

The Minor Prophets

Hosea

Setting

- During 8th cent
- Reigning kings (S)
 - Uzziah
 - Jotham
 - Ahaz
 - Hezekiah
- Prosperity of North
- Growing threat

- Reigning kings (N)
 - Jeroboam II



Structure

Superscription 1:1



Hosea's troubled marriage 1:2-3:5



First cycle of prophecies 4:1-11:11



Second cycle of Prophecies 11:12-14:8



Wisdom Colophon 14:9

Images of God

Trapper 7:12

Jealous husband 2:2-13

Angry Shepherd 4:16

Life-giving dew 14:5

Destructive Moth 5:12

Reviving Rains 6:3

Ferocious Lion 5:14

Protecting Lion 11:10-11

Loving Parents 11:3-4

Joel

Response to Coming Judgement





A large number of locusts are shown in a field, some flying in the air and others crawling on the ground. The background is a blurred landscape with a light sky.

Introduction

- Name _____
- Chapter divisions differ
 - English Bible 3
 - Hebrew Bible 4
- Date
 - Undetermined
 - Why!

Structure

Lament over Calamity c.1

Warning: God's Army 2:1-11

Call to Repentance 2:12-17

Restoration 2:18-32

Judgement Against the Nations c.3

Partial Fulfilment in Acts 2:17-20

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.



Partial Fulfilment in Acts 2:17-20



- **Joel 2:30-32** "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³² And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved

Amos

A Cry for Social Justice

Literary Link

- Joel 3:16

- *The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem;* The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

- Amos 1:2

- *And he said: "The LORD roars from Zion, And utters His voice from Jerusalem;*

Introduction

- Name
 - “load”, or “burden” – to carry
- Early classical Prophet
- Occupation
 - Sheep breeder
 - Dresser of sycamore figs
 - Not a “natural” prophet
 - Called from the South to minister to North (763BC approx.)



Setting

- South – Uzziah
- North
 - Jeroboam II
 - High affluence
 - Revival of festivals and “worship”
 - Deteriorating treatment of the poor
- Assyria growing



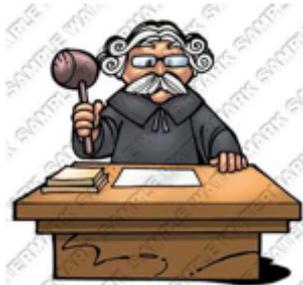
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Plot/Structure

INTRODUCTION 1:1-2

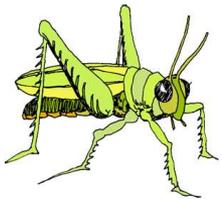
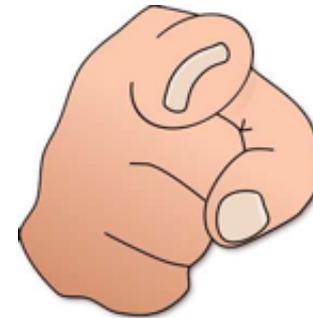


