

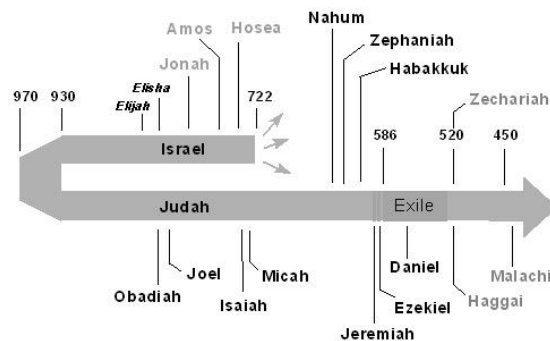
Starting this week with *Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah* and the first 5 chapters of *Isaiah*
www.biblegateway.com - enter the passage and LISTEN

A CRASH COURSE ON THE OT PROPHETS

I. TIMELINE

→ Elijah (875 BC) to Malachi (430 BC) = 445 years

II. ORDER in HISTORY (chart by Jim Ellis)



→ Prophets of Israel (875-722)

- * Elijah, Elisha (oral prophets)
- * Jonah, Amos, Hosea (writing prophets)

→ Prophets of Judah (855-586)

- * Obadiah[#], Joel[#], Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah
- [#]Some Bible scholars date Obadiah & Joel much later. In the Prophets book we will read Obadiah in week 6 & Joel in week 8.

→ Prophets in Exile (605-530)

- * Daniel, Ezekiel, (Jeremiah wrote Lamentations after fall of Jerusalem in 586)

→ Prophets after Exile (520-430)

- * Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

→ Jim Ellis states that generally you will notice one of two simple patterns*

- 1) an identification of the people's sin followed by God's coming judgment/curse.
 - >> example - Amos 2:4-5
- 2) an announcement of God's faithfulness & love followed by God's coming blessing.
 - >> example - Zechariah 8:3-5

III. WHY PEOPLE AVOID READING THE PROPHETS

1. There are so many references & images people find hard to understand

"We are far removed from the religious, historical, and cultural life of ancient Israel... it is often hard for us to see what the prophets are referring to and why. Things clear to them tend to be obscure to us." - Jim Ellis

2. People hear the word prophet and think of a person who ran around foretelling the future

→ (Jim Ellis writing for Bible.org)

- < 2% of OT prophecy is about Messiah
- < 5% is about the church age (now)
- < 1% is about events still future to us
- > 90% of what the prophets said and wrote down concerned Israel, Judah and other nations at the time. (**reread 1&2 Kings, 2 Chronicles**)
- > the prophets were not foretelling as much as they were forth-telling = telling forth,
- > much of what they foretold had to do with the immediate future of Israel & Judah
- > we must read & interpret the prophets largely within the time they were writing.

3. Most people like short stories rather than long sermons.

→ oracles = the words of God, a response or pronouncement from God...

- > Is 23:1 - The oracle concerning Tyre
 - > Ezekiel 12:10 - This oracle concerns the prince in Jerusalem
 - > Nahum 1:1 - An oracle concerning Nineveh
 - > Habakkuk 1:1 - the oracle Habakkuk the prophet saw
 - > Malachi 12:1 - the oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi
- when we read the prophets we need to know something about oracles...
- > like poetic sermons (poetry aided memory)
 - > at times they are written as a dialogue between God and a prophet (Habakkuk)
 - > sometimes they describe a vision (Zechariah)
 - > a long prophetic book like Isaiah or Ezekiel contain many oracles (strung together)
 - > oracles are not always in chronological order (Jeremiah)
 - > at times it is difficult to know where one oracle ends and the next oracle begin
 - > at times they have no historical setting. (Haggai is so helpful - each is dated)
- more common types of oracles...
1. LAWSUIT ORACLE (Is 3:13-26, Hos 3:3-17) >summons, charge, evidence, verdict
 2. WOE ORACLE (Habakkuk 2:6-8) > doom announced (Woe), reason for, predicted
 3. SALVATION ORACLE (Amos 9:11-15) >future, radical change, blessing.

4. Because it takes time and effort - and therefore - they are easily passed by!

IV. WHY WE NEED TO READ/STUDY THE PROPHETS (Nancy Guthrie)

1. We still struggle with the same s_____
2. We still are subject to the same j_____
3. We still share the same h_____