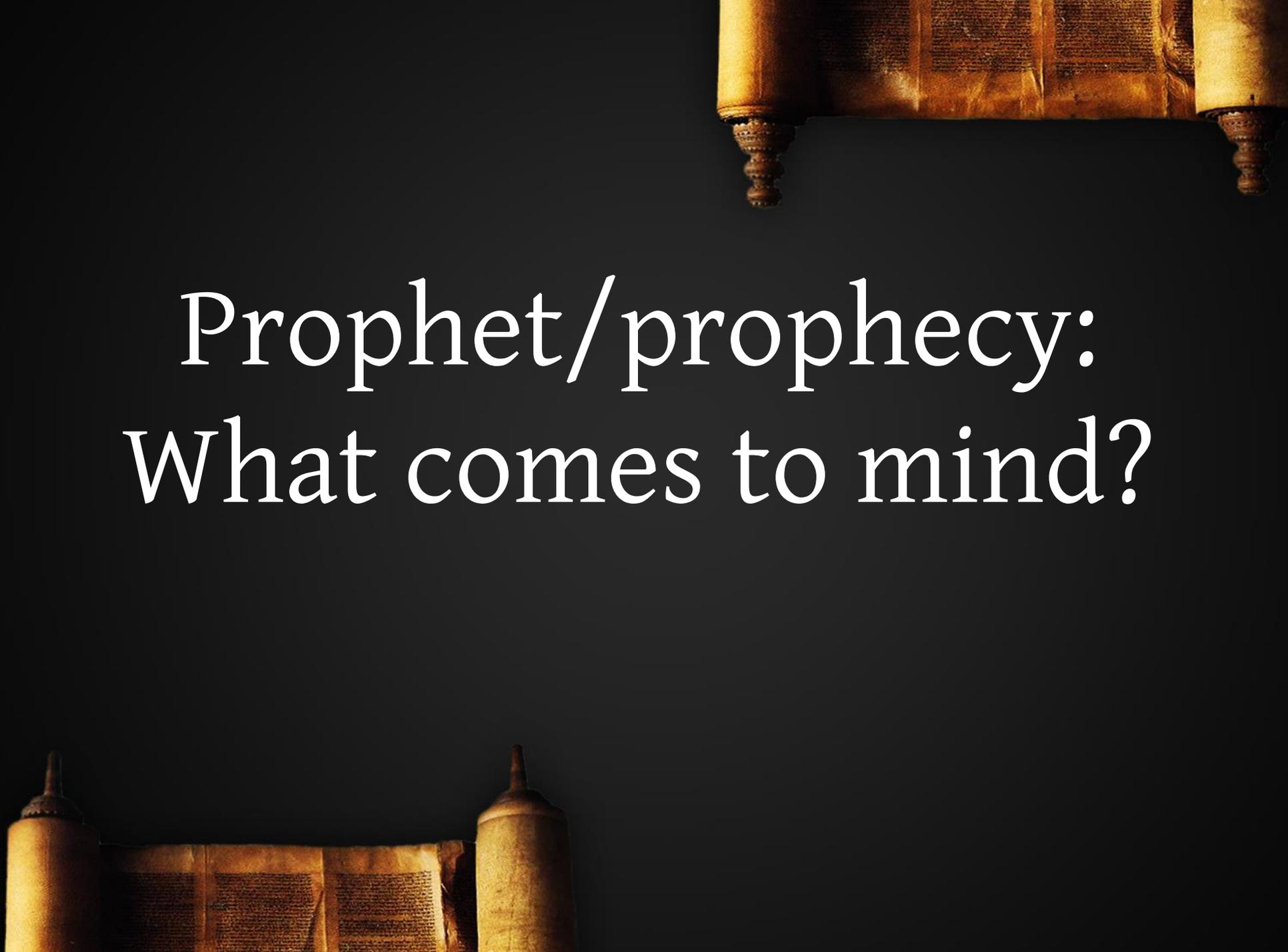


Old Testament Prophets: God's Messengers of Judgment & Redemption





Prophet/prophecy:
What comes to mind?



“They have a queer way of talking, like people who, instead of proceeding in an orderly manner, ramble off from one thing to the next so that you cannot make heads or tails of them or see what they are getting at.”

