



MAJOR TRUTH

a survey of the minor prophets

Hosea

Audience

Hosea was sent to the people of Israel, otherwise known as the Northern Kingdom.

Hosea began his ministry during the reign of Jeroboam the Second of Israel.

Key Themes

- God's unfailing love
- God's desire for mercy more than sacrifice (6:6)
- The consequences of sin

Key Prophecies

- The coming captivity of Israel at the hand of the Assyrians

Joel

Audience

It seems that Joel preached to Judah or Israel as a people.

The time period is unknown, but probably before the exile. Scholars suggest the period during the reigns of Athaliah and Joash (2 Kings 8-11).

Key Themes

- The day of the Lord
- The chastening of God
- All injustice will be rectified one day and God will reign victorious.

Key Prophecies

- The second coming of Christ and His judgment and restoration of Israel

Amos

Audience

Amos was sent to prophesy against Israel (the Northern Kingdom). He preached during the reign of Uzziah of Judah and Jeroboam the Second of Israel.

Key Themes

- God's judgment of Israel's sin
- The danger of prosperity
- The power of the prayers of the righteous (7:1-6)
- Future restoration

Key Prophecies

- The coming captivity of Israel at the hand of the Assyrians
- Jesus fulfills 9:11 at His second coming, when He will establish His kingdom and sit on David's throne.

Obadiah

Audience

Obadiah prophesied against Edom:

- During the reign of Jehoram, in which Jerusalem was attacked by the Philistines and Arabians
- Or, after the attack by the Babylonians, resulting in Judah's captivity

Key Themes

- The danger of pride
- Judgment for mistreatment of God's people
- Future deliverance of God's people and judgment of the wicked

Key Prophecies

- Israel's ultimate possession of the promised land (vs.19-20)
- The millennial kingdom of Christ (vs.21)

Jonah

Audience

Jonah was sent to prophesy against the city of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire.

Jonah lived during the time of Jeroboam the Second, making him a contemporary of Amos and Hosea (2 Kings 14).

Key Themes

- Disobedience and God's chastening
- The providence and sovereignty of God
- The mercy and compassion of God

Key Prophecies

- Jonah prophesied of Nineveh's judgment. This judgment was delayed due to their repentance.
- Jesus used Jonah's time in the fish as a sign of His resurrection.

Micah

Audience

Micah brought a message from God to the people of Israel as a whole.

His ministry took place during the reigns of the Judean kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. He was a contemporary of Amos, Hosea, and Isaiah.

Key Themes

- The judgment of God and future restoration
- God desires our hearts and our obedience, not our offerings and sacrifices.
- The mercy of God (7:18)

Key Prophecies

- Deliverance from captivity, restoration of Israel, and the reign of Christ
- Bethlehem to be the birthplace of the Messiah (5:2)

Nahum

Audience

Nahum prophesied against Nineveh about 150 years after Jonah (around the reign of Jehoiachin, Zedekiah of Judah).

Key Themes

- The power of God
- God avenges His people.
- God's judgment of the wicked

Key Prophecies

- The destruction and overthrow of the city of Nineveh

Habakkuk

Audience

Habakkuk is not necessarily sent to anyone specific.

The book reveals a few questions/concerns that Habakkuk shared with God, and God addressed them.

Key Themes

- Living by faith ("The just shall live by faith")
- God's judgment of the wicked in His time
- Rejoicing and trusting in God's sovereignty (3:18)

Key Prophecies

- The judgment of Judah through Babylonian captivity
- God's eventual judgment of Babylon and all wicked nations

Zephaniah

Audience

Zephaniah's prophecy was directed to Judah. He ministered during the reign of King Josiah, most likely during the ten years before the revival under Josiah.

Key Themes

- God's judgment of sin
- The judgment of nations
- Rejoicing in the future hope of the reign of Messiah
- God's master plan (3:8)

Key Prophecies

- The judgment of Judah (Babylonian captivity)
- The judgment of the nations, the tribulation, and millennial reign of Christ

Haggai

Audience

Haggai preached to the people of Jerusalem, who had returned from captivity and were rebuilding the temple, and to their leaders.

Key Themes

- The priority of God's work
- The presence of God in His work
- Blessings in obedience
- Encouragement in promised victory

Key Prophecies

- The finishing of the temple and its future glory
- The coming of Messiah – the desire of nations (2:7)
- The God's victory over Israel's enemies

Zechariah

Audience

Zechariah's message was directed to the people of Jerusalem who had returned from captivity and had come back to rebuild the temple.

Key Themes

- God's plan for Israel, including future blessings
- Working through the power of His Spirit
- Encouragement in the work
- Obedience is better than ritual.
- The jealousy of God for His people
- The coming Messiah

Key Prophecies

Zechariah has more messianic prophecies than any other "minor" prophet and makes frequent mention of both the first and second advents of Messiah.

- The coming of Messiah to Jerusalem on a donkey (9:9)
- The piercing of Messiah (12:10)
- The refining of Israel in the tribulation and their ultimate deliverance and salvation
- The second coming of Christ, the battle against the nations, and the millennial reign
- The blessings related to the reign of Messiah

Malachi

Audience

Like Haggai and Zechariah, Malachi's audience was the people of Israel that had returned from captivity, between eighty and one hundred years after the return to Israel.

Key Themes

- The love of God
- God is worthy of sincere honor and worship (giving our best to Him).
- The blessing of giving to God
- Marriage and divorce

Key Prophecies

- The coming of Messiah (3:1)
- The coming of Elijah as forerunner of the Messiah (3:1, 4:5)
- The coming day of the Lord (judgment and restoration at Christ's second coming)