

TIME OF THE PROPHETS

This study is for the purpose of assisting the reader in identifying the period in which the various prophets lived and prophesied. A brief description is provided for each prophet along with the period in which he prophesied in. The dates given are based on the time period of the kings they prophesied to. Selected Themes are given as a quick reference point to events that occurred in relationship to each prophet. This study is limited to those that are referred to as the major and minor prophets.

Divided Kingdom

At this time the nation of Israel had split into two kingdoms. The Northern kingdom retained the name of Israel while the Southern kingdom was known as Judah.

Elijah

Period of His Prophecy 874-852 B.C.

Elijah prophesied during the reign of king Ahab (874-853 B.C.) and king Ahaziah (853-852 B.C.) both rulers of the Northern kingdom and Jehoram (853-841 B.C.) king of Judah. Israel was being led by king Ahab and his wife Jezebel and was steeped in idol worshipping. It was Jezebel who brought the heathen worship of Baal to Israel. Because this practice was in direct violation against God's 1st commandment, Elijah was at odds with Ahab and Jezebel. Although Elijah was often threaten and in fear for his life God sustained him.

Selected Themes

Withholding The Rain-Kings 17:1; Being Fed By A Raven-Kings 17:2-7; Sustained By A Woman-Kings 17:8-24; He That Troubled Israel-Kings 18:1-18; Challenges Prophets of Baal-Kings 18:19-46; Elijah Flees Jezebel-Kings 19:1-21; Naboth's Vineyard-Kings 21:1-29; Forecast of Ahaziah's Death-II Kings 1:1-8; Fire Comes Down-II Kings 1:9-17; Elijah Taken By Whirlwind-II Kings 2:1-12

Elisha

Period of His Prophecy 850-798 B.C.

Elisha prophesied during the reign of king Jehoram (853-841 B.C.), king Jehu (841-814 B.C.) and king Joash (835-796 B.C.) rulers of the Northern kingdom. He succeeded the prophet Elijah. Elisha was plowing one day when the prophet Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle on him. (I Kings 19:19) This action symbolically manifested God's plan to bestow the prophetic powers of Elijah upon Elisha. This was done when Elisha took up the mantle that fell from Elijah as he was taken up by a whirlwind. (II Kings 2:13)

Selected Themes

Successor To Elijah-II Kings 2:1-15; Mocked By Children-II Kings 2:23-25; Moab Rebels-II Kings 3:5-27; Shunamite Woman-II Kings 4:8-37; Multiplying of Oil-II Kings 4:1-7; Death in a Pot-II Kings 4:38-41; Cures Leprously-II Kings 5:1-19; Not The Time To Receive-II Kings 5:20-27

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Prophets Before The Exile

Joel (Southern Kingdom - Judah)

Period of His Prophecy 835-796 B.C.

Contemporary: (Considered to be the first prophet).

Joel prophesied during the period of Joash (835-796 B.C.) the boy king of Judah. However, Jehoiada the priest functioned as the real ruler. Joel begins with the description of the locust. This had been prophesied by Moses (Deut. 28:38-39). Joel tells of the coming day of the Lord. A day in which all nations are to be judged in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

Selected Themes

Day of the Lord-Joel 1:15, 2:1-11; Pouring out of the Holy Ghost-Joel 2:18, 27-32; Second Coming of Jesus-Joel 2:30-31; Punishment Against Edom-Joel 3:19; Armageddon-Joel 3:1-14; God's Kingdom on Earth-Joel 3:15-18, 21

Jonah (Southern Kingdom - Judah)

Period of His Prophecy 784-722 B.C.

Jeroboam II was king of Israel (872-753 B.C.) during the time in which Jonah prophesied.

Contemporary: He ministered right after the time of Elisha and just before the time of Amos and Hosea.

Jonah is best known for having disobeyed God by not going to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, as instructed and instead fled to Tarshish. While in route Jonah was thrown overboard and the Lord had him consumed by a fish. He remained in the belly of the fish 3 days and 3 nights. Jonah upon being released from the fish went and preached to the people of Nineveh.

Selected Themes

Jonah Flees to Tarshish-Jonah 1:1-16; Jonah Prays to the Lord-Jonah 2:1-10; Warning to Nineveh-Jonah 3:1-4; Nineveh Repents-Jonah 3:5-9; God's Springing of Nineveh-Jonah 3:10, 4:11; God's Mercy-Jonah 4:1-11

Amos (North Kingdom - - Israel)

Period of His Prophecy 764-755 B.C.

