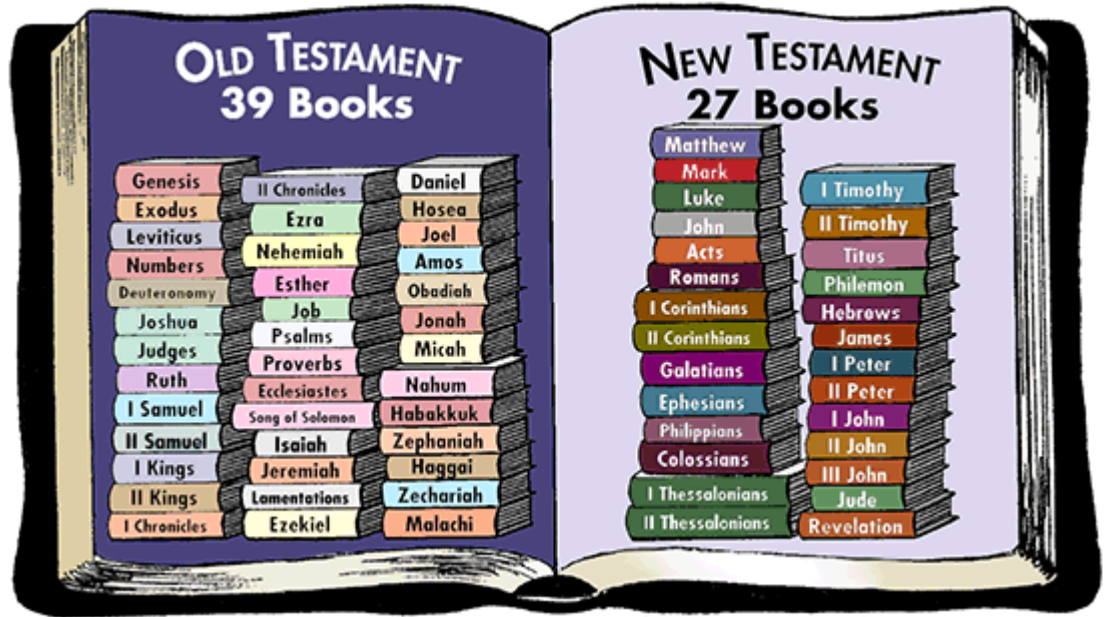




“The New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament and the Old Testament is clear in the New Testament.” St Augustine

Old Testament Books (without the Deuterocanonical Books)

- 5 books of the law
- 12 books of history
- 5 books of poetry
- 5 books of the major prophets
- 12 books of the minor prophets



Introduction

- A “prophet” is someone who brings a message from God to people
- They wrote to remind the Israelites of the covenants and their responsibilities
- They also reminded the people of the results of disobedience
- The prophets also proclaimed a salvation message. Most of the prophets include a “promise of future deliverance” section. These promises refer to the Messiah, the Christ.

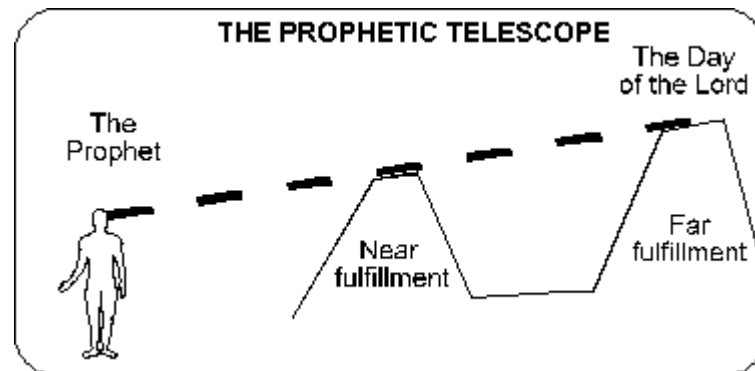
- Today, we are talking about the books of the prophets.
- When we say “major” and “minor” prophets, we refer to the size of the relevant books in the Bible, rather than the importance of the prophet.
- Bear in mind that there are other prophets who don't have a book named after them such as Moses (Exodus), David (1st and 2nd Samuel), Elijah (1st and 2nd Kings)

Points to think about and discuss

- Our God is a living, loving God. He strives for our salvation. Throughout generations, He speaks to us. Sending prophets was one big way in the Old testament.
- If that is true, then God is talking to you and me now. How?
- If we do not feel that He is talking to us, why?
- Is there too much noise around us (music, phones, TV, movies, magazines, thoughts, outings)?

The prophetic telescope

- The same prophecy may refer to a near event and a far event. There could be a prolonged period between the 2.



