

KNOW THE BIBLE



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Books of Prophecy #1

Pre-Babylonian Exile Period

There are 3 main groups of Books in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. They are again:

- 1. Books of History**
- 2. Books of Poetry**
- 3. Books of Prophecy**

We are now going to go over the last grouping in the Old Testament, the Books of Prophecy. The Books of Prophecy are sectioned off into 3 time periods. They occur during the 3^d and 4th periods of the Books of History.

The 1st collection of the Books of Prophecy is the Pre-Babylonian Exile Period. This is the largest group of prophets including both Major and Minor Prophets. Major Prophets were named for their lengthy writings as are the Minor Prophets for their brevity. They total 12 books in all written by 11 prophets who preached before the Babylonian exile stating the need of God's people to either shape up and repent or else.

Books of the Major Prophets in this section;

1. **I**saiah
2. **J**eremiah
3. **L**amentations (written by Jeremiah)

Books of the Minor Prophets in this section;

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 4. H osea | 9. M icah |
| 5. J oel | 10. N ahum |
| 6. A mos | 11. H abakkuk |
| 7. O badiah | 12. Z ephaniah |
| 8. J onah | |

Prophets were men raised up by God in times of disobedience, rebellion and apostasy in Israel. They were primarily revivalists and patriots, speaking on behalf of God to the heart and conscience of the nation of Israel. The prophetic messages are twofold:

- **First**, they spoke to the people during their time; repentance and obedience to God was their decree or destruction was certain.
- **Secondly**, the promised Redeemer or Messiah to come is announced. Their prophetic statements about the Coming Messiah are unmistakable and undeniable, yet it becomes a veil upon the eyes of the people of Israel. God's redemptive plan starts to be unfolded through their prophetic messages.

*Christ's sacrifice answers the mystery which perplexed the prophets. The dual characteristics of the Messiah--a suffering Messiah (**Isaiah 53**), and a reigning Messiah (**Isaiah 11**) are veiled in the promise that is the Old Testament.*

This duality; suffering and glory, weakness and power are unveiled in the New Testament. Its fulfillment is in two advents--

the first advent to redemption through suffering; the Second Advent to the kingdom glory, when the national promises to Israel will be fulfilled and God's redemptive plan for all mankind are played out throughout history.

Pre-Babylonian Exile Period and the books that are about this time period are not necessarily chronological.

How to remember this section:

The biggest section of the prophetic books is the first group. It consists of 12 like the 12 tribes of Israel, 12 sons of Jacob, 12 disciples. It starts with the greatest of the writing prophets, **Isaiah**, who wrote "Mini-Bible" followed by the other major prophet, **Jeremiah**, the weeping prophet. He also wrote "**Lament**"ations. There is a break in the Holy Bible at this point chronologically. The other two Major Prophets are next in the chronology, but, after those "Exiled" prophets come, the remaining Minor Prophets that make up this section of Pre-Babylonian Exile prophets come in order.

This is the saying that has become pretty popular for remembering these Minor Prophets. (**Remember:** H to J, gotta go back to A, want some OJ ... YuM – N, Yukk to the last letter Z). **H**osea, **J**oel, **A**mos, **O**badiah, **J**onah, **M**icah, **N**ahum, **H**abakkuk, **Z**ephaniah) the M –N prophets have only 5 letters in their name!

Once you memorize this saying you will always get the order correct. Also, to commit to memory, you should go thru all the books of the Holy Bible in order every couple of days just to burn them into your long term memory bank.

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- **Isaiah** – often thought of as the greatest of the writing prophets. He was a contemporary of Hosea, Amos, and Micah. The **H - A - M** of the saying for the Minor Prophets. His ministry began in 740 B.C. lasting about 60 years. This timeframe in history is marked by the ascension of the Assyrian empire and the demise of Israel. The nation of Judah is forewarned of its fate by Isaiah. “The Holy One of Israel” is a pretty exclusive saying used by Isaiah. **The Book of Isaiah is also known as the “Mini-Bible” because of its structure.**

the Book of Isaiah

66 Chapters

1st **39** Chapters

(About the nation of Israel; Judgment and the Promise)

Last **27** Chapters

(About Messiah; Deliverance and the Fulfillment of)

the Holy Bible

66 Books

1st **39** Books (OT)

Last **27** Books (NT)

- **Jeremiah** – is the **longest book in the Bible**. The prophet and priest, Jeremiah was a contemporary of Habakkuk, Obadiah, and Ezekiel. His ministry began in 626 B.C. lasting into the Exile Period which began in 586 B.C. He was around when Daniel and his three Jewish companions were taken to Babylon. He started his ministry during the reign of the Josiah, the one of the few godly King of Judah. **He to his lament announced the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem for their disobedience and wickedness mirrored by their ungodly kings** after Josiah. His counsel was marked by his call for submission to God’s will and the subsequent capture of God’s people and doing so without a fight. Considered a prophet of doom and characterized by his anguish of spirit, giving him the name of the “**weeping prophet**”.

