

EXPLORING THE MINOR PROPHETS

Introduction

Part 1

I. Who Are the Minor Prophets?

Cf. Deut.18:15-22; Heb.1:1; 2 Pet.20,21

II. Why are they Called *Minor* Prophets?

III. Where do the Minor Prophets Fit into the Biblical Storyline?

2000	---	1500	---	1000	---	931	---	722	---	586 (exile)		536
<i>Patriarchs</i>		<i>Exodus</i>		<i>United Monarchy</i>		<i>Divided Monarchy</i>		<i>Israel falls to Assyria</i>		<i>Judah falls to Babylon</i>		<i>Return Rebuild</i>
Abraham		Moses		Saul		Rehoboam/2 S. tribes – 20 kings						
Isaac		Joshua		David		Jeroboam/10 N. tribes – 19 kings						
Jacob				Solomon		---- Time of the Minor Prophets ----						
						Hosea 845 – Malachi 420 = 425 yrs.						

IV. What was the Message of the Minor Prophets?

Negatively: the story of Judah and Israel's covenant unfaithfulness during the divided kingdom.

Positively: the story of God's grace and faithfulness restoration.

The message of the Minor Prophets is clustered around three events:

- **The time leading up to and surrounding Israel's exile (722 BC)**
The first six books (except perhaps Joel and Obadiah)
- **The time leading up to Judah's exile (586 BC):** Books seven to nine
- **The time after Judah's restoration (538 BC) until the end of Ezra's and Nehemiah's reforms (420 BC)** The last three books

"Nowhere do we find sin rebuked with more awful severity, the true meaning of the law more clearly expounded, or the future glory of Zion more confidently predicted." EP Barrows

V. Why Should We Concern Ourselves with the Minor Prophets?

Cf. Mal.4:1-3; Am.9:11; Lu.24:27,32; Jn.5:39; 2 Tim.3:15-17

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice; and to love kindness; and to walk humbly with your God."
Micah 6:8