

# The Minor Prophets

Why are they called minor prophets?

# Who were the Minor Prophets?



**Hosea** was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.



**Joel** prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locust. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God as a precursor to the Day of the Lord.



**Amos** was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.



**Obadiah** is the shortest book in the old testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for aiding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.



**Jonah** is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their wrongdoings.

**Micah** in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



**Nahum** predicts the destruction of Nineveh the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Jonah did not last long.



**Habakkuk** identifies himself as a psalmist and musician by ending his book with a hymn of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.



**Zephaniah** contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.



**Haggai** makes his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrew's return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.



**Zechariah** like Ezekiel received vivid prophecies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some of the imagery includes flying scrolls, olive trees, and angels. There are several Messianic passages as well.



**Malachi** is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

# . Early Times (1000 BCE – 70 BCE)

King David 1000 BCE

David rules Judea, first united kingdom in the area, from Jerusalem



Divided Kingdom 931 BCE

King Solomon dies, kingdom divided into Judea (south) and Israel (north)



Assyrians 722 BCE

The Assyrians invade and destroy northern Kingdom of Israel

Babylonians 586 BCE

The Babylonians conquer Jerusalem, destroy the first temple and exile influential Jews to Babylon



Persians 538 BCE

The Persians defeat the Babylonians, allow Jews to return to Jerusalem



Greeks 332 BCE

Alexander the Great destroys the Persian Empire, conquers Judea

# Early Times, cont'd



# Blessings for Obedience

## Deuteronomy 28:1-6

**28:1 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.**

2 All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

# Curses for Disobedience

## Deuteronomy 28:15-18

**15 However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:**

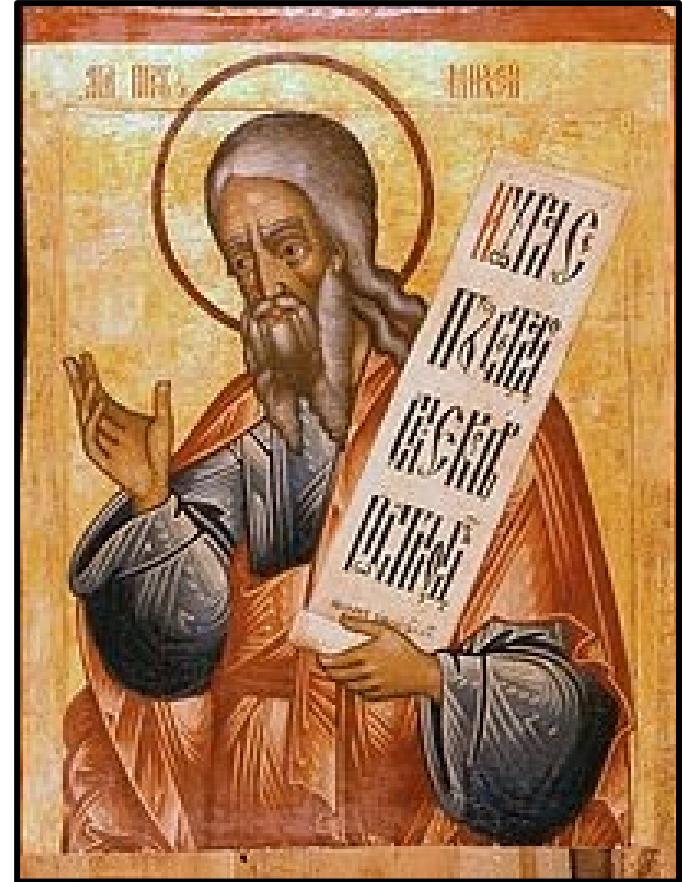
16 You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

17 Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed.

18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

# MICAH (“Who is like Yahweh?”)

- 742-687 B.C.
- Significant prophecy:
  - **A Messiah will come, but until then, Israel will suffer tribulations**
- Micah returned home after his prophetic duties were completed



*Micah the prophet, Russian icon; first quarter of 18th cen.*



# ZEPHANIAH (“Yahweh hides”)

- 640-609 B.C.
- A descendant of King Hezekiah of Judea (715-687 B.C.)
- Repairs were being made to the temple.
- The book of Deuteronomy was uncovered.
- Reforms were instituted and followed.
- Significant Teaching:
  - **God is the Lord of history and of ALL nations.**



An 18th-century Russian icon of the prophet *Zephaniah*



# HABAKKUK

- 625-612 B.C.
- Significant teaching:
  - **A dialogue between the prophet and God concerning DIVINE JUSTICE.**
- What is DIVINE JUSTICE?



