



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS) Overview

Wednesdays, January 10 - May 22, 2024 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm | Room M206

The Minor Prophets

What are commonly known as the "minor prophets" is a collection of writings in the Old Testament from twelve different men inspired by God. The longest of these books are Hosea and Zechariah, with each having fourteen (14) chapters. The shortest prophetic book in this series is Obadiah, with only one chapter, followed by Haggai, which has only two.

The Minor Prophets, in alphabetical order, are Amos, Habakkuk, Haggai, Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Malachi, Micah, Nahum, Obadiah, Zechariah, and Zephaniah. Their books are considered minor since each is much shorter than the writings of the Major Prophets: Isaiah (sixty-six chapters), Jeremiah (fifty-two chapters), and Ezekiel (forty-eight chapters). If all the writings of the Minor Prophets were combined into a single book, it would be only two-thirds of the size of Isaiah.

All dates in the following list are BCE so as the dates get smaller it gets closer to the birth of Christ. All dates are approximate, based on references to particular kings or events. The order in which this study is designed is not the order in which the books appear in the Bible but is more or less in chronological order of their historical appearance. King David had united all the tribes of Israel into one kingdom in 1,000 BCE. He was succeeded by his son Solomon, who died in 928 BCE. After Solomon's death the kingdom split into two: the Northern Kingdom, still known as Israel, and the Southern Kingdom, known as Judah. Amos and Hosea are the two prophets who spoke to the Northern Kingdom [Israel]. The remainder are based in the Southern Kingdom [Judah] although their prophecies may speak to both kingdoms.

Pre-Exile Prophets:

798 – Jonah [has 4 chapters]

Jonah shows God's mercy to the repentant. He wrote his prophecies against Nineveh, with implications for all people. He spoke of the cruelty of the Assyrians.

788 to 747 – Amos [has 9 chapters]

Amos wrote about the prophetic Day of the Lord. His predictions were against Israel, Judah, Benjamin, and all nations. He spoke about the oppression of the poor, sexual immorality, wanton luxury, and corrupt laws.

750 to 720 – Hosea [has 14 chapters]

Hosea wrote about salvation and his prophecies were against Israel (Ten Tribes of Israel). He condemned adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, and licentiousness.

740 to 711 – Micah [has 7 chapters]

Micah wrote about how the Eternal is a just Judge. His prophetic words were against Samaria, Jerusalem, and all nations. He condemned the lack of justice and oppression of the people.

640 to 609 – Zephaniah [has 3 chapters]

Zephaniah's writings concerned God's indignation, Israel's repentance, and their subsequent saving by the Lord. His inspired prophecies were against Judah and all people. He warned of spiritual fornication and the events with the Day of the Lord.

663 to 612 – Nahum [has 3 chapters]

Nahum wrote about the judgment on Nineveh and the subsequent comfort to Israel. His prophecies were against the Assyrians (primarily Nineveh). He condemned the cruelty of Assyrians and their overstepping of boundaries.

612 to 597 – Habakkuk [has 3 chapters]

Habakkuk wrote about how God embraces Judah through destroying the Chaldeans. His prophetic utterings were against Babylon with implications for all people. He cried out against aggression, plunder, greed, graft, idolatry, and inhumanity.

596 to 586 – Joel [has 3 chapters]

Joel's book mostly concerns the prophetic Day of the Lord. His words were against Israel and all people in general. He condemned adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, and licentiousness.

590 to 580 – Obadiah [has 1 chapter]

Obadiah spoke about the Day of the Lord, Edom's destruction, and Israel's restoration as a people.

587-586 – Destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians
587 to 538 – The Babylonian Exile

Post-Exile Prophets:

520 – Haggai [has 2 chapters]

Haggai wrote about how the restoration Temple points to the Church. His words also centered on Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the returning remnant of God's people. He condemned the neglect in building God's House.

520 to 518 – Zechariah [has 14 chapters]

Zechariah was inspired to record that the coming of God's Kingdom will be preceded by the building of the Temple. His prophecies concerned Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest. He also spoke about the symbolic nature of Joshua's filthy garments and the people's lack of judgment, mercy, and peace.

c. 400 – Malachi [has 2 chapters]

Malachi, the last of the minor prophets, wrote about being prepared for the Messenger (John the Baptist) that is to come. His messages were primarily directed toward Israel and the 'Israel of God' today (the church). He spoke against the priests neglecting their duties, as well as chiding the people for practicing divorce, adultery, and robbing God of tithes.