Luther, *Works* (Weimar Edition) 19:350



Questions?



Before we jump into individual prophetic books....

- **Why** are the prophets important?
 - **Who** were the prophets?
 - **When/Where** did the prophets minister?
 - **What** distinguishes the prophets?
 - **How** should we read the prophets?
- 

Why?

- **Size:** corpus equals NT (*less studied*, 2 Tim. 3:16)
- **Source:** important NT imagery (bride, Eph. 5/Hos; vineyard, Lk. 20/Isa. 5; water/Spirit, Jn. 3/Eze. 36)
- **Savior:** NT writers appeal to OT prophets to understand Messiah

Why?

Matthew

1:18-25, 2:6 (*birth, place*)

2:15 (*exiled*)

2:18 (*endangered*)

3:1-3 (*forerunner*)

4:14-17 (*ministry*)

8:14-17 (*healing*)

11:4-6 (*miraculous*)

12:15-17 (*private*)

12:38-42 (*resurrection*)

13:14-15 (*rejection*)

OT Prophets

Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2

Hosea 11:1

Jeremiah 31:15

Isaiah 40:3

Isaiah 9:1-2

Isaiah 53:4

Isaiah 35:5, 61:1

Isaiah 42:1-3

Jonah

Isaiah 6:9-10

Why?

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- **Savior:** NT writers appeal to OT prophets to understand Messiah
- **Stump:** terse form, enigma (Isa. 20, Jer. 27, Ezek. 3)
- **Story:**

Why?

- **Creation:** God created His *people*, put them in His *place*, to enjoy His *presence*. Humanity chose to rebel, bringing corruption, expulsion, alienation
- **Covenant:** After beginning anew (Noah), God makes a covenant with Abram (Gen. 12, 15):
 - (1) *People:* descendants explode in Egypt (Ex.)
 - (2) *Place:* Moses leads Israel to Canaan (Ex. & Num.)
 - (3) *Presence:* covenant, details for tabernacle (Lev.)

Why?

- **Condition:** God restates the covenant (Deut.), promising obedience would bring a blessed life in the land, but disobedience would bring His curse & judgment, ultimately expulsion.
- **Compromise:** Israel is faithful to YHWH under strong leaders (Joshua, Samuel, David), but strays to worship other gods (Kings).
How will God respond?

Why?

- **Size:** corpus equals NT (*less studied?* 2 Tim. 3:16)
- **Source:** important NT imagery (bride, Eph. 5/Hos; vineyard, Lk. 20/Isa. 5; water/Spirit, Jn. 3/Eze. 36)
- **Savior:** NT writers appeal to OT prophets to understand Messiah (Matt. 1-2/Isa. 7, Hos. 11)
- **Stump:** terse form, enigma (Isa. 20, Jer. 27, Ezek. 3)
- **Story:** covenant curses, *God does* [Kings] covenant enforcers, *God says* [Prophets]

Who?

- Prophets: **commissioned** by God (*thus says*) to **confront** Israel's sin (*idolatry, injustice, reliance on rituals*), **call** them to repent/obey covenant, **caution** them about coming judgment, **comfort** them with promise of better future

When?

○ Assyrians (8-7th c. B.C.)

