

## **8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PROPHETS**

- Amos
- Hosea
- Micah
- Isaiah



1

### ***AMOS – “BURDEN OR BURDEN BEARER”***

PROBABLE DATE FOR BOOK  
~760 B.C.

<b>Audience:</b> Judah & Jerusalem
<b>Historical Setting:</b>
Amos prophesied at the height of prosperity for both the Northern and Southern kingdoms. Religiously, the period was marked by moral and spiritual corruption. Amos denounces Israel and Judah for their sinful self-security, violence, wanton luxury, and injustice.
<b>Purpose</b>
Amos records prophetic judgment on the Northern Kingdom for their social injustices, moral degeneracy, and spiritual apostasy. The prophet intends to remind God's people of their accountability to the covenant obligations, both in letter and spirit. External religion apart from righteous ethical conduct is unacceptable to God
<b>Theology</b>
Amos teaches that Israel's privileged position as an elect nation (2:9-11, 3:2) did not give the people immunity from divine judgment on sin and apostasy (5:18-20). Great privilege is accompanied by corresponding responsibility



2

## MICAH – “WHO IS LIKE YAHWEH”

PROBABLE DATE FOR BOOK  
~735-700 B.C.



**Audience:** Israel & Judah

**Historical Setting:**

Micah ministered in the days of the Assyrian menace. The moral and spiritual situation in both kingdoms was at a low point. Religion was a matter of mere form (6:6-8) and the religious establishment was corrupt (3:11). Idolatry (1:3,7), injustice (3:1) and avarice (3:2-3) was widespread. Micah addressed himself to these wrongs, championing the cause of the oppressed (3:8). His contemporaries were Hosea, Amos and Isaiah.

**Purpose**

Micah was designed to encourage repentance by threats of judgment and assurances that God's purposes for His people will finally prevail.

**Theology**

Micah teaches that true religion is not a matter of outward conformity to external ritual, but a life lived according to principles of justice, loyalty, and humility (6:6-8).

3

## HOSEA – “SALVATION OR DELIVERANCE”

PROBABLE DATE FOR BOOK  
~725 B.C.



**Audience:** Israel

**Historical Setting:**

Hosea began his prophetic ministry in Israel during the prosperous reign of Jeroboam II. Internationally, Assyria was in the ascendancy and moving west. The Assyrian kings were soon nibbling away at the northern territories of Israel. Samaria fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C.

Spiritually, the kingdom of Israel was at an all-time low during Hosea's ministry. The priests were corrupt. Idolatry and temple prostitution was rampant. Amos, Isaiah and Micah were contemporaries of the prophet Hosea.

**Purpose**

Hosea seeks to convince the inhabitants of Israel that they need to repent and return to God so that judgment might be averted.

**Theology**

Hosea teaches a great lesson concerning the nature of God's loyal-love (hesed). This term denotes the love and loyalty operative within the covenant relationship into which Yahweh and Israel entered at Mt. Sinai. Loyal-love was Yahweh's delight (6:6), yet this was lacking in Hosea's day (4:1, 6:7)

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## ***HOSEA 14:9 (ESV)***

**<sup>9</sup> WHOEVER IS WISE, LET HIM  
UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS;  
WHOEVER IS DISCERNING, LET HIM  
KNOW THEM;  
FOR THE WAYS OF THE LORD ARE  
RIGHT, AND THE UPRIGHT WALK  
IN THEM, BUT TRANSGRESSORS  
STUMBLE IN THEM.**



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## ***ISAIAH - "YAHWEH SAVES."***



**PROBABLE DATE FOR BOOK  
AFTER 701 B.C.**

**Audience:** Judah (1-39) and the future Babylonian exiles (40-66)

### **Historical Setting:**

The first half of Isaiah (ch. 1-39) is set against an Assyrian background and is principally concerned with rebuking and condemning the people and leaders of Judah and predicting the overthrow of the kingdom. The second half (ch. 40-66) is written from the viewpoint of the Babylonian exile of 586 B.C. In these chapters Isaiah addresses prophetically the Jews of the captivity. Spiritually, Isaiah ministered during a period of degeneracy and apostasy, especially during the reigns of Ahaz and Manasseh.

### **Purpose**

Isaiah writes to condemn and to comfort. He announces inescapable judgment for the world and promises comfort and deliverance to the righteous remnant.

### **Theology**

Isaiah reveals the great doctrines of God (41), man (1:3-15), salvation (55) and last things (58-66). The book abounds in Messianic prophecies (7, 9, 11, 53).



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