

Lessons in the Minor Prophets

From April through September of 2022 the Haymarket Church Wednesday night adult Bible class will study the Minor prophets. In the Hebrew Bible these books were referred to as "The Twelve," for they are twelve books written by twelve prophets over the span of 500 years. Our study will proceed according to the plan below; about 5 chapters a week.

Minor Prophets Lesson Plan

Quarters 2 & 3, 2022

Wednesday Nights

Lesson	Date	Book	Chapter Partitions		
			Start		End
1	4/6/2022	Introduction			
2	4/13/2022	Amos 1	1	to	5
3	4/27/2022	Amos 2	6	to	9
4	5/4/2022	Hosea 1	1	to	5
5	5/11/2022	Hosea 2	6	to	10
6	5/25/2022	Hosea 3	11	to	14
7	6/1/2022	Obadiah	1	to	1
8	6/8/2022	Nahum	1	to	3
9	6/22/2022	Jonah	1	to	4
10	6/29/2022	Joel	1	to	3
11	7/6/2022	Micah 1	1	to	4
12	7/13/2022	Micah 2	5	to	7
13	7/27/2022	Habakkuk	1	to	3
14	8/3/2022	Zephaniah	1	to	3
15	8/10/2022	Haggai	1	to	2
16	8/24/2022	Zechariah 1	1	to	4
17	8/31/2022	Zechariah 2	5	to	8
18	9/7/2022	Zechariah 3	9	to	11
19	9/14/2022	Zechariah 4	12	to	14
20	9/28/2022	Malachi	1	to	4

BEFORE WE BEGIN

Have you ever studied the books of the Old Testament which are called "Minor Prophets?" When was the last time you studied them? If you have never studied them, haven't studied them in years, or are wondering what or who the Minor Prophets are, the good news is we're studying them this quarter.

Let's prepare for our study by evaluating what we already know about the Minor Prophets. Please complete the following questions as if they were a quiz. See how far you can get without any helps, then go to the Bible, then go to any other helps you may be able to consult. Be prepared to discuss your answers during the first class.

- 1) Please list the books of the Bible which are considered Minor Prophets in the order they are found in the Bible. (spelling counts)
- 2) Please describe the time period of the Minor Prophets both in calendar years and relative to key events in Old Testament history.
- 3) Which of the Old Testament Books of history describe the periods of the Minor Prophets?
- 4) Is there one common thread which runs through most or all of the Minor Prophets? If so, what is that thread?
- 5) Are the Minor Prophet books arranged in chronological order as they are grouped in the Bible? YES NO If you answered "no," attempt to arrange them in chronological order instead of Bible Order.
- 6) What is the difference between the "Major" Prophets and the "Minor" Prophets?

LESSON ONE: Introduction—Why Study the Minor Prophets?

*But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' -
Matthew 9:13*

The above quotation is from an occasion where Jesus is showing His concern for the lost, and the Pharisees are showing their disgust with Jesus. After Jesus had called Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him and had gone to Matthew's house for a meal, the Pharisees asked Christ's disciples to defend His practice of eating with sinners. To teach them the proper attitude toward lost souls, He sent them to study one of the Minor Prophets; Hosea 6:6. He told them to learn what that verse meant. It would explain and support His actions. Jesus thought that the study of the Minor Prophets would be helpful to the Pharisees. Might it not also be helpful to us?

*But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,'
you would not have condemned the guiltless. -Matthew 12:7*

On this similar occasion Jesus again quotes the same verse from Hosea for the Pharisees. It seems they must not have successfully studied it the first time. Perhaps that is why he rebuked them more sharply here. On this occasion He and His disciples were eating on the Sabbath and the Pharisees accused them of doing that which was unlawful. Jesus replied by referring to David's actions when fleeing from Saul, (found in 1 Samuel 21:6), referring to a verse in Numbers 28:9, giving them teachings of His own in verses 6 and 8, and quoting the above verse from Hosea.

Jesus, again, thought that the study of the Minor Prophets would be helpful to the Pharisees. Might it not also be helpful to us?

We have the prophetic word made more sure - 2 Peter 1:19

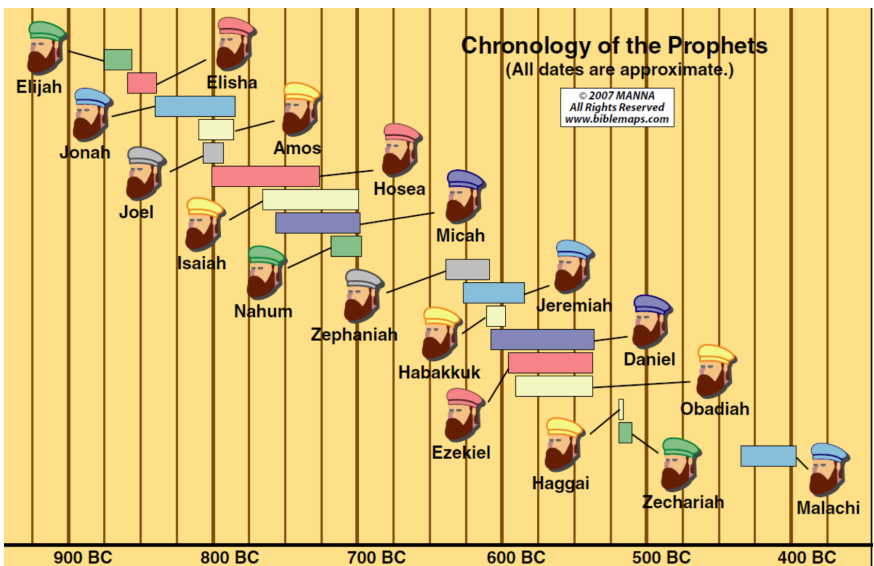
The Minor Prophets are full of prophecies; history told in advance, events foretold so long beforehand that they are more than mere prediction by man. These prophecies are a sure sign of Divine revelation. Having the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, we can look back over these prophecies and see their fulfillment. In this way, prophecies are made more sure. Peter said we would do well to heed them. We must first study them.

Finally, we can profit from studying the character of the Prophets. These men were most remarkable. Called by God in times of need, they answered and obeyed at great personal cost. Their obedience to God brought persecution from heathen nations and often from their own brethren. Seeing how these men withstood godless people in godless times is helpful to us, since we are very often in their same circumstance.

For all these reasons and more, this study of the Minor Prophets should be profitable to us.

CHRONOLOGY

If you're like me, the chronology of the Minor Prophets is a jumbled mess in your memory. Your Bible's table of contents will give you the Bible order. The chart below provides a chronology; one of many. Use this chart to answer chronology questions through the course. Note that the hat of each prophet is the same color as his time bar. The length of the bar denotes the term of his ministry.



Bible Class material of the Haymarket Church of Christ. We assemble at 6945 Gillis Way, Gainesville, VA. Material edited by Jeff Smith. Send questions, comments, or updates to Jeff at haymarketcofc@live.com, or call at (571) 261-8535. Find our web site at: <http://haymarketcofc.org>