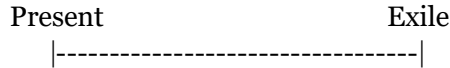


# THE WHOLE BIBLE: 66 BOOKS IN 10 WEEKS

## Hosea-Micah

### HISTORICAL SETTING

- Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in long, persistent disobedience
- God sends prophets to call for repentance and warn of judgment



### But prophets also speak comfort

- exile not just punishment for sin, but discipline of loving father
- after exile, God will renew his promises and restore his people



### INTRODUCTION TO HOSEA

#### Hosea 1:2-3

<sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

#### Commands Hosea to marry unfaithful wife, Gomer

- Israel’s covenant with God is like a marriage

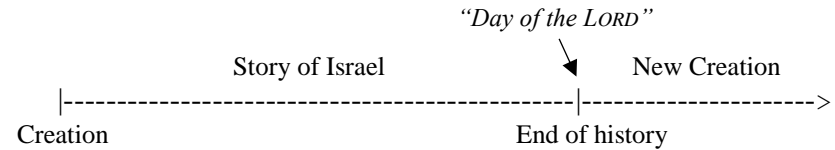
#### Hosea 3:1-5

<sup>1</sup>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.” <sup>2</sup>So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. <sup>3</sup>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.”

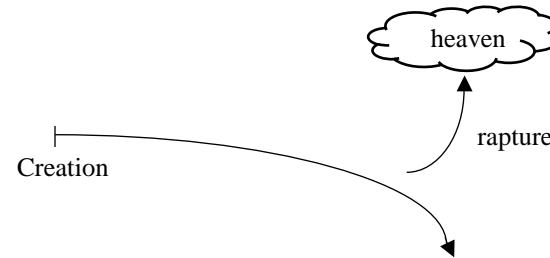
<sup>4</sup>For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. <sup>5</sup>Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

### INTRODUCTION TO JOEL

#### The End of history and the “Day of the Lord”



#### The Bible teaches a two-age eschatology, not a two-world eschatology



#### Joel 2:1-2

<sup>1</sup>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,  
<sup>2</sup>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.

### INTRODUCTION TO AMOS

#### Israel was enjoying a period of peace and great prosperity

- but society with an enormous gap between rich and poor
- Amos rails against the injustice committed by rich
- the Law of God calls for “justice” (jP<sup>1</sup>v.mi) for the poor

### **Amos 5:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> 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.  
<sup>12</sup> 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.

### **Amos 5:24**

But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

## **INTRODUCTION TO OBADIAH**

### **Shortest book in Old Testament**

- prophesy of judgment against Edom
- in “the Day of the Lord,” the wicked will be destroyed

### **Obadiah 1:10-12, 15**

<sup>10</sup> Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,  
shame shall cover you,  
and you shall be cut off forever.  
<sup>11</sup> On the day that you stood aloof,  
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth  
and foreigners entered his gates  
and cast lots for Jerusalem,  
you were like one of them.  
<sup>12</sup> But do not gloat over the day of your brother  
in the day of his misfortune;  
do not rejoice over the people of Judah  
in the day of their ruin;  
do not boast  
in the day of distress.  
<sup>15</sup> 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.

## **INTRODUCTION TO JONAH**

### **Book is about God’s compassion for foreign peoples (even to Nineveh)**

- story ends open-ended – will we open our hearts to outsiders?

### **Jonah 4:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And Jonah said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

## **INTRODUCTION TO MICAH**

### **There will be a restoration for God’s people**

- not just a return to the past, but a greater fulfillment of future

### **Micah 4:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and peoples shall flow to it,  
<sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall decide for strong nations afar off;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore;  
<sup>4</sup> but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid,  
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the peoples walk  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God  
forever and ever.

**Notes:**

**Historical setting**

**Spiritual highpoint of Israel is reign of David**

- David’s son, Solomon, begins w/ promise, but eventually apostatizes

**After Solomon, Israel splits into two – Israel and Judah**

- Israel’s first king, Jeroboam immediately sets up two golden calves
- Israel goes into steep moral decline | conquered by Assyria (722 BC)
- Judah, under David’s line, is more faithful, but also falls into apostasy – conquered by Babylonians in 586 BC

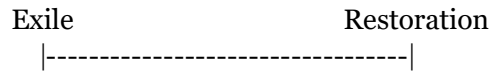
**God sends prophets to call for repentance and to warn of judgment**

- curses of disobedience to Mosaic Covenant – famine, disease, oppression, and finally exile from land
- prophets describe in vivid detail the coming destruction



**But the prophets also speak comfort to God’s people**

- exile will not just be punishment for sin, but discipline of loving father
- exile will “purify” people of their idolatry and self-dependence
- and there will be a return from exile, a full restoration and renewal



**Hosea**

**Book begins with shocking command – to marry an unfaithful woman**

**Hosea 1:2-3**  
<sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

- “whoredom” means unfaithfulness or prostitute
- Hosea whole-heartedly loves his wife

**Israel’s covenant with God is like a marriage**

- Israel is like an unfaithful wife | God is like a jealous husband
- our relationship to him must be:
  - exclusive (no other gods)
  - intimate (engages your whole heart)
  - first priority (no other relationship is as important)