Judgement against nations 1:3-2:3



Judgement against Israel & Judah 2:4-16

Oracles against Israel
cc.3-6



Further Oracles 8:1-9-10

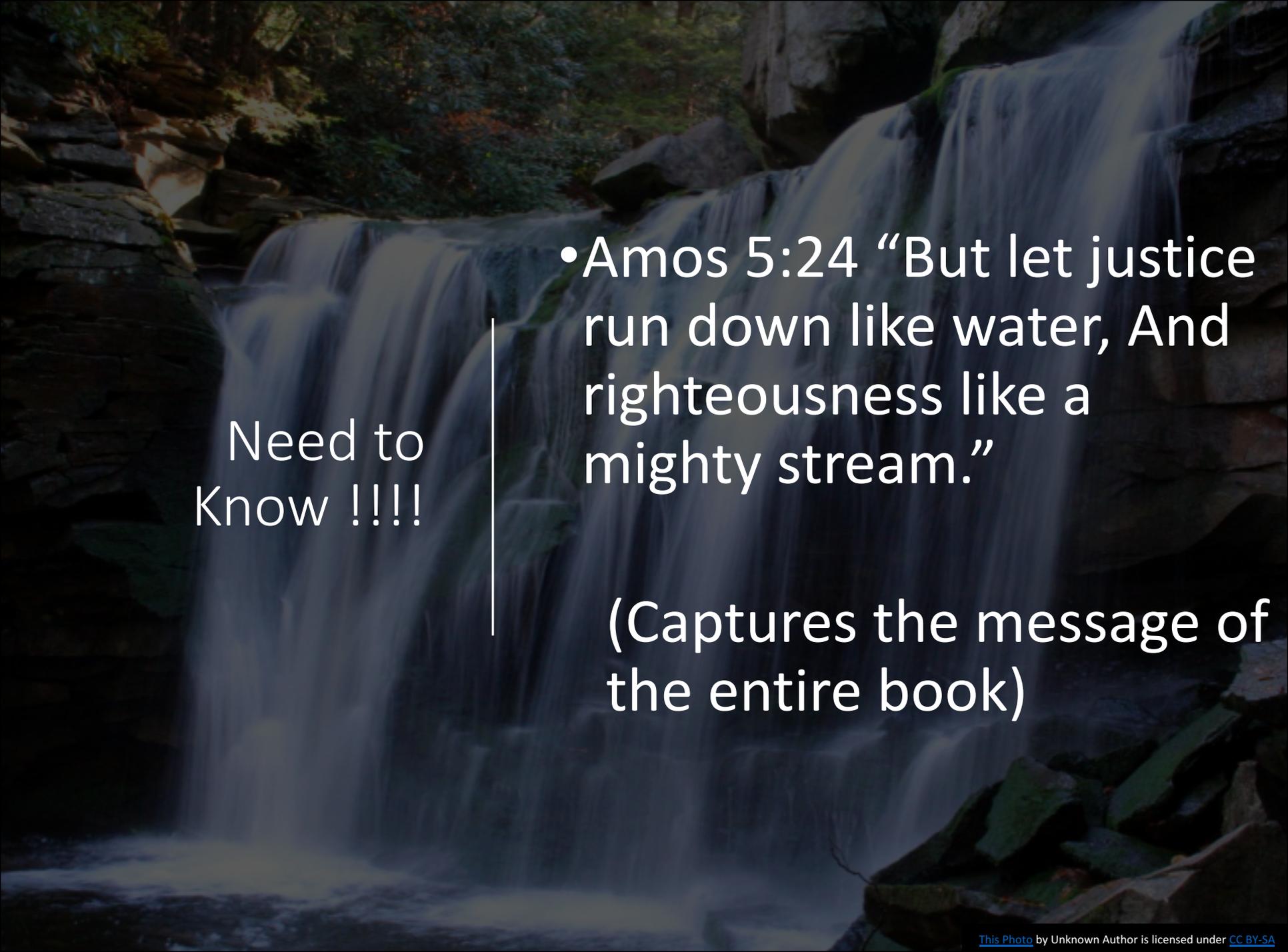


Restoration 9:11-15

Biblical Sarcasm

- Words spoken, but not intended
- *"Enter Bethel and transgress; In Gilgal multiply transgression! Bring your sacrifices every morning, Your tithes every three days.*
- (Amo 4:4)





Need to
Know !!!!

- Amos 5:24 “But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.”

(Captures the message of the entire book)

Obadiah

Servant of the Lord

Setting

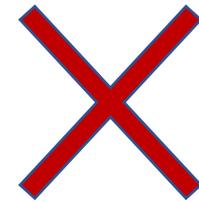
- Historic Tensions
- During and after the Exile
- Edom plunders Judah
- Message against Edom