Contemporary: Hosea, he prophesied during the days of Uzziah (792-740 B.C.) king of Judah and Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.) king of Israel.

The children of Israel had been chosen by God to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6). However because of their disobedience to God, Amos told them of the coming punishment from the Lord. Amos also told of others whom the Lord would punish.

Selected Themes

Punishment of other Nations-Amos 1:3-15; Punishment of Edom-Amos 1:11-12; Punishment of Moab-Amos 2:3; Punishment of Judah and Israel-Amos 2:4-16; Israel to Bare All Their Iniquities-Amos 3:1-15; The Lord Prophets Will

Know All-Amos 3:7; Israel Prepare To Meet Thy God-Amos 4:1-13; Israel Warned To Change-Amos 5:1-15; The Lord Rebukes Israel-Amos 5:16-26; Israel To Go Into Captivity-Amos 5:27; Famine For The Word Of God-Amos 8:1-14; Israel Sifted Among All Nations-Amos 9:1-10; Israel Restored-Amos 9:11-15

Hosea (Northern Kingdom - Israel)

Period of His Prophecy 755-714 B.C.

Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.) king of Israel. Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Contemporary: Amos Northern Kingdom and Isaiah and Micah of the Southern Kingdom

Hosea began his ministry while Jeroboam II was still reigning in Israel. His ministry spanned the reigns of the last six kings of Israel from Zechariah (753-752 B.C.) to Hoshea (732-722 B.C.). The prophet Hosea was instructed by God to marry an unfaithful woman, and he found in his life an illustration of the unfaithfulness of Israel, God's chosen people.

Selected Themes

Hosea To Wed A Whore-Hosea 1:1-3; Israel Like Unto Hosea's Children-Hosea 1:4-11; Israel Has Played The Harlot-Hosea 2:1-13; The Wilderness The 2nd Time-Hosea 2:14-23; No Knowledge Of God-Hosea 4:1-3; Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge-Hosea 4:4-19; Israel And Judah Judged-Hosea 5:1-15; Israel Ate The Fruit Of Lies-Hosea 10:9-15; The Lord Will Punish Israel-Hosea 13:4-8; The Lord Plea For Israel's Return-Hosea 14:1-9

Isaiah (Southern Kingdom - Judah)

Period of His Prophecy 745-680 B.C.

Contemporary: Hosea and Micah

Isaiah's ministry began near the end of Uzziah's reign (792-740 B.C.) And continued through the reigns of Jotham (750-736 B.C.), Ahaz (736-716 B.C.),

and Hezekiah (716-687 B.C.) all kings of Judah the Southern Kingdom. This period covered approximately 25 years before the Assyrian captivity of the Northern Kingdom to about 40 years after it. Isaiah outlived Hezekiah by a few years. During the time of Isaiah, Assyria was growing in power under Tiglath-Pileser, who turned towards the west after his conquests of the east, plucking up many of the smaller nations along the Mediterranean including the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Isaiah prophesied during the last years of the Northern Kingdom but ministered only to the southern kingdom which was following in the sins of idol worship of the North. He warned Judah of judgment not by Assyria, the most immediate threat, but by Babylon.