An 18th-century Russian icon of the prophet *Habakkuk*

# NAHUM (“Comforter”)

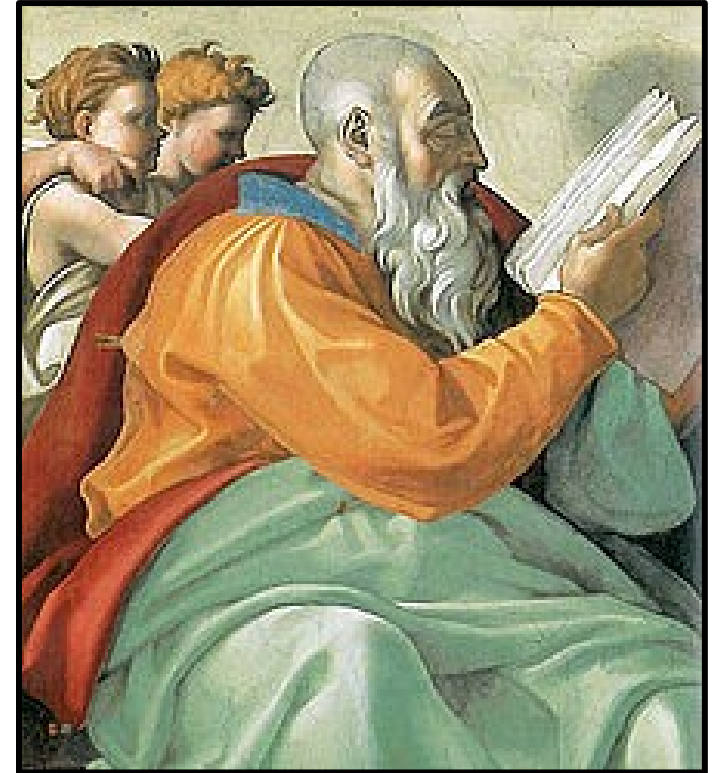
- 621 B.C. (Reign of King Josiah)
- His prophecies were collected and recorded during his time.
- Significant prophecy:
  - **He foretold the destruction of Assyrian Empire and its capital city, Nineveh (625 B.C.).**

*Nahum.* James Tissot, c.1888



# ZECHARIAH (“The Lord has remembered”)

- 538-520 B.C.
- Member of a priestly family
- His book was full of visions and apocalyptic verses
- Significant prophecy:
  - **Look for a royal, but humble and fully human Messiah to be sent by God.**



*Zechariah* as depicted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

# HAGGAI (“My Holiday”)

- 520 B.C.
- The Book of Haggai consists of 2 chapters.
- Significant teachings:
  - **Be obedient to God’s word.**
  - **God is faithful to the ancient promises.**
  - **The Temple and its worship are essential to Israel’s life as the covenant people.**

*Haggai.* James Tissot, c. 1896–1902.



# MALACHI (The “Messenger”)



- 515-445 B.C.
- Significant teaching and prophecy:
  - **God’s judgment against the priests**
  - **The coming day of judgment: A call to return to God.**

**“the light at the end of the tunnel “**





# Modern Times

## ■ Establishment of Israel 1880-1947

- 1880 First Aliyah - First major wave of European Jews immigrate to Palestine.
- 1897 First Zionist Congress - First Zionist Congress in Basel found World Zionist Organization
- 1904-14 Second Aliyah - Second wave of Jewish immigration from eastern Europe.
- 1917 Balfour Declaration - British government issues the Balfour Declaration promising a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine.
- 1917 British Invasion - The British General Allenby conquers Jerusalem.
- 1920 Arab Nationalism Awakens - Jewish-Arab cooperation breaks down, Arab nationalists turn their attention to Jerusalem.
- 1920 First Arab Riots - Arab rioters attack Jewish population in Jerusalem, April 1920.
- 1920 First Jewish Elections - First elections to Jewish parliament, "Knesset" take place
- 1921 More Arab Riots - In May 1921 Arab Nationalists attack Jews in Jaffa, violence spreads throughout Palestine.
- 1922 League of Nations Approves Mandates - Mandate for Palestine, Jewish national home confirmed by predecessor
- 1933 Jewish Immigration Increases - Hitler's rise to power in Germany results in a spike in Jewish emigration from Europe
- 1933-39 Jewish National Home in Peril – Nazi support of Arab fight against Jews, loss of British support for a Jewish nation
- Palestine in World War II
- 1939-45 Jews allied with Britain during war, Palestinian Arabs side with Nazi Germany.
- 1945-1948 Jewish Refugees from Europe - Despite Jewish war effort, Britain blocks refugees from entering Palestine. Jewish sabotage against British.
- 1947 UN Partition Plan - The UN decides to partition Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. Jews accept, Arabs reject the plan.