The Day of the Lord



Israel



Edom



Jonah

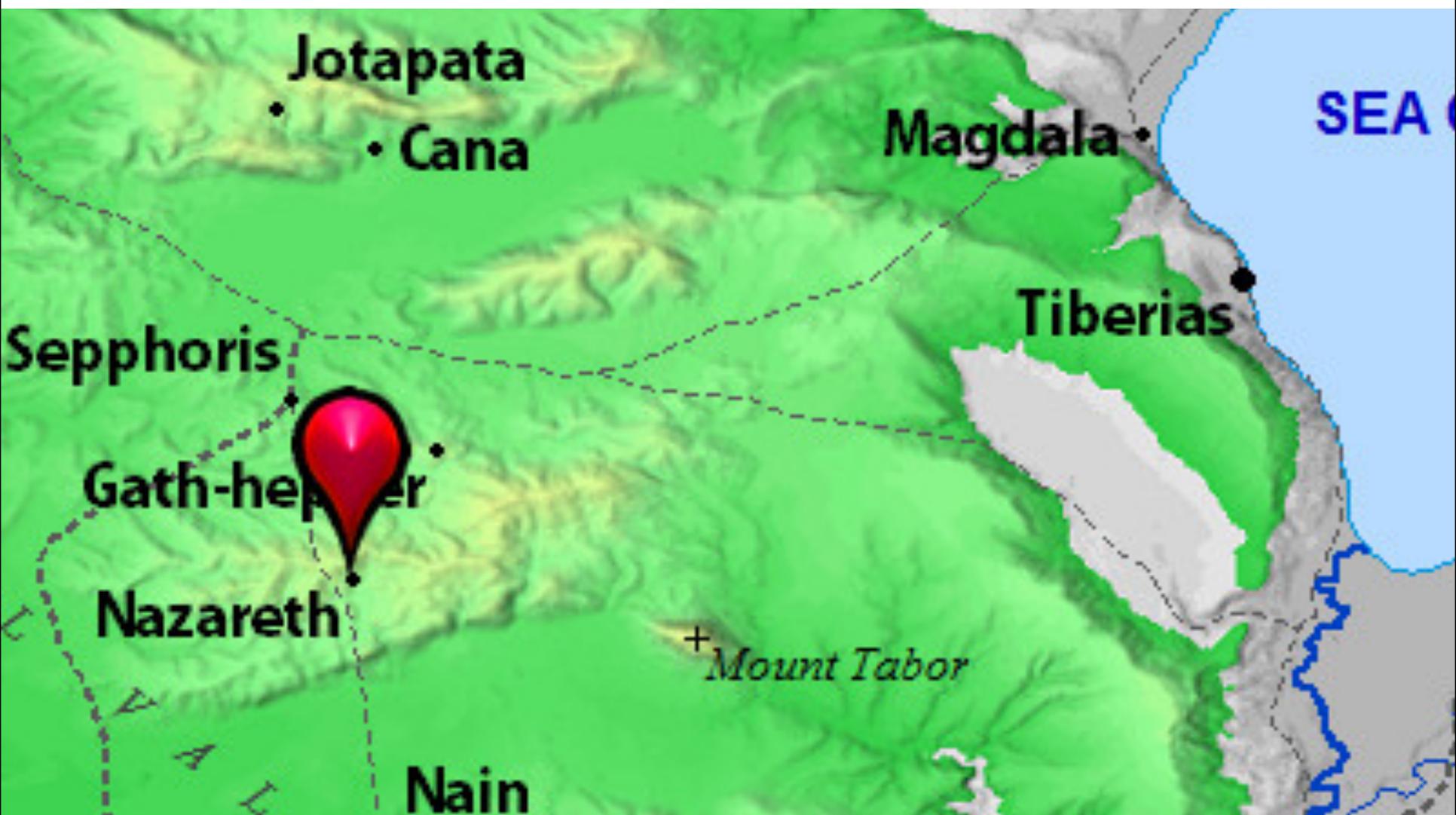
An Anti-Prophet



Introduction

- Narrative - unique
- Name
 - Yonah = “Dove”
 - Amittai “Son of truth”?
 - Alternative YNH = “oppressor of truth”
- Perceived as fictitious
 - Miraculous
 - But Creation?
- From Gath Hepher (Galil)





Structure (4 Scenes)

