

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 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)

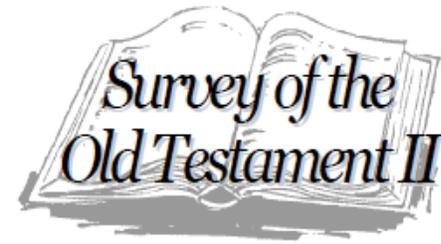
II. **Consolation** (40-66) (The remnant returns home)

- 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)

SCHOOL of the BIBLE

ISAIAH

BOOK OF SALVATION



AUTHOR

Isaiah = “_____ of Jehovah” or “_____ is salvation”

- ♦Greatest of the writing prophets
- ♦Quoted more in NT than all other prophets combined (over _____ 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: _____, _____, _____, & _____ (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, _____ AND _____ 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. _____ up on the Throne
*He is the Holy One who will judge sin (ch. 1-39)
 2. _____ up on the Cross
*He is the Saviour who will bring comfort and salvation. (ch. 40-66)

OUTLINE

- I. Oracles of Retribution & _____ (ch. 1-39)
- II. Oracles of Redemption & _____ (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 _____ 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. _____ (7:14)
 2. Sacrifice on _____ (e.g. 50:6, 52:14, 53:1-12)
 3. Future kingdom reign (e.g. 59:20, 60:18-21)
- ♦Isaiah _____ is the greatest O.T. passage on the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.