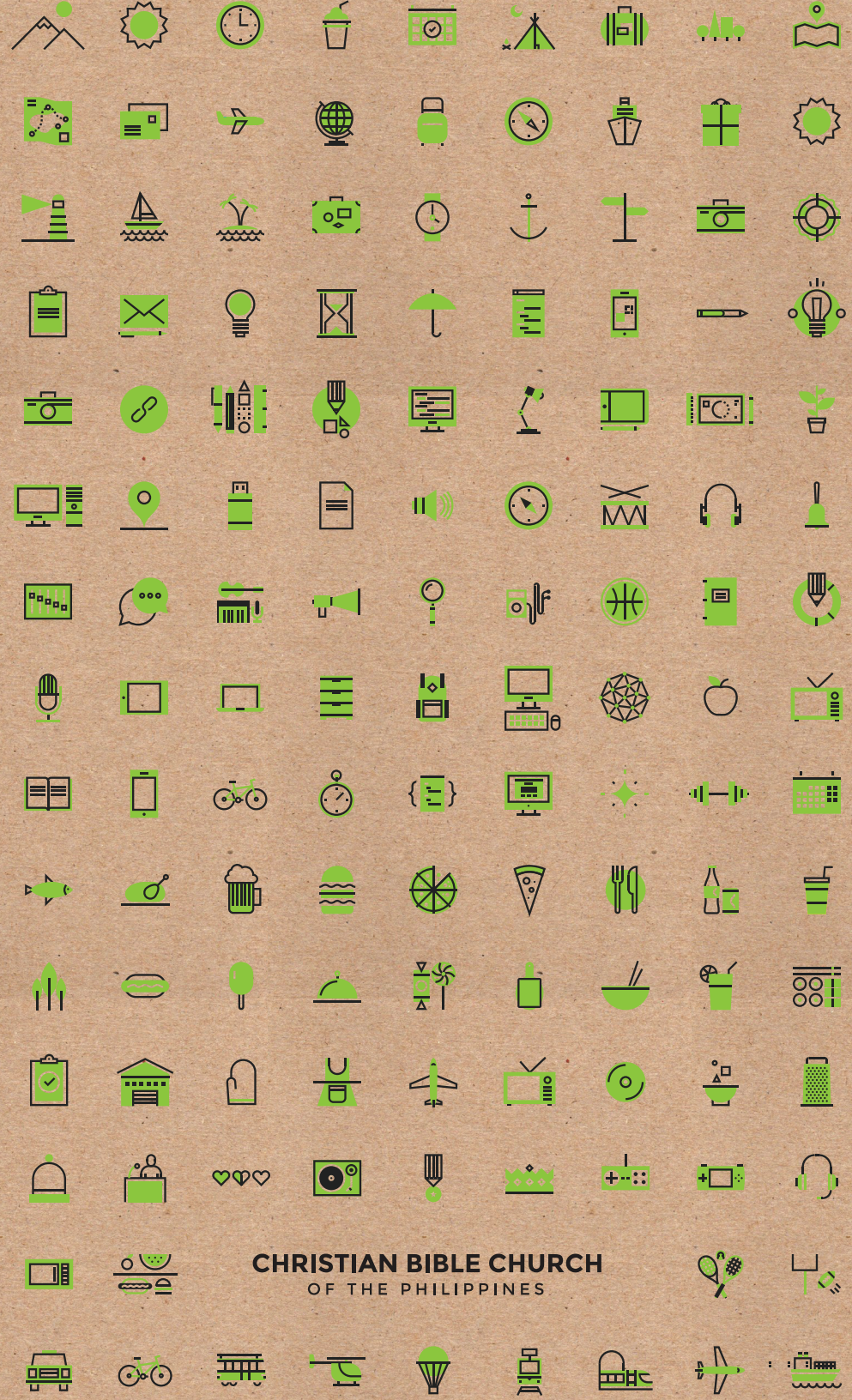


DIG DEEP

A BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

CHRISTIAN BIBLE CHURCH
OF THE PHILIPPINES



With the mission to “know God, love people, and make disciples”, we strive to study the Word of God to know Him and follow His ways.