Fleeing from God C. 1

In the belly of a fish C. 2

Obedience to the call? C. 3

Jonah's anger vs. God's Mercy C. 4

Summary

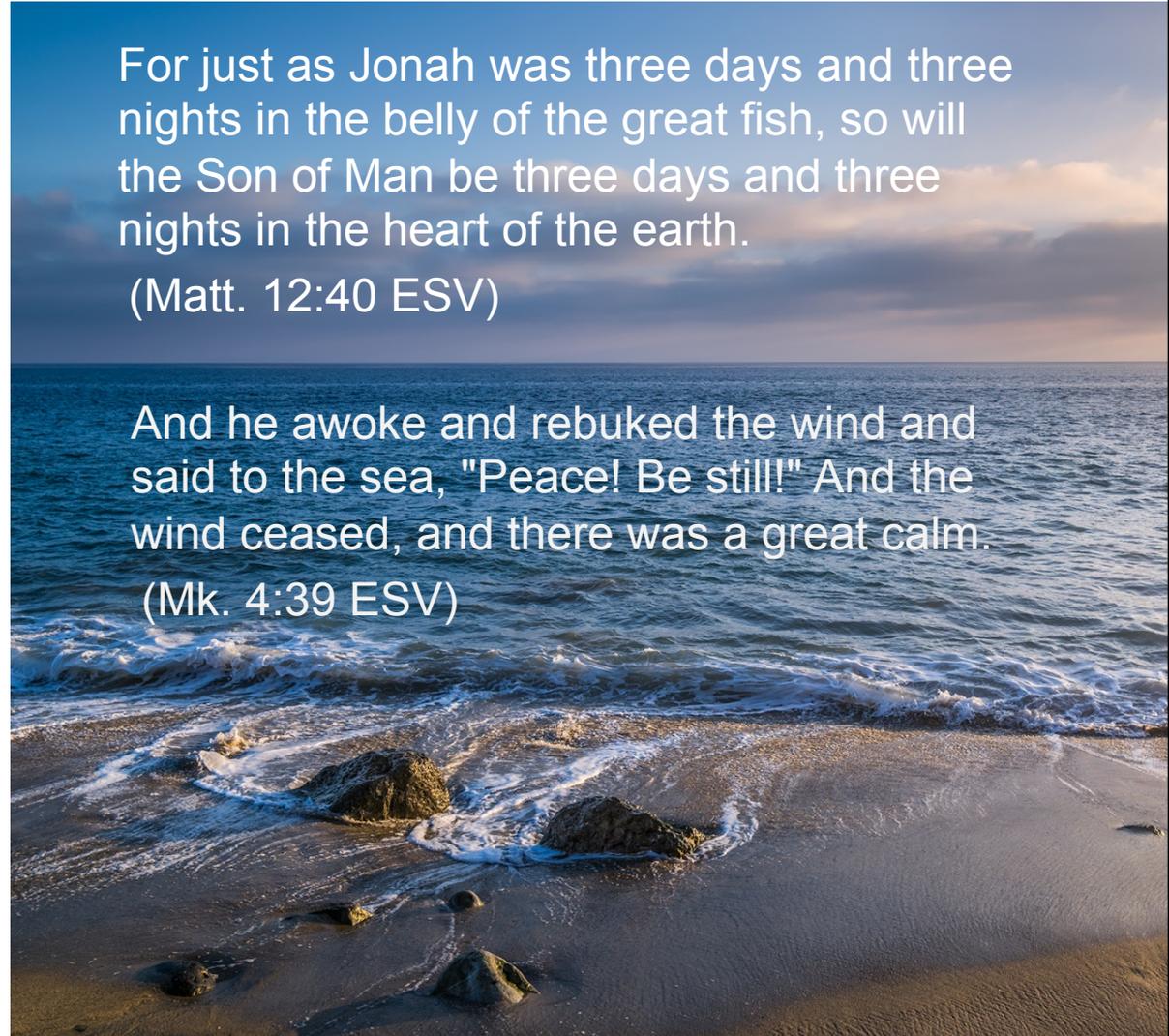
- God over Creation
 - Appoints a storm
 - Appoints the fish
 - Appoints the vine
 - Appoints the worm
- Not a repentance story
- Israel Polemic?
- God's mercy = main theme
- New Testament
 - Image of death
 - Deity of Jesus

For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

(Matt. 12:40 ESV)

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

(Mk. 4:39 ESV)



A large blue whale is the central focus, swimming towards the viewer. The scene is set in a rich, colorful coral reef with various types of coral and many small, colorful fish. A diver is visible in the upper right, and a school of fish is swimming in the background. Sunlight rays filter through the water, creating a serene and beautiful underwater environment. The text "The End" is overlaid in the center of the image.