- Jonah
- Hosea
- Amos
- Micah
- Isaiah
- Nahum
- Zephaniah

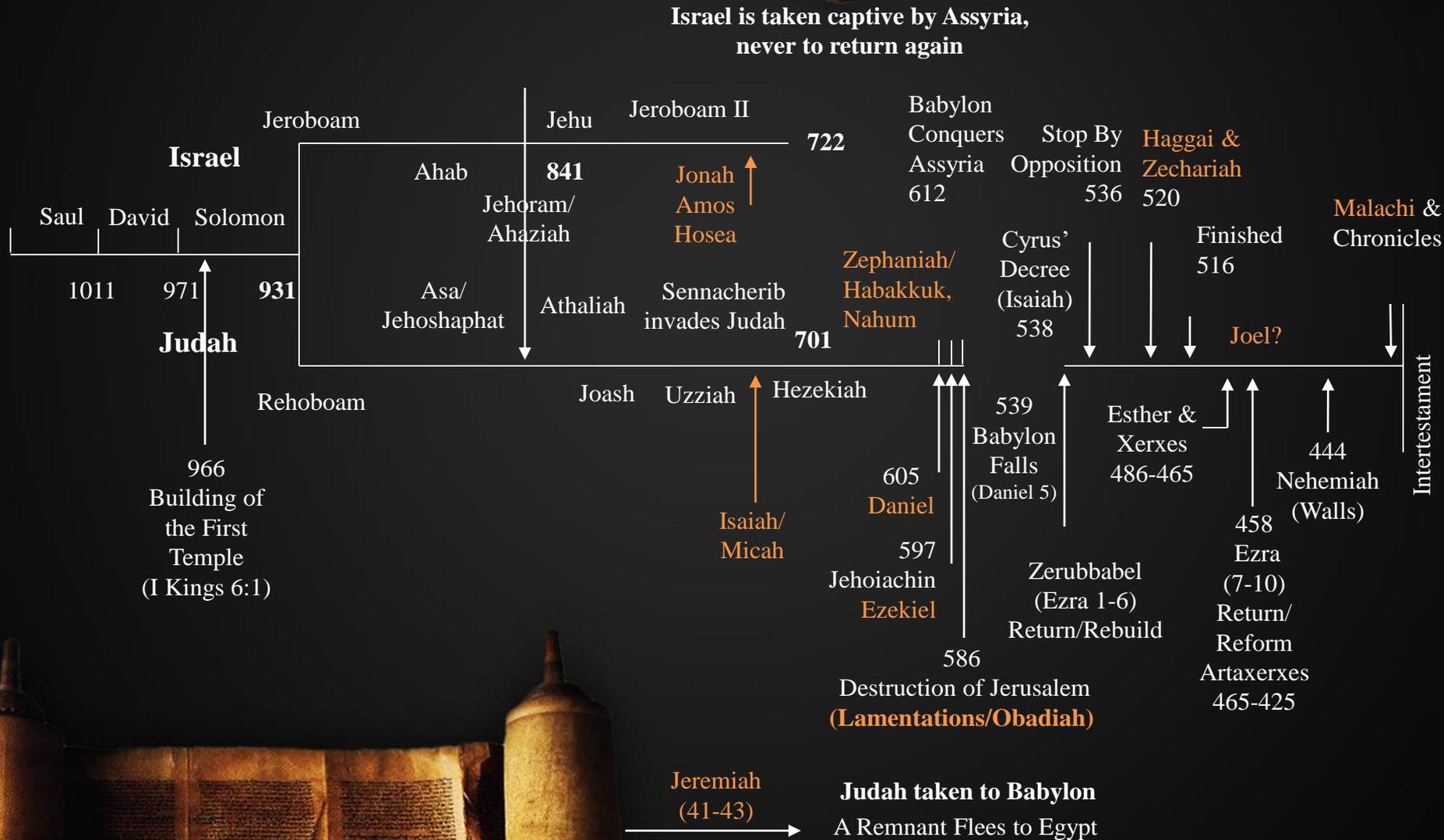
○ Babylonians (7-6th c. B.C.)