DIG DEEP is the 3-Year Bible Reading program of Christian Bible Church. By following this schedule, you will finish the whole Bible within 3 years.

This is the sixth and final **DIG DEEP** booklet where we will be studying the books of Jeremiah to Malachi over the course of six months. This guide provides insight and context to understand each book and is available in both English and Chinese.

For earlier volumes of **DIG DEEP**, you may ask for free copies from the church office.

READING PLAN

JULY TO DECEMBER 2019

| | |
|-----------|---|
| July | Jeremiah 1-28 |
| August | Jeremiah 29-52 Lamentations |
| September | Ezekiel 1-30 |
| October | Ezekiel 31-48 Daniel |
| November | Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah |
| December | Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi |

JEREMIAH

| ✓ | JULY | JEREMIAH | ✓ | AUGUST | JEREMIAH |
|--------------------------|------|----------|--------------------------|--------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 2-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 32 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 33 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | 35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 36 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 37 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 39 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 41 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 43 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 46 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | 47 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | 51 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | 52 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | 26 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 27 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | 28 | | | |

JEREMIAH



AUTHOR

- Jeremiah is the son of the priest, Hilkiah. He was born in Anathoth and grew up there (*Jeremiah 1:1*).
- He was born a priest; but in the thirteenth year of Josiah he was called to become a prophet. He continued to speak the word of God even after the captivity (*Jeremiah 2-3, 5-7*).
- Based on the dates, he was a contemporary of Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Daniel and Ezekiel .
- He remained unmarried because of his work and witness (*Jeremiah 16:2-4*).
- He is one of the prophets who suffered the most trials and abuse.
- People perceived him as an enemy who spoke for Babylon. But in fact, he was commissioned by God to proclaim the Lord's judgment on Judah through Babylon. At the same time, he prophesied the Lord's severe judgment on Babylon.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

This book covers nearly 45 years of history, starting from 628 BC until 583 BC. Jeremiah prophesied in the land of Judah and also in the land of Egypt in the latter days for a short period.



AREAS OF PROPHET JEREMIAH'S LIFE WHICH FORESHADOWS THAT OF CHRIST'S

- His calling while still in his mother's womb (*Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 49:1,5*)
- His faithful preaching of the word of God (*Jeremiah 1:7, 9; John 12:49*)
- His labor seemed in vain (*Isaiah 53:1*)
- He mourned and wept over God's people (*Luke 19:41*)
- He suffered as a result of doing God's work (*Isaiah 53:3*)



THEME

The Lord God's judgment of sin is certain; yet, His lovingkindness and faithfulness to His covenant is eternal and certain, too. And so rebels are admonished to abandon their rebellion and return to His arms.



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Rebellion/Unfaithfulness (*Jeremiah 14:7*)
- Return (*Jeremiah 3:22*)
- Love (*Jeremiah 31:3*)

Key Verse:

- "The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'" (*Jeremiah 31:3*)



OUTLINE

1. The Prophet's Calling and Appointment (*Jeremiah 1*)
2. The Prophet in Judah Before the Fall of Jerusalem (*Jeremiah 2-3:18*)
3. The Fall of Jerusalem (*Jeremiah 39*)
4. The Prophet in Judah After Its Captivity (*Jeremiah 40-43:7*)
5. The Prophet in Egypt (*Jeremiah 43-51*)
6. Summary (*Jeremiah 52*)

LAMENTATIONS

| ✓ | AUGUST | LAMENTATION |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | 4-5 |

LAMENTATIONS

TITLE OF THE BOOK

The Septuagint coined the name of this book probably due to the prophet's lamentations. The prophet had likewise composed laments for Josiah (2 *Chronicles* 35:25); and so his laments on Jerusalem is rightly called "The Lamentations".

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BOOK

Among the Jews, this book is highly valued and is listed in "The Writings." They are traditionally recited on the ninth day of the eighth month in the synagogues to grieve for the Holy City's destruction. There are also patriotic Jews who read the book every Friday, commemorating the pain of their nation's loss

TYPE OF LITERATURE

This book is written in poetry form. It should have been included in the "Book of Psalms", but as it is considered as an appendix to the book of Jeremiah and also contains a significant amount of prophecy, it is listed among the prophetic books.

DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

According to tradition of the writing and to the introduction in *The Septuagint*, this book was written by the prophet after Nebuchadnezzar's last invasion of Jerusalem in 587 BC. The location is most likely Jerusalem.

THEME

- The pain and tragedy which sin creates
- Even when the Lord expresses His anger towards His people, He does it with mercy and love

LAMENTATIONS



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Righteousness (*Lamentations 1:18*)
- Love (*Lamentations 3:32*)
- Return (*Lamentations 5:21*)

Key Verses:

- “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.” (*Lamentations 3:22*)



OUTLINE

1. The 1st lament describes Jerusalem as a weeping widow in mourning with “no one to comfort her.”
2. The 2nd lament describes Jerusalem surrounded by enemies.
The prophet states clearly that these harsh punishments are from God.
3. The 3rd lament is the most prominent poem in the Old Testament.
Here, the prophet puts himself and the city (the people) together, seeing its hardships and pains as his own.
4. The 4th lament describes Jerusalem as gold that had lost its luster.
5. The 5th lament is the prophet’s prayer, and a conclusion to the 4th lament.

EZEKIEL

| ✓ | SEPTEMBER | EZEKIEL | ✓ | OCTOBER | EZEKIEL |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 32 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 2-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 33 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 4-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 36 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | 37 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 10-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 38-39 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 40-41 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 43 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 46 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 47-48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 19 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 20 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 21 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 22 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 23 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 24 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 25 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 26-27 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | 28 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | 29 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 30 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | | | | |

EZEKIEL

SUMMARY

The “Book of Ezekiel” is a prophetic book written by the prophet Ezekiel during his exile period. The prophet Ezekiel speaks in the first person, “I”, from the beginning to end. Unlike the other prophets, Ezekiel did not prophesy only to Israel or Judah, but to the whole house of Israel.

DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The whole book covers a span of 21 years, beginning in 595 BC and ending in 574 BC. Ezekiel prophesied in Babylon.

AUTHOR

Apart from this book, Ezekiel’s name and his writings are not mentioned in any other place in the Bible. He was the son of Buzi (*Ezekiel 1:3*). Like the prophet Jeremiah, he was also a priest (*Ezekiel 1:3*). We do not know if he ever performed the duties of a priest in Jerusalem, but we can conclude that he had been educated as a priest since his childhood because in his prophecy, he showed great familiarity about the temple, the sacrifices, and offerings. During the second wave of exile, he was exiled along with King Jehoiachin (*see 2 Kings 24:10-16*). His name, Ezekiel, means “God gives strength” or “God is strength”.

THEME

God deals with His people in righteousness. He does not let the guilty go unpunished, but He also deals with them in loving kindness. He eagerly awaits their repentance and return so that He may take them in and show them grace once more.

Ezekiel’s visions:

- The glory of the Lord rose from the cherubim to the threshold of the temple (*Ezekiel 9:3, 10:4*)

- From the threshold of the temple it went and stopped above the cherubim (*Ezekiel 10:18*)
- It rose from the ground and went and stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the temple (*Ezekiel 10:19*)
- From there, it rose and stopped above the mountain east of the city (the Mount of Olives) (*Ezekiel 11:22-23*), bidding farewell to the temple and the city, it rose up and departed (*Ezekiel 11:24*)
- When the kingdom comes, the glory of the Lord will return to the temple, and remain there forever (*Ezekiel 43:2-7*). The Lord was reluctant to leave His temple and Holy City. He also longs for the House of Israel to return to Him so that His glory may once again return.