- **Lamentations** – a vivid portrayal of the **divine judgment on Jerusalem**. The city of Jerusalem is the focus here. Ascribed to Jeremiah and poetic in nature. Consisting solely of laments often read aloud by Orthodox Jews to this day near the Western Wall in Jerusalem marking the destruction of Solomon's temple in 586 B.C. and Herod's temple again in 70 A.D. Unique feature is the symmetric structure of the verses each of the 5 chapter containing 22 verses with the exception of the middle chapter being made of 66 verses. **The matching of the Hebrew alphabet of 22 letters and the compilation of books (66) that would later make up the Holy Bible are of note.**
- **Hosea** – identifies the tool by which God's judgment on Israel will be exercised, the Assyrians. He was the **ONLY** writing prophet from the northern kingdom of Israel living around 760 B.C up thru the time of the nation of Israel's destruction and exile in 722 B.C. **His family life is used as a symbolic representation of Israel.** God uses Hosea's life as a picture of God's relationship with a disloyal Israel which is a form of spiritual adultery. His ministry began after Amos had already started.
- **Joel** – calls for repentance. Speaks of the locust plague and severe drought that has befallen upon Judah as judgment upon all of Israel. His concern for Judah and Jerusalem are of consequence, but the dating of this book cannot be pinpointed. The prophetic nature of Joel **for all people to come to repentance for after judgment and repentance, restoration and blessing will come.** He focuses on deliverance rather than judgment (kind of a "glass is half full" guy)

- **Amos** –a contemporary of Hosea and Jonah. Amos **declares amid the present prosperity of the northern kingdom of Israel that it was about to reap the judgment of God for their continuing unfaithfulness and corruption.** Their disobedience was to bring utter destruction upon them. The judgment of the neighboring nations also is stated by Amos. Their enemy, Assyria, is not named by Amos, but by Hosea later. His divine calling takes place between 790 B.C. and 750 B.C.
- **Obadiah** – only a one chapter book **about the fate of the Edomites** (Esau's descendents), a relation to Israel (Jacob). Their failure to help the Israelites while basking in their demise and at the same time prideful of their security dooms them to destruction forever while God will reestablish Israel once again. Most believe that his ministry took place about the same time as Jeremiah. **A picture of the fruit of PRIDE is on full display.**
- **Jonah** – taking place around 750 B.C. while Amos and Hosea announce Israel's demise. Jonah is sent to Nineveh, a Gentile people, to speak of their divine judgment if repentance is not made. Jonah's jealousy towards God's favor of all people is representative of Israel's unwillingness to share God's love. **It does give a snapshot of God's redemptive plan for all creation using His people (Israel) as the conduit.** Jonah tries to flee God's plan for him, however it is to no avail in a miraculous way. He reluctantly fulfills his work and repentance by Nineveh is accomplished.
- **Micah** –a contemporary of Isaiah concerned with social ills of the day. His ministry takes place at about the same timeframe as Isaiah between 740 B.C. until 686 B.C. He foretells of Israel & Judah's destruction tempered with the future hope of its glorious return. **He gives oracles of doom AND hope.** He speaks of the greater heights for his people thru the Messianic kingdom to come. **Speaks of God's delight in pardoning those who repent.**

- **Nahum** –*Prophesied about the fall of Nineveh. He was a contemporary of Zephaniah and Jeremiah thus his ministry took place around 630 B.C. Nineveh's repentant heart during Jonah's time was only temporary as Nahum's warnings come fruition in 612 B.C. **God's sovereignty is shown and the guilty shall not go unpunished for God's sees all things.***
 - **Habakkuk** –*a contemporary of Jeremiah with his ministry covering about the same time period 625 B.C. - 580 B.C. The book of Habakkuk is **a dialogue between the prophet and God.** He wrestles with God's ways questioning why Judah's wickedness goes unpunished; and then why God would choose the Babylonians to execute judgment upon Judah. He prophesied about the Babylonian invasion and sees it come to fruition. **God answers his questions teaching Habakkuk and all others to trust in God's plan.***
 - **Zephaniah** – *unique in that this prophet had relation to the royal lineage thru Hezekiah, a king of Judah. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Nahum, and Habakkuk with his ministry taking place during the reign of King Josiah from 640 B.C. until 625 B.C. Zephaniah **announces Judah's approaching judgment and other nations' fate as well at the hands of the Babylonians.** Yet, concludes with statement of redemption for the remnant who are purged from the wicked.*
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Here is the time line of the prophets of Pre-Babylonian Exile Period to help remember the issues of their time;

(B.C.) 800 750 700 650 600 (586 Exile)

[A mos]					
[H osea]					
[J onah]					
	[I saiah]				
	[M icah]				
				[J eremiah]	
				[O badiah]	
				[N ahum]	
				[Habak k uk]	
				[Z ephaniah]	

(You will notice when looking at the timeline that Joel is not listed. Some believe that his ministry started this group of prophets calling for repentance. Also of note: 5 prophets are ministering during the same generation around 750 B.C about the time of the fall of Israel; and then again around 625 B.C. about the time of the fall of Judah. There is almost exactly 40 years separating these two prophetic groups.)