Selected Themes

Israel Is Rebellious-Isaiah 1:1-10; Jesus Will Reign As King-Isaiah 2:1-3; Swords Beaten Into Plowshares-Isaiah 2:4; Jesus The Branch Of The Lord-Isaiah 4:1-6; The Lord's Vineyard-Isaiah 5:1-7; Israel Loves To Party-Isaiah 5:11-16; A Virgin Shall Conceive-Isaiah 7:10-16; Jesus And His Disciples-Isaiah 8:14-18; Jesus The Prince Of Peace-Isaiah 9:6-7; Jesus From The Stem Of Jesse-Isaiah 11:1-5; The Wolf Dwells With The Lamb-Isaiah 11:6-10; Israel Gathered A 2nd Time-Isaiah 11:11-16; The Day Of The Lord-Isaiah 13:9-13; Lucifer Fallen From Heaven-Isaiah 14:12-16; Erred Through Strong Drink-Isaiah 28:7-11; Israel Drunk But Not With Wine-Isaiah 29:9-16; The Day Of The Lord-Isaiah 34:1-8; The Wilderness-Isaiah 35:1-10; A Bruised Reed Shall He Not Break-Isaiah 42:1-7; God Gave Jacob For a Spoil-Isaiah 42:22-25; Israel Redeemed-Isaiah 43:1-21; Declaring The End From The Beginning-Isaiah 46:9-13; A Light Unto The Gentiles-Isaiah 49:1-6; Israel Not Forgotten-Isaiah 49:14-26; Wounded For Our Transgressions-Isaiah 53:1-12; God's Word Will Not Return Void-Isaiah 55:11; The Ministers Are Dumb Dogs-Isaiah 56:10-12; To Fast-Isaiah 58:1-14; Israel Going Home-Isaiah 60:1-22; Day Of Vengeance-Isaiah 61:1-7; The Lord Coming From Edom-Isaiah 63:1-6; New Heavens And A New Earth-Isaiah 65:17-25

Micah (South & Northern Kingdom)

Period of His Prophecy 740-698 B.C.

Contemporary: Hosea and Amos

Micah prophesied in the days of Jotham (750-736 B.C.), Ahaz (736-716 B.C.) and Hezekiah (716-687 B.C.), kings of Judah.

Selected Themes

False Prophet-Micah 3:1-11; God's Kingdom on Earth-Micah 4:4; Israel Redeemed-Micah 4:6-8 7,;15-20; Israel Reproved-Micah-6:1-16

Nahum (Nineveh)

Period of His Prophecy 648-620 B.C.

Contemporary: Zephaniah, Jeremiah, and Habakkuk

Nahum predicted the complete destruction of Nineveh. History shows that Nineveh was conquered in 612 B.C. by Cyaxares of the Medes and Nabopolassar of Babylon. By diverting the Tigris river and destroying the cities aqueduct system the city was flooded. The flood waters dissolved the mud-brick foundation of houses and building, and the walls crumbled.

Selected Themes

Prediction of Nineveh-Nahum 2:8-10, 3:1-7,11-15

Zephaniah (South Kingdom - Judah)

Period of His Prophecy 634-625 B.C.

Contemporary: Nahum and Jeremiah

Zephaniah ministered during the days of Josiah (640-608 B.C.) king of Judah. He prophesied against Assyria and Nineveh. His foretelling of the destruction to befall Assyria and Nineveh did come to pass. He also speaks on the Coming Day Of The Lord.

Selected Themes

Day Of The Lord-Zephaniah 1:1-18, 3:8; God's Warning To Nations-Zephaniah 2:1-13; False Prophets-Zephaniah 3:3-5; Israel Redeemed - Zephaniah 3:9-20

Jeremiah (South Kingdom - Judah)

Period of His Prophecy 626-580 B.C.

Contemporary: Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel

Portions of Jeremiah writing may be dated with some precision to the 4th year of king Jehoiakim (608-597 B.C.). Jeremiah had been commanded by God to write down the prophetic messages he had delivered to the people over the previous twenty years. There were three stages to Jeremiah's ministry. He prophesied while Judah was threatened by Assyria and Egypt. He proclaimed God's judgment while Judah was threatened and besieged by Babylon. He ministered in Jerusalem and Egypt after Judah's downfall.

Selected Themes

Israel The First Fruits-Jeremiah 2:1-3; Israel Plays the Harlot-Jeremiah 2:19-37; Israel Bill Of Divorce-Jeremiah 3:1-15; Jesus 2nd Coming-Jeremiah 4:22-31; Israel Shall Serve Strangers-Jeremiah 5:11-20; Israel Answered Not-Jeremiah 7:13-34; Spiritual Death-Jeremiah 8:1-9; A Christmas Tree-Jeremiah 10:1-10; A Green Olive Tree-Jeremiah 11:16-23; The Pastors Have Destroyed-Jeremiah 12:7-11; Israel Unto God Like a Girdle-Jeremiah 13:1-11; The Prophets Prophecy Lies-Jeremiah 14:11-16; Israel Removed Into All Kingdoms-Jeremiah 15:1-4; Our Fathers Have Inherited Lies-Jeremiah 16:10-21; The Lord Tries The Reins-Jeremiah 17:9-10; The Potters House-Jeremiah 18:1-18; The Word Is A Burning Fire-Jeremiah 20:7-18; Woe To The Pastors-Jeremiah 23:1-40; Baskets Of Figs-Jeremiah 24:1-10; Turn From Your Evil Ways-Jeremiah 25:1-18; Write These Words In A Book-Jeremiah 30:1-12; A New Covenant-Jeremiah 31:29-37; Jesus 2nd Coming-Jeremiah 33:14-26; To Serve Other Gods-Jeremiah 44:1-11; Punishment Of Edom-Jeremiah 49:7-22