Historical Background

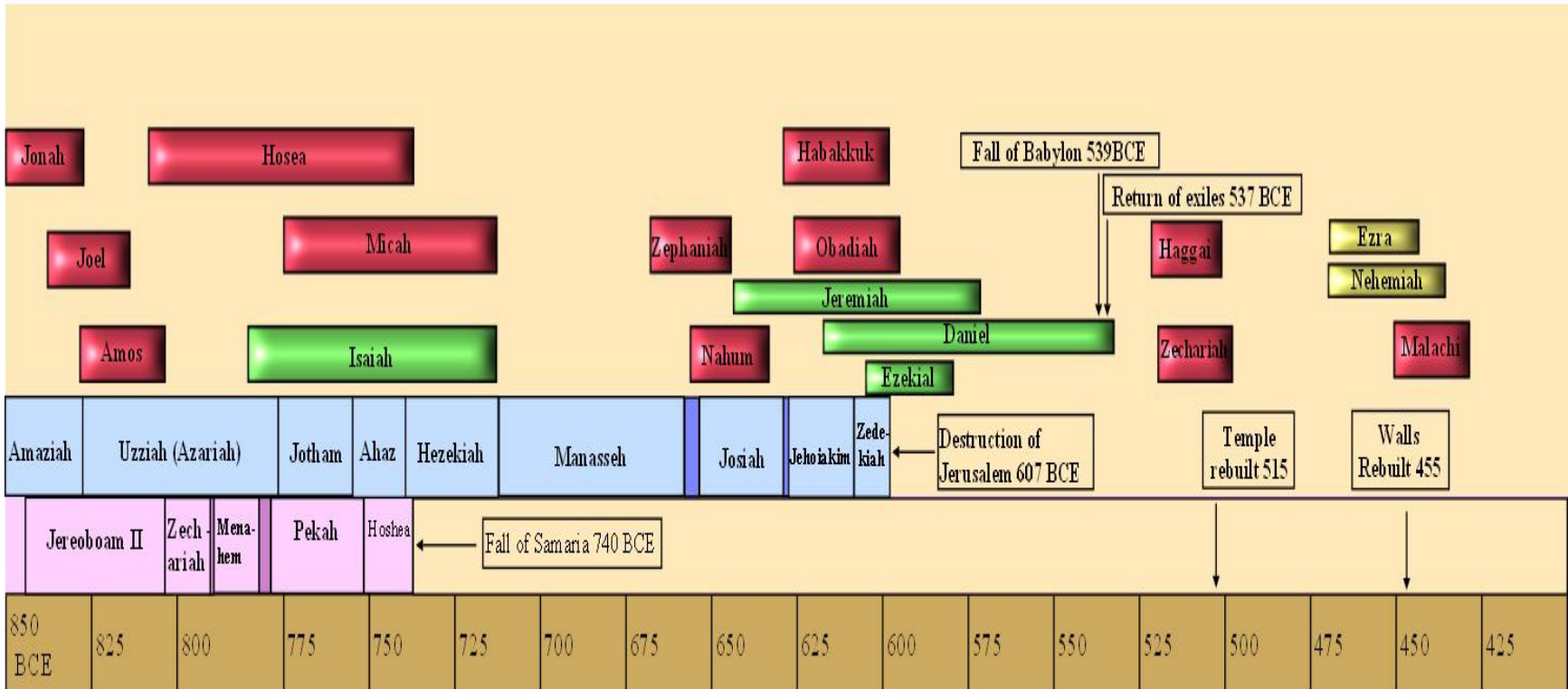
- After Moses and Joshua, The Israelites were governed by judges then Kings. Solomon was the 3rd king (after Saul and David) and after him, the Kingdom was divided (Northern kingdom, Israel, capital Samaria) and Southern kingdom (Judah, capital Jerusalem). This was around 930BC.
- 722BC: the Assyrians take the Northern Kingdom and around 605BC, the Babylonians take the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- The prophets, as you will see in the next slide were present at different times along the timeline but some coexisted within the same era but in different places.



Timeline

Timeline of the minor prophets

- 12 Prophets (Red)
- Contemporary Prophets (Green)
- Other Contemporaries (Yellow)
- *Kings who ruled more than two years (Blue)
- Kings of Judah* (Light Blue)
- Kings of Israel* (Purple)



- At this point, you can keep the timeline up and divide the prophets amongst the class members. You can print the slides and ask each teen to lookup the references and talk briefly about their prophet.
- Alternatively, you can go through the slides and read some of the prophecies. The references and what each prophecy is talking about is included.

