

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

1

Minor Prophets Part 1

Hosea, Joel, Amos,
Obadiah, Jonah,
Micah

2

Introduction to Minor Prophets

- Apocryphal book Ecclesiasticus 49:10 (c. 190 B.C.)—"The Twelve Prophets"
- Hebrew Bible: "The Book of the Twelve Prophets"—two views:
 - Regarded as a single work (one book)
 - Regarded as twelve separate books
 - External and internal evidence for both views—bottom line is that all are canonical (part of Scripture)

3

Date: ca. 845 BC to 430 B.C.

- Hosea ["Salvation"] (746-724 B.C.)
- Joel ["The Lord is God"] (810-795 B.C.)
- Amos ["Burden" or "Burden-bearer"] (760-746 B.C.)
- Obadiah ["Servant of the Lord"] (c. 845 B.C.)
- Jonah ["Dove"] (c. 760 B.C.)
- Micah ["Who is like the Lord?"] (735-690 B.C.)
- Nahum ["Comfort"] (c. 663-654 B.C.)
- Habakkuk ["One who embraces"] (608-598 B.C.)
- Zephaniah ["The Lord hides"] (640-630 B.C.)
- Haggai ["Festal one"] (520 B.C.)
- Zechariah ["The Lord remembers"] (c. 520-480 B.C.)
- Malachi ["My messenger"] (c.450-430 B.C.)

4

Historical and Theological Themes

- The Day of the Lord
 - Sin of Israel/Judah
 - Idolatry and Spiritual Adultery—Hosea, Micah, Zephaniah, Zechariah
 - Social Injustices—Hosea, Amos, Micah, Habakkuk
- Sin of Israel and Judah
- Judgment on Israel & Judah
 - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
- Restoration of Israel & Judah
 - Hos 14; Joel 3; Amos 9; Mic 4, 7; Zeph 3; Zech 12-14
- Judgment of the Nations
 - Joel 3; Amos 1-2; Obad; Jonah; Nah; Hab; Zech 1, 14

5

Purpose

Israel's restoration will come after the Day of the Lord, the Lord's Day of Judgment.

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Hosea

- Historical and Theological Themes
 - Spiritual Adultery of Israel
 - Future Salvation of Israel
- Purpose: *Though Israel was unfaithful, YHWH's faithful love will prevail*
- Literary Structure
 - Adulterous wife and faithful husband (1-3)
 - Adulterous Israel and faithful Lord (4-14)
- Key Passages: 6:6, 11:1

7

Joel

- Historical and Theological Themes
 - The Day of the Lord (DOL)
 - The Temple, Zion, Jerusalem
 - The Nations
- Purpose: *Divine judgment will be visited upon Judah and the nations in the coming "Day of the Lord."*
- Literary Structure
 - The DOL in Retrospect (1:1-2:17)
 - The DOL in Prospect (2:18-3:21)
- Key Passages: 2:28 - 32, 3:9-15

8

Amos

- Historical and Theological Themes
 - The Inevitability of the Judgment of the Lord
 - Israel shows unfaithfulness by social injustice
- Purpose: *YHWH will not relent from judging Israel*
- Literary Structure
 - Eight prophecies of Judgment (1-2)
 - Three Sermons Against Israel (3-6)
 - Five Visions of Punishment (7-9:10)
 - Five Promises on Israel's Restoration (9:11-15)
- Key Passages: Amos 9:13-15

9

Obadiah

- Historical and Theological Themes
 - The sin of Edom
 - The Day of the Lord
 - The Restoration of Israel (17-21)
- Purpose: *The judgment of YHWH will fall on Edom because of her lack of brotherly kindness, but Israel would be restored.*
- Literary Structure
 - Judgment of Edom—1:1-18
 - Restoration of Israel—1:19-21
- Key Passages: 1:19 - 21

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Jonah

- Historical and Theological Themes
 - Sovereignty of God
 - Compassion of God
 - Disobedience of Jonah
 - Salvation offered to Gentiles
- Purpose: *While Israel was ineffective, YHWH brought salvation to repentant Gentiles*
- Key Passage: 2:9
- Literary Structure . . .

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Jonah Literary Structure

- Jonah's First Commission (1-2)
 - Jonah rejects commission (1:3)
 - » Sovereign God reveals his power (1:4)
 - Sailors submit to God (1:5-16)
 - God uses a fish to rescue Jonah (1:17)
 - Jonah prays, Thanking YHWH for saving his life (2:1-9)
- Jonah's Second Commission (3-4)
 - Jonah accepts commission (3:3)
 - » Sovereign God reveals his plan (3:4)
 - Nineveh submits to God (3:5-10)
 - Jonah prays, complaining to YHWH for saving Nineveh (4:1-4)
 - God uses a Plant and a Worm to teach Jonah a lesson (4:4-11)

12

Micah

- Historical and Theological Themes
 - Sins of Jacob
 - Coming ruler (2:12-13; 5:2-6; 7:14)
- Purpose: *Righteous YHWH would judge His unrighteous people, but the coming Ruler would fulfill YHWH's promise to David and Abraham*
- Literary Structure
 - Prediction of Retribution (1-3)
 - Prediction of Restoration (4-5)
 - Plea for Repentance (6-7)
- Key Passage: 4:3; 5:2; 6:8
