. (2:7, 9, 22)

OUTLINE

- I. First Message - To Arouse (1:1-15)
- II. Second Message - To Support (2:1-9)
- III. Third Message - To Confirm (2:10-19)
- IV. Fourth Message - To Assure (2:20-23)

KEY VERSE

"Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD."

Haggai 1:8

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Key lessons learned from Haggai:
 1. A lesson about *blessing*. (1:9, 2:18-19)
 - *If we obey the Lord and take care of His work, He will take care of us. (Mt. 6:33)
 2. A lesson about *building*. (1:8)
 - *The only motive we should have in doing a work for God is to please and glorify Him.
 3. A lesson about *Bible preaching*. (1:13-14)
 - *The hearts of the people were stirred to obedience by the preaching of God's Word.

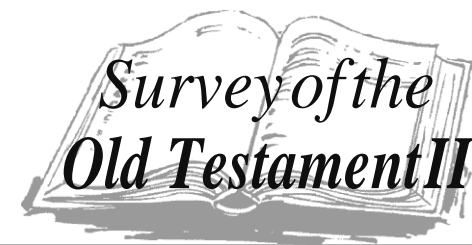
CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the *"desire of all nations."* (2:7)
- The glory of this temple would be greater because the King of glory Himself would walk in this temple! (2:9)

SCHOOL BIBLE

ZECHARIAH

BOOK OF ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR GOD'S PEOPLE



AUTHOR

- Zechariah - His name means "the LORD remembers."
- His lineage given in 1:1 reveals that he was a priest.
- He was called to be a prophet just two months after Haggai (compare Haggai 1:1 & Zechariah 1:1).

DATE

- It is likely that chapters 1-8 were written during the temple construction (520-516 B.C.) and chapters 9-14 were written after the temple's completion.

THEME

"My HOUSE SHALL BE BUILT"

- Zechariah is the companion prophet of Haggai. Both preached to stir the remnant to rebuild the temple.
- This book is a message of great encouragement. It shows how the people could complete the work:
 1. God's *favor* was upon them. (1:14, 16; 2:8)
 2. God's *presence* was with them. (2:10-12)
 3. God's *power* was upon them. (4:6)
 4. God's *promises* were extended to them. (8:1-8)

*If the remnant had believed these things, they would never have stopped building in the first place!

OUTLINE

- I. Early Prophecies: Temple being rebuilt (ch. 1-8)
- II. Later Prophecies: After temple rebuilt (ch. 9-14)

KEY VERSE

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah 4:6

SPECIAL FEATURES

- This book is the longest of the Minor Prophets.
- There are at least 7 different visions in the book. These are not visions of judgment. Each one was meant to be an encouragement to the Jews.
- The phrase, "*the LORD of hosts*" is found 52 times in the book. This title means, "the God of all the armies of heaven."

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

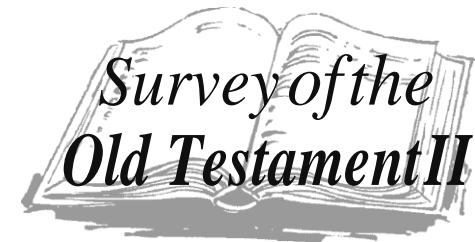
• There are more prophecies of Christ in Zechariah than any other book except Isaiah. For example:

1. The Branch (3:8)
2. Priest & King (6:13)
3. The pierced One (12:10)
4. The smitten Shepherd (13:7)
5. King of all the earth (14:9)

SCHOOL BIBLE

MALACHI

BOOK OF THE LAST CALL



AUTHOR

- Malachi - his name means "messenger of Jehovah."
- He was a contemporary of Nehemiah.
- He was the last prophetic voice of the Old Testament.
 - *After Malachi, the voice of prophecy was silenced for about 400 years.

DATE

- The book was most likely written ca. 430-397 B.C.
 - *This was after the time of Nehemiah's governorship and about 85 years after Haggai & Zechariah.

THEME

"FINAL APPEALS & FINAL PROMISES"

- After the reforms under Nehemiah, the Jews once again fell into sin. It is sad to see what little progress they made since their beginning (1500 years earlier, Gen. 12).
- The remnant had been back in Canaan for 100 years. They had become indifferent to God's promise. Their religious life was characterized by hypocritical formalism and irreverence.

I. Final Appeals

- *Sin of the future Pharisees - formalism/hypocrisy (2:1-3)
- *Sin of the future Sadducees - skepticism (notice the eight sarcastic questions in the book)

II. Final Promises (3:16-18)

- *God promised to remember those that fear Him

OUTLINE

- I. An Appeal - in view of present sin (ch. 1-2)
- II. An Appeal - in view of the coming "day" (ch. 3-4)

KEY VERSE

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:1

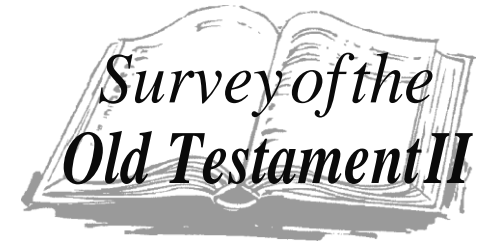
SPECIAL FEATURES

- This book is a conclusion to the O.T. (4:4) and a connection to the N.T. (4:5-6).
- The "Elijah" of 4:5-6 is John the Baptist (Lk. 1:13-17).
- In this book, the people say, "Ye say..." eleven times; Malachi answers, "Thus saith the LORD..." 25 times.

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- Christ is the Messenger of the covenant. (3:1)
- Christ is the Refiner and Purifier. (3:3)
- Christ is the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings. (4:2)

SCHOOL BIBLE



RECOMMENDED READING & RESOURCES

Exploring the Scriptures, by John Phillips

Explore the Book, by J. Sidlow Baxter

Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament, by Irving L. Jensen

The Prophets of Israel, by Leon J. Wood

The Treasury of David (Book of Psalms), by C.H. Spurgeon

Our God and His Children (Psalm 1-13), by Clarence Sexton

His Way Is Perfect (Psalm 14-24), by Clarence Sexton

The Lord Is my Shepherd (Psalm 23), by Clarence Sexton

The Glory Due His Name (Psalm 25-37), by Clarence Sexton

The Conclusion of the Whole Matter - Vols. 1,2 (Ecclesiastes), by Clarence Sexton

Door of Hope (Hosea), by Clarence Sexton

Lord, Send a Revival (Habakkuk), by Clarence Sexton

World's Bible Handbook, by Robert T. Boyd

Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, by Merrill C. Tenney

Baker's Bible Atlas, by Charles F. Pfeiffer