

Old Testament Overview Autumn 2021
Session 5: Prophecy before the Exile: *God's Covenant Prosecutors*

Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under his feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

5.1 Introduction

Period	Prophet	Timescale (BC)	audience
Before the destruction of the northern kingdom (722)	Obadiah	? 840's	Edom
	Amos	Early 760's	Northern Kingdom
	Hosea	c.760-c.715	Mostly Northern Kingdom
	Jonah	c.782-753	Nineveh (and Israel)
Judah alone (722-597)	Micah	c.742-c.686	Judah
	Isaiah	From 740	Judah
	Nahum	Between 663 and 612	Judah / Assyria
	Zephaniah	c. 640-609	Judah, especially Jerusalem
	Habakkuk	c.625-600	Judah
	Jeremiah	627-c.587	Judah
In exile (597-530)	Ezekiel	593-571	The exiles in Babylon
	Daniel	605-530	The returning exiles?
After the exile	Haggai	520	Judah
	Zechariah	c.521+	Judah
	Malachi	c.460	Judah
???	Joel	Between 9 th and 5 th century	Around Jerusalem

5.2 Amos

- Amos 1-2 Introduction– Judgement on Israel's neighbours (1:3-2:4) and Judah and Israel (2:4-16)
- Amos 3-6 Three Covenants lawsuits against Israel
- Amos 7-9 Five visions

The Covenant Lawsuit:

Introduction of plaintiff and Judge	1:3a	3:1a	5:18a
Introduction of defendant	1:3a	3:1b	5:18a
Indictment	1:3b	3:2, 3:9b-10	5:21-23, 5:25-26
Summons to witnesses		3:9a	
Call to repentance			5:24
Judgement	1:4-5	3:11-15	5:18b-20, 5:27

Message formulas: 1:3, 1:5, 2:11, 3:1

References back to the Pentateuch, especially Deuteronomy – but with contemporary application – 4:4-6, 4:9-13 (ironic reversal)

A message from the sovereign LORD – 4:13, 5:8

A call to repentance – 5:4-6

A call to avoid idolatry and injustice – 2:6-8

5.3 Hosea

Sign Acts: Hosea's marriage as a symbol of Israel's unfaithfulness (Hosea 1:2) and God's faithfulness (Hosea 3:1-6)

Israel and Judah called to account for their actions (Hosea 4:1-3, 5:8-12)

God's continuing faithfulness (Hosea 11:1-11)

5.4 Jonah: The anti-prophet

Rejects God's call (Jonah 1), and then sulks when God forgives Ninevah (Jonah 4)

God shows his mercy (Jonah 2)

God fulfils his purpose to forgive Nineveh, despite Jonah (Jonah 3)

5.5 Isaiah

Isaiah 1-12	The Lord is King
Isaiah 13-27	Lord of the Nations (various oracles)
Isaiah 28-35	Human schemes and God's plan (don't depend on Egypt)
Isaiah 36-39	In whom shall we trust? (Defeat of Assyria)
Isaiah 40-51	Comfort my people (God will provide his servant)
Isaiah 51-55	The Triumph of Grace
Isaiah 56-66	Waiting for a New World

Isaiah's Vision...

5.6 Zephaniah

A book about the present and the future: The Day of the Lord – 1:2-3

An appeal to be ready - 2:1-3

A book of Judgement – 1:4-18, 2:4-15, 3:1-8

A book of hope – 3:9-20

5.7 Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1	The call of Jeremiah
Jeremiah 2-25	Judgement on Judah and Jerusalem
Jeremiah 26-29	Conflict with false prophets
Jeremiah 30-33	The Book of Consolation
Jeremiah 34-39	Experiences before the fall of Jerusalem
Jeremiah 40-45	Experiences after the fall of Jerusalem
Jeremiah 46-51	Oracles against the Nations
Jeremiah 52	The Fall of Jerusalem

Getting ready for exile...

conflict with false prophets 23:9-40

reasons for exile –21:1-11, 36:1-32

duration – 25:1-14

what to do during the exile – 29:1-23

... and hoping for the future

the promise of a king 23:1-8, 33:13-26

A new covenant 31:31-34

Buying a field – hope 32:1-15

Judgement on the nations Jeremiah 46-51

5.8 Prophet, Priest and King

5.9 Context – understanding prophecy

Prophecy and Context

- Who is the prophet speaking to?
- What did this mean for them? / what is the immediate fulfilment?
- What does this mean for us? / how is this fulfilled in Christ?

In groups:

Look at Hosea 6:6 – in the context of Hosea 6 and 7

Look at Amos 5:24 – in the context of Amos 5

Look at Jonah chapter 2 in the context of the whole book

Look at Zephaniah 3:14-17 in the context of the whole book

Look at Isaiah 52:13-53:12 in the context of chapters 51-53