*This is the largest of the OT sections in the Holy Bible. It contains 12 books in all written by 11 prophets. 2 of the Major Prophets and 9 of the Minor Prophets are contained in this group. This time period is BEFORE Israel and Judah went into exile at the hands of the Babylonian empire. (**Remember:** If you learn the acronym, you will always remember their order.)*

(Write the books in the spaces below; for permanent memory)

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*

*

*

J

P

P

E

S

I

J

L

H _____

J _____

A _____

O _____

J _____

M _____

N _____

H _____

Z _____

Now you know the first 34 books of the Holy Bible, how they are broken down, and what they are about. There are only 5 remaining books in the Old Testament!

Below are 12 Bible verses from the Pre-Babylonian Exile Period of the Books of Prophecy. Correctly identify the Bible verse with the corresponding book. The idea is to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God.

1. "I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the Lord. "Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah."
2. "I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land."
3. "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."
4. "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet."
5. "The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young."
6. "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."
7. "'In that day,' declares the Lord, 'will I not destroy the wise men of Edom, men of understanding in the mountains of Esau?'"
8. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
9. "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal, the names of the pagan and the idolatrous priests"
10. "The LORD said to him, 'Go take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the Lord.' So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son."
11. "Then the LORD replied: 'Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.'"
12. "'In that day,' declares the Sovereign Lord, 'I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your religious feasts into mourning and all your singing into weeping. I will make all of you wear sackcloth and shave your heads. I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.'"

___ Isaiah 53:5

___ Joel 3:2

___ Micah 5:2

___ Jeremiah 1:15

___ Amos 8:9

___ Nahum 1:3

___ Lamentations 3:25

___ Obadiah 1:8

___ Habakkuk 2:2

___ Hosea 1:2

___ Jonah 3:2

___ Zephaniah 1:4

The following pages have 12 Bible verses from the Pre-Babylonian Exile Period of the Books of Prophecy. They are broken up into 4 groups of 3 bible verses. Correctly identify the Bible verse with the corresponding book. In order to become familiar with where topics and names are found in the Word of God, they have been placed in sequential order based on their placement in the Holy Bible.

“Prepare the nations for battle against her-- the kings of the Medes, their governors and all their officials, and all the countries they rule. The land trembles and writhes, for the Lord’s purposes against Babylon stand-- to lay waste the land of Babylon so that no one will live there.”

1. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

“Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered among the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

2. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

“After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.”

3. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

Isaiah 53:12

Jeremiah 51:28

Lamentations 1:3

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”

1. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

“I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.”

2. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

“And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.”

3. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

Hosea 11:1

Joel 2:32

Amos 9:14

“Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”

1. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

“This terrified them and they asked, ‘What have you done?’ (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.) The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, ‘What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?’ ‘Pick me up and throw me into the sea,’ he replied, ‘and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.’”

2. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

“The house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; the house of Esau will be stubble, and they will set it on fire and consume it. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau.” The LORD has spoken.”

3. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

Obadiah 1:18

Jonah 1:10

Micah 7:18

"I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own."

1. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

"He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert."

2. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

"An attacker advances against you, [Nineveh]. Guard the fortress, watch the road, brace yourselves, marshal all your strength!"

3. Which book of the Books of Prophecy? _____

Nahum 2:1

Habakkuk 1:6

Zephaniah 2:13

After identifying the previous Bible verses, take the time to find a Bible verse on your own that really identifies with that particular book. Just the act of searching and writing it down gives you a better sense and greater familiarity with the Word of God. You are actively participating in studying the Holy Bible.

Isaiah _____

Jeremiah _____

Lamentations _____

Hosea _____

Joel _____

Amos _____

After identifying the previous Bible verses, take the time to find a Bible verse on your own that really identifies with that particular book. Just the act of searching and writing it down gives you a better sense and greater familiarity with the Word of God. You are actively participating in studying the Holy Bible.

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Notes

Describe a topic in this section to remember.

(Example: *Very descriptive foretelling of the Messiah that so describes Jesus Christ it becomes a stumbling block for the Jewish nation written 700 years BEFORE Christ. Isaiah 52-53)*
