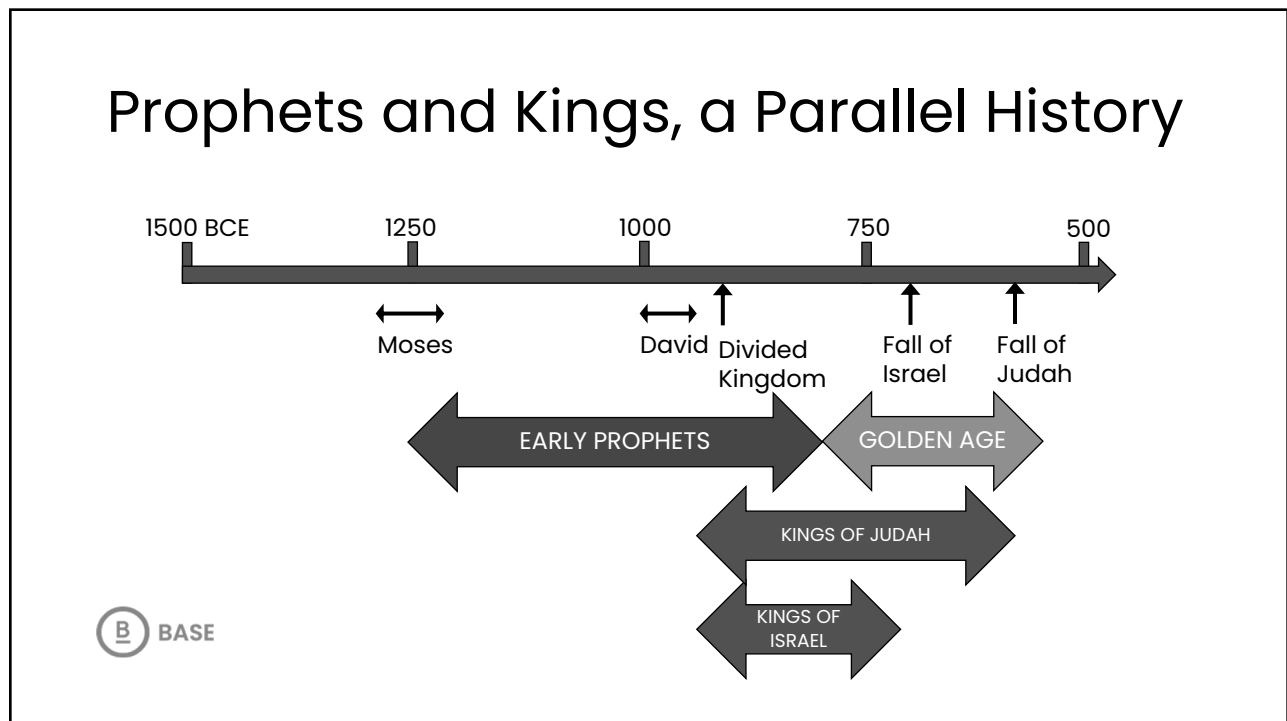




1



2

What is a Hebrew Prophet?

One who is called by God...

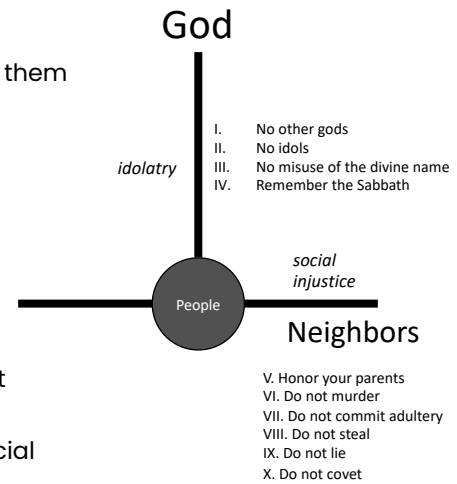
- Their call was irresistible
- The Word they preached was often painful to them

To speak the Word of God...

- Prophets were spokesmen for God
- "Thus says the LORD:", not "Thus says Isaiah:"

To the people of God...

- Their message was grounded in the Covenant relationship and its brokenness
- Overall message was against idolatry and social injustice



3

Prophecy is about Now

The prophets were concerned with present actions, their consequences, and the grace of a covenantal God.

If present actions continue, then these will be the consequences.

But if present actions change, the consequences may change.

Hence the emphasis on repentance (turning back to God)



4

The Prophet as Coach

Coaches are teachers: they know the game better than you do.

