

The Prophets

	<i>Prophets to Israel</i>	<i>Prophets to Judah</i>	<i>To foreign nations</i>	<i>Other Dates</i>
Assyrian Empire (height of empire from ca. 750-625)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amos (ca. 760) • Hosea (ca. 760-730) <i>(Jereboam II reign ca. 786-746)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah (ca. 740-700) • Micah (ca. 737-690) • Zephaniah (ca. 640) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonah (ca. 770; to Ninevah) • Nahum (ca. 650; to Ninevah) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel destroyed by Assyria, 722 • Ninevah falls, ca. 612
Babylonian Empire (height of empire from ca. 625-539)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habakkuk (ca. 630) • Jeremiah (ca. 627-580) • Daniel (ca. 605-530) • Ezekiel (ca. 593-570) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerusalem destroyed, 586
Persian Empire (height of empire from ca. 539-331)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haggai (ca. 520) • Zechariah (ca. 520-514) • Joel (ca. 500 ?) • Malachi (ca. 433) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obadiah (ca. 500; to Edom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return from captivity, 538-536

Essence of the Prophetic Message

- Each prophet had a message from God. These messages would often include¹:
- *Indictments*: description of offenses. Before Babylonian exile (ca. 586), the emphasis was on idolatry, ritualism (i.e., worship without the heart), and social justice. After the exile (ca. 536), emphasis was on giving proper honor to the Lord.
- *Judgments*: punishment because of offenses.
- *Instructions*: the responses God expected from the people.
- *Aftermath*: future hope for deliverance.

How did the prophets fit into God's Purpose?

- In the midst of religious compromise, ungodly practices, and idolatry, God sent His servants the prophets to condemn these things and turn the hearts of the people back toward God so that they could avert judgment. Their work tended to concentrate around times of crisis, offering guidance to God's people in troublesome times. They also provided a sense of hope by pointing to the future. Many of the prophecies find ultimate fulfillment in the Messiah (Christ), the promised seed of Abraham, through whom all people could be blessed.

Compiled by Doy Moyer, 2001

¹ Hill, Andrew E. and John H. Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991, 2000.