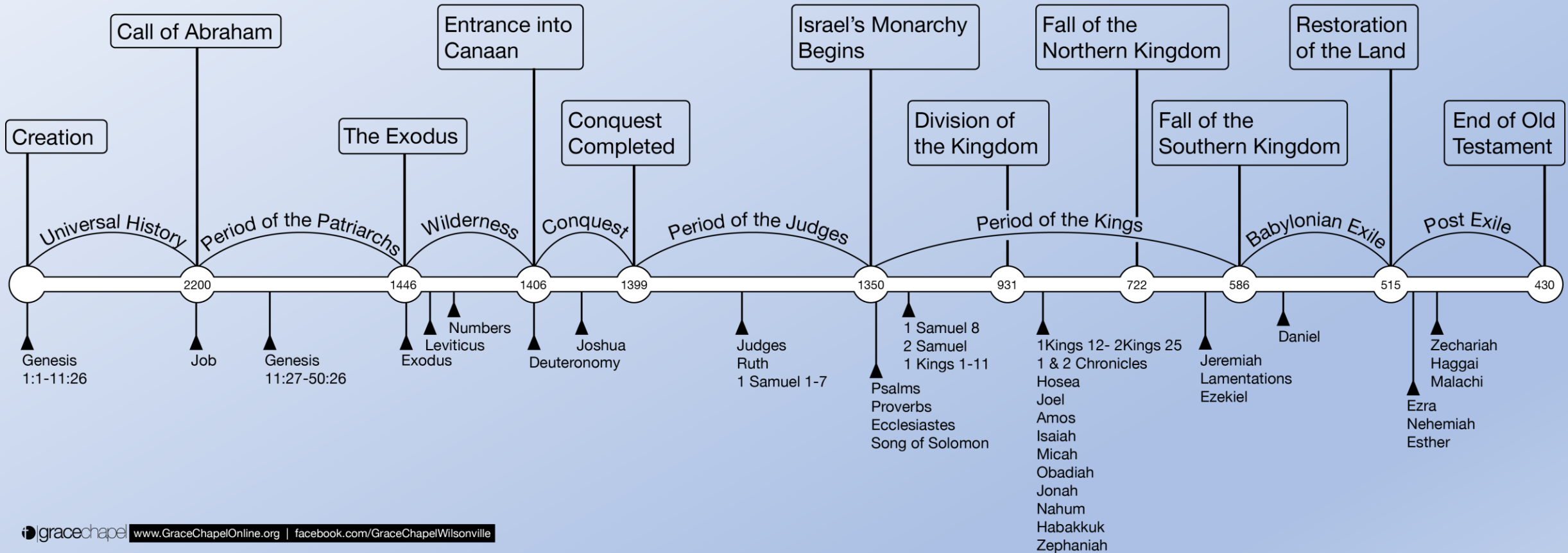


# **The Prophets**

**Jonah, Amos, Hosea,**

**Joel, Isaiah & Micah**

# OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE



# Intro

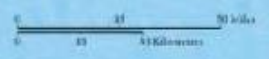
- Israel divided into two nations in 930BC
- Two separate Kingdoms continue side by side for over 200 years
- Northern Kingdom – Israel (Ephraim) is totally apostate
- Southern Kingdom – Judah has Davidic Kings on the Throne (good, bad, mixed)
- Before Israel is destroyed they enjoyed great prosperity under Jeroboam II
- In 722BC Assyria destroys Israel and takes the people away
- In 586BC Babylon destroys Jerusalem and takes Judah into exile

# Jonah

- Preached to the Northern Kingdom during their period of great prosperity and might
- During a time of widespread religion with no heart or substance
- Jonah comes from Gath Hopher – 3 miles north of Nazareth

**DIVIDED KINGDOMS AFTER SOLOMON AND OTHER KINGDOMS**

- City
- ★ Capital city
- Political boundaries



# Jonah

Preached to the Northern Kingdom during their period of great prosperity and might

During a time of widespread religion with no heart or substance

Jonah comes from Gath Hopher – 3 miles north of Nazareth

Jonah probably trained in one of Elisha's schools

The book is not a prophecy, but is a history of a prophet.



# Jonah

## Jonah 4:9-11

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?”

“I do,” he said. “I am angry enough to die.”

<sup>10</sup> But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup> But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?”

# Jonah

## Historical views of Jonah

- Allegory – an imaginary story that carries a lesson (Like Aesop's Fables)
- The book is genuinely historical
  - Mat 12:39-40 Jesus says that he will experience something similar to Jonah's experience in belly of a fish.