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Visions
- The glory of the Lord

Key Verses:

- "...while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God." (*Ezekiel 1:1*)
- "...this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever..." (*Ezekiel 43:7*)

EZEKIEL



OUTLINE

According to the key phrase “the glory of the Lord,” the book can be divided into 4 sections:

1. The glory of the Lord appears and gives the prophet his mission
(*Ezekiel 1-3*)
2. The glory of the Lord departs because the House of Israel had forsaken Him (*Ezekiel 4-24*)
3. The glory of the Lord deals with the various nations and judges them because of their idolatry and wickedness towards Israel (*Ezekiel 25-32*)
4. The glory of the Lord returns and restores the House of Israel
(*Ezekiel 33-48*)

DANIEL

| ✓ | OCTOBER | DANIEL |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | 12 |

DANIEL



AUTHOR

- Daniel was from a royal clan in Judah. When Nebuchadnezzar first invaded Jerusalem (605 BC), Daniel, who was still a young man, was taken to Babylon. He was chosen to be educated to serve before the king since he was qualified in appearance, knowledge, and intelligence (*Daniel 1:1-7*).
- He and three other young men kept themselves pure and did not allow themselves to be defiled by the environment and culture in the Babylonian palace. Although they received various education and training, from the start to the end, they still worshipped the Lord, sought the Lord, and stood firm in their faith. They faithfully served the king, but they were more faithful to God, even to the point of giving up their lives.
- He lived a long life, from the time of Nebuchadnezzar until the time of Cyrus. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Ezra, Joshua (who returned from the exile), Ezra, Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, and others. According to legend, he died of old age in the city of Susa.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The book covers a period of 73 years, from 607 BC to 534 BC. The events happened in the city of Babylon, the province of Elam, and other places.



THEME

God is sovereign ruler as well as judge over all mankind and history, just as Nebuchadnezzar testified (*Daniel 4:17, 25*). This matches the meaning of Daniel's name – “God is my judge”.

“The Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes” (*Daniel 4:17*). The Lord is the one who puts and appoints his faithful servants among men in this world. He is the one who gives them exceptional skills, wisdom and success. He is also the one who keeps them safe as they pass through adversity and attacks.



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Verses:

- “He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.” (*Daniel 2:21-22*)

DANIEL



OUTLINE

Based on its content, the book can be divided into two major sections: the historical and the prophetic sections.

I. Historical Section (Chapters 1-6)

- **Chapter 1** is the introduction. It gives a brief history of Daniel's life.
- **Chapter 2** is the central part of the book. It lays the groundwork for the prophecies regarding the Gentiles, Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- **Chapter 3** is about the pride of Nebuchadnezzar. After he had the dream, he longed for that image to be all gold and for his nation to last forever, so he made an image of gold to replace that image in his dream.
- **Chapter 4** tells of how Nebuchadnezzar was disciplined by God for his pride.
- **Chapter 5** chronicles how Belshazzar was punished by God for his blasphemy. From then on, control over the pagans was transferred from Babylon to the Medes and Persians.
- **Chapter 6** narrates how Daniel worshipped God and refused to worship men, thus he was thrown into the lion's den; yet God kept him safe. Because of this, the name of the Lord was greatly glorified and praised, from the mouth of the Gentile king praise was uttered up to God.

II. Prophetic Section (Chapters 7-12)

- **Chapter 7** is about the first vision Daniel saw, which includes: the four great beasts, the ten horns, the small horns, the Ancient of Days, the Son of Man, other visions, and the angel's explanation.
- **Chapter 8** is about the second series of visions Daniel saw, which includes: a ram, the male goat, the big horn, the four prominent horns, and the small horn, etc.
- **Chapter 9** is about the prophet thinking about his nation - praying for it, confessing and asking the Lord for forgiveness and blessings upon it. He saw the third vision: the vision of the seventy sevens.
- **Chapter 10 - 12** is about the prophet's fourth series of visions.

HOSEA

| ✓ | NOVEMBER | HOSEA |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 6-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | 9-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 12 |

HOSEA



AUTHOR

The name Hosea means “salvation” or “Yahweh is salvation”. The prophecies in the book are full of messages about salvation, especially the Lord’s salvation for rebellious Israel. The prophet Hosea was the son of Beeri. His wife was Gomer. He had two sons and one daughter.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The book covers a period of about 60 years, starting from 785 BC to 725 BC. The prophet ministered in the nation of Israel. There is a narrative, although with little basis, that he moved to Judah in his later years.



