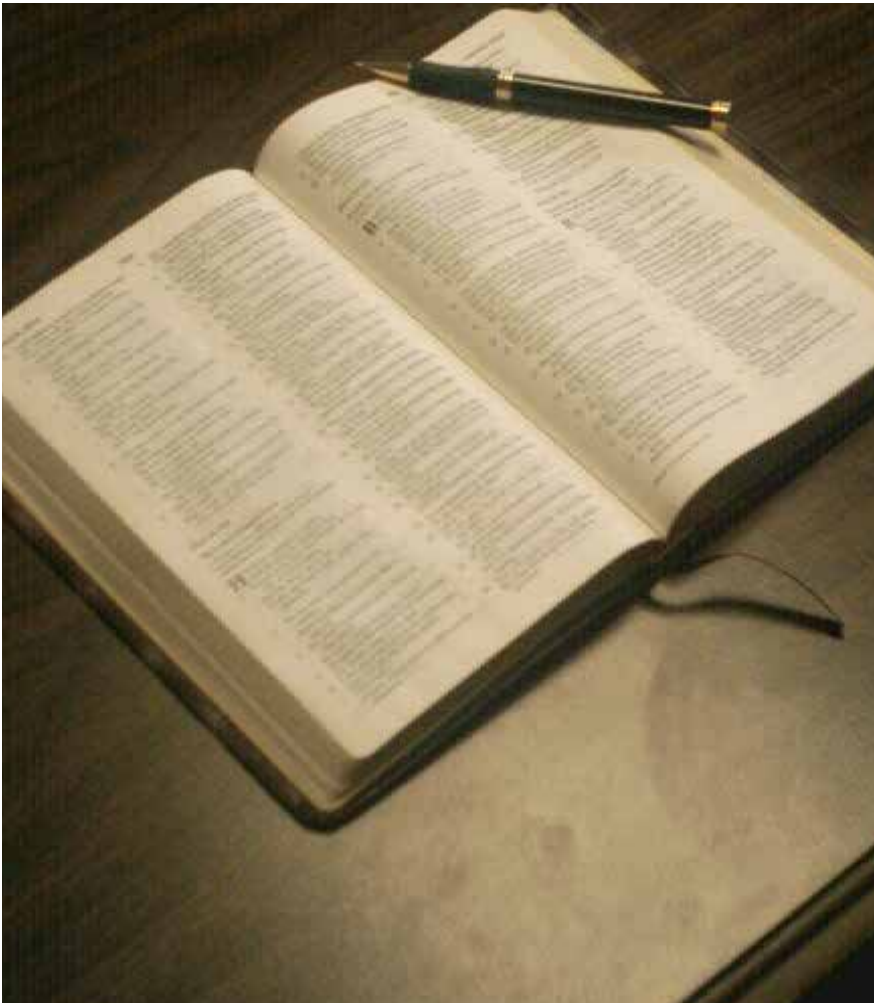


A Study Workbook for Teachers and Students

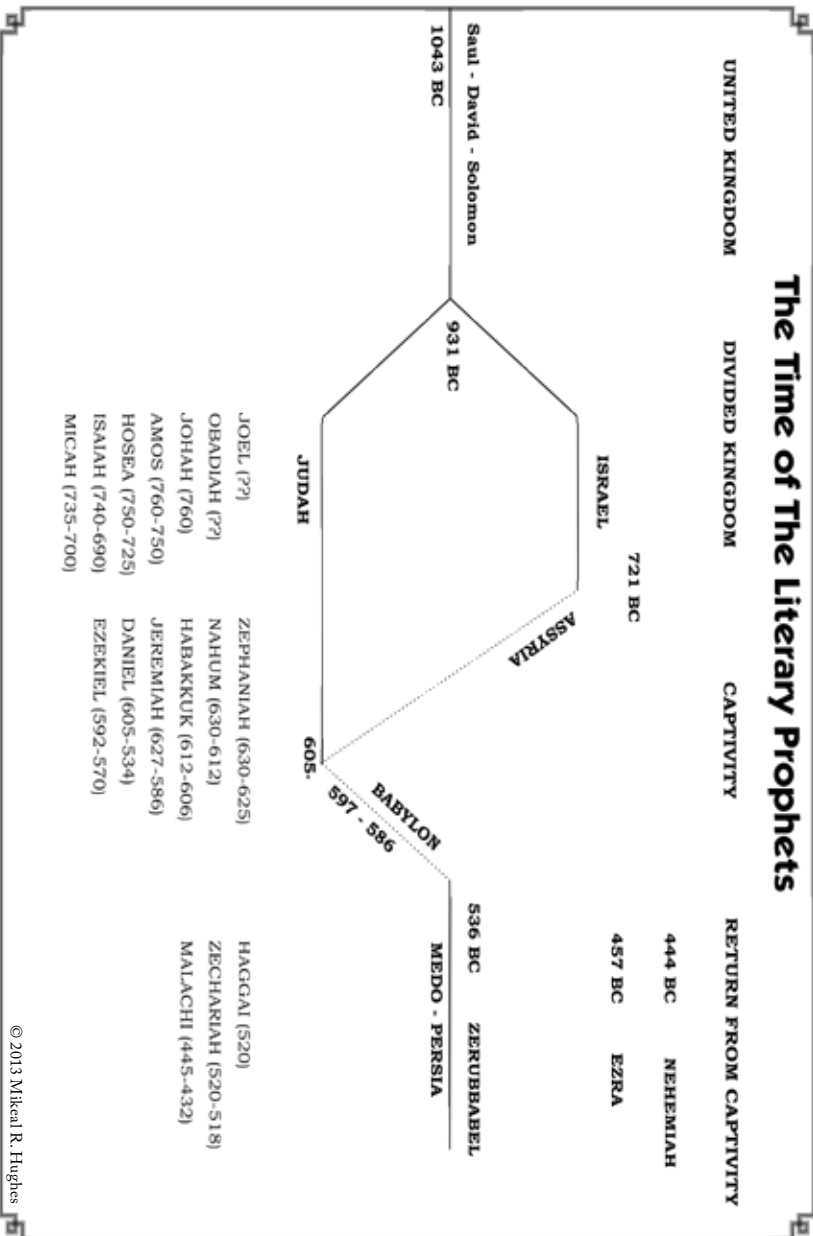
The Minor Prophets

Part 2

Nahum through Malachi



The Time of The Literary Prophets



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A Study Workbook For Teachers And Students

The Minor Prophets

Part 2

Nahum - Malachi

By
MIKEAL R. HUGHES

Books of the Minor Prophets Timeline - Part 1

B.C. DATE	BIBLE BOOK	MEANING OF NAME	CHAPTERS	THEME OF BOOK	AUDIENCE	MAJOR SINS
840-830	OBADIAH	Worshipper of YHVH	1	Day of the Lord Destruction of Edom Israel's restoration	Against Edom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edom had continual violence toward Israel. Edom cheered when Judah was taken captive
730-750	JOEL	YHVH is God	3	The Day of the Lord	Israel, Northern Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adultery Drunkennes Idolatry Licentiousness
780-740	JONAH	Dove	4	Sign of Commitment Type of Jesus Christ God's mercy to the repentant	Nineveh with implications to all people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cruelty of the Assyrians
765-725	HOSEA	Salvation	14	Salvation	Israel, Northern Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adultery Drunkennes Idolatry Licentiousness



Books of the Minor Prophets Timeline - Part 2

B.C. DATE	BIBLE BOOK	MEANING OF NAME	CHAPTERS	THEME OF BOOK	AUDIENCE	MAJOR SINS
760	AMOS	Burden Bearer	9	The Day of the Lord. The Eternal will roar	Israel Judah & Benjamin All nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oppression of the poor Sexual immorality Wanton Luxury Corruption of law & men
740-700	MICAH	Who is like YHVH?	7	The Eternal is a just Judge	Samaria Jerusalem The whole earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of justice in the land Injustice Oppression

