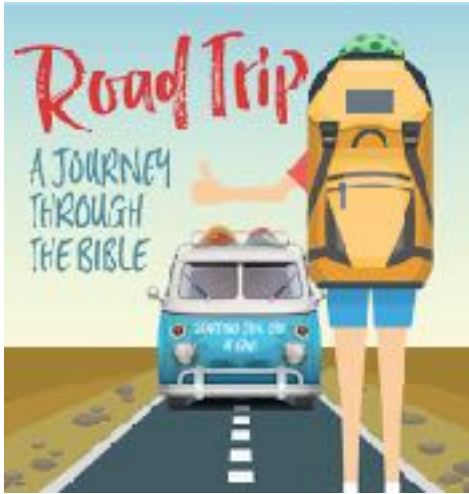


SESSION FIVE: PROPHETIC IMAGINATION



- An Introduction to the Prophets
- The Prophets by Classification
- The Prophets by Time and Setting
- The Prophets by Theme
- The Prophets and “Foretelling”
- The Prophets and the End of the Old Testament

“It is the vocation of the prophet to keep alive the ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing alternative futures...The task is to nurture, nourish, and evoke - imagine - a consciousness that resists the dominant culture around us.”

- Walter Blueggemann

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHETS

The biblical prophets produced books known as “Apocalyptic Literature.” This genre has these characteristics:

- 1) Written during turbulent, troublesome times
- 2) Dualism: Good versus evil
- 3) Filled with symbolism
- 4) “Unveiled” something previously unknown
- 5) Offered an ultimate hope or restoration

The “Writing Prophets” follow an extensive history of “Preaching Prophets.” These major characters include: Samuel, Gad, Nathan, Elijah, and Elisha. As the “Preaching Prophets” role diminished, the “Writing Prophets” became primary.

THE PROPHETS BY CLASSIFICATION

Major Prophets

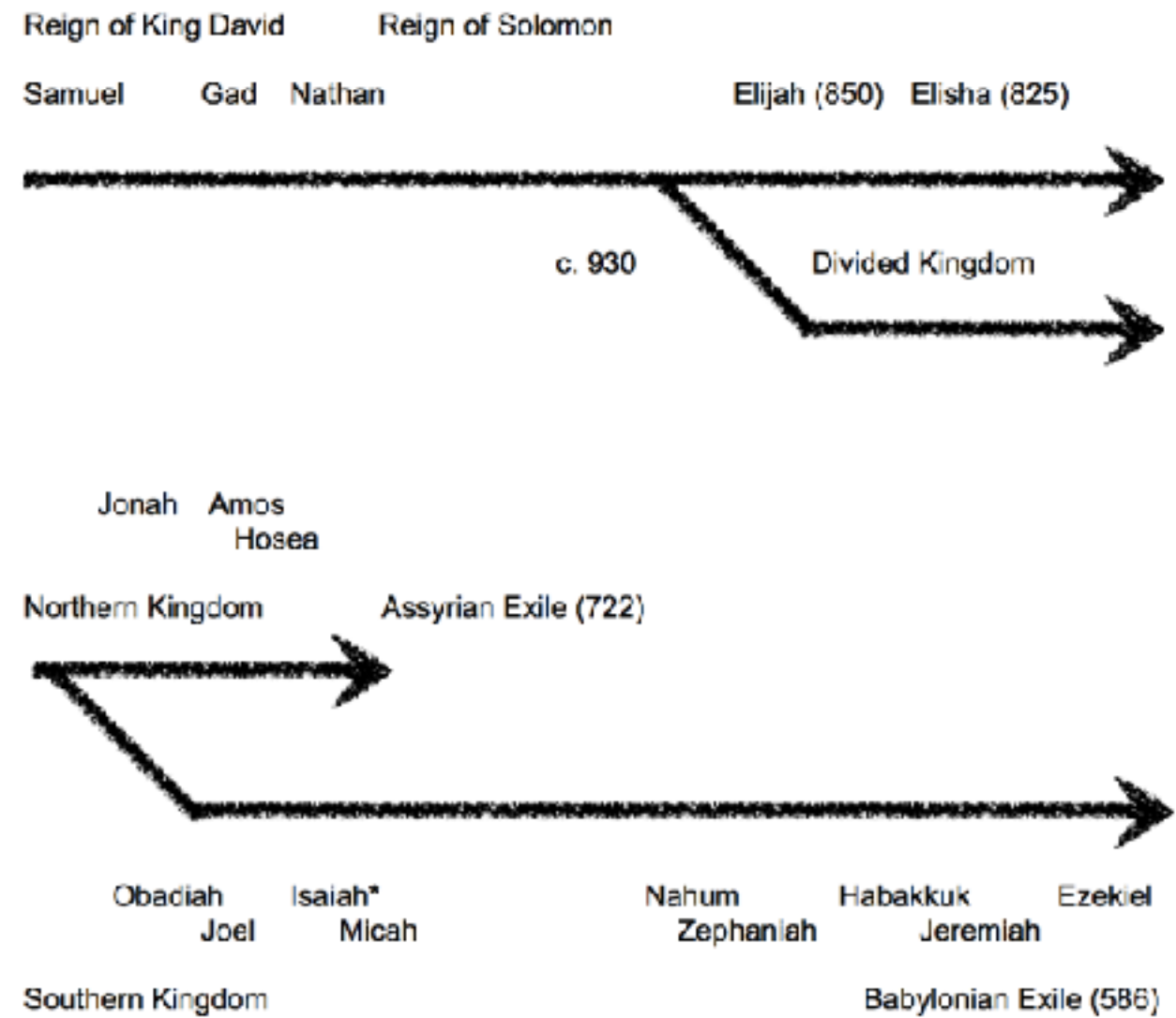
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