The End

Micah

“...walk humbly with your God (6:8)

Introduction

- Micah = “who is like the YHWH”
- Spoke between 724-687 BC
- Sennecherib III’s devastation of North
- Prophesied against North and South
- Composition



Structure

God's case against North and South c.1

Judgment on corrupt leadership c.2-3

Zion's restoration 4:1-5:4

Defeat of Assyria and Israel's enemies 5:5-15

Lawsuit against Israel 6:1-16

Micah's lament and prayer 7:1-20

Biblical Links

- Messianic Prophecy
 - Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." (quoted in Matt 2:5-6)
- Matt 2:5-6



Nahum

Retribution against Nineveh

Introduction

- Contrasts the days of Jonah
- Nahum = “Comfort”
(Capernaum)
- Judgement for Nineveh =
Israel’s comfort
- Prophesied from 663-612
- Assyrians destroyed by
Babylon and Medes 612



Nineveh – Assyria's Capital

- Large and very well fortified
 - 150 ft moat
- Assyria
 - Repented after Jonah, but . . .
 - Vicious practices
 - Shalmaneser boasted of a pyramid of heads
 - Others stacked corpses outside city walls
- Fell in 612 BC







Structure

Introductory
Psalm 1:1-8

Nineveh's doom
Jerusalem's Deliverance
1:9-2:2

Siege of Nineveh
2:3-3:19

Need to Know

Behold, **on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace!** Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; Pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; He is cut off completely. (Nah. 1:15)

Nahum's Context

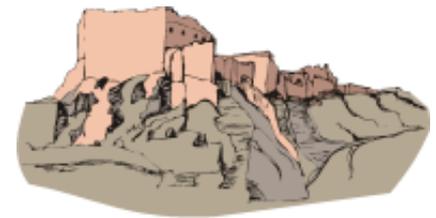
Death to the enemies of Judah

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are **the feet of those who preach the good news!**" (Rom. 10:15)

How lovely **on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace** And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, *And* says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isa. 52:7)

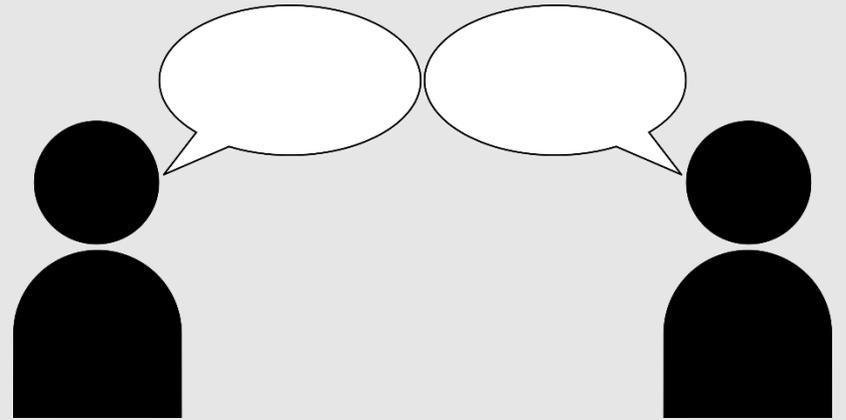
Habakkuk

Discourse with God



Introduction

- The prophet
 - Akkadian convert?
 - Not much known about him
- Message
 - Teaches about faith
- Dialogue with God



