



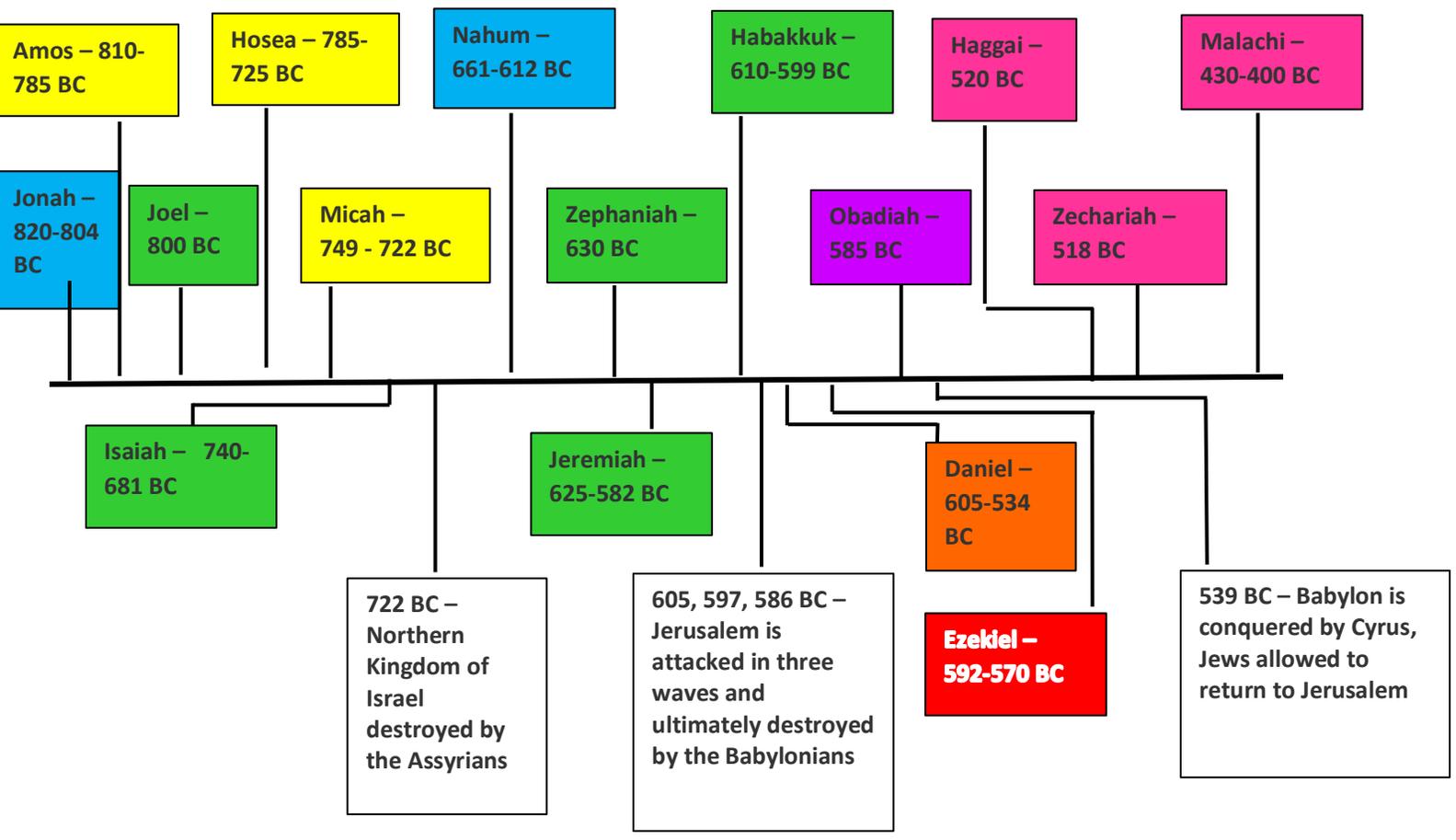
THE ORCHARD

THE MINOR PROPHETS

Fall Semester Study

9/2 - 9/8	Jonah 1-4, Amos 1
9/9 - 9/15	Amos 2-6
9/16 - 9/22	Amos 7-9, Joel 1-2
9/23 - 9/29	Joel 3, Hosea 1-4
9/30 - 10/6	Hosea 5-9
10/7 - 10/13	Hosea 10-14
10/14 - 10/20	Micah 1-5
10/21 - 10/27	Micah 6-7, Nahum 1-3
10/28 - 11/3	Habakkuk 1-3, Zephaniah 1-3
11/4 - 11/10	Obadiah, Haggai, Zacharia 1-2
11/11 - 11/17	Zacharia 3-7
11/18 - 11/24	Zacharia 8-12
11/25 - 12/1	Zacharia 13-14, Malachi 1-4

KEY: Yellow = spoke to the northern kingdom
 Blue=Spoke to the Assyrians
 Green = spoke to the southern kingdom
 Purple = spoke to the Edomites
 Pink = spoke to the returned exiles of Babylon
 Orange = spoke to the captives in Babylon
 Red = spoke to the captives in Israel



History: please read before your first D-Group meeting

God's people were under one king until Solomon died and his son Rehoboam took over the throne. The people asked Rehoboam to lighten their taxes. Rehoboam's elder advisors told him he should lighten the tax on the people. However, Rehoboam rejected this advice for the advice of his young friends, who told him to increase the tax on the people. When Rehoboam announced that he would increase the taxes on the people, almost all of the tribes in Israel decided they didn't want to have Rehoboam as king anymore. They formed their own nation with Jeroboam as king and called themselves Israel. Only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin tribes who stayed and said Rehoboam was their king. Collectively, these two tribes were known as Judah. (1 Kings 12)

As you can imagine, Israel was a large kingdom. Judah, with only two tribes, was a small kingdom. Israel is known as the Northern Kingdom. Judah is the Southern Kingdom. These names are purely geographic – Israel was farther north than Judah.

Some prophets we will read about will be speaking to the northern kingdom. Other prophets will be speaking to the southern kingdom. Pay attention to which prophets are speaking to which people throughout this study.

We will read through the minor prophets in chronological order.

Jonah, Amos, Joel, Hosea, and Micah all take place before the Northern Kingdom is destroyed.

Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk take place after the Northern Kingdom was destroyed but before the Southern Kingdom was destroyed.

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi take place after the exiles from the southern kingdom can return home.

Week 1!

- What was the message God asked Jonah to bring to Ninevah?
- What was the result of Jonah running away? (for himself, other people on the boat, etc.)
- How did the Ninevites respond to Jonah's message?
- What was the message God asked Amos to bring to Israel?
- What do Jonah and Amos tell us about the nature and character of God?
- What do Jonah and Amos tell us about the nature and character of people?
- Are we like or unlike the Ninevites? Jonah? Israel? How?

Week 2!

- What message did God ask Amos to bring to Israel?
- What characteristics of Israel and its neighbors did God hate, abhor, and despise?
- How did Amos ask Israel to respond?
- What do these chapters in Amos tell us about the nature and character of God?
- What do these chapters in Amos tell us about the nature and character of people?
- Are we like or unlike Israel? Are there characteristics of Israel that God hated that we possess?

Week 3!

- What is a plumb line? How is this illustration used in Amos 7?
- Why is Israel going to be destroyed? Why is Israel going to be restored?
- What is the message Joel is giving to the Southern Kingdom?
- What do these chapters in Amos and Joel tell us about the nature and character of God?
- What do these chapters in Amos and Joel tell us about the nature and character of people?
- Are we like or unlike Israel and Judah? Are there characteristics of Israel and Judah that God hated that we possess?

Week 4! Joel 3 Hosea 1-4

- Who is being judged in Joel chapter 3? Who is being blessed? Why are these groups receiving judgement/blessing?
- What were God's instructions to Hosea? Why on earth would God ask Hosea to do this?
- What message is Hosea bringing to Israel? What specifically makes God so angry?
- What do these chapters in Joel and Hosea tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Joel and Hosea tell us about the character and nature of people?
- Are we like or unlike Hosea? Are we like or unlike Gomer?

