

MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Hephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

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Introduction and Quick Look Charts for

THE MINOR PROPHETS

Harvest Bible College

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CHART OF THE 12 MINOR PROPHETS showing time line with Major Prophets

Compiled by Darline Royer - using dates from *Popular Survey of the Old Testament*, Norman Geisler

	BIBLICAL ORDER	CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER with Major Prophets Included	SCRIPTURE Reference
MAJOR	Isaiah		Reference relate
PROPHETS	Jeremiah - Lamentations		to books listed in
	Ezekiel		chronological
	Daniel		order in 2nd
Pre-Exilic	MINOR PROPHETS		column:
	1 Hosea	Obadiah (840-830) ?	II Kings 8-12
	2 Joel	Joel (830-820) ?	II Kings 12
	3 Amos	Jonah (780-760)	II Kings 14
	4 Obadiah	Amos (755-750)	II Kings 14
	5 Jonah	Hosea (760-710)	II Kings 14-17
	6 Micah	Isaiah (740-690)	II Kings 15-21
		Micah (735-700)	II Kings 15-20
	ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY	722 B.C. - Northern Kingdom	
	7 Nahum	Nahum (650-620)	II Kings 21-23
	8 Habbakuk	Zephaniah (630-620)	II Kings 22-23
	9 Zephaniah	Habbakuk (620-605)	II Kings 22-24
		Jeremiah (625-585)	II Kings 22-25
	BABYLONIAN EXILE - Temple destroyed, Judah to captivity	586 B.C. - Jerusalem attacked in 3 waves: 605, 597, 586)	
Exilic		Lamentations (585-580)	II Kings 25
		Ezekiel (593-570)	II Kings 24-25
		Daniel (606-530)	II Kings 23-25
Post-Exilic	RETURN FROM EXILE 538 B.C.	<i>539 BC - Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. 538 B.C. Jews return from exile.</i>	Ezra 1-4
	10 Haggai	Haggai (520 - ?)	Ezra 5-6
	11 Zechariah	Zechariah (520-480)	Ezra 5-6
	TEMPLE REBUILT 70 years after its destruction	(516 B.C.) Jeremiah 25:12; 29:10	
	12 Malachi	Malachi (430-420)	Nehemiah 13

Main Themes of the Prophetic Books

1. *One true God.* Only the Lord, the God of Abraham, is the true God, creator of the universe. All other claims to divinity are false.
2. *God is Holy.* Holiness is in God's very being. God's holiness means that he is not part of nature but is its Creator. God is beyond his creation. For this reason, any attempt to represent God—make an image of him—becomes idolatry. God cannot be manipulated with offerings or sacrifices. Because of his holiness, God does not tolerate sin. Sin offends God because it is the opposite of what he desires for his creation.
3. *God is Sovereign.* As the creator of all, God rules and owns it all. The best image to express this truth is that God is King. Yet, because he is beyond the created world and our own experience, God is much more than just a king. He is the King of kings. Nature is under God's rule, as are the nations and his people.
4. *God is Merciful and Full of Grace.* Although God is holy and sovereign, he is interested in humanity and his creation. God is deeply involved in what humans do and do not do. His willingness to send prophets to correct, warn, comfort, and guide his people shows this interest. Mercy and grace are also part of God's nature.
5. *God is Just and Good.* Because of his great mercy, God has shown amazing patience with his people and faithfulness to his covenant. The prophets make it clear that God wishes his people to be obedient and repentant, he wishes to forgive and transform them. Yet, he will punish and discipline in love when necessary.
6. *The Torah.* The prophets alluded, quoted, enforced, and applied the law of Moses to specific events, persons, or circumstances.
7. *The Covenant.* God's activities, both his promises of restoration and his acts of judgment, spring from his faithfulness to his covenant.
8. *The Exile and Restoration.* The exiles to Assyria in 722 BC and to Babylon around 586 BC became a central theme. The prophets warned, called to repent, announced God's judgment upon Israel, and explained the reasons for exile. However, they also comforted the people with assurances that God would save and restore them.
9. *The Messiah.* The central component of the prophets' announcement of salvation was the coming of a special person who would represent, save, and restore Israel.

SUMMARY VIEW OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

BOOK	Book Titles from <i>Overseas Ministries</i> Textbook by Jet Witherspoon	Key Subject of Book (Selected from <i>Bible Overview</i> , p. 103)
Hosea	Prophet of Love	Israel's unfaithfulness to their covenant God
Joel	Prophet of Pentecost	The great and terrible day of the Lord
Amos	Prophet of Justice	God's judgment on Israel for their injustice and lack of mercy
Obadiah	Prophet of Edom	God's judgment upon Edom
Jonah	Reluctant Prophet	God's judgment upon Nineveh; yet God's mercy extends to all
Micah	Prophet of the Oppressed	God's judgment upon Israel and Judah for their wickedness
Nahum	Prophet of Assyria	God's judgment on Nineveh for their cruelty against God's people
Habbakuk	Prophet of Complaint and Faith	God's judgment, justice, love, and mercy
Zephaniah	The Orator	A call to repentance before the coming judgment on the day of the Lord
Haggai	Prophet of Temple Building	A call to rebuild the temple and a message of hope
Zechariah	Prophet of Inspiration and Hope	A call to rebuild the temple and a message of future glory
Malachi	Prophet of Rebuke	A call to spiritual renewal

1. Know the names of the Minor Prophets (in biblical order) and be able to spell them correctly.
2. Learn the OM phrase which describes a key characteristic of each of the prophets.
3. Develop your personal summary of each book as follows: 12 summaries