1:1-4

Why do you ignore evil

1:5-11

I'll punish it via Babylon, a cruel people

1:12-2:1

How can you do such a thing

2:2-20

1. Let the righteous keep doing right
2. I'll punish Babylon too



Chapter 3

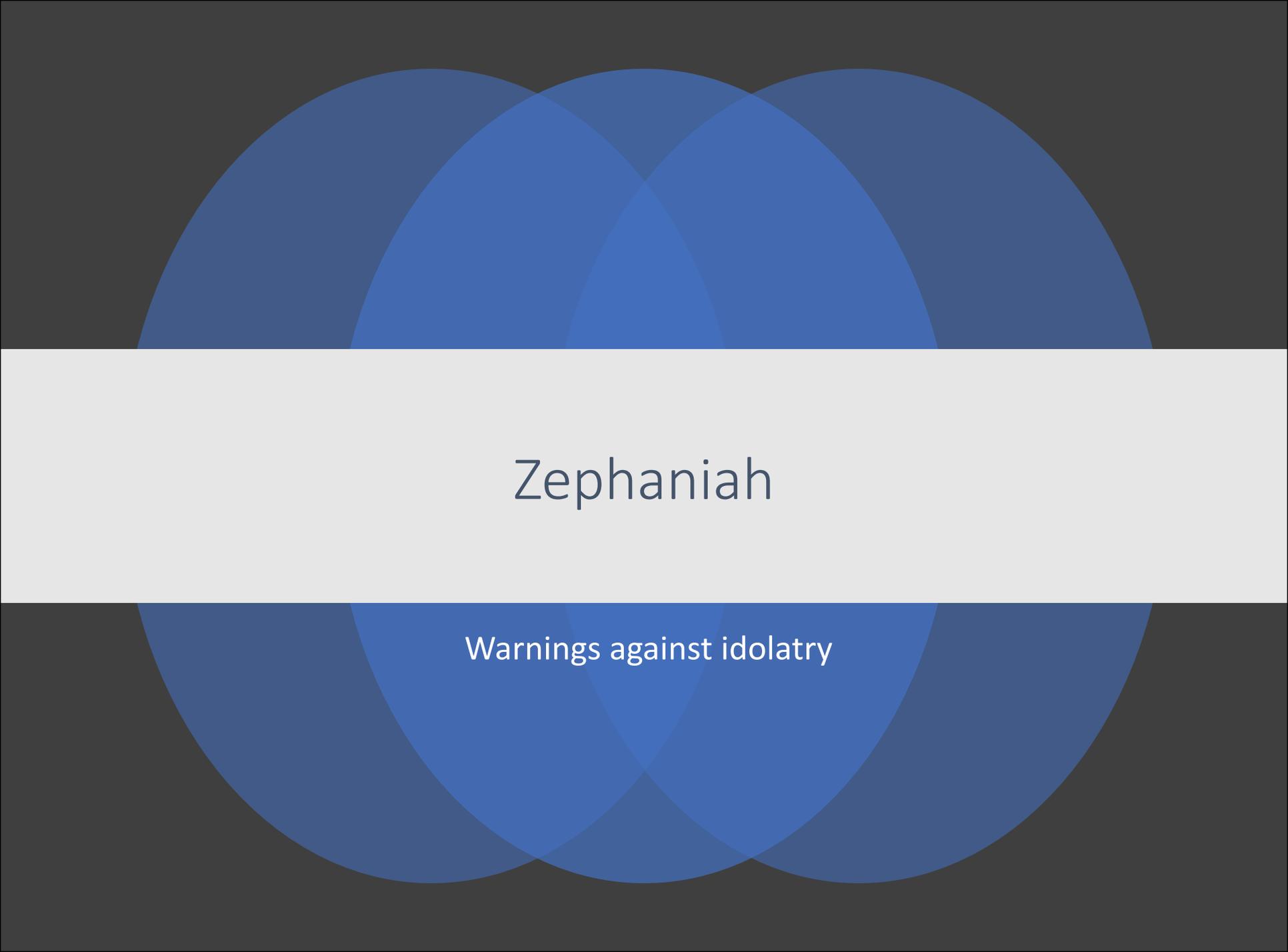
Prayer: God's majestic power, and Habakkuk's faith in it



Critical Closing – Hab 3:17-18

Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls--
¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.





Zephaniah

Warnings against idolatry

Introduction

- Name = “the Lord hides (protects)”
- Lineage
 - Of royal blood?
 - African descent?
 - Mentioned in Jer 21:1, 29:25, 37:3
- Ministry during Josiah’s reign
- A collection of oracles



Structure

- Warning: Universal Judgement (1:1-3)
- Judgement against Judah & Jerusalem 1:4-13
- Day of the Lord 1:14-2:3
 - Judgement against Philistia (2:4-7)
 - Judgement against Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)
 - Judgement against Cush (2:12)
 - Judgement against Assyria (2:13-15)
- Indictment against Judah & Jerusalem 3:1-7
- Warning: Universal Judgement (3:8)
- Restoration and salvation 3:9-20



Prophecy
Against
Phillystia

- For Gaza will be abandoned And Ashkelon a desolation; Ashdod will be driven out at noon And Ekron will be uprooted. (Zeph. 2:4 NAU)
- Announced 625
- Performed 603

Haggai

Consider your ways

Haggai

- Name = “my feast”
- Brief ministry
- Aug 29 – Dec 18, 520 BC



Setting

- Completion of temple foundation (538)
- Work ceased on building
- Motivation needed
 - Political
 - Religious



Structure

Message 1: Call and response to rebuild (1:1-15)

Message 2: Promise of restoration (2:1-9)

Message 3: Call to holiness (2:10-19)

Message 4: Zerubbabel, Davidic servant 2:20-23



Zechariah

Introduction

- Contemporaries
- Name = “the Lord remembers”
- Apocalyptic material
 - Four craftsmen 1:20
 - Seven eyes on a stone 3:9
 - Shepherds c.11
- Two divisions
 - 1-8
 - 9-14



Lord of Hosts

- Adonai Tsevaot
 - Heavenly hosts, stars?
 - Heavenly hosts, angels?
 - Earthly armies?