Coaches know what is best for you, and what you need to improve, and seek to provide you with that constantly.

Coaches know your potential, and demand that you live up to it.

Coaches will get “in your face” and tell you things you don't want to hear, but that you *need* to hear.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coach_McKinstry_with_Rwanda_National_Team_Sept_2015.jpg
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

5

Don't Get Depressed!

If a prophet's words make you feel uncomfortable, rejoice!
 God may be getting through.

Also, speak up! You might just enlighten someone else.

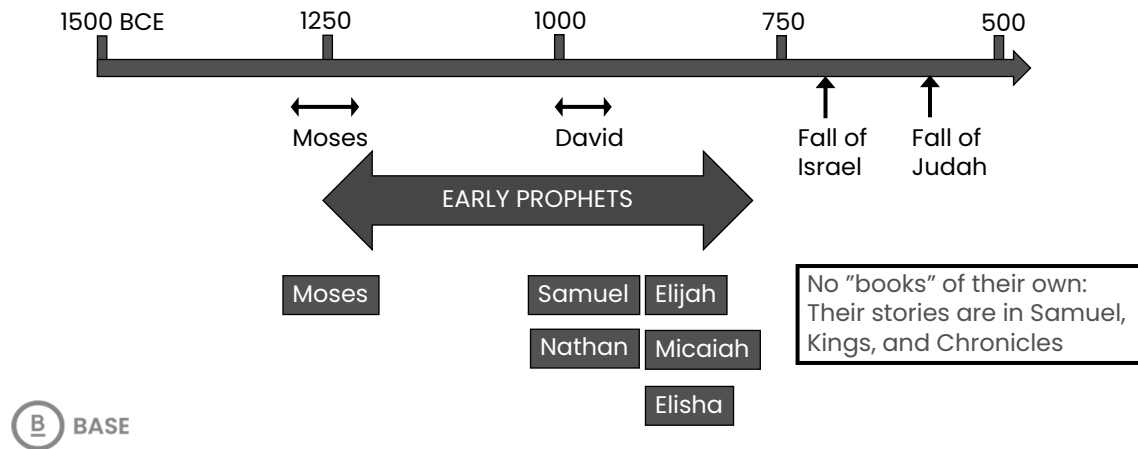
Some of our biggest problems are the barriers we set up between ourselves and God.

Let the prophets help you tear these down!



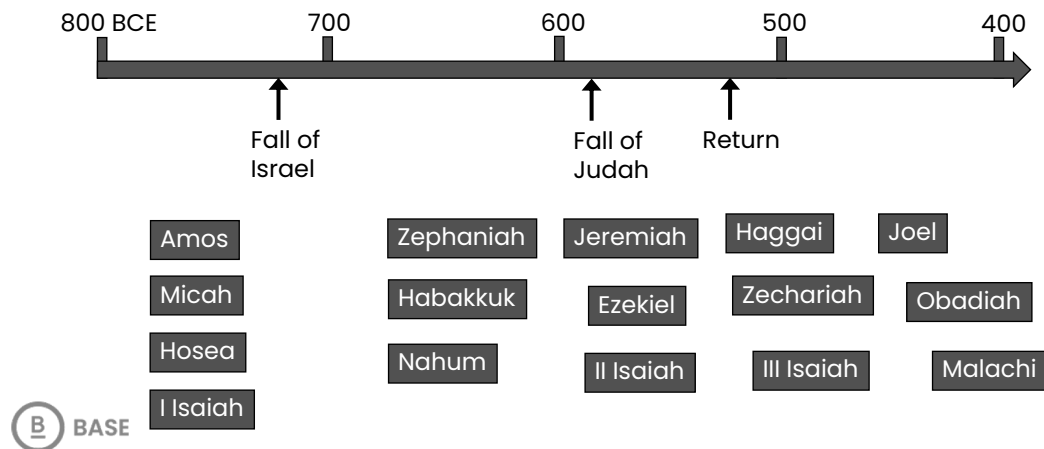
6

Early Prophets (1300 – 800 BCE)