TYPE OF LITERATURE

The words in this book abound with love and tenderness, reflecting the heart of God. The prophet’s tone was melancholic as he thought of Israel’s tendency to fall in every sense, but it turned into joy as he thought of God’s love and the revival of Israel in the future.



THEME

God pointed out the right path for the unfaithful – to turn from ‘Lo-Ruhamah’ and ‘Lo-Ammi’ to ‘Ruhamah’ and ‘Ammi’.



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Return – it was used 15 times in the book

Key Verses:

- “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.” (*Hosea 11:8*)



OUTLINE

Based on its content, the book can be divided into three major sections:

1. The Wayward Wife (*Hosea 1-3*)
2. Faithless People (*Hosea 4-13*)
3. Israel's Restoration (*Hosea 14*)

JOEL

| ✓ | NOVEMBER | JOEL |
|--------------------------|----------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 3 |

JOEL

AUTHOR

Apart from Joel 1:1, no other record can be found in the Bible regarding the life of the prophet Joel. This is because God chose men to be His instruments, not to draw our focus to these men, but to His word. Unless it is extremely significant for us, the Bible often does not record much about the lives of God's servants.

DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

Joel most likely ministered as a prophet during 870 BC to 865 BC. He apparently was a prophet in Judah and not in Israel.

TYPE OF LITERATURE

This book is written in a poetic style where there is rhythm and meter in some places and parallelism in other places. It is written beautifully, elegantly, fluently and fully in line with the rules of rhetoric.

THEME

There are three main themes in this book, namely:

- God's judgment is coming
- God's people enjoined to repent early and return wholeheartedly to God
- God has grace and love for the repentant

JOEL



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- The day of the Lord

Key Verses:

- "...the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand" (*Joel 2:1*)



OUTLINE

The book can be divided into three major sections:

1. Disaster (*Joel 1*)
2. The Day of the Lord (*Joel 2*)
3. Israel's Blessings (*Joel 3*)

AMOS

| ✓ | NOVEMBER | AMOS |
|--------------------------|----------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 8-9 |

AMOS



AUTHOR

The prophet Amos was from Tekoa in Judah which is near Jerusalem. The place still exists today maintaining its old name. It is located about 30 miles from Jerusalem and 20 miles from Bethlehem. Although Amos was from Judah, he prophesied to the people of Israel in the north (*Amos 1:1*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

According to *Amos 1:1*, Amos was a prophet in the years of Uzziah the king of Judah and Jeroboam the son of Joash, the king of Israel, two years before “the earthquake”. Amos prophesied in Bethel of Israel. One of the two idol calves set up by Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, is located in this place.



TYPE OF LITERATURE

The literary genre of the “Book of Amos” is different from the book preceding it, the “Book of Joel”. The language of Joel is exquisite, elegant, gentle while Amos is graphic, forceful and blunt. While the former book is poetic, the latter is full of imagery from life in the wilds.



THEME

Amos carried a burden and that is to announce a dreadful message – God’s punishment – for flourishing, opulent, and insolent Israel. In this book, he pointed out the sins of the nation, condemning them. Individual sins will be judged before the throne of God, but the nation’s sins will be judged in this generation.



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Judgment (I will not relent) – used 8 times

Key Verses:

- “Prepare to meet your God” (*Amos 4:12*)



OUTLINE

1. Judgment against the Surrounding Nations (*Amos 1:1-2:3*)
2. Judgment against Judah and Israel (*Amos 2:4-16*)
3. Argument between God and Jacob (*Amos 3:1-9:10*)
4. The Prosperity of David’s Kingdom (*Amos 9:11-15*)

OBADIAH

| | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| ✓ | NOVEMBER | OBADIAH |
| ☐ | 27 | 1 |

OBADIAH

AUTHOR

The author of this book is Obadiah. We know very little about his life. The name Obadiah means “the servant of the Lord”. We only know that he was God’s servant who proclaimed revelations from the Lord.