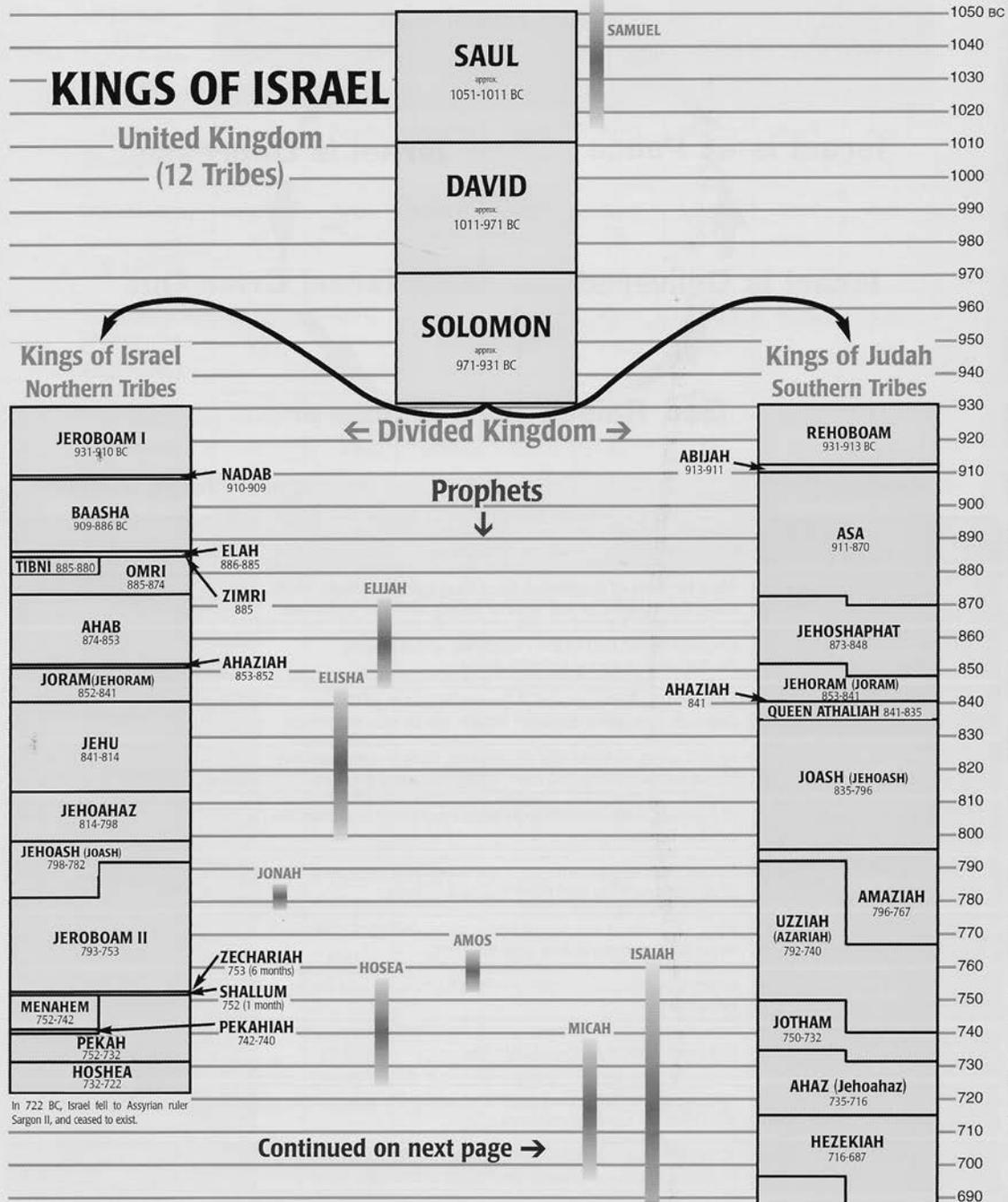
The Prophet's Message to Me (no longer than one double-spaced page)

Title: (A title that relates the message of Hosea to your personal life)

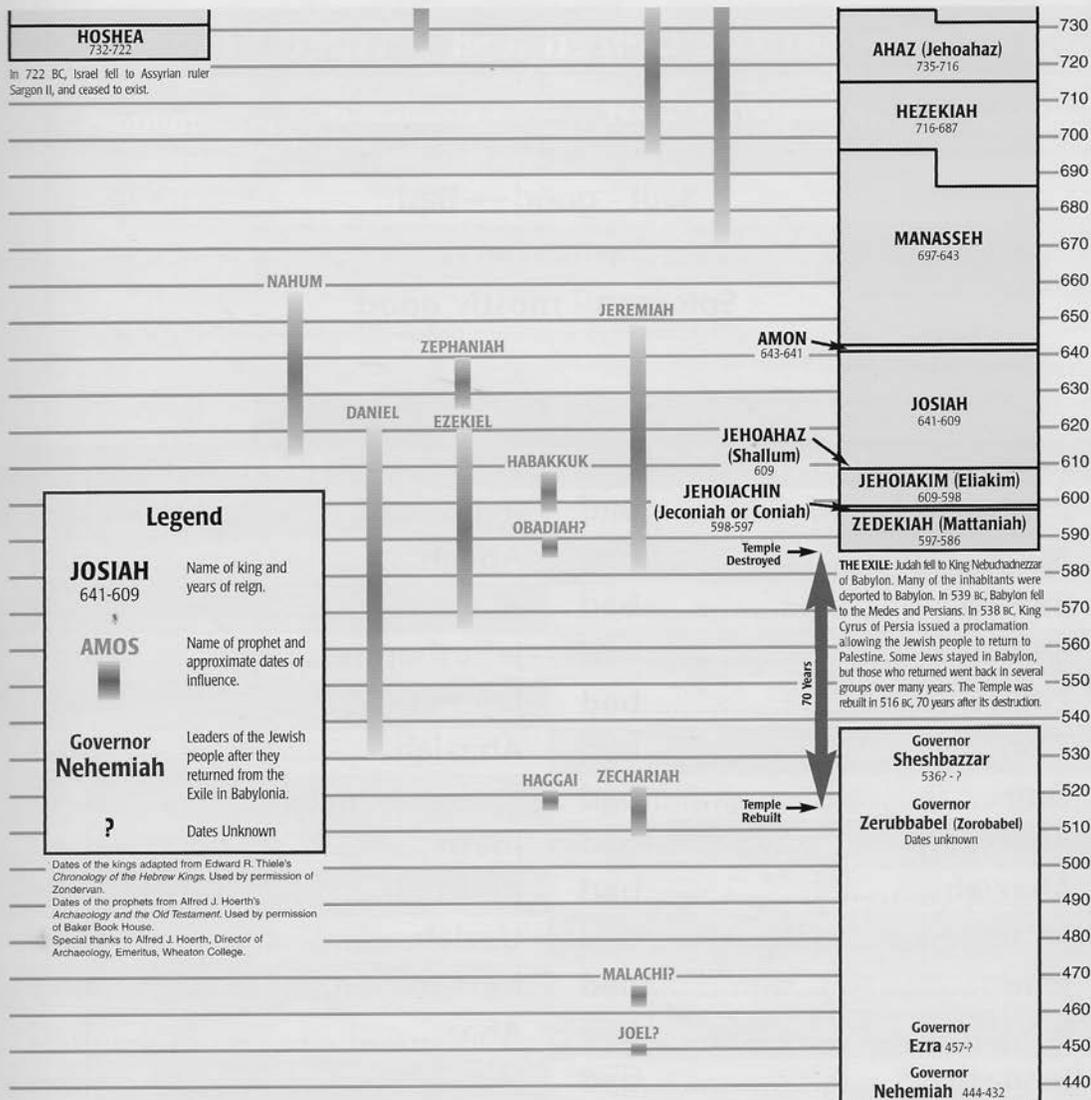
My Verse: (Select a verse that speaks a message to you personally.)