Setting(s)

- 1-8
 - Rebuilding of the temple
 - Encouragement to political and religious leaders
- 9-14
 - Difficult to determine context
 - Later in Zechariah's ministry





Structure 1-8

Call to repentance 1:1-6

Eight visions 1:7 – 6:8

Crowning of the high priest 6:9-15

True fasting c.7

The Messianic kingdom c.8

Judgements against nations and future ruler c.9

Restoration of Israel and Judah 10:1-11:3

Shepherd prophecy 11:4-17

Deliverance of Judah c.12

Idolatry removed c.13

Day of the Lord c.14

Structure 9-14

Zech 9:9 – Triumphant entry

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt,
the foal of a donkey. (NKJ)



Zech 12:10 – The Pierced One

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (NKJ)



Zech 14:4

...And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.



Malachi

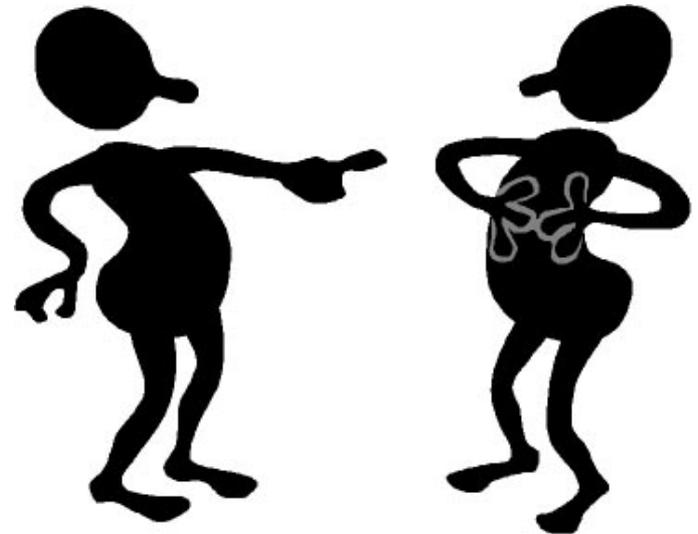
Introduction

- The man
 - Little known about him
 - Name = “my messenger”
- Setting
 - Same as Ezra and Nehemiah (mid-5th cent)
 - Slackness in religious and social duties
 - Despondence – No Messianic kingdom



Imagined Disputation (p372)

- God states his case
- The people answer
- God responds with his message



God's love 1:1-5

Poor religious leadership 1:6-2:9

Breaking the faith 2:10-16

Justice in the Land 2:17-3:5

Tithes and offerings 3:6-12

Futile worship and promise of Elijah 3:13-4:6

Structure

Link to the New Testament 3:1

"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. (NKJ)

A bridge to the New Testament,
where the promise is fulfilled



Quiz 4 Review

Quiz 4 - Review

- Kings-Chronicles relationship
- Locate scriptures
 - “A voice calling in the wilderness”
 - “The Lord is my Shepherd”
 - “The virgin shall conceive”
 - “Vanity of Vanities”
 - “Thou shalt no kill”
 - “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”
- Book contents
 - Hosea
 - Amos
 - Obadiah
 - Joel
 - Malachi
 - Jonah

Quiz 4 - Review

- Location of Ezekiel's prophecies
- Post-exilic prophets
- Good and bad kings of Israel
- Genealogies
- Who did the following
 - Build a wall round Jerusalem
 - Rebuild spiritual Jerusalem
 - Build a tunnel for water
 - Wrote the first 5 books of OT
 - Build the Temple
 - Lay a fleece before the Lord
 - Killed a giant

Quiz 4 - Review

- Why was Daniel put in the lion's den
- Who was placed in a fiery furnace
- Characteristics of Apocalyptic literature
- Three most popular books quoted in the Gospels