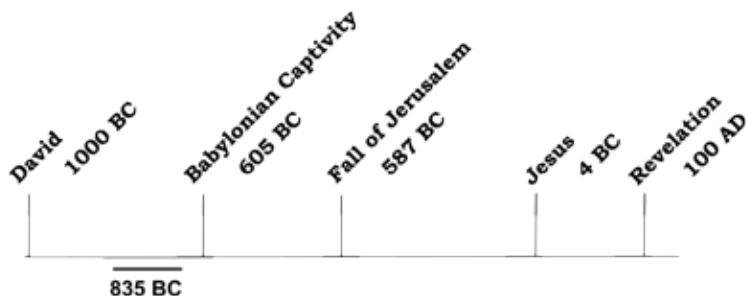
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Joel At A Glance

Focus	Day of the Lord In Retrospect			Day of the Lord In Prospect	
Reference	1:1	1:13	2:1	2:28	3:21
Division	Past Day Of The Locust	Past Day of the Drought		Imminent Day of the Lord	Ultimate Day of The Lord
Topic	Historical Invasion			Prophetic Invasion	
	Past Judgment on Judah			Future Judgment and Restoration of Judah	
Location	Southern Kingdom of Judah				
Time	835 BC				

Joel's Prophet Career



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Interesting Facts About Joel

MEANING: "Yahweh is God"

AUTHOR: Joel

TIME WRITTEN: About 835 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 29th Book in the Bible
- 29th Book in the Old Testament
- 7th of 17 books of Prophecy (Isaiah - Malachi)
- 2nd of 12 minor prophets (Hosea - Malachi)
- 37 Books to follow it.



CHAPTERS: 3

VERSES: 73

WORDS: 2,034

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT JOEL:

- Joel was the son of Pethuel ("Persuaded of God").
- It is believed that he did not live far from Jerusalem.
- Joel was an early prophet of Judah.
- It is possible that Joel may have been a contemporary of Elisha in Israel.
- Joel was God's spokesman during the reign of King Joash (835-796 B.C.).
- On the day of Pentecost following the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, the apostle Peter quotes from Joel in Acts 2:17-21
- The theme of disasters appears through the Book of Joel.
 - Locusts
 - Plagues
 - Famine
 - Raging fires
 - Invading armies
 - Celestial phenomena

JOEL

■ Joel tells the people that even though some disasters have struck, it is not too late to repent and avoid a greater disaster from God.

■ **Joel 2:11** - "The LORD gives voice before His army. For His camp is very great. For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?"

■ **Joel 2:28-29** - "Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions."



ZEPHANIAH - INTRODUCTION

Author

The name Joel means “Jehovah is God.” This was a common name among the Jews. There are at least a dozen other men so named in the Bible. (Samuel’s oldest son, 1 Sam. 8:2; one of David’s valiant men, I Chr. 11:38). However, like Obadiah, no information exists about the man who wrote this book which bears his name. We are simply told he was “the son of Pethuel.” (1:1)

Background

The prophecy was occasioned by a calamity that befell the land from locusts and drought and from fires that followed in their wake. Some think the locusts were an invading army, and that the prophet used the terror of swarms of locusts, followed by drought and fire, as a figurative description of the devastation left by the invaders. The stronger possibility is that these were literal locusts from which the prophet draws his lesson and his strong call to repentance. Unless there is repentance and righteousness of life on the part of the nation, the locusts will be followed by a stronger and more severe judgment, and invasion by the nations.

A plague of locusts devastates the land of Judah, and Joel describes the locusts as an “army” of the Lord. This terrible judgment of the Lord should bring them to repentance, and if it does a promise of blessing will be forthcoming.

The theme of the book of Joel is a call to repentance. “The day of the Lord” (1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14) represents both a day of terror and blessings. Joel is perhaps best remembered because of Peter’s affirmation on Pentecost that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21).

Date of Writing

The date for the book of Joel is uncertain. Scholars give varying reasons for dates ranging from as early as 900 BC to as late as 400 BC.