Personal Application Gems: One to three short paragraphs that describe how the message of the prophet has spoken to you

Kings & Prophets



Kings and Prophets 65



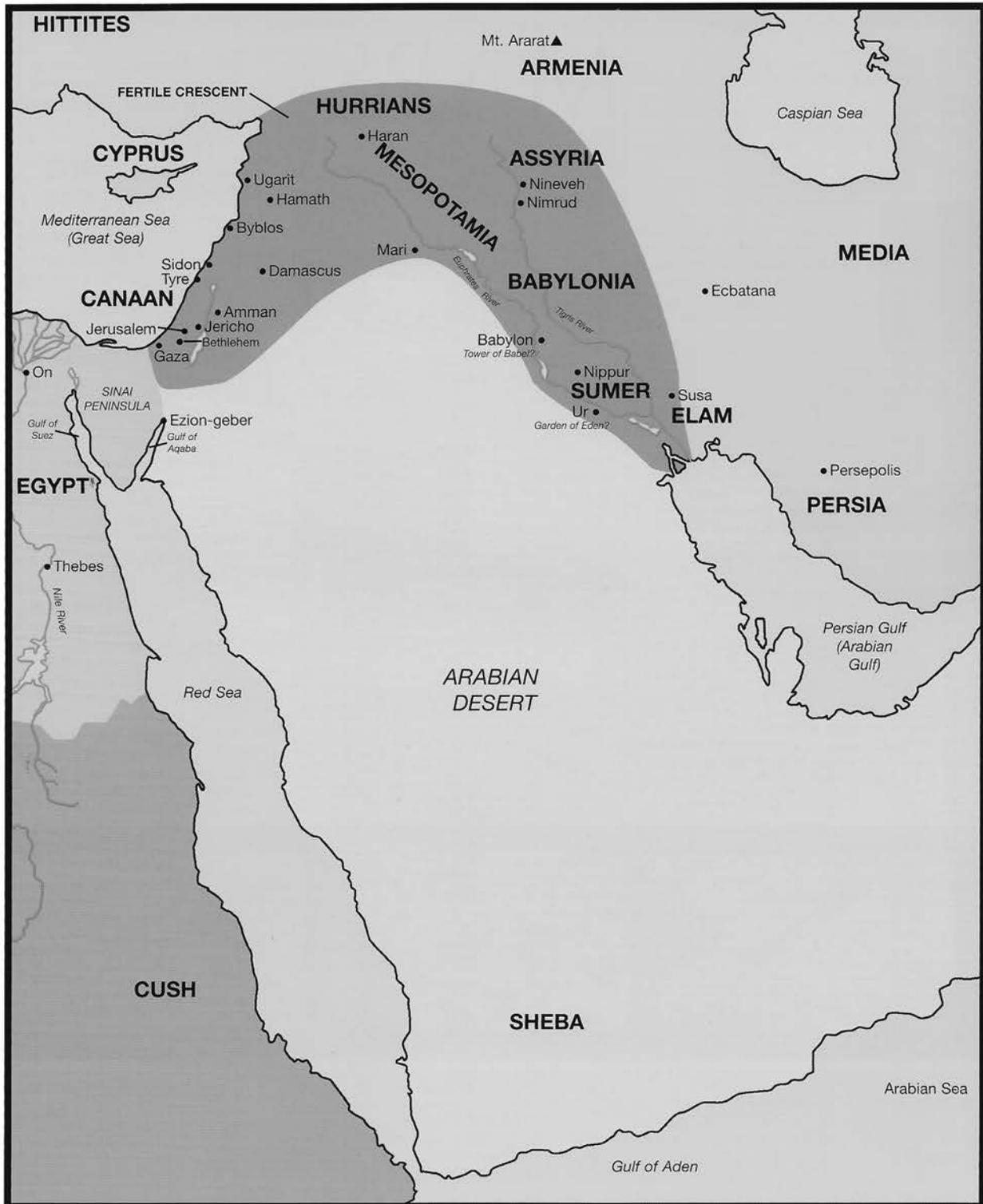
Fascinating Facts

Dominant Powers in the Middle East: 900-612 BC - Assyria 612-539 BC - Babylonia 539-330 BC - Medo-Persia

