

Major Messages from the Minor Prophets

Pastor Jim Jeffery

Orientation to Minor Prophets

Prophets

Not just foretellers of future events

Forth tellers of God's messages - God's spokesmen for current situations

1 Peter 1:19-21 19 “And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Applied the Law (Pentateuch - Gen. - Deut.) to Contemporary Situations

Ethics, Evangelical truth, and Eschatology

Anticipated the coming of the Messiah

1 Peter 1:10-12 10 “Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”

Deuteronomy 18:15-22 - the tests of a prophet

17 Old Testament Prophetic Books (Major 5 and Minor 12) are 25% of Scripture

Originally One volume in Hebrew Old Testament

Called "the Twelve" by Jewish Rabbis

Why Minor?

Because of size (brevity)

Because of scope (themes)

Biblical Context - Related Historical and Related Prophetic Books

2 Kings; 2 Chronicles – Pre Exilic

Ezra, Nehemiah – Post Exilic

Historical Context - World and Israel/Judah

Chronology - covers 400 years of history

Before the Exile in Judah

Joel
Micah
Habakkuk
Zephaniah

After the Exile in Jerusalem

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Prophets to Israel

Hosea
Amos

Prophets to Edom

Obadiah

Prophets to Assyria

Jonah
Nahum

Biographical Information

What can we learn about the prophet from his book?

What can we learn about the prophet from related Historical books?

Meaning of Name

What can we learn about the prophet from his time?

Search the Bible for the name – concordance – but be sure it is the same person.

Information from Bible Dictionaries

Theological Themes

God	Salvation
Christ	Bible
Holy Spirit	Angels
Man	Israel & Nations
Sin	Prophecy

Literary Style

Metaphors - Hosea

Visions - Zechariah

Messages - Haggai

Questions - Malachi

Story - Jonah

Repeated terms - Amos "for three transgressions or of four"

Outline

Transitions – both major and minor

Overarching Themes

How to get the most out of the Minor Prophets

Read the Minor Prophet in one sitting before the message

Read an introduction to each book – Study Bible, Bible Dictionary

Take notes using some of the suggestions in this overview

Record your notes for future study

Identify the application in that day to the recipients – then for you today

Share with a friend key insights and applications

Take time after the message for prayer and worship on what you have learned