

# THE 12 PROPHETS



## Scroll of the 12 Prophets



הושע / Hoshea – HOSEA

יואל / Yo'el – JOEL

עמוס / Amos – AMOS

עובדיה / Ovadyah – OBADIAH

יונה / Yonah – JONAH

מיכה / Mikhah – MICAH

נחום / Nakhum – NAHUM

חבקוק / Havakuk – HABAKKUK

צפניה / Ts'phanyah – ZEPHANIAH

חגי / Khagai – HAGGAI

זכריה / Z'kharyah – ZECHARIAH

מלאכי / Mal'ahhi - MALACHI

Written Poland on sheep  
skin using iron gall ink in  
the 1800s





# THE TWELVE

- **PROPHETIC BOOKS WERE WRITTEN TEXTS MEANT TO BE READ, OR MORE PROPERLY, TO BE RE-READ AND STUDIED. TEXTS WRITTEN TO BE READ MANY TIMES TEND TO SHOW MORE THAN PASSING INSTANCES OF AMBIGUITY OR MULTIPLE MEANINGS. SUCH MULTIPLE MEANINGS ABOUND IN THE PROPHETIC BOOKS, AS THE ANNOTATIONS WILL SHOW. TRADITIONAL JEWISH INTERPRETERS MAINTAINED THAT THE PROPHETIC BOOKS WERE GIVEN TO ISRAEL TO CALL FOR ITS REPENTANCE AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE, THAT IS, TO AFFECT, NOT MERELY TO INFORM, THEIR READERS. WE KNOW THAT ALREADY IN THE LATE BIBLICAL PERIOD PROPHETIC WORKS WERE READ, RE-READ, AND STUDIED IN ORDER TO FIND SUCH GUIDANCE**

# THE TWELVE

- THERE ARE FIFTEEN PROPHETIC BOOKS IN THE BIBLE: THE COLLECTION CALLED “THE TWELVE,” PLUS ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL. (UNLIKE CHRISTIAN BIBLES, THE JEWISH BIBLE DOES NOT INCLUDE DANIEL AS ONE OF THE PROPHETS, BUT RATHER TREATS IT AS ONE OF THE KETHUVIM, OR WRITINGS.) EACH OF THE FIFTEEN PROPHETIC BOOKS IS ASSOCIATED WITH A SINGLE PROPHETIC PERSONAGE. IN THE TWELVE, EACH BOOK DISPLAYS DISTINCTIVE LANGUAGE AND THEMES THAT SET IT APART FROM THE OTHER BOOKS. THUS THE HUMAN SPEAKER IN EACH BOOK HAS HIS OWN VOICE. THERE ARE NO PROPHETIC BOOKS ASSOCIATED WITH WOMEN PROPHETS, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE FEMALE PROPHETS IN ANCIENT ISRAEL (SEE, E.G., [2 KINGS 2:14](#), [NEH. 6:14](#)). EVEN THE DIVINE SPEAKER, GOD, IS DISTINCTIVE IN EACH BOOK, WITH A VOICE THAT IS SIMILAR TO (AND AT TIMES BLENDS WITH) THAT OF THE PARTICULAR HUMAN SPEAKER.

# THE TWELVE

- FOR THE BOOK OF THE TWELVE, IT IS CLEAR THAT TO SOME EXTENT A CHRONOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE GOVERNS THE PRESENT ORDER IN THE MASORETIC TEXT (AND IN THE LXX). FOR INSTANCE, HOSEA IS THE FIRST BECAUSE HE WAS PROBABLY CONSIDERED THE FIRST OF FOUR PROPHETS WHO PROPHESED AT ONE PARTICULAR, EARLY PERIOD, THE OTHERS BEING ISAIAH, AMOS, AND MICAH (SEE [B. B. BAT. 14A](#)). THE BOOKS OF HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, AND MALACHI, WHO “CAME AT THE END OF THE PROPHETS,” CLOSE THE COLLECTION. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT CHRONOLOGICAL CONCERNS WERE NOT THE ONLY CONSIDERATION. IT SEEMS THAT AN EMPHATIC FOCUS ON JERUSALEM AND JUDAH WAS EITHER A MAIN CONCERN FOR THOSE WHO ORDERED THE BOOKS IN THE MASORETIC TRADITION OR WAS A BACKGROUND BELIEF THAT BECAME REFLECTED IN THE WAY IN WHICH THE ORDER OF THE BOOKS WAS FINALIZED IN THIS TRADITION.