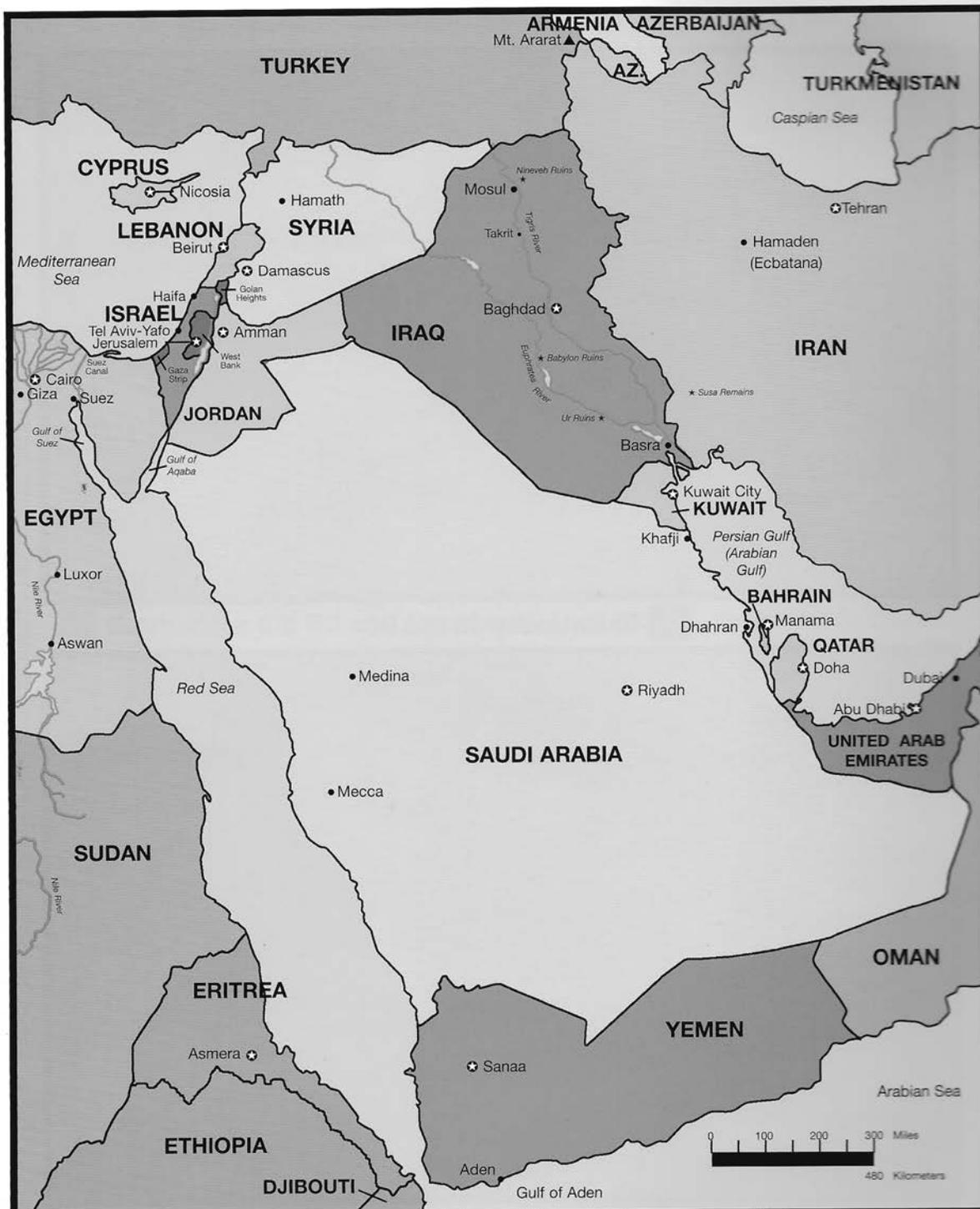
What made a king "good" or "bad"?

The biblical writers were not as interested in a king's abilities as an administrator as they were in the king's desire to follow God's commands. Kings that followed God's law and those who outlawed the altars to foreign gods, the high places, and idol worship were designated as good. Those who did not, were evil. The Bible uses the phrase "He did evil in the eyes (or *sight*) of the Lord," to evaluate the king's reign. In secular history, one of the important kings was Omri of Israel, who conquered the Moabites; but in the Bible this evil king's victories go unmentioned.

Middle East: Then (BC)



Middle East: Now



BOOK OF HOSEA

QUICK LOOK		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014	
Who was Hosea?	Son of Beerī	Married to an unfaithful wife	Three children
Meaning of his name	"Salvation"		
Time of his prophecy	760-710 B.C. During the decline and fall of the northern kingdom of Israel	Hosea began prophesying during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel.	Hosea possibly continued his prophetic ministry until Jerusalem's fall in 722 BC.
Historical background	II Kings 14-16	II Chronicles 26-32	
To whom addressed	Northern Kingdom Identified as "Ephraim"	1:1 - In the days of Jeroboam II	5:1 - "Hear ye . . . O house of Israel"
Why written	To illustrate God's love for unfaithful Israel	To identify Israel's sins and apostasy and call them to repentance (6:1)	To express God's compassion & promise of restoration (11:4; 14:4)
Key Verses	3:1 - <i>...according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel. . .</i>	6:1 - <i>Come and let us return unto the LORD. . . and he will heal us . . .</i>	11:1 - <i>When Israel was a child, I loved him...</i>
Jesus seen in Hosea	Matthew 2:13-18 quotes Hosea 11:1 - <i>...out of Egypt I have called my son</i>	13:4 - The only savior of his people 13:14 - Ransom from death	Redemption from sin and death came through Jesus.
Themes in Hosea	Israel's unfaithfulness to the LORD	God's judgment	God's love with the hope of restoration

A LOOK AT MAIN TOPICS	Chapters 1-3	Chapters 4-14
Focus	Faithful Husband and Adulterous Wife	Faithful Lord and Adulterous Israel
Topic	Marriage of Hosea	Message of Hosea
	1. Hosea's Family Story (1)	1. Israel' Unfaithfulness (4-8)
	2. Hosea's Unfaithful Wife (2)	2. God's Judgment Predicted (9-10)
	3. Hosea's Love in Buying Back His Wife (3)	3. God's Love for Israel (11:1-11)
	Hosea's story illustrates God's love for unfaithful Israel.	4. God's Anger Against Israel's Sin (11:12—13:16)
		5. Prediction of Israel's Restoration (14)

BOOK OF JOEL

QUICK LOOK		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014	
Who was Joel?	Son of Pethuel (1:1)	No other information	
Meaning of his name	“Yahweh is God”		
Time of his prophecy	830-820 <i>(N.Geisler)</i> Exact date unknown <i>(varied dates suggested)</i>	One view: pre-exilic <i>(early as 830 BC or just before the exile)</i>	Another view: post-exilic <i>(as early as 515 BC or as late as 350 BC)</i>
Historical background	II Kings 12 (Biblical reference listed by Geisler)		
To whom addressed	Judah & Jerusalem	Reference to Temple & priests (1:9 13, 14; 2:15)	Joel 2 -reference to Assyrian invasion implied?
Why written	Warning about impending judgment	Bad news: Judah’s sinfulness will be punished	Good News: Promise of future blessing for the faithful
Key Verses	1:15 - <i>Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand...</i>	2:12, 13 - <i>...turn to me with all your heart . . . for he is gracious...</i>	2:28,29 - ...I will pour out my spirit upon on flesh...
Themes in Joel	Day of the LORD: Punishment for transgression	Promise of God’s Spirit	Promise of forgiveness and restoration
Jesus seen in Joel	Joel’s prophecy was fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2:17-21)	Acts 10:43 -“...to him (Jesus) gave all the prophets witness...”	Acts 10:44-48 - another account of His Spirit being poured out!