Earlier date argument - No reference is made to Assyria (760 BC) nor to Babylon which followed. The enemies mentioned are Philistines, Phoenicians, Egyptians, and Edomites rather than those of the exile period.

Later date argument - Only Judah is mentioned and not Israel. No king is mentioned, neither the high places nor the idolatry which are all conditions of an earlier period.

Theme

The message of the book is the doom of the nations and the ultimate glory of Jehovah's cause. The invading locust army is to be looked upon by the people of God as a warning to them, out of which came the urgent call from God for repentance. The locusts, drought, and fires heralded the "day of Jehovah," which could be averted only by genuine repentance. If they would repent, the "day of Jehovah" would be one of destruction upon the enemies of God and deliverance for those who trust in Him.

Relationship with other prophets:

Some have estimated that 27 out of the 73 verses in Joel are paralleled in other prophets. Here are a few:

Joel

1:15 - Isaiah 13:6

2:2 - Zephaniah 1:15

2:3 - Isaiah 51:3; Ezekiel 36:35

2:10 - Isaiah 13:10

2:32 - Obadiah 17

3:10 - Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3

3:16 - Amos 1:2; Isaiah 13:13

3:17 - Ezekiel 36:11; Isaiah 52:1; Obadiah 17; Nahum 1:15

3:18 - Amos 9:13

An Outline of Zephaniah

Theme: *Righteous People Suffer Unjustly*

I. The plague of Locusts (1:1-2:27)

- A. The prophet's name and the importance of the plague of locusts (1:1-3)
- B. The plague of locusts and the drought that ensued. (1:4-20)
- C. The coming day of the Lord (2:1-11)
- D. The call to repentance (2:12-17)
- E. The promise of deliverance following repentance (2:18-27)

II. The judgment of God and His blessing in the last days (2:28-3:21)

- A. The promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (2:28-32)
- B. The restoration of Judah and the judgment of her enemies (3:1-16)
- C. The everlasting blessing for God's people (3:17-21)

LESSON 1 - ZEPHANIAH 1

Plague and drought described

JOEL

1:1-20 Plague and drought described

1. What is the meaning of the name “Joel?”
2. What natural disaster does Joel describe?
3. What vegetation was left?
4. Why would drunkards weep and wail?
5. If they thought the plague of locusts was bad, what was to come?
6. Why would the priests mourn?
7. Why would the farmers and vinedressers be ashamed?

8. What would wither away from the sons of men?

9. Who were called to assemble in the house of the Lord and for what purpose?

10. What is at hand and why has it come?

OBADIAH - INTRODUCTION

Background

The hatred Edom held for their blood brothers, Israel, goes back to the time when their father Esau was born. (Gen. 25:22; 27; 32; 33)

The Edomites dwelt in Mt. Seir at the south end of the Dead Sea. This territory is also referred to as Idumea. They constantly showed indignation against Israel, even refusing simple passages through their land when Israel first came from Egyptian captivity (Num. 20:14).

The pride of Edom and the perpetual hatred for God's people brought the wrath of the Lord against this land. Even in later years Edom stood ready to rejoice over every setback endured by Israel and Judah, never helping but always gloating.

The history of the Edomites continued through the period of the Herods. The father of Herod the Great was Antipater from Idumea. However, after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Idumeans disappeared from history – a certain fulfillment of the prophecies of Obadiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others.

Author

Obadiah (“servant or worshipper of Jehovah)

13 different men bare this name in the Old Testament. There are no good reasons for identifying this author with any of them.

There is nothing in the book to indicate the author's family background or where he might have lived.

Date of Writing

The date of writing has not been determined. Guesses have ranged from 850 B.C. to 312 B.C. Obadiah reflects a calamity that Jerusalem has suffered. Jerusalem was under siege at least four times:

Shishak's campaign (1 Kings 14:25,26; 2 Chron. 12:1-2;

Arabians and Philistines (848-841 B.C.) (2 Chron. 21:16,17)

Defeat of Amaziah (2 Kings 14:8-14; 2 Chron. 25:17-24)

Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Despite all other calamities of Jerusalem Nebuchadnezzar's destruction in 586 seems to be the most likely one referred to in Obadiah verse 20.