# THE TWELVE

- A SIGNIFICANT CLUE FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THESE AND THE OTHER THREE PROPHETIC BOOKS WITHIN THEIR HISTORICAL SETTING STANDS AT THE CONCLUSION OF HOSEA. THE FINAL VERSE, [14:10](#), MAY BE TRANSLATED AS FOLLOWS: “THOSE WHO ARE WISE UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS [I.E., THE PROPHETIC READINGS INCLUDED IN THE BOOK]; THOSE WHO ARE DISCERNING KNOW THEM. FOR THE WAYS OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT, AND THE UPRIGHT WALK IN THEM, BUT TRANSGRESSORS STUMBLE IN THEM.”

# THE TWELVE

- THE LAST BOOK OF THE TWELVE AND, ACCORDINGLY THE ENTIRE SECTION OF *NEVI'IM* PROPHETS IN THE TANAKH CONCLUDES—WHETHER BY DESIGN OR, MORE LIKELY, FORTUITOUSLY—WITH A PASSAGE THAT INCLUDES A VERSE THAT MAY BE TRANSLATED AS FOLLOWS: “REMEMBER THE TORAH OF MOSES, MY SERVANT, WHICH I COMMANDED HIM AT HOREB FOR ALL OF ISRAEL—ITS DECREES AND STATUTES” ([MAL. 3:22](#)). SUCH A CONCLUSION COMMUNICATES A CLEAR SENSE THAT THIS SECTION IS SUBORDINATE IN IMPORTANCE TO THE TORAH OF MOSES. MAIMONIDES IN THE *MISHNEH TORAH* QUOTED THIS VERSE AS A PROOF THAT PROPHETS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BRING A NEW TORAH, BUT TO WARN PEOPLE NOT TO TRESPASS THE TORAH. THIS POSITION, OF COURSE, IS CENTRAL TO TRADITIONAL JUDAISM.



# PROPHETS IN THE TENACH

- THE [TALMUD](#) (MEGILLAH 14A) SAYS THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWICE AS MANY PROPHETS AS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO LEFT EGYPT (2,600,000), BUT ONLY THOSE WHOSE MESSAGES WERE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WERE RECORDED. THIS COUNT WAS 48 MALE AND 7 FEMALE PROPHETS.
- SOURCE ANCIENT JEWISH HISTORY

# PROPHETS IN THE TENACH

- 7 FEMALE PROPHETS
- 1. SARAH
- 2. MIRIAM
- 3. DEVORAH
- 4. HANNAH (MOTHER OF SHMUEL)
- 5. AVIGAIL (WHO BECAME A WIFE OF KING DAVID)
- 6. HULDAH (FROM THE TIME OF JEREMIAH)
- 7. ESTHER

# PROPHETS IN THE TENACH

1. [Abraham](#)
2. [Isaac](#)
3. [Jacob](#)
4. [Moses](#)
5. [Aaron](#)
6. [Joshua](#)
7. Pinchas
8. Elkanah
9. [Eli](#)
10. Samuel
11. [Gad](#)

12. Nossou
13. [King David](#)
14. [King Solomon](#)
15. Aidoiu the Golah
16. Micha Ben Yamla
17. Ovadiah
18. Achiah Hashiloni
19. Yehu Ben Hanani
20. Azaryah Ben Oded
21. Haziell from Bnei Masni
22. Eliezer his cousin
23. Morishah

24. [Hoshea](#)
25. [Amos](#)
26. Micha
27. [Elijah](#)
28. [Elisha](#)
29. Yonah Ben Amitai
30. Yeshayah
31. Joel
32. Nachum
33. [Habakuk](#)
34. [Zephaniah](#)
35. [Uriah](#)