A LOOK AT MAIN TOPICS

Chapter 1	Invasion of Locusts	The destructive Day of the Lord - judgment (1:15)	Call to repentance with fasting (1:14)
Chapter 2:1-27	Army of locusts from the North	The great and terrible Day of the Lord (2:11)	Call to repentance with fasting and weeping . . . for He is gracious (2:12-14)
Chapter 2:28-32	Promise of the God’s Spirit bringing Salvation (2:28, 32)	The redemptive Day of the Lord (2:28)	“And it shall come to pass...” (2:28 - shifts from the near view to the far view of Joel’s prophecy)
Chapter 3	Judgment on the Nations	Call to prepare for the Battle of Armageddon (3-9-15)	The climax of the LORD’s salvation for Judah and Jerusalem (3:16-21)

Book of Amos

QUICK LOOK		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014	
Who was Amos?	A herdman from Tekoa (7:1)	A small village about 6 miles from Jerusalem	Amos also gathered sycamore fruit [wild figs] (7:14-15).
Meaning of his name	“Burden Bearer”		
Time of his prophecy	755-750 B.C. (<i>Geisler timeline</i>)	During reigns of Uzziah in Judah and Jeroboam II in Israel	Approximately 32-38 years before Israel’s Assyrian captivity
Historical background	II Kings 14 (<i>according to Geisler</i>)	Jeroboam II (North)	
To whom addressed	Israel, the Northern Kingdom	Amos was from Judah, but prophesied to Israel.	He spoke from Bethel, the king’s court (7:13).
Why written	To call the prosperous and idol worshipping northern tribes to repentance	Amos teaches God’s hatred of evil and the sanctity of His law. He refers often to the law of Moses.	Amos calls for social justice in caring for the poor, the widow and the weak (2:6-7; 5:11-12; 8:4-6)
Key Verses	5:14-15 - <i>Seek good, and not evil...</i>	5:25 - <i>Let judgment run down...and righteousness</i>	
Themes in Amos	Judgment on sin and false worship	Evils of prosperity	Call for social justice
Jesus seen in Amos	Prophetically, the book reveals Christ as the rebuilders of the “tabernacle of David.” (9:11) -See Acts 15:16-17	Jesus echoed Amos in his teaching to minister to the needy (Matt. 25:31-46).	

A LOOK AT AT MAIN TOPICS (adapted from N. Geisler)

Chapters 1-2	Eight Oracles	Judgment on Neighbors: 1. Syria 1:3-5 2. Philistia (1:6-8) 3. Phoenicia (1:9-10) 4. Edom (1:11-12) 5. Ammon (1:13-15) 6. Moab (2:1-3)	Judgment on Judah & Israel 7. Judah (2:4-6) 8. Israel (2:6-16)
Chapters 3-6	Three Sermons: Sin & Judgments	“Hear this word...” begins each sermon	C3 - Reason for judgment C4 - Result - destruction C5-6. Call for repentance
Chapters 7-9	Six Visions: Judgments & Restoration	“The Lord showed me” or “I saw” begins each vision. 1. Locusts (7:1-3) 2. Fire (7:4-6)	3. Plumbline (7:7-9) 4. Summer fruit (8:1-14) 5. Smitten temple (9:1-10) 6. Restoration (9:11-15)

BOOK OF OBADIAH

QUICK LOOK		Shortest Book of OT	Only one chapter	Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014
Who was Obadiah?	Prophet of Judah	Cited by Jeremiah 49:1-9 (cf. Obad.1-9)		
Meaning of his name	“Worshiper or servant of Jehovah”			
Time of his prophecy	Time uncertain - 840-830 (<i>Geisler</i>) - Near 586 (Bible Overview)	1) Early - during Jehoshaphat’s time (9th century)	2) Late - shortly after Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians (6th century)	
Historical background	The nation of Israel descended from Jacob. The nation of Edom descended from Esau.	Edom denied Israel passage through their land on their journey to Canaan.	Israel’s kings faced frequent conflict with the Edomites.	
To whom addressed	To Judah regarding Edom’s destruction			
Why written	To pronounce judgment on Edom (Petra) for their treatment of the people of Judah	To predict the restoration of the land to Judah		
Key Verses	v. 4 - <i>The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee...</i>	v.10 - <i>For thy violence against thy brother Jacob....cut off for ever.</i>	v. 17 - <i>But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance...</i>	
Themes in Obadiah	Judgment against Edom	Deceitfulness of pride	Promise of Judah’s restoration	
Jesus seen in Obadiah	Picture of the Messiah as Savior and possessor of the kingdom (v. 21)			

A LOOK AT MAIN TOPICS

VERSES 1-9	Edom’s Destruction Predicted		
VERSES 10-14	Reasons for Edom’s destruction	- Violence and pride	
VERSES 15-20	Israel’s Restoration	- Triumph over enemies - Judah’s treasures in possessing the land	
Verse 21	The LORD’s kingdom	- God’s ultimate purpose is to establish His eternal kingdom.	