Week 5! Hosea 5-9

- Why is Israel being judged? Which of their actions anger God?
- Why is Israel being punished? (This is not the same as the answer to the question above!)
- What is God saying through Hosea in chapter 6 verse 6?
- What does God mean when He says Israel will “sow the wind and reap the whirlwind” in chapter 8 verse 7?
- What do these chapters in Hosea tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Hosea tell us about the character and nature of people?

Week 6! Hosea 10-14

- What specific actions and sins make God angry with Israel?
- What does Hosea implore Israel to do at the end of this week's reading?
- Does Hosea 11:1 remind you of anything or anyone else in the bible?
- What do these chapters in Hosea tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Hosea tell us about the character and nature of people?
- Are our sins like or unlike Israel's sins outlined in chapter 12?

Week 7! Micah 1-5!

- Why are Jerusalem and Samaria being judged? Why are the leaders being rebuked?
- Who is speaking in Micah 1:8-16?
- What is Micah 5:2 referring to?
- What do these chapters in Micah tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Micah tell us about the character and nature of people?
- Are there any behaviors that Jerusalem, Samaria, and the leaders possess that remind you of culture today?

Week 8 – Micah 6-7, Nahum 1-3

- What is the Micah's message to Israel in these chapters? What is Nahum's message to Ninevah?
- Which characteristics of the Lord stood out to you most in Nahum 1?
- Why is the picture of destruction in Nahum so complete and graphic?
- What do these chapters in Micah and Nahum tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Micah and Nahum tell us about the character and nature of people?

Week 9 - Habakkuk 1-2, Zephaniah 1-3

- What are Habakkuk's two questions to God? What are God's answers?
- What do you think is the theme of Habakkuk? What do you think is the theme of Zephaniah?
- What do these chapters in Habakkuk and Zephaniah tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Habakkuk and Zephaniah tell us about the character and nature of people?
- What does God ask Habakkuk to do in Habakkuk 2:2? Is there anything God is asking you to tell someone else or a group of people?

Week 10 - Obadiah, Haggai 1-2, Zechariah 1-2

- What was Obadiah's message to Edom? What was Haggai's message? What was Zechariah's message?
- What is Edom? Why is Obadiah speaking to Edom?
- What is the point of Haggai 2:8? Why is this verse in this specific place?
- Why do the horses in Zechariah 1 find the world at peace? Is this true?
- What do these chapters in Obadiah, Haggai, and Zechariah tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Obadiah, Haggai, and Zechariah tell us about the character and nature of people?

Week 11 – Zechariah 3-7

- What different visions does Zechariah have? What are the figurative meanings behind these words?
- What is happening in Zechariah 3:9-10? Why is this included here?
- Why does the Lord have Zechariah ask the same question multiple times in Zechariah 4?
- What do the women symbolize in Zechariah 5?
- What do these chapters in Zechariah tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Zechariah tell us about the character and nature of people?
- What is God's problem with His people in Zechariah 7? Does he have this problem with us?

Week 12 – Zechariah 8-12

- What are Zechariah's visions in chapters 8-12?
- What are verses 8:20-22 saying? Does this still happen today?
- What does Zechariah 9:9-13 point to?
- What is happening in Zechariah chapter 11 verses 4-17? What does Zechariah 11:8 mean?
- What do these chapters in Zechariah tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Zechariah tell us about the character and nature of people?
- Meditate on Zechariah 10:1. Do you believe this truth about God? Do your actions show that you believe that God is able to provide for you?

Week 13- Zechariah 13-4, Malachi 1-4

- What is Zechariah's message in these chapters? What is Malachi's message? What actions is Malachi saying God is displeased with?
- What is the beginning of Malachi chapter 3 referring to?
- What is Malachi 4:5-6 saying? When are these words fulfilled?
- What do these chapters in Zechariah and Malachi tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What do these chapters in Zechariah and Malachi tell us about the character and nature of people?
- Why do you think God chose to end the Old Testament this way? Remember, Malachi was the last word from God people had for 400 years.

Notes:

