

Preaching of Prophets III; Reforms of Josiah

Micah, Isaiah's younger contemporary; wickedness of Manasseh and righteousness of Josiah; Josiah falls at *har Megiddon*; prophets during the period of Babylonian threat—[Zephaniah], [Nahum], Habakkuk, [Obadiah], and perhaps Joel.

Micah 1–7; 2 Kings 21–23; 2 Chronicles 33–35; Habakkuk 1–3; Joel 1–3.

Micah

The Last of the Prophets of the Assyrian Period

- **Micah = “Who is like YHWH?”**
- Eight century B.C., younger contemporary of Isaiah
- **Small farmer from Moresheth west of Jerusalem** (Isaiah was a prominent man in the court)

- **Themes**
 - **Social Justice**
 - Opposed to political and religious officials
 - Denounced the exploitation of the poor
 - **Divine Favor and gloom**
 - **Qualified support for the House of David** (knows of a coming great one but realizes that kings in his day often fall short)
 - **Refuses to blindly support a “Zion theology”** that maintains that Jerusalem cannot fall because YHWH dwells there

Overview of Micah

- **The Superscription (1:1)**
- **Message of Destruction for Samaria and Judah (1:2–2:13)**
 - The Revelation of the Coming Judgment (1:2–16)
 - The Reasons for the Coming Judgment (2:1–13)
- **Message of Doom and Deliverance (3:1–5:15)**
 - Doom: The Coming Judgment (3:1–12)
 - Deliverance: The Coming Kingdom (4:1–5:1)
 - 4:1–5 ≈ Isaiah 2:2–4
 - **Deliverance: The Coming King (5:2–15)**
 - 5:3 = Matthew 2:6
- **Message of Denunciation (6:1–7:10)**
 - God's First Indictment (6:1–5; Heb *niv*, or "covenant lawsuit")
 - Israel's First Reply (6:6–8)
 - God's Second Indictment (6:9–16)
 - Israel's Second Reply (7:1–10)
 - **Domestic discord of 7:6 ≈ Matt 10:35–36, Luke 12:53**
- **Epilogue: A Psalm of Hope (7:11–20)**
 - A prophecy of restoration (7:11–17)
 - Community Confession: God's compassion and steadfast love (7:18–20)

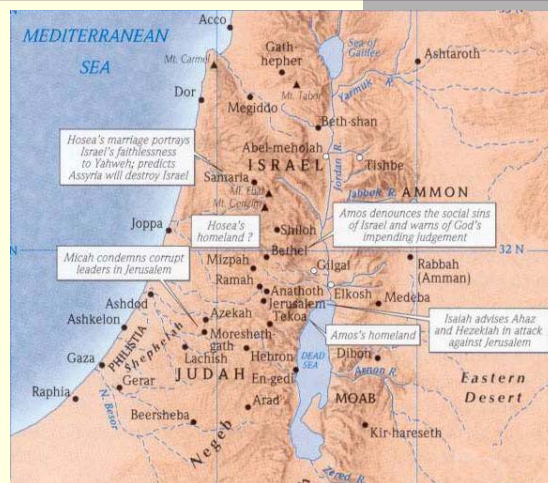
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Eight Century (Assyrian Period) Prophets Reviewed

- **Amos from Tekoa**
 - called from Judah to preach in Israel
- **[Jonah from Gath Hopher]**
 - prophesies Israel's brief revival under Jeroboam II, preaches against Nineveh
- **Hosea from Samaria?**
 - Preached against the prosperity of Israel under Jeroboam II
- **Isaiah from Jerusalem**
 - Preached under four kings of Judah
 - Socially prominent, attached to the court
- **Micah from Moresheth**
 - Younger contemporary of Isaiah



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Wickedness before Goodness

- **Reign of Manasseh** (2 Kings 21:1–18; cf. 2 Chronicles 33:1–20)
 - *CH's addition of Manasseh's being restored after repentance (2 Chronicles 33:10–17)*
- **Reign of Amon** (21:19–26; cf. 2 Chronicles 33:21–25)

Reign of Josiah

(2 Kings 22:1–23:30; cf. 2 Chr. 34:1–35:27)

- **Josiah = “supported by YHWH”**
 - *The “best” king since David!* (22:1–2)
- He repairs the Temple (22:1–7)
- Hilkiyah “finds” the Book of the Law (22:8–20)
 - *Usually identified with Deuteronomy*
 - *Huldah!*
- He renews the covenant (23:1–3)
- He reforms the nation (23:4–20)
 - *After cleansing Judah, he expedition into the territory of the old northern kingdom, where he destroys high places and shrines to false gods*
 - *Includes the fulfilling of the prophecy of 1 Kings 13:2 and 32 regarding Beth-el and the tomb of the “man of God” from Judah*
- **The Passover celebrated (23:21–23)**
 - *A longer version is preserved in 2 Chronicles 35:1–19 with more liturgical details and lots of references to Levites!*
- Further reforms but the Lord’s continuing anger (23:24–27)