BOOK OF JONAH

QUICK LOOK			Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014
Who was Jonah?	A prophet in the northern kingdom of Israel	Son of Amittai (1:1) Jonah mentioned in II Kings 14:25	Testimony of Jesus (Matt. 12:40)
Meaning of his name	"Dove"		
Time of his prophecy	Around 780-760 B.C.	During the reign of Jeroboam II in Israel	Early pre-exilic prophet
Historical background	II Kings 14:25 identifies that Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II	A prosperous time for Israel. Assyrian threat was present, but Israel seemed to feel protected.	At this time, Israel was already being taxed by the powerful Assyrian empire.
To whom addressed	Jonah wrote to his own countrymen, the Israelites, about his call to preach to the Ninevites.	God gave Jonah a message for Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire.	
Why written	To show God's mercy in offering repentance to Israel's adversary.	To show Israel and Judah and all humanity the universal compassion and mercy of God.	The book tells Jonah's personal story of his call from God. Only one verse (3:4) relates what he preached to the Ninevites.
Key Verses	2:1 - <i>...I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me...</i>	4:2b - <i>...for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, and slow to anger, and of great kindness...</i>	4:11 - <i>And should I not spare Nineveh, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons...</i>
Themes in Jonah	God's compassion and mercy	God's universal love	God's purpose to make Himself known to humanity through preaching.
Jesus seen in Jonah	Jesus referred to Jonah in speaking about his death (Matt. 12:40-41).		

A LOOK AT AT MAIN TOPICS			
Chapter 1	Running from God Jonah's Call, Flight and 3 Days in a Fish	God called Jonah to preach repentance to a wicked city.	Jonah disobeyed and took a ship west to Tarshish.
Chapter 2	Running to God Jonah's Prayer	Remembering God's hand on him, Jonah cried to the Lord.	God delivered Jonah from the belly of the fish.
Chapter 3	Running with God Jonah's Obedience	Jonah obeyed God's second call and preached in Nineveh.	The Ninevites repented and God spared the city.
Chapter 4	Running Ahead of God Jonah's Resentment <i>"Running" adapted from N. Geisler</i>	Jonah regretted that God spared the Ninevites, enemies of Israel.	God reminded the unhappy prophet of His desire to forgive and save.

BOOK OF MICAH

QUICK LOOK		7 Chapters		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014
Who was Micah	A prophet from Moresheth, southwest of Jerusalem	Jeremiah mentioned Micah (Jer. 26:18)		
Meaning of his name	“Who is like Jehovah”			
Time of his prophecy	735-700 B.C. <i>(Geisler Timeline)</i> A pre-exilic prophet	1:1 -During the reigns of Jothan, Ahaz, Hezekiah (Kings of Judah)	Propheesied during Isaiah’s time. His message is similar to Isaiah’s.	
Historical background	During this time Assyria began invading the North. In 722 BC Assyria conquered Israel and deported the residents to other nations.	Both Israel and Judah had become engrossed in idolatry and wickedness.	Judah revolted against Assyria, but the people were not take captive. However, they were forced to pay tribute to Assyria.	
To whom addressed	Micah spoke to both Israel (Samaria) and Judah (Jerusalem).	While he prophesied to both kingdoms, he lived in the southern kingdom.		
Why written	To denounce Israel and Judah for their idolatry and wickedness and warn about the coming judgments	To prophesy against the false prophets and princes for their injustice and greed	To give promise of future forgiveness and redemption	
Key Verses	3:8 - <i>I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD...to declare unto Jacob his transgression...</i>	5:2 - <i>But thou, Bethlehem Ephrata ...out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel . . .</i>	6:8 - <i>He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee...</i>	
Themes in Micah	God’s hatred of idolatry, greed and injustice	God’s punishment for disobedience	God’s promise of the Messiah	
Jesus seen in Micah	Ruler of Israel to be born in Bethlehem (5:2; see Mt. 2:6)	Micah reveals Christ as the “God of Jacob” (4:2)	Christ shown as the judge of nations (4:3)	

A LOOK AT AT MAIN TOPICS			
Micah 1:1—2:11	Judgments of the Lord	Against Israel and Judah	
Micah 2:12, 13	Promise of Restoration	To the remnants of Israel	
Micah 3	Rebuke of Leaders and Prophets	For greed, injustice, deception	
Micah 4, 5	Hope of Pardon and Redemption	The Lord’s plan revealed	Messiah birthplace (5:2)
Micah 6:1—7:6	The Lord’s Case Against Israel	Israel had forgotten the Lord’s deliverance and laws	Micah 6:8 - God’s requirement for Israel & His people
Micah 7:7-20	Israel’s Final Restoration	God portrayed as compassionate and forgiving	Micah 7:18, 19 - A portrait of God

BOOK OF NAHUM

QUICK LOOK		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014	
Who was Nahum	Nahum - likely a prophet of Judah (1:15)	From Elkosh - town of Judah	NOTE: Location of Elkosh not certain
Meaning of his name	"Compassionate" or "The Lord comforts"		
Time of his prophecy	Between 650 and 620 B.C. Fall of Thebes mentioned (663BC)	Nahum predicted the fall of Nineveh which took place in 612 B.C.	During the reigns of Manasseh, Amon and Josiah (kings of Judah)
Historical background	II Kings 21-23 (<i>N. Geisler</i>) Judah experienced the brutal oppression of Assyria. NOTE: Nineveh was the capital.	Judah had seen Israel oppressed and taken into Assyrian captivity (722 B.C.)	Judah endured a century of cruel treatment from Assyria. In 627 B.C. the Assyrian Empire began to decline and fell to the Babylonians and Medes (612 B.C.)
To whom addressed	The kingdom of Judah God's people	Nahum's prophecy was a comfort to Judah.	RECALL: Nineveh's response to Jonah's preaching had happened 150 years earlier.
Why written	The book describes Nahum's vision about the events that would take place before the fall of Nineveh (612 B.C.)	Nahum relates God's promise to avenge his people and judge the wicked.	The book reveals both the justice of God in dealing with evil and His goodness manifested to the righteous.
Key Verses	1-3 - <i>The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not all all acquit the wicked . . .</i>	1:7 - <i>The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.</i>	1:15 - <i>Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts. . .</i>
Themes in Nahum	God's sure judgment of evil	God's compassion for His people	
Jesus seen in Nahum	God judges evil, but through the death of Jesus humanity is given mercy and pardon.	<i>For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.</i>	<i>Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him!</i> (Thessalonians 5:9-10).

