

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

The Twelve: Judgment and Salvation is a Major Theme in the Minor Prophets (32)

INTRODUCTION

How should we read the Minor Prophets?

- (1) Individually – on their own, setting them in their historical context, 12 different voices
- (2) Collectively – one whole book, that is a peer to Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel
- (3) Selectively – memorizing a few choice quotations, but not reading it regularly

Date

The Twelve span 300 years – *Hosea, Amos, Jonah* (760 BC) – *Malachi* (460 BC)
When read together, it gives the most comprehensive view of God
Enables the book to see both promise and fulfillment

Arrangement

Historically: All the books with superscriptions are put in order

Hosea, Malachi address Israel; Jonah graciously warns Nineveh before Nahum condemns it
 Micah, Habbakuk, Zephaniah address Judah before 586 BC
 Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are clearly post-exilic

Thematically: The literary and thematic elements of the book provide order

Hosea is first because it introduces judgment and salvation

Hosea / Malachi Similar features and function as introduction & conclusion
Marriage & Divorce, Love & Election, False Worship

Key words/ideas lace the Twelve together: **Joel 2:16 || Amos 1:2; Amos 9:12 || Obadiah**

Theologically: We learn the most about God when we read “The Twelve” together

God’s history is providentially ordered – *It is not random or accidental*

There is order to God’s Word which corresponds to his actions

God’s Justice and Mercy (Exod 34:6-7) are on full display (**Joel 2:13; Jon 4:2; Mic 7:18-20**)

Redemptive History undergirds the prophets – ***Hosea 11:1-11; Amos 6:1-5; Malachi 4:4-6***

SIN	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah Micah	Isaiah 1-39	Sins Listed Covenant Breaking
JUDGMENT	Nahum, Habbakuk, Zephaniah	Jeremiah	Curse of God Universal Destruction
RESTORATION	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Isaiah 40-66 Ezekiel	New Covenant Temple

THEMES

SIN – *The cause of YHWH's judgment/salvation*

Hosea: YHWH's accuses Israel of covenant-breaking (4:2), which has cosmic results (4:3)

Amos: Social injustice, idolatry, and licentious living (2:6-8)

Micah: Idolatry (1:2-7), wicked rulers (3:1-3), forsaking heritage & salvation (6:1-5), total evil (7:2-6)

Habbakuk: Violence, strife, and contention consume the people of God; justice is absent (1:2-4)

Zephaniah: Explicit idolatry condemned (1:4-6)

Malachi: false teaching (2:1-9); divorce (2:10-16); immorality (3:5), greed (3:8-11)

How should we talk about sin? How much?

DAY OF THE LORD – *The timing of God's judgment/salvation*

Hosea: Names each of his children 'Jezreel' (cf. 2 Ki 1:1-10), 'Not Pitied,' and "Bastard" (3:1-9)

Joel: Judgment comes on the Day of the LORD, an unstoppable locust plague (1:15; 2:1, 11; 3:4, 14)

Amos: An earthquake depicts the coming destruction (2:13-16; 5:18, 20)

Obadiah: Retributive justice (v. 15); Destruction of Edom (v. 16, 18); Remnant in Zion (v. 17)

Zephaniah: The Day of the LORD totally consumes the earth (1:7-18)

Zechariah: An amazing account of final judgment and the consummation of the kingdom of God (14)

Malachi: Prophecies about the forthcoming Elijah who anticipates the Day of the LORD (4:5-6)

ZION – *The place of God's judgment/salvation*

(1) *The inhabitants of Jerusalem*

"Woe to those who are at ease in Zion" (Amos 6:1)

Sin in Jerusalem will lead to judgment/destruction (Micah 1:13; 3:10, 12)

(2) *The future dwelling place of YHWH and his saints*

"Blow a trumpet in Zion" (2x) – Announces the Day of the LORD (Joel 2:1); Call for repentance (2:15)

"Children of Zion" (Joel 2:23, 32; Zeph 3:14) – *The remnant saved by the LORD*

"YHWH roars from Zion" (Joel 3:16; Amos 1:2) – *Destroying enemies and saving his people*

"The dwelling place of YHWH" (Joel 3:16-17, 21)

Anticipation of a future cleansing of and blessing from Zion (Obad 1:17; Mic 4:2-7)

The people of God worship and rejoice in God (Zeph 3:14-18; Zech 2:10; 9:9-13)

Though Jerusalem has forsaken God, God has not forsaken Zion (Zech 1:14, 17)

The nations will stream into Zion (8:2-8, 20-23)

DAVID – *The way of YHWH's judgment/salvation*

Hosea 3:5 – *In the latter days, a New David will establish God's people in God's goodness*

Amos 9:11-12 – *David's kingdom will be established in the age to come*

Micah 5:1-5a – *The shepherd from Bethlehem will secure his people and establish peace.*

Haggai 2:20-23 – *Zerubbabel of Judah signifies that God will restore David's kingdom*

Zechariah 12:1-13:1 – *Salvation will come to the house of David, and forgiveness is given to his house*
Eschatology doesn't take place in Daniel and Revelation alone. The OT is incredibly eschatological.

RESTORATION – *The result of YHWH's judgment/salvation*

Hosea 2:14-23 – *A heart for idolatry will be removed; creation will be restored*

Joel 2:28-32; 3:17-21 – *The HS will be poured out (cf. Zech 12:10); Zion will be fruitful & inhabited*

Amos 9:13-15 – *New creation promises are dependent on the Davidic Ruler (9:11-12)*

Micah 4:1-5 – *The nations will respond to the "law" pouring forth from Zion* – Points to the Church

Micah 5:7-15 – *The Bethlehem shepherd will cleanse his people from all forms of idolatry*

Zechariah 8:9-13 – *Peace, blessing, and agricultural prosperity mark the age to come*