THE PROPHETS BY TIME AND SETTING

Kingdom Era



Exile Period

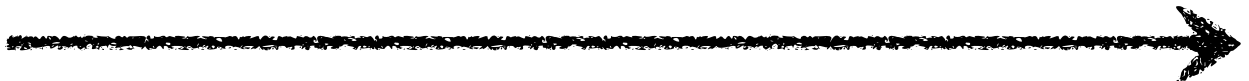
Babylonian Exile (70 years)
586 BCE

Return from Exile/Rebuilding of Temple
516 BCE

Daniel

Haggai
Zechariah

Malachi



THE PROPHETS BY THEME

Repentance

Isaiah*
Joel
Micah

Judgment

Amos
Habakkuk
Nahum
Obadiah

Compassion

Hosea
Jonah

Restoration

Haggai
Isaiah*
Jeremiah
Malachi
Zechariah
Zephaniah

Apocalyptic

Daniel
Ezekiel

THE PROPHETS AND “FORETELLING”

Only 1-2% of the Old Testament prophetic material relates to anything in the “future.”

Less than 2% of the Old Testament prophetic material relates to anything Messianic.

There are major systems of interpretation related to the Prophetic Books:

- 1) Allegorical/Historicist: Prophecies are not specific but symbolic
- 2) Preterist: Any prophecies have already been fulfilled (totally or partially)
- 3) Futurist: Much of the material has yet to be fulfilled

THE PROPHETS AND THE END OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Israel Returns
Temple Rebuilt

516 BCE

Malachi
1-2 Chronicles

400 BCE

Alexander the
Great

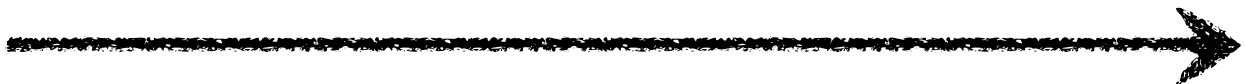
322 BCE

Maccabean
War

167 BCE

Rome

63 BCE



During this period the Septuagint is translated; synagogues and the high priesthood are established; the Herodian Dynasty rises; Greek becomes the international language; and Rome conquers the world.

Books in the Apocrypha were produced as well, including: 1-2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Ecclesiasticus, and 1-2 Maccabees.