The book has a predictive purpose and a typical purpose.

- Jonah was a type of Christ



# Jonah

- Teaches the balance between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility
- God's sovereignty over:

The Storm

Placement of the Fish

Journey of the Fish

The work of repentance

Growth of a plant

A worm and hot wind

- Jonah teaches human responsibility:

Prophet disobeys and is set  
straight by God

An unrepentant nation held  
responsible and called to repent

There is not one detail that God does not control, and yet, men and women are personally accountable to him. He displays patience and Mercy.

# Jonah

## Main Lessons:

- God is patient
- God's mercy isn't limited to one nation – Jew and Gentile
- Wherever & whoever turns to God in repentance – God's anger is averted
- Christ's death and resurrection, by which mercy flows, were in the divine plan before Christ walked the earth

# Amos

Name means – a burden bearer

Not found anywhere else in the Bible

Amos comes from Tekoa – about 10 miles south of Jerusalem

DIVIDED KINGDOMS AFTER SOLOMON AND OTHER KINGDOMS

- City
- ★ Capital city
- Political boundaries



# Amos

Name means – a burden bearer

Not found anywhere else in the Bible

Amos comes from Tekoa – about 10 miles south of Jerusalem

Was a shepherd and a gatherer of sycamore fruit – very poor region and upbringing

Called to preach to the Northern kingdom. Why?

The Northern Kingdom at this time:

filled with luxury and excess

no immediate threat of war

The rich becoming very rich

The poor becoming very poor

Rampant idolatry

Exploitation of the poor

Indulgent sin

Total breakdown of honesty and godliness amidst the people

# Amos

Sent to the North to tell them destruction is near – in 30 years

Preached with energy, vividness and simplicity

Uses an incredible amount of illustrations

Bird in a nest

Sycamore trees

Two men mtg in a desert

Wagon loaded down with cheese

Shepherd snatching from a lion

Cattle driving

Basket of overripe fruit

Birds in snares, corn winnowing, sowing, plowing, reaping...

His preaching was so impassioned that he was charged with sedition - Amos 7:10-17



# Amos

## Message:

- God has fixed moral absolutes
- God deals with nations by His ethical standards
- All nations are guilty, but Israel is especially guilty because it sinned knowingly
- Therefore God's judgement is going to be especially severe 3:2
- God's wants Israel to return to Him, but if they don't judgement is certain- Amos 5
- Israel will be restored –Amos 9:11-15
  - Acts 15:12-21 – declares the fulfillment of this

# Amos 9:11-15

<sup>11</sup> “In that day I will restore  
David’s fallen tent.  
I will repair its broken places,  
restore its ruins,  
and build it as it used to be,  
<sup>12</sup> so that they may possess the remnant of  
Edom  
and all the nations that bear my name, ”  
declares the LORD, who will do these things.  
<sup>13</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when the reaper will be overtaken by the  
plowman  
and the planter by the one treading grapes.  
New wine will drip from the mountains  
and flow from all the hills.

<sup>14</sup> 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.  
<sup>15</sup> 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.

# Acts 15:12-21

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up: “Brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> “After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,

<sup>17</sup> that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,

and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’

<sup>18</sup> that have been known for ages.

<sup>19</sup> “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

# Hosea

- Name means salvation – is a version of the names Joshua and Jesus
- Is prophet to the North when the Northern kingdom falls
- He was a native of the Northern kingdom and probably the son of a farmer
- Ministered a long time, about 754-714BC - 7 northern kings and 4 southern
- Known as a weeping prophet or the prophet of the broken heart
- He pleaded with Israel to repent and heed his warnings for 40 years
- Israel did not heed his warning, but he did not fail as a prophet

# Hosea

Three Themes repeated three times

Sin ➤ God is Holy

Punishment ➤ God is Just

Restoration ➤ God is Love

# Hosea

## Narrative

Hosea married Gomer and she wasn't true to him. She was a woman of whoredom and had children of whoredom.

Hosea goes to her shameful place and buys her back and restores her

Just as Hosea is married to Gomer – Jehovah is married to Israel

Just as Gomer becomes untrue to Hosea – Israel is unfaithful to the Lord

Just as Gomer is enslaved by her other lovers – Israel is enslaved by the very nations in which it puts its trust.