SUMMARY

This book is the shortest in the Old Testament, but its content is very important. It pronounced future judgment and the end of Israel’s enemy, Edom.

DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

Obadiah was most likely a prophet during the early years of Joash at about 880 BC. From verses 11, 16-20, we believe that he ministered in and was a prophet to Judah.

THEME

The book contains God’s message of judgment for Edom – who was proud, arrogant, self-righteous, oppressive, ruthless, and who tyrannized God’s chosen people. It also declared how God will defend his own people, judge righteously, and repay Edom according to what he had done.

OBADIAH



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Edom (*Obadiah 1:1*)
- Your deeds will return upon your head (*Obadiah 1:15*)

Key Verses:

- “As you have done, it will be done to you” (*Obadiah 1:15*)



OUTLINE

1. Edom's Shame (*Obadiah 1: 1-9*)
2. Edom's Sin (*Obadiah 1: 10-14*)
3. The Day of the Lord (*Obadiah 1:15-16*)
4. Edom's End (*Obadiah 1: 17-21*)

JONAH

| ✓ | NOVEMBER | JONAH |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 3-4 |

JONAH



AUTHOR

The author of the book is the prophet Jonah recorded in *2 Kings 14:25*. He is the son of Amittai from Gath-hepher. There is only one Jonah in the Bible. The meaning of his name is “dove”, which symbolizes Jonah being sent by God to fly out like a dove and preach the gospel of peace.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

Jonah was a prophet before the time of Jeroboam, son of Joash, probably in 862 BC. His ministry began in Israel and extended to Assyria’s capital Nineveh.



JONAH PREFIGURED CHRIST IN TWO WAYS:

1. In His Death

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (*Matthew 12:40*)

2. In His Ministry

“...and now something greater than Jonah is here” (*Matthew 12:41*).

Jonah was sent to Nineveh to preach the Word of God while Christ was sent into the world and He is the Word of God.



THEME

- “...Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too” (*Romans 3:29*)
- “God is love”, “(God) who wants all people to be saved”, “not wanting anyone to perish” (*1 John 4:8, 1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9*)
- “Salvation comes from the LORD.” (*Jonah 2:9*)



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Works:

- The Lord provided (*Jonah 1:17*)

Key Verses:

- “I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.” (*Jonah 4:2*)



OUTLINE

1. Jonah's Disobedience (*Jonah 1*)
2. Jonah's Repentance (*Jonah 2*)
3. Jonah's Proclamation (*Jonah 3*)
4. Jonah's Prejudice (*Jonah 4*)

MICAH

| ✓ | DECEMBER | MICAH |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 3-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 6-7 |

MICAH



AUTHOR

The prophet Micah prophesied during the reigns of King Ahaz and King Hezekiah of Judah. He was from Moresheth, a town in southwest Jerusalem near the Philistine border. Micah (or Mikha) means “Who is like God?”



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

From *Micah 1:1*, we can surmise that Micah likely ministered as a prophet for 40 years or so, starting in 750 BC until 710 BC. The prophet exercised his ministry in Judah.



KEY MESSAGES

- The Lord disciplined His chosen people because of their sins
- The Lord forgave and saved His chosen people because of His lovingkindness
- The Lord will restore and prosper His chosen people because of His covenant

MICAH



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Dispute (*Micah 6:2*)

Key Verses:

- “Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” (*Micah 7:18-19*)



OUTLINE

1. Rebuke (*Micah 1-3*)
2. Comfort (*Micah 4-5*)
3. Dispute (*Micah 6*)
4. Forgiveness (*Micah 7*)

NAHUM

| ✓ | DECEMBER | NAHUM |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 3 |

NAHUM



AUTHOR

The Bible has no records regarding the life of Nahum other than what is written in *Nahum 1:1*. He is a prophet to whom the Lord revealed the destruction of Assyria and its capital, Nineveh. Nahum means “comfort” or “retribution”, and thus his prophecies are full of comfort and retributions.