Josiah's Kingdom and End

- The near-collapse of the Assyrian Empire allowed Josiah to expand into the territory of Israel
- Pharaoh Necho of Egypt went north to help the failing Assyrian Empire against its enemy Babylon
 - Josiah tried to stop him
- Josiah dies in battle (2 Kings 23:28–30)



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19. Preaching of Proph

Har Megiddon

The Hill of Megiddo in Northern Israel

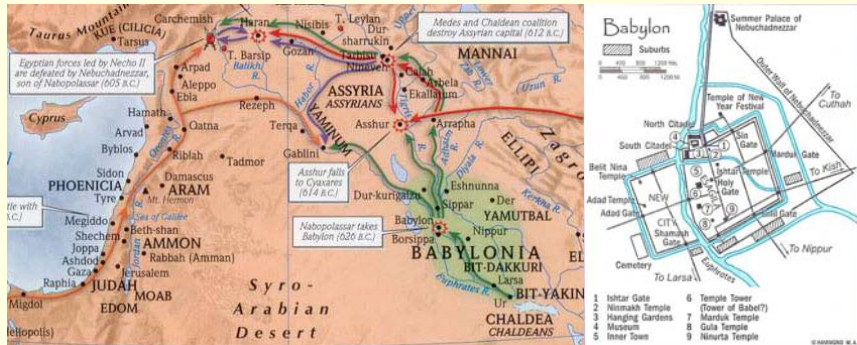


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19. Preaching

The Babylonian Period (c. 625–538 B.C.)

- After succeeding in destroying the Assyrian Empire, Babylon begins to build its own empire in the Middle East
- Prophets of this period include [Zephaniah], [Nahum], perhaps Joel, Habakkuk, and [Obadiah]



Habakkuk

- Habakkuk = ?
- Dates to early in the Babylonian crisis (c. 608–598 B.C.)
- A reflective, honest work, the first two chapters constitute a **prophetic dialogue with the Lord dealing with difficult questions**
 - **Theodicy—the justice (or seeming injustice) of God**
 - Confidence and doubt
 - Salvation and judgment

Overview of Habakkuk

- **Introduction (1:1)**
- **Habakkuk's Complaints (1:2–2:20)**
 - The Prophet's First Complaint: Why Does God Allow Wicked Practices to Continue in Judah? (1:2–4)
 - God's First Reply (1:5–11)
 - **He has raised up the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to punish Judah**
 - The Prophet's Second Complaint: Why Will God Use Wicked People to Punish Judah? (1:12–2:1)
 - God's Second Reply (2:2–20)
 - The wicked will, in fact, be punished
 - **“ . . . But the just shall live by faith” (2:4b = Romans 1:17)**
- **Habakkuk's Prayer (3:1–19; a carefully composed poem or song)**
 - Praise for the Person of God (3:1–3)
 - Praise for the Power of God (3:4–7)
 - Praise for the Purpose of God (3:8–16)
 - Praise Because of Faith in God (3:17–19)

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Joel

- **Joel = “My God is YHWH”**
- Date uncertain, anywhere between 850–350 B.C.
 - Arguments for a pre-exilic dating
 - No mentioned of Jerusalem's destruction
 - Reflective of the struggles of Elijah, some similarities to the Judahite prophets of the Assyrian period
 - Arguments for a post-exilic (Persian) dating
 - No mention of kings
 - No mention of Assyria or Babylon (although **the locust plague could be a type of any of the terrible invasions that Judah suffered in any of its periods**)
 - Focus on priests and temple is a common post-exile motif
 - **Babylonian Period is as good a guess as any!**

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Overview of Joel

- **Title Verse: the Author (1:1)**
- **Desolation of the Locust Plague as a Type (1:2–2:17)**
 - Lament over the Ruin of the Country (1:2–12)
 - A Call to Repentance and Prayer (1:13–14)
 - Picture of the Desolation (1:15–20)
 - Prophecy of Future Desolation (2:1–11)
 - Exhortation in View of Desolation (2:12–17)
- **The Day of the Lord and Deliverance (2:18–3:21)**
 - God's Promise of Immediate Deliverance (2:18–27)
 - God's Promise of Future Deliverance (2:28–3:21)
 - *God's spirit poured out (2:28–32)*
 - God's judgments (3:1–17)
 - The glorious future of Judah (3:18–21)