

THE WRITING PROPHETS:

9TH CENTURY:

Obadiah "Servant of Yahweh" **845 B.C. (586 B.C.??) To : Edom**

Why do the evil prosper?

Theme: *"The mighty shall be brought down"*

1: 1 - 9 Doom Predicted

Key verse: 21

1: 10 -14 Causes

(Edom taken in 312 B.C. by Arabs)

Joel "Yahweh is God" **837 - 795 B.C. To: Judah (Southern kingdom)**

Past and future judgments

Theme: *"The coming day of the Lord"*

1:1 - 2:27 The Locust plague

Key Verse 2:13

Repent: 1:13-14; 2:12-14

God's pity on the land: 2:18-27

2:28 - 3:21 The coming Day of judgment and blessing

8TH CENTURY:

Amos "burden" **765 - 755 B.C. To: Israel (Northern kingdom)**

Judgment on hypocrisy

Theme: *"Seek the Lord, not evil and you shall live"*

1 - 2 Eight "Burdens" against nations

Key Verse: 5:15

3 - 6 The so-called Golden Age: Three sermons

7:1 - 9:8 Five visions: locusts, fire, plumb line, fruit basket, by the altar

7:10-17 - Amaziah's challenge

9: 9 - 15 Promises

(Jeroboam II, Israel's most prosperous king: 793-753)

Jonah "Dove" **782 - 760 B.C. To: Ninevah (Assyria)**

God's patience with sinners

Theme: *"The mercy and grace of God"*

1 The fleeing Prophet

Key Verse: 4:2

2 A prayer in a fish

3 Successful preacher

4 Gripes under a gourd bush

Hosea "Yahweh saves" **760 - 710 B.C. To: Israel (Northern kingdom)**

God's love for an adulterous nation

Theme: *"God's love for an adulterous nation"*

1 - 3 Hosea's marriage to an unfaithful wife

Key Verses: 3:1, 5

4 - 13 Professions of God's Character:

4-7 A Holy God suffers; 8-10 A Just God acts; 11-14 A Loving God restores

Micah "*Who is like Yahweh*" 740 - 695 B.C. to: **both Isreal and Judah**

God's Lawsuit: Three Indictments

1 - 2 Against Samaria and Jerusalem

3 - 5 God' redemptive future

6 - 7 The great lawsuit against Isreal

Theme: "*The Remnant of the Lord*"

Key Verses: 6:8; 7:9; 7:18-19

(Isreal was destroyed in 722 B.C. by Assyria)

Isaiah "*Yahweh is Salvation*" 739 - 701 B.C. To: **Judah (Southern kingdom)**

The book of Judgment 1 - 35

1 - 12 Against Judah

13 - 27 Against the nations

28 -35 Summary of wrongs

Historical interlude - Sennacharib's siege 36 - 39

The book of Salvation 40 - 66

40 - 48 Restoration

49 - 55 The Suffering Servant

56 - 66 the New life to come

Theme: "*God is Salvation*"

Key Verses: 1:18; 12:1-3;

40:1-2; 45:21-22

53:6 - just a few

of so many!

(Assyria besieged Jerusalem in 701 B.C.)

Nahum "*comforter*" 710 - 702 B.C. To: **Ninevah (Assyria)**

God's goodness and severity

1 Declared

2 Described

3 Defended

Theme: "*The Lord will not leave*

the guilty unpunished"

Key Verse: 1:2-3

(Ninevah fell to Babylon in 612 B.C.)

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF JUDAH:

Zephaniah "*Yahweh protects*" 635 - 621 B.C. To: **Judah (Southern Kingdom)**

Judgment and mercy

Judgment 1 - 3:8

Mercy 3:9 - 20

Theme: "The Day of Judgment"

Key Verse: 2:3

(Josiah - and reform - died in 609 B.C. at Megiddo)

Jeremiah "*Yahweh appoints*" 634 - 586 B.C. To: **Judah (Southern kingdom)**

1 Call of a Prophet

2 -51 Prophecies under four kings

2 - 29 The Great book of Doom

30 - 33 Consolation

34 - 45 Memoirs of the weeping prophet

46 - 51 Judgments on the nations

52 Historical postscript

Theme: "*Weeping over an unrepentant people*"

Key Verse: 1:10

(Jeremiah's prophecies are topically,
not chronologically arranged)

(Jerusalem fell to Babylon in 586 B.C.)

Habakkuk "*Embracing*" 610 - 595 B.C. To: **Judah (Southern kingdom)**

Where is Justice? Two questions and a prayer

1:1 - 11 How long will God hold back judgment?

1 :12 - 17 Why will He use the wicked?

2 God's Solution: Preserve a remnant - destroy the wicked

3 Man's response: A prayer of trust in difficult times

Theme: "The just shall live by faith"

Key Verse: 2:4

THE EXILES:

Ezekiel "God strengthens" 593 - 571 B.C. to: **Judah in exile in Babylon**

- 1 - 32 The book of Doom - Why? Theme: "You shall know I am Yahweh" (60 times)
2 - 24 The Watchman [593-588 BC] Key Verse: 3:17-21
25 - 32 Universal judgment [587-585 BC] [29 - 571 BC]
33 - 48 The book of Hope - looking for salvation! (585-573 BC) (Ezekiel used all sorts of "visuals"; allegories, and symbolism)
33 - 39 A new land, people, covenant and shepherd
40 - 48 A new community pictured by a new temple

Daniel "God is my judge" 605 - 537 B.C. To: **exiles in Babylon and Persia**

- 1 (Hebr) Exiles under God's Care Theme: "The Lord and the Kingdoms of Men"
2 - 7 (Aram) The God of the kings Key Verse: 4:17
8 - 12 (Hebr) Visions of the Future (Babylon fell to Persia in 538 B.C.)

THE REMNANT:

Haggai "Festive" 520 B.C. To: **The remnant returning with Ezra**

- Encouragement to obedience Theme: "Consider your ways, complete the work"
1 A call to rebuild Key Verse: 1:7-8
2: 1 - 9 A call to courage
2: 10 - 19 A call to separation
2: 20 - 23 A Message to Zerubbabel (Cyrus decreed the Return in 536 B.C.)

Zechariah "God remembers" 520 - 518 B.C. To: **the remnant who returned**

- 1: 1 - 6 A Call to repentance Theme: "Return to me, and I will return to you"
1: 17 - 6:15 Eight visions (Chaistically arranged) Key verse: 1:3
7 - 8 Sadness and joy
9 - 14 Two Burdens
9 - 11 concerning the nations and the King of Peace
12 - 14 concerning victory and mourning (Nehemiah's wall - 444 B.C.)

Malachi "My messenger" 397 B.C. To: **the remnant in Jerusalem**

- 1: 1 - 5 I have loved you Theme: "Remember the Law"
1: 6 - 2:17 Defiled sacrifices Key verse: 4:4
3: 1 - 5 Wearing with works
3: 6-8 A call to give The Lord "what is Mine" (Malachi used a "yet you say..." teaching method - 7 times)
3: 13- 4:5 Harsh words