Theme

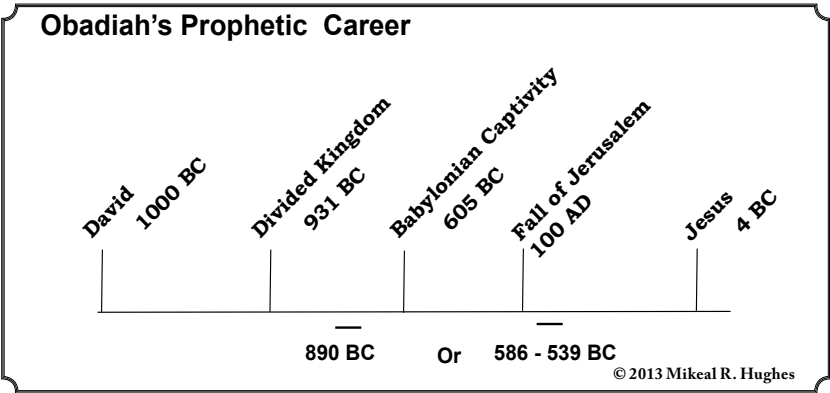
The message of Obadiah is twofold; 1) the fall of Edom because of its pride and cruelty against Israel, and 2) the exaltation of Zion when Seir,

the Edomite counterpart of Zion, would be cast down. The rescued of both Israel and Edom will be in Zion, for in it the redeemed will be found.

Relation to other Prophets

Obadiah is one of the seven Old Testament books (Nahum, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Obadiah) that is not quoted or echoed in the New Testament.

There are similarities between Obadiah's prophecy of Edom (1-9) and that in Jeremiah 49:7-16. Joel and Obadiah have numerous similarities: Joel 3:19 and Obadiah 10; Joel 3:4-7 and Obadiah 15; Joel 2:32 and Obadiah 17; Joel 3:17 and Obadiah 17



Outline of Obadiah

I. Judgment against Edom (1-14)

- A. The fall of Edom predicted (1-4)
- B. Edom's destruction to be complete (5-9)
- C. Edom's sins laid bare (10-14)

II. II. The Day of the Lord (15-21)

- A. The judgment of all nations (15-16)
- B. Deliverance in Zion: the kingdom of the Lord (17-21)

Obadiah at a Glance				
Focus	Judgment of Edom			Restoration of Israel
Reference	1:1-----	10-----	15-----	19-----21
Division	Prediction of Judgment	Reason for Judgment	Result of Judgment	Possession of Edom By Israel
Topic	Defeat of Israel			Victory of Israel
	Prediction of Judgment			Prediction of Possession
Location	Edom and Israel			
Time	890 BC or 586 - 539 BC			

LESSON 2 - NAHUM 1

The Coming of the Day of the Lord

JOEL

2:1-11	The coming of the Day of the Lord
2:12-17	The call to repentance
2:18-27	Deliverance following repentance
2:28-32	Outpouring of the Spirit promised
3:1-16	Restoration of Judah and punishment of her enemies
3:17-21	Blessings for God's people

1. Why would all the inhabitants of the land tremble?
2. What kind of people are coming against Israel?
3. What will be left behind them?
4. Describe their army:
5. How does God want Israel to turn to Him?
6. What does he want them to rend?
7. Does God want Israel to suffer?
8. What must the people do to turn away God's wrath?

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LEVITICUS

JOSHUA THROUGH RUTH

I & 2 SAMUEL

I & 2 KINGS

DANIEL

EZRA, NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER

JOB

THE MINOR PROPHETS PART 1: HOSEA - MICAH

THE MINOR PROPHETS PART 2: NAHUM - MALACHI

LIFE OF CHRIST

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REVELATION