

Accountability:

- I read for 2 hours
- I read some of Hill & Walton's chapters on the Minor Prophets.
- I watched all of the assigned videos and took notes

Some tips before reading the prophets: Identify the world power at the time of the prophet (Assyria, Babylon, or Persia); identify the target audience (Israel, Judah, or Gentile Kingdom/Tribe); finally, realize that, despite their many judgments, they all reference a positive, restorative, and future Davidic King/dom.

Amos was a husbandman turned prophet who preached “the end has come” to an inattentive Northern Israel, blinded by their national prosperity under Jeroboam II (Hill & Walton 608). Obadiah is God’s indictment against proud Edom for their malicious treatment of Israel throughout history. The message of Jonah “concerns God’s sovereign right to bestow gracious acts of compassion on whomever he will” (Hill & Walton 634). Micah 3:8 spells out the purpose of his book, “declaring Judah’s transgressions.” The purpose of Nahum is to “pronounce the doom of Nineveh,” an imminent act of judgment, showing God’s sovereignty over the gentile nations (Hill & Walton 655). Habakkuk and Zephaniah both preach God’s coming judgment on Judah by way of the Babylonians. Haggai encourages physical rebuilding (the temple) while Zechariah encourages spiritual rebuilding. Malachi condemns Israel’s past priests, who failed miserably leading up to the Babylonian captivity, as a warning to those ministering post exile.

“The Day of the Lord” is mentioned several times in the prophets (see sample references below), yet remains mysterious. Is it a literal day (Armageddon) or a coming age (millennial reign)? Does it have historical, near, or far prophetic significance?

The prophets do not forecast the New Testament Church in their writings. Their eschatological view was like one standing on a mountain top (The Old Testament), viewing the next mountain top (Messianic Kingdom), not seeing the enormous valley of the New Testament Church between the mountains (Larkin, Ch.3). Is this why it’s called a “Mystery” by Paul (Ephesians 5:31, 32)?

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Works Cited:

Hill, Andrew E., and John H. Walton. A survey of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2009.

Larkin, Clarence. *Dispensational truth: or, Gods plan and purpose in the ages*. Martino Pub., 2010.

Day of the Lord References:

(Amos 5:18; Obadiah 1:15; Micah 4:6; Zephaniah 1:14; Haggai 2:23; Zechariah 9:16; Mal. 4:1)