**Hosea experiences personal and deep betrayal**

- in family life of Hosea, we see a glimpse into God’s own heart

**Hosea 3:1-5**  
<sup>1</sup> 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.” <sup>2</sup> So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. <sup>3</sup> 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.”  
<sup>4</sup> For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. <sup>5</sup> Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

**Hosea goes to a slave auction and “redeems” his wayward wife**

- God calls on Hosea to show profound grace and forgiveness to Gomer
- picture of redeeming love of our ultimate bridegroom, Jesus Christ

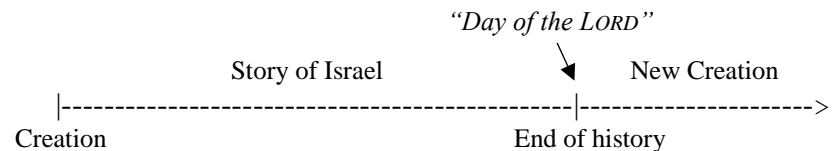
**Hosea prophesies a future exile and return – “latter days”**

- in these latter days, King David will come once again
- fulfillment of Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)

**Joel**

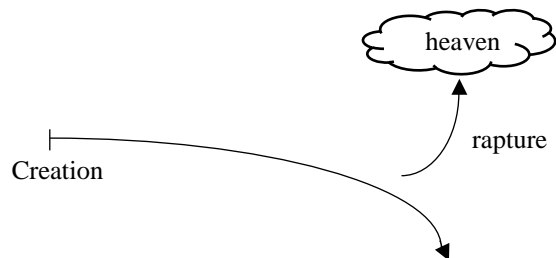
**The End of history and the “Day of the Lord”**

- Bible teaches that history is a line, not a circle
- great drama of OT is building to a climatic day – end of human history



## The Bible teaches two-age eschatology, not two-world eschatology

- two-age eschatology:
  - *this age*: evil and passing, like a shadow
  - *age to come*: everlasting, full of justice and righteousness
- two-world eschatology:
  - earth: hopelessly corrupt and doomed to destruction, like Titanic
  - heaven: escape from hellish earth, bless and serene



### Joel 2:1-2

<sup>1</sup> 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,  
<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Darkness and clouds are signs of judgment

- end of history will be bring doom to the wicked
- remembers, at cross, there was darkness and earthquake
  - Judgment Day brought forward on Christ

## Amos

### Israel was enjoying a period of peace and great prosperity

- mistakenly believed that this was a sign of God's favor
- they were safe because of their religious devotion
- and on the Day of the Lord, Israel's enemies would be vanquished

### But Amos rails against the injustice of the rich

- enormous gap between rich and poor
- the rich exploited the poor and were indifferent to their plight

### Amos 5:11-12

<sup>11</sup> 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,  
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you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and turn aside the needy in the gate.

### Amos 5:24

But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

### “Justice” is the Hebrew word – *mishpat* | jP'v.mi

- very important concept in Old Testament | 200x in OT
- means justice and fairness – don't treat people differently
- and giving people their rights – don't deprive people of rightfully theirs
- in OT, *mishpat* is care for widows, orphans and foreigners

### Challenges our modern notions of justice

- not just criminal justice – put bad people in jail
- but economic and social justice – equity and protection for weak

### According to Torah, Israel not have extremes of wealth and poverty

- but rich used exploitative practices to deny the poor justice
- adopted corrupt practices, denied justice to the poor (at the gate)

## Obadiah

### Shortest book in Old Testament

- prophesy of judgment against Edom
- during fall of Jerusalem, Edom participated in attacks
- Edom's hostility is re-dramatization of hatred between Esau and Jacob

### Obadiah 1:10-12, 15

<sup>10</sup> Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob,  
shame shall cover you,  
and you shall be cut off forever.

<sup>11</sup> On the day that you stood aloof,  
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in the day of distress.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

### Justice means the wicked will be destroyed

- the New Heavens and New Earth will be eradication of all evil-doers

## Jonah

### Book is about God's compassion for foreign peoples

- God sends Jonah to Nineveh, a city of violence, lust and greed
- Jonah refuses at first, because of his deep hatred for Nineveh

### Jonah 4:9-11

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And Jonah said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should not I

pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

**God – "Jonah, you loved this plant so much; shouldn't you love people, made in my image, even more?"**

- our sin is that we love things and objects more than people

### Augustine – City of God

"The City of God is where the inhabitants love people and walk on gold. The city of man is where the inhabitants love gold and walk on people."

### Story ends open-ended

- asking reader, will we open our hearts to outsiders?
- or remain aloof and sit outside the city, angry at God?

## Micah

### God will forgive his people and restore them

- not just back to what once was, but a greater fulfillment
- and Messiah will establish a Kingdom of justice and peace

### Micah 4:1-5

<sup>1</sup> It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
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and no one shall make them afraid,  
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<sup>5</sup> For all the peoples walk  
each in the name of its god,

but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God  
forever and ever.

**In the latter days, God will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem**

- “highest mountain” – greatest prominence | look up to mountains
- “peoples flow, many nations” – fulfillment of promise to Abraham

**Genesis 12:3**

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse,  
and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

- in latter days, there be great inflow of Gentiles into Kingdom of God
- Messiah will come | wise teacher
- “he shall judge between many peoples” – his rule will create justice
- “beat swords into plowshares” – no more violence, but lasting peace