36. [Jeremiah](#)
37. [Ezekiel](#)
38. [Daniel](#)
39. Baruch
40. Neriah
41. Sharyah
42. Machsiyah
43. Hagai
44. [Zechariah](#)
45. Malachi
46. Mordechai

Sources: Blackman, Philip. Introduction to Tractate Sanhedrin of the Mishnah. New York: The Judaica Press, 1963; Dimont, Max. *Jews, Jews, God and History*. New York: The New American Library, 1962; *Encyclopedia Judaica* "Sanhedrin". Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1971; Kung, Hans. *Judaism*. New York: Crossroad, 1992; Seltzer, Robert M. *Jewish People, Jewish Thought*. New York: Macmillian Publishing Co, 1980.

## THE MINOR PROPHETS (Update)

Prophet	Date (B.C.) Approx	Name Meaning	Prophecies To/About	King at Time (assumption)
Obadiah	845-750	'Servant of the Lord'	Israel/Edom	Jehoram (Ju) Joram (Is)
Joel	835-796	'Yahweh is God'	Judah	Joash (Ju) Jehu/Jehoahaz(Is)
Jonah	793-753	'Dove'	Nineveh	Jeroboam 11 (Is) Amaziah/(Ju)
Hosea	753-715	'Salvation'	Israel	Jotham/Ahaz (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah/Hoshea (Is)
Amos	760-755	'Burden- bearer'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Uzziah (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah (Is)
Micah	770-710	'Who is like unto the Lord'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Ahaz/Hezekiah(Ju) Zechariah – Hoshea (Is)
Nahum	655	'Consolation'	Nineveh	Manasseh (Ju) *
Zephaniah	625	'Yahweh hides'	Judah/Assyria. And Nations	Josiah (Ju)
Habakkuk	610	'Clings to'	Judah/Nations	Josiah/Jehoahaz/Jehoiakim
Haggai	520	'My Feast'	Judah	N/A
Zechariah	520	'Yahweh has remembered'	Judah	N/A
Malachi	460 - 420	'My Messenger'	Judah	N/A

# BRIT HADASHA REFERENCES TO PROPHETS

- **OVER 80 SCRIPTURES IN NEW TESTAMENT MAKE REFERENCE TO THE PROPHETS**
- **LUKE 21:10-22, 25-28**
- **LUKE 24:25-27, 44**
- **2 PETER 2:1-9, 3:3-18**
- **11 TIMOTHY 3:15-17**
- **ROMANS 11:1-29**

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ידוד | אשר הנה אל-הושע בן-בארי  
במי ענה יותם אתה יחזקיה מלכי  
הגורר. ובמי ירבעם בן-בזאט מלך  
ישראל: תהלת דברי-ידוד ברושע  
ויאמר ידוד אל-הושע לך קהלה אשר  
זמנים יולדו זמנים בירגה רגנה הארץ  
מאחרי ידוד: וילך ויטה את-גמד בני  
דבלים ותרר ותלך לו בן. ויאמר ידוד  
אליו קרא שמו ירעאל כי-עוד מעט  
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ידוד | אשר הנה אל-מיכה המדישרה  
במי יותם אתה יחזקיה מלכי יהודה  
אשר-הנה על-שמרון וירושלם: שמעו  
עמים כלם הקשובי ארץ ומלאה יהוה  
אדני ידוד בכם לעד אדני מהיכל  
קדשו: ביר-הגור ידוד יצא ממקומו  
ורד ודרך על-במותו - ארץ: וגמסו  
ההרים תהטו והאמקים יתבקעו כדוג  
מפני האש כמים מערים במורד:  
בבטיע יעקב כל-זאת ובקטאות בדת

# Hosea

# Hosea's Children

Jezreel



Yahweh will destroy  
Jehu's line & all of  
Israel.

Lo-Ruhamah



"No Love or Pity"  
Yahweh will no  
longer have  
compassion on Israel  
or forgive her sins.

Lo-Ammi



"Not My People"  
Yahweh has rejected  
the Israelites as His  
people.