A LOOK AT AT MAIN TOPICS			
Nahum 1	The Sentence of Nineveh	God's justice and mercy	
Nahum 2	The Assault Upon Nineveh and Its Fall	Certainly of God's judgment	
Nahum 3	The Complete Ruin of Nineveh	The terrible woes of judgment	

BOOK OF HABAKKUK

QUICK LOOK		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014	
Who was Habakkuk	Prophet of Judah	Lived during the time of Jeremiah	Possibly had levitical (priestly) background.
Meaning of his name	"Embraced"		
Time of his prophecy	620-605 B.C. (<i>N. Geisler</i>) 612-588 (<i>Life Application Bible</i>)	In Judah's final years before they were conquered by the Babylonians	After the fall of Nineveh to the Babylonians
Historical background	II Kings 22-24 During the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim in Judah	Jehoahaz followed his father Josiah. The Pharaoh of Egypt deported Jehoahaz to Egypt & made his brother Jehoiakim a vassal king.	During the two decade after King Josiah's death, the Babylonians conquered key nations and became a world power. In 586 B.C. they destroyed Judah & the temple.
To whom addressed	The book is a dialogue between God and Prophet Habakkuk.	Habakkuk shared his dialogue with God for the benefit of Judah.	
Why written	Habakkuk recorded questions he asked God and the answers he received from God.	He felt troubled because God seemed to tolerating wickedness among his own people.	He felt perplexed about why God would allow a wicked nation to bring judgment on His own people.
Key Verses	1:5 - <i>Behold ye among the heathen...for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe ...</i>	2:4 - <i>. . . but the just shall live by his faith. Quoted in Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38</i>	3:8 - <i>Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.</i>
Themes in Habakkuk	Questions about God's Justice	Acknowledgement of God's Sovereignty	Joyful Confidence in God's Salvation
Jesus seen in Habakkuk	God's ultimate salvation came by Jesus Christ. (See Habakkuk 3:13)	Christ is described as the "Holy One" (1:12); the one who justifies by faith (2:4)	Habakkuk described one who would fill the earth with "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord" (2:14).

A LOOK AT AT MAIN TOPICS

Habakkuk 1	Habakkuk's Complaint (1:2-4)	Why is evil unpunished?	-Faith Tested (<i>Geisler</i>)
	God's Answer (1:5-11)	God will bring punishment to Judah by the Babylonians.	
Habakkuk 2	Habakkuk's 2nd Complaint (1:12—2:1)	How could God allow wicked Babylonians to punish his less wicked people?	-Faith Taught (<i>Geisler</i>)
	God's Answer (2:2-20)	God will ultimately punish the wicked Babylonians.	
Habakkuk 3	Habakkuk's Prayer and Praise (See 3:1, 18, 19)		-Faith Triumphant (<i>Geisler</i>)

BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

QUICK LOOK		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014	
Who was Zephaniah?	1:1 identifies him as descended from Cushi, Gedaliah, Amariah and Hezekiah	Lived during the time of Nahum and young Jeremiah	Possibly from the royal line of Hezekiah. Likely lived in Jerusalem. Would have known the royal courts.
Meaning of his name	“Hidden by Jehovah” or “Protected”		
Time of his prophecy	630-620 B.C. (<i>Geisler</i>) 641-628 B.C. (<i>Bible Overview</i>)	During the time when King Josiah’s reforms began	Shortly before Habakkuk
Historical background	II Kings 22-23 II Chronicles 34-35 During the early years of King Josiah’s rule	King Josiah (the last good king of Judah) instituted spiritual reforms. Two evil kings, Manasseh and Amon, preceded Josiah.	Judah’s morals and religion had been influenced by the ungodly reigns of Manasseh and Amon.
To whom addressed	To Judah	A warning of God’s coming judgment	
Why written	To warn the people of Judah about the judgment to come on them and on their neighbors	To call Judah to repentance before the coming “day of the LORD” - a day when God pours out His wrath	To give assurance that a faithful remnant would be redeemed and restored (Note 3:17-20)
Key Verses	1:14 - <i>The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.</i>	2:3 - <i>Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness, it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’s anger.</i>	3:17 - <i>The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.</i>
Themes in Zephaniah	The Day of the LORD (the time of God’s wrath) (1:7,8,14,15,18; 2:1)	God’s call to repentance	God’s promise of restoration
Jesus seen in Zephaniah	The day of the Lord will come to judge all people	Those who have found salvation in Jesus will be saved from God’s judgment.	II Peter 3:10, 13 - “But the day of the LORD will come as a thief in the night. . .”

A LOOK AT AT MAIN TOPICS

Zephaniah 1	The Day of Judgment	Zephaniah’s declaration of the day of the Lord	Description of God’s wrath to be poured out on idolatrous Judah
Zephaniah 2	The Day of Judgment for the Nations	God’s call to Judah to repent in view of coming judgment (2:1-3)	Listing of heathen nations and judgments pronounced on them (2:4-15)
Zephaniah 3:1-7	The Day of Judgment for Jerusalem	The just LORD did not overlook the corruption in Jerusalem.	
Zephaniah 3:8-20	The Day of Hope for God’s People	After his message of judgment, Zephaniah spoke of future hope.	The prophet spoke of God in the midst of the people to gather them again (3:17-20).

