

THE  
— — — — —  
MINOR  
PROPHETS

THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

&

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

# The Prophetical 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. 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.
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..
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**--God deals with Judah's sins by using the Babylonians. Habakkuk asks how God can use a nation that is worse than Judah.
9. **Zephaniah**--The theme is developed of the Day of the Lord and His judgment with a coming blessing.
10. **Haggai**--The people failed to put God first by building their houses before they finished God's temple. Therefore, 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 judgment.

**ZEPHANIAH**THE MESSENGER (1<sup>1</sup>)    THE MESSAGE (1<sup>2-5</sup>)**A. FOREIGN** (1<sup>4</sup>-2<sup>3</sup>)

1. DESERVED (4-6)  
 2. DECLARED (7-9)  
 3. DESCRIBED (10-17)  
 4. DEFLECTED (1-3)

**B. FOREDOOMED** (2<sup>4-15</sup>)

1. WEST ~ Philistia (4-7)  
 2. EAST ~ Moab, Ammon (8-11)  
 3. SOUTH ~ Egypt, Ethiopia (12)  
 4. NORTH ~ Assyria (13-15)

**C. FUTURE** (3<sup>1-20</sup>)

## 1. CURSE ~ divine justice (1-8)

*a. NATIONAL OBSTINACY (1-7)*

- i. Rebellious (1-4)    ii. Resisting (5-7)

*b. INTERNATIONAL OBLITERATION (8)*

## 2. BLESSING ~ divine mercy (9-20)

*a. INTERNATIONAL GODLINESS (9)**b. NATIONAL GLADNESS (10-20)*

- i. Rejoicing (10-17)    ii. Returning (18-20)

**HAGGAI**1. **A** **PEOPLE** (1<sup>1-11</sup>) 1/6/2

YOUR HOUSES - DECORATED  
 MY HOUSE - DEVASTATED

2. **A** **PEOPLE** (1<sup>12-15</sup>) 2/4/6/2

FEARED THE LORD  
 OBEYED THE LORD

3. **A** **PEOPLE** (2<sup>1-9</sup>) 2/1/7/2

FORMER HOUSE - GLORIOUS  
 LATTER HOUSE - GREATER

4. **A** **PEOPLE** (2<sup>10-19</sup>) 2/4/9/2

CLEAN DOESN'T MAKE DIRTY CLEAN  
 DIRTY DOES MAKE CLEAN DIRTY

5. **A** (2<sup>20-23</sup>) 2/4/9/2

OTHER THRONES OVERTURNED  
 THIS THRONE OCCUPIED