Habakkuk (South Kingdom -Judah)

Period of His Prophecy 625-610 B.C.

Contemporary: Zephaniah and Jeremiah,

Habakkuk is told by God that Babylon will be His chastening rod for the nation. Habakkuk's prophecy came to pass in 605 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar deported thousands of Jerusalem's citizens to Babylon.

Selected Themes

God's Punishment Foretold-Habakkuk 1:11; Habakkuk's Vision-Habakkuk 2:1-20; The Day of The Lord-Habakkuk 3:1-17; Habakkuk Speaks on Faith-Habakkuk 2:1-4

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Prophets During The Exile

Daniel (Remnant In Captivity)

Period of His Prophecy 605-530 B.C.

Contemporary: Ezekiel

Babylon rebelled against the Assyrian Empire in 626 B.C., overthrew the Assyrian capital of Nineveh in 612 B.C., and became master of the ancient Near East when it defeated Egypt at the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. Later that year king Nebuchadnezzar subdued Jerusalem and took prominent citizens of the city as hostages to Babylon. Daniel was a member of that group. He became a member of the Babylonian royal service early in his captivity and spent most of his career as a high ranking advisor to Nebuchadnezzar.

Selected Themes

Daniel Taken Into Babylon-Daniel 1:1-21; The Four Kingdoms-Daniel 2:1-49; The Burning Fiery Furnace-Daniel 3:1-30; Nebuchadnezzar To Eat Grass-Daniel 4:1-37; The Writing On The Wall-Daniel 5:1-31; Daniel In The Lion's Den-Daniel 6:1-28; The Four Beasts-Daniel 7:1-28; The Ram And The He Goat-Daniel 8:1-27; The Curse Foretold By Moses-Daniel 9:1-14; Three and a Half Years-Daniel 9:21-27; A Thing Revealed Unto Daniel-Daniel 10:1-21; King Of The South-Daniel 11:1-45; The End Times-Daniel 12:1-13

Ezekiel (Remnant In Captivity)

Period of His Prophecy 592-570 B.C.

Contemporary: Jeremiah and Daniel

During his whole ministry Ezekiel was in exile in Babylon. Ezekiel's prophetic utterances commenced seven years before the destruction of Jerusalem and concluded about fifteen years after its destruction. His ministry was confined to those of the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the early years of captivity.

Selected Themes

Appearance of Cherubims-Ezekiel 1:1-14; The Eating of A Book-Ezekiel 2:8-10, 3:1-3; Duty of the Watchman-Ezekiel 3:17-21,33:1-20; Israel to be Punished-Ezekiel 5:1-17, 6:1-7, 7:1-27; A Remnant of Israel-Ezekiel 6:7-10, 12:16; Sins of Israel Uncovered-Ezekiel 8:4-17; Gathering of Israel-Ezekiel 12:15-20, 20:41-44; False Prophets-Ezekiel 13:1-23; You Must Save Yourself-Ezekiel 14:14-20; Israel Plays The Harlot-Ezekiel 16:1-26, 32-34; God's Righteous-Ezekiel 18:19-32; Israel's Rebellion-Ezekiel 20:1-32; God To Rule Over Israel-Ezekiel 20:33-38,40; Punishment of Edom-Ezekiel 25:12-14, 35:1-15; Description Of Satan-Ezekiel 28:1-19; Israel Dwells Safely-Ezekiel 28:25-26; Shepherds Of Israel-Ezekiel 34:1-10, 18-19; Gathering of Israel-Ezekiel 34:11-16, 22-30, 36:17-38; Dry Bones In The Valley-Ezekiel 37:1-28

Obadiah (Edom)

Period of His Prophecy 586-??? B.C.

Because of the limited writing of Obadiah one can not date his writing with a certainty.

