

# VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

## Putting the Prophets in their Place: Before the Exile (26)

### THE PROPHETS, THE BIBLE, AND TIME

- The order of the prophets in the Bible and in history is different
- In the Bible: Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel)
- In time: Pre-Exilic / Exilic / Post-Exilic

760-755 BC Israel Amos / Jonah / Hosea

**722 BC Israel is sent into exile by Assyria (2 Kings 17)**

742-740 BC Judah Micah / Isaiah

660-609 BC Judah Nahum / Zephaniah / Habbakkuk

??? Judah *Obadiah & Joel*

**609, 597, 586 BC Judah is sent into exile by Babylon (609: Neco of Egypt; 597, 586: Nebuchadnezzar)**

605-586 BC Judah Jeremiah / Daniel / Ezekiel

**516 BC Captives return to Jerusalem (Ezra, Nehemiah, cf Psalm 126)**

520 BC Judah Haggai / Zechariah

460 BC Judah Malachi

### EIGHTH CENTURY: PRE-EXILIC PROPHETS

**HOSEA** (Israel) Problem: People of Israel have committed spiritual adultery, prostituting themselves to Baal  
**4:18; 5:3-4, 7; 7:4; 8:9; 9:1, 15** – *They are no longer God’s people (1:6, 9)*  
 Judgment/ Mercy: God will take his wayward wife back – *The covenant Lord will restore his bride 2:14-3:5* – *Language is replete with OT references and New Covenant promise 11:1-11* – *God chastises Israel, but cannot forsake his people 14:1-9* – *The way of salvation is still open to those who repent*  
 NT Use: **Rom 9:24-25; 1 Pet 2:10 = Hos 1:6, 9-10; 2:23** – *Gentiles are God’s people too*

**AMOS** (Israel) Problem: Prosperity that leads to arrogance, indulgence, and self-reliance (**6:1-14**)  
**1:1-2:16** – *Amos the shepherd encircles the sheep of Israel with Judgment 5:18-27* – *Condemnation for sacrifices and temple worship without loving hearts*  
 Judgment/ Mercy: **5:5, 27; 6:7-8; 7:17** – *Exile is certain, unlike message of Elijah & Elisha 9:1-15* – *Judgment upon Israel, like the nations; AND Mercy (v. 11-15)*  
 NT Use: **Acts 15:12ff** – *James quotes from Amos to explain the inclusion of the Gentiles*

**JONAH** (Nineveh) Uniqueness: Narrative, not prophetic oracles / Historical, not fictitious / Addressed to Nineveh  
 Problem: Death & Exile – *Jonah displays the obstinate heart of Israel who flees from God*  
 Promise: God is merciful (**4:2**) and will restore his exiled people  
 NT Use: Jesus appeals to Jonah to explain his death & resurrection (**Matt 12:40**)

## EIGHTH CENTURY: PRE-EXILIC PROPHETS (Continued)

<b>MICAH</b> (Judah)	Problem	Micah, like Isaiah 1, presents a covenant lawsuit ( <b>6:1-5</b> )
	Promise	Through imminent exile, God will restore his people ( <b>7:14-20</b> )
	NT Use	<b>5:1-6</b> is developed in <b>Matt 2:6</b> – <i>Micah 5 is more than an apologetic proof-text</i>
<b>ISAIAH</b> (Judah)	Problem	Israel's sin– <i>Covenant Lawsuit</i> ( <b>1:2-20</b> ); <i>Woes</i> ( <b>5:8, 11, 18, 20, 21, 22; 6:5</b> )
	Judgment/	God's judges via Israel's enemies ( <b>1:21-31; 10:5-19; 36-39</b> )
	Mercy	God promises hope after judgment ( <b>Isa 2:1-5; 25:6-12; 40:1-11</b> )
		Messianic Hope ( <b>7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1f</b> ); Servant ( <b>42, 49, 50, 53, 61</b> ) New Exodus = Atonement ( <b>53</b> ) → New Covenant ( <b>54-55</b> ) → New Creation ( <b>66</b> )

## HISTORICALLY AMBIGUOUS PROPHETS

### Reasons for dating Joel and Obadiah Pre-Exilic

- Joel and Obadiah are placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Book of the Twelve – *favors an early dating*
- Vocabulary and themes also tend towards pre-exilic – *warning about the coming exile*

### Reasons for dating Joel and Obadiah Exilic

- Obadiah refers to the fall of Jerusalem in the past (v. 11)
- Joel makes no mention of the king; puts the exile in the past (3:2), and doesn't condemn the temple

*The end of the matter: The date does not change the message*

<b>JOEL</b>	Problem	The Day of the Lord is a day of judgment & salvation ( <b>1:15; 2:1; 11 / 3:14-16</b> ) Creation effected: Locusts devour land ( <b>1:2-2:11</b> ); Darkness ( <b>2:10, 31; 3:15</b> )
	Promise	<b>Joel 2:28-32</b> – <i>The Spirit Re-Creates both man and land</i> (cf <b>Gen 1:2; Isa 32:15f</b> )
	NT Use	<b>Acts 2:1-4, 16-21</b> – <i>Joel's vision of the Spirit outpoured is fulfilled on Pentecost</i>
<b>OBADIAH</b>	Problem	The book is addressed to Edom (the children of Esau) Judgment for pride (v. <b>2-4</b> ) and cursing Israel (v. <b>10-15</b> ; cf. <b>Gen 12:1-3</b> )
	Promise	Salvation comes via judgment (v. <b>17</b> ); Saviors are coming (v. <b>21</b> ; <b>Amos 9:12</b> )
	NT Use	<b>Rev 11:15</b> – <i>"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord..."</i>

## SUMMARY

- (1) **God** is Merciful and Gracious, Holy and Wrathful (cf. **Exodus 34:6-7**)
- (2) **Sin and Covenant Breaking** demands YHWH's Holy Judgment
- (3) **Judgment:** The Day of the Lord is coming! Exile is Imminent!
- (4) **Restoration / Redemption** is Promised through a New Exodus with a Divine/Davidic Messiah
- (5) **Repent** from your sins! **Return** to the Lord! You will be forgiven! (**Isa 1:18; cf. Hab 2:4**)

*This is the Gospel, which makes the Prophets incredibly practical for our daily lives.*