We will start with the Major prophets

Isaiah

- This book is 66 Chapters.
- The writer is Isaiah, the prophet. He was a prophet for Judah, the Southern Kingdom.
- “Isaiah” means “God is salvation”.
- Some prophecies:
- Isaiah 7:14, Christ’s birth from a virgin.
- 11:1-5, prophecy about His features.
- 53:3-12, prophecy about rejection by the Jews, silence against accusations, He bore our suffering, crucified with sinners.

JEREMIAH

- 52 Chapters. Prophet for Judah, the Southern Kingdom.
- He is the writer of the book and also of Lamentations.
- “Jeremiah” means “God establishes or sends”.
- He spoke God’s words for over 40 years.
- Jeremiah 31:15, prophecy about the children’s massacre by Herod.

Ezekiel

- 48 Chapters.
- He was prophet to the Jewish captives in Babylon.
- “Ezekiel” means “God strengthens”.
- His message to the Jewish captives was that their captivity was due to their sin. Before they could hope to return to their land, they must return to God.
- Prophecy re: perpetual virginity of St Mary:
- Ezekiel 44:1-3.
- Same era as Daniel who lived in the court of the rulers in Babylon and Jeremiah who remained with the Jews in Jerusalem.

DANIEL

- 12 Chapters. Author is Daniel.
- Prophet in Babylon in the rulers' court.
- "Daniel" means "God is my judge".
- Well known for his fasting and prayers and visions.
- Famous stories of the three young men in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lion's den.
- Prophecy about the date of Christ's birth:
- Daniel 9:25
- Read it and look at this equation:
- $7+62= 69$ weeks; $1 \text{ week}= 7$ years.
- Thus, $69 \times 7= 453$ years (the time span between Daniel and the Christ). The 70th week is the crucifixion of Christ.

HOSEA

- 753-715 BC
- Hosea means salvation
- 14 Chapters
- “Return unto the Lord”: the message repeated 15 times
- Prophet to the Northern Kingdom, Israel.

Hosea experienced the widespread sin of the time in his own marriage when his wife left him for other men!

- Hosea bought her back from slavery
- Prophecy about the flight to Egypt:11:1

JOEL

- About 835BC.
- Joel means “Yahweh is God”.
- 3 Chapters.
- Prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- Huge swarms of locusts destroyed the land.
No plants or water to drink.
- People disobeyed God. Joel warned them of being taken by the enemies.

AMOS

- 790-750 BC
- Amos means to “lift a burden”.
- 9 Chapters
- Was a shepherd.
- People were greedy and unfair to the poor despite being strong and wealthy.
- Gave 3 sermons for people to turn from their ways.
- 5 visions: showing terrible judgement.

OBADIAH

- 586 BC
- Obadiah means “Worshipper of God”
- 1 Chapter
- Criticises Edom
- The nation of Edom came from Esau
- “For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.” (Verse 15)

JONAH

- About 780 BC
- Jonah means 'Dove'
- 4 chapters
- Wake the people of Nineveh from their sin
- "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the Earth." (Matthew 12:40, Jesus' words)

MICAH

- About 730 BC
- Means “Who is like God?”
- 7 Chapters
- Northern kingdom of Israel taken into captivity during Micah’s lifetime
- Prophecy about the place of Christ’s birth:
- “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting” (5:2)

NAHUM

- Just Before 612 BC
- Means “Comfort of God”
- 3 Chapters
- Prophet to Nineveh – 150 years after Jonah
- Warned of the destruction of the Nineveh
- God will again restore his people Israel

HABAKKUK

- 600 BC
- Means “Embrace”
- 3 Chapters
- Conversation between Habakkuk and God
- God said: The Babylonians will punish Judah
- Babylon will also be punished in God’s time
- God will reward the faith of his people

ZEPHANIAH

- 600 BC
- Means “Yahweh hides”
- 3 Chapters
- Day of the Lord is coming - judgement
- Turn back to God and you will be saved
- Prophet to Judah during the reign of Josiah

HAGGAI

- 500 BC
- Means “Festival”
- 2 Chapters
- Prophet to those returned from exile in Babylon
- Urged to rebuild the temple
- Promise – God will be with you

ZECHARIAH

- Contemporary to Haggai – 500 BC
- Means “God remembers”
- 14 Chapters
- Similar to Haggai – “Rebuild the temple!”
- One night – saw eight visions about restoration of Jerusalem
- Coming of a great king: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.” (9:9) – Palm Sunday
- “I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit” (9:11), freeing the prisoners of hope from Hades.
- 11:12, Sold for 30 pieces of silver.
- 12:10, They pierced His side with a spear.

MALACHI

- 430 BC
- Means “My Messenger”
- 4 Chapters
- Prophet to Judah after captivity of Babylon
- Last prophet to speak to Israel in OT times
- “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me!... In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.”: Don’t forget that time is also tithed