THE PROPHET JONAH AND THE PROPHET NAHUM

The prophet Jonah went and prophesied to Nineveh in 862 BC. The repentance that Jonah’s message produced had been sincere and accepted by the Lord. But, it is a pity that Nineveh’s virtue before God did not endure, it was like the morning mist that vanished quickly. After a short period of time, Nineveh moved away from God and became unfaithful to Him. And so, the Lord raised up the prophet Nahum 150 years after Jonah preached to Nineveh. He pronounced judgment on Assyria and its capital, Nineveh. Nahum’s prophetic words were fulfilled more than a hundred years after. At that time, Babylon, together with Medes, destroyed Nineveh in 612 BC and Assyria destroyed it completely in 609 BC.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The prophet Nahum most likely prophesied in 701 BC, that is in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah and after that, the Assyrian invasion of Judah occurred. The prophet ministered in Judah.



THEME

The terrible, irrevocable fate of those who turn away from God and God’s protection for those who trust in Him.



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Vengeance

Key Verses:

- “Whatever they plot against the Lord he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.” (*Nahum 1:9*)



OUTLINE

1. The Judge (*Nahum 1:1-7*)
2. Judgment (*Nahum 1:8-13*)

HABAKKUK

| ✓ | DECEMBER | HABAKKUK |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 3 |

HABAKKUK

SUMMARY

The “Book of Habakkuk” comes after the “Book of Nahum”. These two books are very similar in theme as they both talk about God’s judgment for the enemies of His people. Nahum predicted the end of Assyria while Habakkuk prophesied the end of the Chaldeans.

AUTHOR

Apart from *Habakkuk 1:1*, there is nothing recorded in the Bible about the prophet Habbakuk – no information about his origin, birthplace, family, life, or date of ministry. *Habakkuk 1:1* tells us three things: he is a prophet; his name is Habakkuk; and he proclaimed the revelations God showed him.

DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

He may have been a prophet during the time of Josiah and he may have ministered during 626BC. He ministered apparently in Judah because it is the only place where the temple and the directors can be found.

KEY MESSAGES

God does not tolerate sin but He has a time, a plan, and a way in executing justice. Yet when he becomes angry He still exercises mercy, for He lets the righteous live by faith!

HABAKKUK



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Faith
- Revival

Key Verses:

- “The righteous person will live by faith” (*Habakkuk 2:4*)



OUTLINE

1. The First Dialogue (*Habakkuk 1:1-11*)
2. The Second Dialogue (*Habakkuk 1:12-2*)
3. The Prophet's Prayer (*Habakkuk 3*)

ZEPHANIAH

| ✓ | DECEMBER | ZEPHANIAH |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 3 |

ZEPHANIAH



AUTHOR

According to *Zephaniah 1:1*, the author of this book is Zephaniah. There is little information regarding Zephaniah in the Bible. We only know that:

- He is a prophet
- He prophesied during the reign of Judah's King Josiah
- He is the great grandson of Hezekiah, the great grandson of Amariah, the grandson of Gedaliah and the son of Cushi



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The prophet Zephaniah prophesied probably in 630 BC, in Judah.



KEY MESSAGES

The jealous God:

- Rebukes sternly the wickedness of idolatry
- Warns of the approach of the "day of the Lord"
- Predicts the blessings for when the kingdom comes



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- The Day of the Lord

Key Verses:

- "Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger." (*Zephaniah 2:3*)



OUTLINE

1. Judgment (*Zephaniah 1:1-3:8*)
2. Redemption (*Zephaniah 3:9-20*)

HAGGAI

✓ DECEMBER HAGGAI

15

16 1-2

HAGGAI



AUTHOR

We know that:

- He is a prophet (*Haggai 1:1*).
- He was a contemporary of Zechariah (*Ezra 5:1*).
- In the second year of Darius, he spoke God's word on the 1st day of the 6th month, the 21st day of the 7th month, and the 24th day of the 9th month.
- His name Haggai means "my festival" or "The Lord's festival". This clearly shows how eager he was to return to his home country and resume the festivals of the Lord.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The prophet Haggai ministered during the second year of King Darius in 520 BC. The time period covered by the book is only about 3 months and 24 days. The prophet ministered in Jerusalem.