The thrust of Obadiah's prophecy centers around the destruction of Edom. History states that Edom ceased from being a nation around (70 A.D.). However, the Obadiah prophecies concerning Edom are targeted to take place at the 2nd coming of Jesus. So according to prophesy Edom must still exist.

Selected Themes

Punishment of Edom-Obadiah 1:1-16,18-20; God's Kingdom On Earth-Obadiah 1:17,21

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Prophets After The Exile

Haggai (Remnant)

Period of His Prophecy 520 B.C.

Contemporary: Zechariah

This was in the second year of Darius king of Persia. Thus Haggai prophesied to the remnant who had returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity.

Haggai dealt with the urging of the people to complete the building of the temple.

Selected Themes

Zerubbabel To Rebuild The Temple-Haggai 1:1-15; The Glory of The Temple-Haggai 2:1-9; Turn To The Lord-Haggai 2:10-19; God Will Overthrow Kingdoms-Haggai 2:20-23

Zechariah (Remnant)

Period of His Prophecy 520-518 B.C.

Contemporary: He was a contemporary of Haggai. In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius king of Persia, is when Zechariah prophesied.

Selected Themes

God's Word Is Sure-Zechariah 1:1-6; The Apple Of God's Eyes-Zechariah 2:1-9; The Lord Jealous For Jerusalem-Zechariah 2:7-17; The Lord Will Inherit Judah-Zechariah 2:10-13; Joshua The High Priest-Zechariah 3:1-10; Zerubbabel Will Finish The Temple-Zechariah 4:6-10; God's Two Witnesses-Zechariah 4:11-14; The Four Spirits Of Heaven-Zechariah 6:1-8; The Branch-Zechariah 6:11-15; Israel Scattered-Zechariah 7:1-14; The Lord Returned Unto Zion-Zechariah 8:1-6; The Lord Saves Israel-Zechariah 8:7-23; The Day Of The Lord-Zechariah 14:1-21

Malachi (Remnant)

Period of His Prophecy 450-400 B.C.

Contemporary: Malachi prophecy came about 75-100 years after Haggai and Zechariah. It was during the time of Nehemiah's governorship.

Malachi charged Israel with their sins of corrupt priests and their wicked practices. Israel had become doubtful and wondered if God's messianic promises would ever be fulfilled. One important characteristic of God is revealed and that is in verse 3:6 **For I am the Lord, I change not;**

Selected Themes

Israel and Edom Compared-Malachi 1:1-4; Israel's Polluted Offering-Malachi 1:6-14; Condemning of The Priests-Malachi 2:1-17; Foretelling of John The Baptist-Malachi 3:1; The Robbing of God-Malachi 3:7-12; Remember The Law of Moses-Malachi 4:1-6

Ezra (Remnant)

Period of His Prophecy 538-458 B.C.

Contemporary: The return of Israel from their captivity in Babylon occurred in three stages. The first occurred under Zerubbabel during the first year of the reign of Cyrus king of Persia. This led to the rebuilding of the temple. Ezra led the second return in the seventh year of Artaxerxes I. Nehemiah led the final return in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes I.

Selected Themes

Building of The Temple-Ezra 3:1-13; Adversaries Against The Temple-Ezra 4:1-24; Teaching of Gods Laws-Ezra 7:6-28; Israel's Abominations-Ezra 9:1-15; Putting Away of Strange Wives-Ezra 10:1-19

Nehemiah (Remnant)

Period of His Prophecy 445-425 B.C.

Contemporary: Ezra, Nehemiah led the third and final return of Israel from Babylon.

Nehemiah held the position of cupbearer to king Artaxerxes I and as a result was made governor of Judah. Under Nehemiah emphasis is placed on the rebuilding of the walls of the city of Jerusalem. This occurred after the Temple was built.

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Selected Themes

The Affliction of Israel-Nehemiah 1:1-3; Nehemiah Prayers For Israel-Nehemiah 1:4-11; God Grants Mercy-Nehemiah 2:1-20; Rebuilding of The Walls-Nehemiah 3:1-32; Israel Adversaries-Nehemiah 4:1-23, 6:1-19; Teaching of The Law-Nehemiah 8:1-18; Reading of The Law-Nehemiah 13:1-31

Peace To All Who Seek The Truth In Jesus' Name