# Modern Times

## ■ The New State 1947-1973

- 1947-48 Civil War in Palestine - Arabs attack Jewish communities all over Palestine. Civil war breaks out, many Arabs flee ahead of Arab invasion.
- 1948 Israel's Independence War - Israel attacked by armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Cease-fire agreed in spring 1949.
- 1948-53 Arab and Jewish Refugees - More than 700.000 Arabs flee new State of Israel. Almost as many Jews flee to Israel from Arab countries.
- 1950-56 Skirmishes and Sinai Crisis – Egypt and Jordan sponsor guerilla attacks. Egypt's blockade of the Red Sea and nationalization of the Suez Canal spurs an international crisis. Israel invades Gaza and the Sinai.
- 1964 The PLO Established - The PLO is founded in order to "liberate" Palestine from the Zionists.
- 1967 Six Day War - Arab forces build up all around Israel threatening to attack. Israel strikes first, defeats Egypt, Jordan and Syria in six days.
- 1967 UN Resolution 242 - UN calls for negotiated solution, Arabs reject negotiations, recognition, peace with Israel.
- 1967-70 War of Attrition - Egypt shells Israeli forces in Sinai, who respond with air and commando raids.
- 1970-72 PLO and International Terrorism - PLO attacks Israelis and Jewish civilians all over the world.
- 1973 Yom Kippur War - Egypt and Syria initiate coordinated surprise attack on two fronts, Israel repels invaders.

# Peace with the Arabs ? (1977-2000)

## Peace with Egypt

Egypt and Israel sign peace deal, Israel withdraws from Sinai



## The Lebanon War

After years of attacks from Lebanon, Israel invades and ejects PLO



## First "Intifada"

Riots break out in Gaza and West Bank. Israel tries to suppress uprising and there are many losses.

## The Gulf War 1991

PLO supports Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, launches rockets at Israel resulting in retaliations



## The Oslo Process 1993

Peace process between Israel and PLO begins.



## Palestinian Authority 1994

PA assumes power over Gaza and West Bank

# Peace with Arabs ?, cont'd

Peace with Jordan 1994

Jordan becomes the second Arab country to make peace with Israel.



Oslo II 1995

Israel hands over further territory to PA



Murder of Rabin 1995

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is shot by radical, Orthodox Jew.

Additional Accords 1997-1999

Several additional accords are signed. Peace process continues at slow pace.



Israel Leaves Lebanon 2000

After 22 years of military presence, Israel pulls troops from Lebanon.



Camp David, Breakdown of Peace Process 2000

Israel makes offer to PA, who reject it, make no counter offer and leave negotiations.

# The Post-Oslo Era (2000-today)

## The Second Intifada 2000

Palestinians launch wave of suicide bombs and other attacks on Israelis at unprecedented levels.



## Operation "Defensive Shield" 2002

Israel invades most major Palestinian cities on West Bank to destroy infrastructure.



## Israel's Security Border 2002

Israel constructs barrier on West Bank to prevent suicide bombers from reaching Israeli civilians.

## "The Roadmap to Peace" 2003

World powers sponsor phases peace plan. Phase One is never implemented.



## Withdrawal from Gaza 2005

Israel unilaterally withdraws from Gaza Strip, evacuating 8000 Jewish settlers.



## Hamas/2<sup>nd</sup> Lebanon War 2006

Hamas wins Palestinian elections, attempts to share power with Fatah. Hizbollah attacks Israel which leads to one month military operation by Israel.

2007-2009 Hamas' Takeover of Gaza and the Gaza War – Internal fighting among Palestinians leads to Hamas ousting Fatah. Israel launches offensive as Hamas launches increasing numbers of rocket attacks against Jewish population.