Hosea

Micah

Jonah

Nahum

Joel

Obadiah

Haggai

Habakkuk

Amos

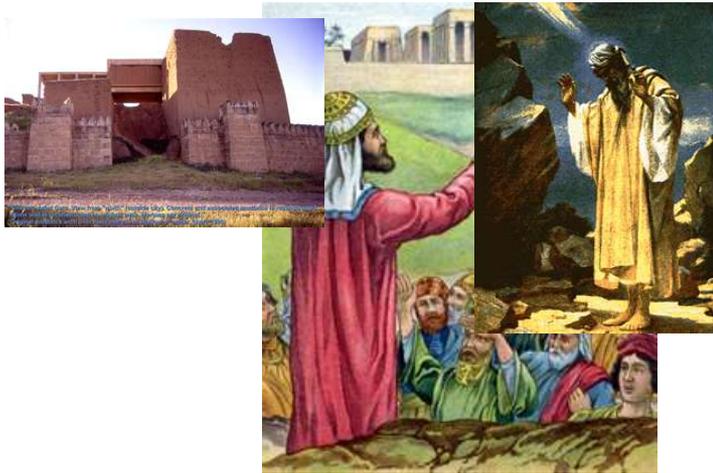
Zephaniah

Malachi

Zechariah

Plot of Jonah

1



2



3



GOD DIRECTS JONAH TO NINEVEH - DORE - 1871

4



Read and Answer

- *What nation does he speak against?*
- *What was their crime – cite proof*
- *Is the “Day of the Lord” good or bad for Israel?*
- *What message would you preach from the book?*

כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עֲשׂוּ מִנְשָׁפֹט
וּצְדָקָה וְהִצִּילוּ גְזוֹל מִיַּד עֲשׂוֹק
וְגַר יִתּוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה אֶל-תְּנוּ.
אֶל-תַּחֲמֹסוּ וְדָם נָקִי אֶל-תִּנְשְׁפוּ.
בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה:

וְנִשְׁלוּחַ סְפָרִים בְּיַד הָרָצִים
אֶל-כָּל-מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהַשְׁמִיד
לְהַרְגַּ וּלְאַבֵּד אֶת-כָּל-הַיְהוּדִים
מִנַּעַר וְעַד-זָקֵן טֵף וְנָשִׁים בְּיוֹם אֶחָד
בְּנִשְׁלוּשָׁה עָשָׂר לְחֹדֶשׁ שְׁנַיִם-עָשָׂר
הוּא-חֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וְנִשְׁלָלָם לְבוֹז:

Consider 4:6-11

- Does God still work like this?
- If so, can you cite an example

"But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities And lack of bread in all your places, **Yet you have not returned to Me,**" declares the LORD. ⁷ "Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you While *there were* still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city And on another city I would not send rain; One part would be rained on, While the part not rained on would dry up. ⁸ "So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, But would not be satisfied; **Yet you have not returned to Me,**" declares the LORD. ⁹ "I smote you with scorching *wind* and mildew; And the caterpillar was devouring Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; **Yet you have not returned to Me,**" declares the LORD. ¹⁰ "I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, And I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils; **Yet you have not returned to Me,**" declares the LORD. ¹¹ "I overthrew you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, And you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze; **Yet you have not returned to Me,**" declares the LORD. (Amo 4:6 NAU)

Read 4:6-11

- Does God still work like this?
- If so, can you cite an example

- *Theodicy – “A vindication of divine attributes, particularly holiness and justice, in establishing or allowing the existence of physical and moral evil”*

²⁶ When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him 700 men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom; but they could not.

²⁷ Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel, and they departed from him and returned to their own land.

(2 Ki. 3:26-4:1 NAU)

Inner-biblical Interpretation

Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of ^aMoab and for four I will not ¹revoke its *punishment*, Because he ^bburned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

(Amos 2:1 NAU)

Now therefore, thus says
the LORD of hosts,
"**Consider** your ways! (Hag.
1:5)

Thus says the LORD of
hosts, "**Consider** your
ways! (Hag. 1:7)

⁵ 'But now, do **consider** from
this day onward: before one
stone was placed on another
in the temple of the LORD,
(Hag. 2:15)

¹⁸ 'Do **consider** from this day
onward, from the twenty-fourth
day of the ninth *month*; from
the day when the temple of the
LORD was founded, consider:

¹⁹ 'Is the seed still in the barn?
(Hag. 2:18-19)