Just as Hosea restores Gomer – Jehovah has a glorious future for his people –Rom 9

Gomer was bought back with a price and Christ bought his bride with His blood



# Joel

Name means Jehovah is God

Ministered in Judah

Was a native of Judah – possibly Jerusalem due to his deep knowledge of the Temple

Amos and Joel were probably friends – compare Joel 3:16 and Amos 2:1

Main concept is: The Day of the Lord – a great day of reckoning

# Joel

## Outline

### 1:1-2:14      The Peril of forsaking God

2-20    The situation – great desolation in the Lord – Land ravaged by Locusts

15, 19    The Cause – The Lord

8, 11, 13, 14    The reaction of the people – unmoved and unrepentant

2:1-11    The Future – God will bring worse upon them

2:12-14    The Appeal – The door of mercy is still open

### 2:15-27      The Sweetness of Returning to God

15-17    The manner of returning (how) – weeping in bitter repentance

18-27    The blessings of returning (why) – because of the blessings you will receive

# Joel

## Outline

### 2:28-32      Future Blessings

28-32 The privileges of Christ's church – the blessings of the Spirit in New Covenant – Pentecost Acts 2:16-21

# Joel 2:28-29

<sup>28</sup> “And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your old men will dream dreams,

your young men will see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

# Acts 2:16-21

16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 ““In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

# Joel

## Outline

### 2:28-32      Future Blessings

28-32 The privileges of Christ's church – the blessings of the Spirit in New Covenant – Pentecost Acts 2:16-21

### 3:1-21      God will overthrow the enemies of His people

1-8 The lesson taught once

9-17 Twice

18-21 Three times – culminating in Heaven



# Isaiah

Name means Jehovah is salvation

Began to preach to Judah about 17 years before the Northern Kingdom disappeared

Son of Amoz – prominent man mentioned 13 times in the Bible

Cousin of King Uzziah and is close to the royal family

Married to a prophetess (8:3)

Had two sons

- Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz which means -Hastening to the spoil, hurrying to the prey
- Shear-Jashub whose name means 'A Remnant shall return'

# Isaiah

Very educated man – used most extensive Hebrew vocab of any OT book

He was a genius, a poet, a statesman and a preacher

Killed by being sawn in two during reign of Manasseh – Heb 11:37

Ministered during a time of great fear and insecurity

He counsels Hezekiah to put his trust in the Lord

The book has great versatility:

Pleadings, portrayals & parables

visions, prophecies, predictions,

Psalms, consolations, and the description of the sufferings of Christ

Isa 7:14 – prophesy of Jesus

Isa 53 – The sufferings of Christ and the glory that is to follow

# Isaiah

## Outline

Similar to the Bible

### Bible

66 books in the Bible

2 main parts 39 books in OT and 27 in NT

Prevailing theme of the OT is Law

Prevailing theme of the NT is Grace

### Isaiah

66 chapters in Isaiah

2 main parts 39 chapters and then 27

Prevailing theme of 1<sup>st</sup> 39 Ch is Judgement

Prevailing theme of 2<sup>nd</sup> 27 Ch is Comfort

# Isaiah

- Isaiah 53:5-6

<sup>5</sup> 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.

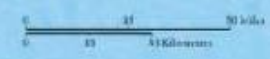
<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

# Micah

- Name means- “Who is like God?”
- Prophet to Judah
- He was from Moresheth Gath – 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem

**DIVIDED KINGDOMS AFTER SOLOMON AND OTHER KINGDOMS**

- City
- ★ Capital city
- Political boundaries





# Micah

- Name means- “Who is like God?”
- Is prophet to Judah
- He was from Moresheth Gath – 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem
- Likely good friends with Isaiah – preached a similar message
- Probably preached from 740 to 695BC – during reigns of Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah
- Only prophet to preach to both kingdoms – Mic 1:1

# Micah

- Micah is the Master of the rhetorical questions

Mic 1:5, 2:7, 4:9, 6:3, 6:7, 6:10, 7:10, 7:18 and more...

- Prophecies Fulfilled
  - Mic 1:6-7 – the fall of Samaria
  - Mic 1:9-16 The Assyrian invasion of Judah – happened in 702BC
  - Mic 3:12 & 7:13 The fall of Jerusalem– fell in 586BC
  - Mic 4:10 The exile of Judah to Babylon- fulfilled 586BC
  - Mic 7:11-15 Predicts the return from exile for Judah – happened in 520BC
  - Mic 5:2 Predicts the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem – Mat 2:1-6

# Micah

## Themes

- Remnant – see outline

Mic 5:7-8 – even though God is against them, He will preserve a remnant

- Included every class of person
- God doesn't want a religion, He wants a personal relationship – Mic 6:6-8

# Micah

- Micah 6:6-8

6 With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.