7

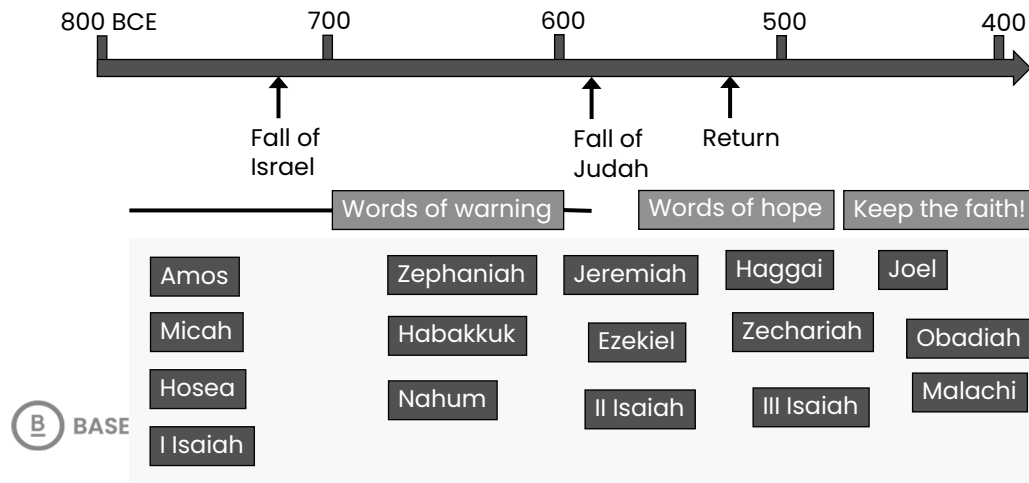
The Golden Age (800 – 400 BCE)



8

How do we read the Prophets?

Know their context!



9

Biblical Ordering of the Prophetic Books

"Major"	Isaiah	(Jonah)	8 th C.
	Jeremiah		7 th C.
	(Lamentations)		
	Ezekiel		6 th C.
"Minor"	(Daniel – Apocalyptic)	Habakkuk	
	Hosea	Zephaniah	5 th C.
	Joel	Haggai	
	Amos	Zechariah	
	Obadiah	Malachi	

10

Schools of Prophecy

Many prophets probably had disciples, or “schools” that transcribed, edited and preserved the prophet's preaching and teaching.

Isaiah

Isaiah 1-39	I Isaiah	8 th century BCE
Isaiah 40-55	II Isaiah	Exile
Isaiah 56-66	III Isaiah	post-Exile



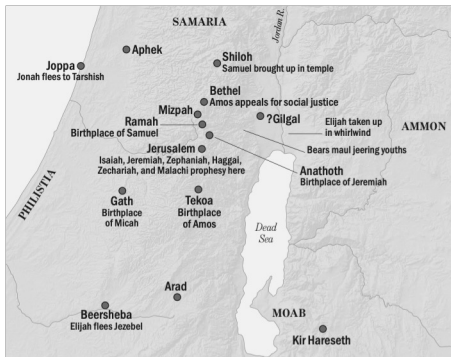
11

Amos

The herdsman from Tekoa
From Judah, but prophesied in Israel

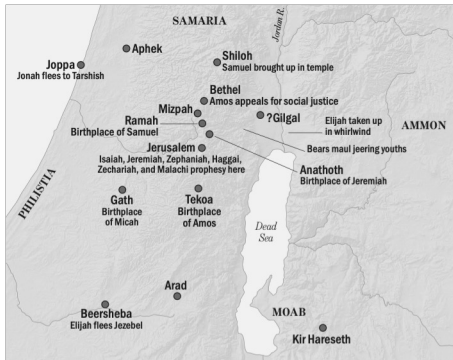
These are the words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa. He perceived these things concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, in the days of Judah's King Uzziah and in the days of Israel's King Jeroboam, Joash's son.

--Amos 1:1



<https://open.bible/maps/>

12



Amos

The herdsman from Tekoa
From Judah, but prophesied in Israel

I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son;
but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees,
and the LORD took me from following the flock,
and the LORD said to me,
"Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

--Amos 7:14-15



<https://open.bible/maps/>

13

Amos: The Central Message, Part 1

Social Injustice

Thus says the LORD:

For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;
because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals--
they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth,
and push the afflicted out of the way.

--Amos 2:6-7a



14

Amos: The Central Message, Part 2

True Worship

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
 I will not accept them;
 and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
 I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

--Amos 5:21-24



15

Amos: Symbol and Metaphor

This is what he showed me:
 the LORD was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line,
 with a plumb line in his hand.
 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?"
 And I said, "A plumb line."
 Then the LORD said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my
 people Israel; I will never again pass them by."

--Amos 7:7-8



16

Amos: Remnant and Restoration

The Covenant is eternal; a Remnant will always be saved

On that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen, and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; in order that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name, says the LORD who does this.

--Amos 9:11-12

