

THE PROPHETS (Major and Minor)

Major prophets authored longer and more prophecies. Minor authored shorter and fewer prophecies. They were certainly not minor in their effectiveness. The following is the list of all the prophets, major and minor, in chronological order.



NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL)

The ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom were conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC. There is no recorded return to Israel of the Northern Kingdom as a group.

- Prophets who ministered primarily to Israel were Elijah, Amos, Hosea, and Jonah.

SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH)

The Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into exile by Babylon in different invasions and time: 605 BC, Daniel and others taken; 597 BC, King Jehoiachin and many others), and the final destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 BC.

- Prophets who ministered primarily to Judah were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah.

THE RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY

The return from the Babylonian captivity happened under the Persian King, Cyrus, who conquered Babylon and allowed the Jewish people to return.

- Zerubbabel led the first group back in 538 BC and began to rebuild the Temple.
- Ezra brought the second group back in 458 BC and restored the Law and Jewish ceremonies (Nehemiah 8:1-8).
- Nehemiah came with a group in 445 BC to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

A great prophetic analogy

- Israel released from captivity and returning to Israel is symbolic of our coming out of bondage from sin.
- Zerubbabel rebuilding the temple. This can be symbolic to Jesus coming in and setting up residence in our heart.
- Ezra establishing God's Word and the Law for Israel. His responsibility was spiritual in nature. He restored Israel's relationship with God through the Word (the Law) and set up the religious ceremonial life of Israel.
- Nehemiah, whose name means Comfort of God (John 14:26), who rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem can be symbolic of the Holy Spirit rebuilding our life and our personality.

1. **Obadiah**

- Active: 586 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Obadiah 1:15 *The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head.*

2. **Joel**

- Active: 835-796 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Joel 2:28 *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.*

3. **Jonah**

- Active: 785-760 BC
- Northern Kingdom (**Israel**), but sent to Nineveh
- Key Verse: Jonah 3:10 *When God saw what they (Ninevah) did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.*

4. **Amos**

- Active: 760-750 BC
- Northern Kingdom (**Israel**)
- Key Verse: Amos 5:24 *But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

5. **Hosea**

- Active: 755-710 BC
- Northern Kingdom (**Israel**)
- Key Verse: Hosea 6:6 *For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.*

6. **Isaiah**

- Active: 740-681 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

7. **Micah**

- Active: 742-687 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Micah 6:8 *He has shown you, O mortal, 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.*

8. Nahum

- Active: 663-612 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Nahum 1:7 *The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.*

9. Zephaniah

- Active: 640-609 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Zephaniah 3:17 *The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.*

10. Jeremiah

- Active: 627-586 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*
- Lamentations by Jeremiah in 586 BC, after the destruction of Jerusalem)
- Key Verse: Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)
"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

11. Habakkuk

- Active: 612-589 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**)
- Key Verse: Habakkuk 2:4 *See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.*

12. Daniel

- Active: 605-530 BC
- Exiled in Babylon taken from Judah
- Key Verse: Daniel 2:44 *In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.*

13. Ezekiel

- Active: 593-571 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**), exiled in Babylon
- Key Verse: Ezekiel 36:26 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

14. Haggai

- Active: 520 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**), post-exile
- Key Verse: Haggai 2:9 *The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house, says the LORD Almighty. And in this place I will grant peace, declares the LORD Almighty.*

15. Zechariah

- Active: 520-518 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**), post-exile
- Key Verse: Zechariah 4:6 *Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.*

16. Malachi

- Active: 430-420 BC
- Southern Kingdom (**Judah**), post-exile
- Key Verse: Malachi 3:1 *I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.*

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