

BIOT407 OLD TESTAMENT – MINOR PROPHETS

Introduction

This course is a study of the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the basic outline of each book.
- Identify the main message or theme(s) of each book.
- Identify the revelation and promise of Christ in each book.

The last twelve books of our Old Testament are commonly referred to as the Minor Prophets.

A. Titles

The common title for these books is "minor prophets." This title originated in Augustine's time (late 4th centuries A.D.). The books are "minor" only in the sense of being much shorter than such prophecies as Isaiah and Jeremiah (called "major prophets"). Their message is surely not less important today, nor was it when first delivered in Old Testament times. They were Minor Prophets preaching a major message.

The Hebrew Bible regards these writings as one book, and calls them simply "The Twelve." It was because of the books' brevity that the Jews in Old Testament times joined the twelve writings together into one scroll, so that the combined length was about the same as that of Isaiah or Jeremiah. Hence it was very natural to consider them as one book, "The Twelve."

B. Canon

The twelve Minor Prophets have never been strongly challenged as being part of the inspired canon of Scripture. Their messages are just as lofty and unique as those of the Major Prophets, and have been recognized as such.

As noted earlier, in the Hebrew Bible (Law, Prophets, and Writings) "The Twelve" is listed as just one book of the Prophet section. This partly explains why the Hebrew Bible has a total of only 24 books, although these 24 are the exact equivalent of our 39. In the English Bible, the Minor Prophets comprise 12 of the 17 prophetic books.

C. Order of the Minor Prophets in the English Bible

This is the order of the list of Minor Prophets in our English Bible:

- a. Hosea
- b. Joel
- c. Amos
- d. Obadiah
- e. Jonah
- f. Micah
- g. Nahum
- h. Habakkuk
- i. Zephaniah
- j. Haggai
- k. Zechariah
- l. Malachi

D. Contemporaries of Jonah, Amos, and Hosea

The kings who were reigning in Israel during the public ministries of each of the three prophets are: Jonah; Jeroboam II; Amos and Hosea; Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea.

Note that the Assyrians took Israel captive toward the closure of Hosea and Amos' ministries. Since the captivity was God's judgment for sin, we can see what awesome responsibility was on Hosea and Amos' shoulders.

Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:

- Lesson 1 - Introduction - The Twelve Minor Prophets
- Lesson 2 - Prophets to the Nations
- Lesson 3 - Book of Hosea
- Lesson 4 - Book of Joel
- Lesson 5 - Book of Amos
- Lesson 6 - Book of Obadiah
- Lesson 7 - Book of Jonah
- Lesson 8 - Book of Micah
- Lesson 9 - Book of Nahum
- Lesson 10 - Book of Habakkuk
- Lesson 11 - Book of Zephaniah
- Lesson 12 - Book of Haggai
- Lesson 13 - Book of Zechariah
- Lesson 14 – Book of Malachi