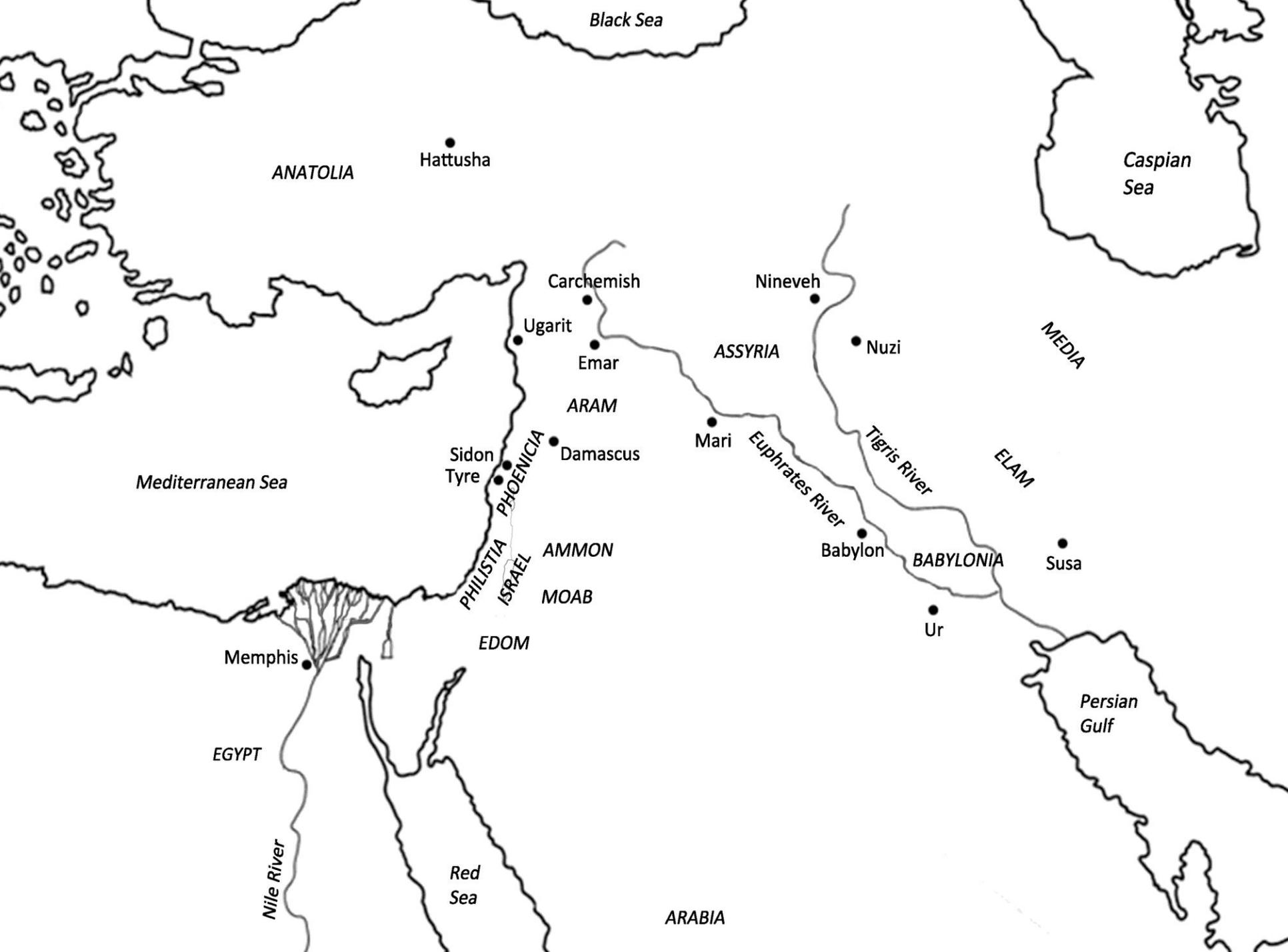
- Habakkuk
- Jeremiah/Lamentations
- Obadiah
- Ezekiel

○ Persians (6-5th c. B.C.)

- Daniel
- Haggai/Zechariah
- Joel/Malachi

When?





Black Sea

Caspian Sea

ANATOLIA

Hattusha

MEDIA

Carchemish

Nineveh

Ugarit

Nuzi

Emar

ASSYRIA

ARAM

Sidon
Tyre

Damascus

Mari

Euphrates River

Tigris River

ELAM

Mediterranean Sea

PHOENICIA
PHILISTIA
ISRAEL

AMMON

Babylon

BABYLONIA

Susa

MOAB

Ur

Memphis

EDOM

Persian Gulf

EGYPT

Red Sea

ARABIA

Nile River

Where?

○ Ancient Near East

- Boundaries: Mediterranean (west), Black & Caspian Seas (north), Persian Gulf & Red Sea (south), Zagros Mts (east)
- **Three Main Regions:**
 - Egypt: Nile river valley, secluded, until monarchy
 - **Mesopotamia:** near Tigris & Euphrates; home to Assyria, Babylon, Persia; late in Israel's history
 - Syria-Palestine: land bridge, buffer between empires

Summary

- **Who:** commissioned by God (*thus says*) to confront Israel's sin (*idolatry, injustice, reliance on rituals*), call them to repent/obey covenant, caution them about coming judgment, comfort them with promise of better future
- **Where:** ANE- *Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria-Palestine*
- **When:** three periods- *Assyria, Babylon, Persia*

Next: *type of literature and how to read these books?*