THEME

There are three main messages in this book:

- "God must be first in the life and ministry of believers";
- "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you"; and
- "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Build (*Haggai 1:8*)

Key Verses:

- “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” (*Haggai 1:4*)



OUTLINE

1. Condemnation and Encouragement for the People's Laziness and Selfishness (*Haggai 1*)
2. Prophecy Regarding the Temple during the Reign of the Kingdom (*Haggai 2:1-9*)
3. Warning against the Sin of the People (*Haggai 2:10-19*)
4. Promise of the Messiah (*Haggai 2:20-23*)

ZECHARIAH

| ✓ | DECEMBER | ZECHARIAH |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 3-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 5-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 7-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 10-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 14 |

ZECHARIAH



AUTHOR

The prophet Zechariah is the grandson of Iddo, the son of Berekiah. He was born in the land of captivity and was among those who returned home to their nation with Zerubbabel. The prophecy of Zechariah not only helped and encouraged the people of Israel at that time, but it also comforted the survivors who returned from the nations later, giving them great hope.



THE PROPHET HAGGAI AND THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

Haggai and Zechariah were contemporaries and were prophets who returned to the nation after the exile. They prophesied in the same situation with the same message, encouraging Zerubbabel, Joshua and the frustrated people to continue the work of building the temple, while giving them hope of the future revival and glory. Zechariah however was younger than Haggai (*Zechariah 2:4*) and prophesied two months later than Haggai (*Zechariah 1:1*, compare with *Haggai 1:1*) and longer by two years (*Zechariah 7:1*). According to Jewish legend, after the death of Zechariah, he was buried next to Haggai's tomb.



TIME & PLACE WRITTEN

Zechariah prophesied during the second year of King Darius in 520BC, which is the same time the prophet Haggai did. The prophet Zechariah apparently ministered in Judah (*Zechariah 7:3-4*).



THEME

There are a total of 5 messages in this book with 3 during the building of the temple and 2 after the temple was built. Every message fully demonstrates how much love and concern God has for His people and how He promised to bless and remember them.

ZECHARIAH



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- Jealous (*Zechariah 1:14, 8:2*)

Key Verses:

- “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.’” (*Zechariah 1:14*)



OUTLINE

1. The Message During the Building of the Temple (*Zechariah 1-8*)

- 1st message - Exhortation (*Zechariah 1:1-6*)
- 2nd message - Eight Visions (*Zechariah 1:7-6:8*)
- Typology - Joshua's crown (*Zechariah 6:9-15*)
- 3rd message - Regarding Festivals (*Zechariah 7-8*)

2. The Message After the Temple was Built (*Zechariah 9-14*)

- The 1st message is regarding the land of Hadrak and Damascus. One of the main prophecy is that the anointed king is abandoned (*Zechariah 9-11*)
- The 2nd message is regarding the vision about Israel, one of the main prophecy is that the abandoned king steps up to the throne (*Zechariah 12-14*)

MALACHI

| ✓ | DECEMBER | MALACHI |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | 4 |

MALACHI



AUTHOR

Malachi was the last one among all the major and minor prophets as well as among all the prophets who returned to the nation.



TIME & PLACE WRITTEN

The prophet Malachi most likely ministered during 434 BC, in Jerusalem. This is because he wrote about many details regarding the temple, the priests and their ministry.



KEY MESSAGES

- To remember His love
- To repent of sins
- To return to Him
- To look in expectation for the coming Lord



KEY WORDS & VERSES

Key Words:

- How have we...
- But you ask..., but you say...
- Messenger

Key Verses:

- “I have loved you,” says the Lord. (*Malachi 1:2*)



OUTLINE

1. The Lord's Fierce Love for Israel (*Malachi 1:1-5*)
2. The Lord Sternly Rebuked the Sins of the Priests (*Malachi 1:6-2:9*)
3. The Lord Sternly Rebuked the Sins of the People
(*Malachi 2:10-17; 3:7-15*)
4. The Lord Pronounced the Day of the Lord
(*Malachi 3:1-6, 3:16-18, 4:1-6*)