

The Whole Bible: The Minor Prophets Hosea - Malachi

- The difference between the major and minor prophets is the length of the books. The minor prophets are no less important.
- All the prophets lived and prophesied during the time of the division of Israel between the northern and southern kingdoms.
- Sin, judgment, and restoration in light of covenant are the primary, unifying themes that run throughout these twelve books.
- Prophets were called by God to speak to the people on behalf of God.
- The role of the prophet during this time was to call out the sins of Israel, to warn Israel of impending judgment for their covenant unfaithfulness, to call Israel back to faithfulness to Yahweh and to give a message of blessing and redemption to the repentant.

Covenant

- Israel is God's covenant people who are saved by faith (Gen 15:6; Hab. 2:4) and called to live as a people in a covenant relationship with God set apart from the rest of the world.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the **land** which I will show you; ² And I will make you a **great nation**, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

2 Samuel 7:16 ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

Exodus 24:7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."

- Israel as unfaithful, covenant breakers

Amos 7:7-9 This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; ⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Hosea 1:2 ² When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, **for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.**"

The Day of the Lord

- Judgment comes for the unrepentant

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

Joel 2:1-3, 10-11 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! **Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, ² a day of darkness and gloom,** a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. ³ Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. ¹¹ The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. **For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?**

Amos 5:18-20 ⁸ Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹ as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

Future Promises of Salvation

- Salvation through the Messiah comes for a faithful remnant

Joel 2:12-13, 26-27 ¹² "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

²⁶ "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷ **You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.**

Micah 5:1-4 Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, **from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel**, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ **And he shall stand and shepherd his flock** in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now **he shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Micah 7:18-20 ¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Zechariah 3:8-9 ⁸ Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, **I will bring my servant the Branch.** ⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and **I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.**

Zechariah 14:9 ⁹ And the LORD will be **king over all the earth.** On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

Hosea

- There is tension between God's faithfulness and love for Israel and his justice in carrying out the curses for covenant unfaithfulness.

Hosea 3:1-3 And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, **even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.**" ² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. ³ And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you."

Joel

- Joel focuses on the impending day of the LORD. This is a frightening and terrible day of judgment for the wicked but an awesome and comforting day of salvation for the faithful.

- Peter preaches at Pentecost and quotes Joel as the prophecy is being partially fulfilled in the coming of the Spirit.

Joel 2:28-32 ²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. ³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before **the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.** ³² **And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**

Amos

- Amos calls out Israel's immorality, religious apostasy, and social injustice. True faith and social justice go hand in hand.

Amos 5:7, 11-12, 21-24 ⁷ O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth

¹¹ Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

¹² For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins- you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.

²¹ "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴ **But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Obadiah

- The shortest book of the Old Testament
- A prophesy of judgment against the pagan nation of Edom and other nations in general who are against Israel and the God of Israel

Obadiah 1:10 ¹⁰ Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.

Obadiah 1:15 ¹⁵ For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

Jonah

- Jesus is the true and better Jonah.

Matthew 12:40 for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- God is merciful and gracious to all who repent and trust him, both Jews and Gentiles. God shows no partiality (Rom. 2:11).

Jonah 3:10 - 4:2 ⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. **4:1** But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that **you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.**

Micah

- Micah calls out the sins of the Israel which include idolatry, corrupt civil and religious leadership, and social injustice. Despite the coming judgment, there is forgiveness and restoration through a much anticipated messianic king.

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Nahum

- Judgment against Nineveh
- God is both just and good.

Nahum 1:2, 7 ² The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.

⁷ The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

Habakkuk

- Habakkuk begins by complaining and telling God how things should be run, but he ends a changed man trusting and rejoicing in God despite the circumstances and not understanding God's ways.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 ⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

Zephaniah

- Like Joel, the coming of the Day of the Lord is the prominent theme. God will judge the whole earth including his covenant people. Judgment and blessing occur both in the near future as well as in the distant future.

Zephaniah 3:17 ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Haggai

- Post-exilic prophesy
- God's people are called to rebuild and restore the temple. God longs to be with his people, and his people long to be in his presence.

Haggai 2:9 ⁹ The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah

- Post-exilic prophesy
- During this time, God's people were discouraged by the sad state of affairs, but God promises restoration and renewal to his people that will come through a new Davidic ruler.

Zechariah 9:9 ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Malachi

- Post-exilic prophesy
- Malachi calls out Israel's half-hearted worship. In the form of disputations, Malachi calls Israel to take their covenant relationship seriously and to remember the coming of the day of the Lord.

Malachi 4:5-6 ⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."