

THE MINOR PROPHETS

READING GUIDE | JANUARY 13 - APRIL 7, 2019

HOSEA - read Jan 13-19; sermon Jan 20 | God's people are like an unfaithful bride; yet even their spiritual adultery cannot exhaust God's redeeming love.

JOEL - read Jan 20-26; sermon Jan 27 | The "day of the Lord" comes with both judgment and hope. God's people should repent and look forward to the day when God's Spirit will be poured out on all flesh.

AMOS - read Jan 27 - Feb 2; sermon Feb 3 | God's people have become complacent, oppressing the poor and worshiping false gods. As a result, God's judgment is coming. Amos calls the people to turn from their hypocrisy and pursue justice and righteousness.

OBADIAH - read Feb 3-9; sermon Feb 10 | Edom will experience God's retributive judgment because of their alliance with Babylon. God's people will be restored because of His covenant love and faithfulness.

JONAH - read Feb 9-16; sermon Feb 17 | The Lord is a God of boundless compassion, not just for "us" (i.e., Jonah and the Israelites) but also for "them" (i.e., the pagan sailors and Ninevites).

MICAH - read Feb 17-23; sermon Feb 24 | God speaks words of warning and hope to His people. Though he scatters his people for their sins, he is also the Shepherd-King who in covenant faithfulness gathers, protects, and forgives his people.

NAHUM - read Feb 25 - Mar 2; sermon Mar 3 | God is sovereign over the nations, and in his sovereignty, he will bring judgment against mighty Assyria.

HABAKKUK - read Mar 3-9; sermon Mar 10 | God will use Babylon as an instrument of his judgment against Israel - but how is this fair, since Babylon is a wicked and godless people? Though God's ways are sometimes mysterious, they are always good, and the righteous will live by faith in God's character and promises.

ZEPHANIAH - read Mar 10-16; sermon Mar 17 | The "day of the Lord" approaches with two faces: one of judgment against sin and one of blessing for those who seek God.

HAGGAI - read Mar 17-23; sermon Mar 24 | God's people should rebuild God's house - the temple - so that they can enjoy God's presence.

ZECHARIAH - read Mar 24-30; sermon Mar 31 | God's people should repent and renew their covenant with God. After the exile, God is renewing his commitment to restore Judah as his treasured people.

MALACHI - read Mar 31 - Apr 6; sermon Apr 7 | God's people were apathetic, compromising the demands of proper worship. Malachi calls them to renewed covenant fidelity.

As you read, ask these questions...

- *What key themes stand out in this prophet's writing? What images capture your imagination? What do you notice about the tone and "feel" of the book?*
- *What is the prophet's primary exhortation? Does the prophet call God's people to remember their covenant God, to repent of their sins, or to return to the Lord? How did the prophet's exhortation apply then, and how does it apply to our time now?*
- *How does believing the gospel (i.e., the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus) affect the way you read this? What hope do you have in Christ? How is your situation different because of Christ?*

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GENESIS 12

PATRIARCHS

ABRAHAM
ISAAC
JACOB
JOSEPH

2000 BC

EXODUS
NUMBERS
JOSHUA
JUDGES

SLAVERY IN
EGYPT

MOSES
JOSHUA

1500 BC

TIME OF
THE JUDGES

1-2 SAMUEL

UNITED
KINGDOM

SAUL
DAVID
SOLOMON

1000 BC

JONAH

(DIVIDED
KINGDOM)

931 BC

AMOS
HOSEA
MICAH
JOEL
NAHUM
ZEPHANIAH
HABAKKUK
OBADIAH

JUDAH

ISRAEL

ISRAEL
FALLS TO
ASSYRIA

722 BC

JUDAH
FALLS TO
BABYLON

586 BC

EXILE

HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH

RESTORATION

539 BC

MALACHI

END OF
OLD
TESTAMENT

400 BC

400
SILENT
YEARS