BOOK OF HAGGAI

QUICK LOOK		Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014	
Who was Haggai?	Prophet with a message to the Jews who returned from exile in foreign lands	Post-exilic prophet Mentioned in Ezra 5:1-2 and 6:14	Contemporary of Prophet Zechariah & Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah (appointed by King Cyrus)
Meaning of his name	"Festal" -	Name suggests that he was born on a major feast day.	
Time of his prophecy	520 B.C. - Haggai's prophecies are the most precisely dated writings in the Old Testament (<i>Geisler</i>)		NOTE: Zerubbabel, a descendant of King Jehoichin, was an heir to the throne of Judah (I Chron. 3:17-19).
Historical background	Ezra 5, 6 Cyrus, king of Persian, decreed that the Jews could return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1f)	Over 50,000 Jews returned to the land with materials given by King Cyrus to restore the temple. About 538 B.C.	The temple foundations were laid around 536 BC. Then the people faced opposition and stopped building, focusing on their own houses (1:2-6)
To whom addressed	To the exiles who had returned to Judah	Particularly to the Jews who settled in Jerusalem	
Why written	To exhort the Jews to complete the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem.	The work on the Temple had ceased for some 16 years. The rebuilding was completed in 415 B.C.	NOTE: The temple was destroyed in 586 B.C. Its restoration was completed 70 years after its destruction.
Key Verses	1:4 - <i>Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieleed houses, and this house lie waste?</i>	2:4 - <i>Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua ... and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work; for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts.</i>	
Themes in Haggai	The Temple - a sign of God's presence among his people.	Encouragement to make God's work a priority	
Jesus seen in Haggai	The Temple foreshadowed the ministry of the coming Messiah (2:6-7)	See Hebrews 12:24-28 about Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant.	Cf. Hag. 2:6; Heb. 12:26

A LOOK AT MAIN TOPICS			
Haggai 1	The Call to Build the Temple	1:1-11 Haggai's Appeal	It is time to build God's house! (1:4)
		1:12-15 - Leaders and people's obedient response	"...they came and did work in the house of the LORD..." (1:14).
Haggai 2	Encouragement to Complete the Temple	2:1-9 - Message to be strong. God would fill His house with glory and peace.	"...I will fill this house with glory" (v. 7) "...in this place will I give peace" (v.9)
		2:10-23 - Message to inquire about God's laws	"...Ask now the priests concerning the law..." (2:11)_

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH

QUICK LOOK		Longest Minor Prophet Book	Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014
Who was Zechariah?	A prophet of priestly lineage. Neh. 12:4; Zech 1:1, 7	A post-exilic prophet Born in Babylon Contemporary of Haggai	Came to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel Mentioned in Ezra 5:1; 6:14
Meaning of his name	"Remembered by Jehovah"		
Time of his prophecy	518 B.C.- Zech. 1-8 After 480 B.C.- Zech. 9-14	Forty-year span between Zech. 1-8 & 9-14.	
Historical background	After their years as exiles in Babylonia and Persia, a remnant of Jews returned to Judah.	Zechariah prophesied while Zerubbabel was governor in Judah and during the reign of King Darius I in Persia.	The books of Ezra and Nehemiah provide the historical background.
To whom addressed	To the remnant who returned from exile	These Jews settled in and around Jerusalem	
Why written	To remind the people that God is sovereign and faithful to His covenant	To encourage the Jews who had returned to Judah continue their work of rebuilding	To give a futuristic view of God's plan for all people - Jew and Gentile - to come and worship Him (6:15; 14:16)
Key Verses	4:6 - ... <i>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.</i>	9:9 - <i>Rejoice, greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt . . .</i>	14:9 - <i>And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.</i>
Themes in Zechariah	Rebuilding the Temple	The Coming King <i>Zechariah is the most Messianic of all the Minor Prophets</i>	Promise of God's Protection
Jesus seen in Zechariah	"my servant the BRANCH" - <i>A Messianic figure</i> - 3:8 and 6:11-13	"Thy King cometh..having salvation...riding upon an ass." (9:9) Cf. Mt. 21:5; Lu. 19:38	

A LOOK AT MAIN TOPICS

Zechariah 1:1-6	A Call to Return to the Lord	"Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn to you... (1:3)	
Zechariah 1:7-8:23	Eight Visions and Messages	1. Riders on horses - 1:7-17	5. Candlestick & olive trees - 4:1-14
		2. Four horns & craftsmen 1:19-21	6. Flying scroll - 5:1-4
		3. Man with measuring line - 2:-13	7. Woman in a basket - 5:5-11
		4. High priest in filthy clothes - :1-10	8. Horses & chariots - 6:1-8
Zechariah 9-14	Messages Against the Nations	Encouragement and hope for Israel. Judgment for enemies.	Messianic prophecies given 500 years before fulfillment.

BOOK OF MALACHI

QUICK LOOK			Compiled by Darline Royer - 2014
Who was Malachi	Followed Haggai and Zechariah by one generation	Post-exilic prophet The last prophet of the Old Testament	
Meaning of his name	"My Messenger"		
Time of his prophecy	430-420 B.C. (<i>N. Geisler</i>) <i>About 430 B.C.</i> (Study Bible)	After the temple had been rebuilt and Jerusalem restored	Malachi prophesied about 55 to 60 years after Zechariah.
Historical background	Nehemiah 13 - After rebuilding the temple and walls, the people had forsaken God's ways.	Malachi faced a people who needed to be confronted with their neglect of tithing and their unfaithfulness to God.	What Nehemiah faced on his return from Babylon relates to the conditions in Judah that Malachi addressed.
To whom addressed	To the Jews in Jerusalem and God's people		
Why written	To call the people to a spiritual renewal after they had been back in the land for decades.	To show the people that they had failed to receive God's blessings because they had not followed his precepts	To affirm the coming "day of the Lord" - judgment of the wicked and healing for those who fear His name. (Mal. 4)
Key Verses	1:11 - <i>From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles . . .</i>	3:10 - <i>Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will ot open you the windows of heaven . . .</i>	4:2 - <i>But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.</i>
Themes in Malachi	Sins of the people and the priests	God's love in calling people to obedience	The Day of the Lord - judgment and healing
Jesus seen in Malachi	3:1 - Malachi prophesied of the messenger and the Messiah.	<i>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...</i>	Mark 1:2-3 identifies the messenger as John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus.

A LOOK AT MAIN TOPICS

Malachi 1	Impiety and Profanity of the Priest	Rebuke for despising God's name and polluting His altar	
Malachi 2	Sins of of the Priests and People	Corruption, Idolatry, divorce	
Malachi 3	Promise of the Messiah / Robbing God	Promise for the faithful	Judgment for sinners
Malachi 4	The Day of the Lord	Consolation for righteous (v.2)	Final judgment on the wicked (vs. 1, 3)
END OF THE BOOK	Malachi closes with a call to obey the law (4:2) and God's promise to send "Elijah" before the final day of the Lord.		After Malachi's prophecy, God gave no further written Word for 400 years.

