

How to Study the Minor Prophets

1. Read some background material about the book before you read it.

Study Bible - Bible Dictionary - Bible Handbook

www.biblia.com

www.biblegateway.com

2. Read the Book through. Preferably in one sitting.

3. Write an overview of chapters in your own words.

4. Re-read it. This time, taking your time.

5. Ask yourself what God was trying to teach the people of that time.

Repentance

Restoration

6. Ask yourself what God is trying to teach you.



THE MINOR PROPHETS:
The More Things Change,
the More They Stay the Same

The Minor Prophets

The Last 12 books of the O.T. are called the “Minor” prophets, not because of their importance but because of their length. They are simply shorter books than the “Major” prophets.

O.T. Prophecy -

- Usually we think of prophecy as prediction. The primary purpose of the prophet in the O.T. was not prediction.
 - ♦ less than 2% of prophecy is about Jesus
 - ♦ less than 5% describes New Cov. age
 - ♦ less than 1% concerns events yet to come
- We should be looking to the prophets as statements made by men of God who heard what God had to say and relayed that message to their contemporaries.
- As we look into what the prophets have to say, we see the “More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same.” Deut. 4:25-31 People still rebel against God and He still provides a way of love.

3 Groups of Twelve Minor Prophets	
Group	Book
Prophets of Israel	Jonah Amos Hosea
Prophets of Judah	Obadiah Joel Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah
Postexilic Prophets	Haggai Zechariah Malachi

Overview of the Minor Prophets*

Book	Key Phrase	Theme
Jonah	Revival in Nineveh	The repentant response of the people of Nineveh to Jonah’s one-line prophetic message caused the God of mercy to spare the city.
Amos	Judgment of Israel	In eight pronouncements of judgment, Amos spirals around the surrounding countries before landing on Israel. He lists the sins of Israel and calls for repentance.
Hosea	God’s Love for Israel	The story of Hosea and his faithless wife illustrates the loyal love of God and the spiritual adultery of Israel.
Obadiah	Judgment of Edom	Condemns the nation of Edom (descended from Esau) for refusing to act as a brother toward Judah (descendants of Jacob).
Joel	Day of the Lord	A recent locust plague illustrates the far more terrifying day of the Lord. God appeals to the people to repent in order to avert the coming disaster.
Micah	Judgment and Restoration of Judah	In spite of divine retribution against the corruption of Israel and Judah, God’s covenant with them will be fulfilled in Messiah’s future kingdom.
Nahum	Judgment of Nineveh	About 140 years after Nineveh repented under the preaching of Jonah, Micah predicted the destruction of the city because of its idolatry and brutality.
Habakkuk	Live by Faith	Troubled with God’s plan to use the Babylonians as His rod of judgment on Judah, Hab. praises the Lord after gaining a better perspective on His power and purposes.
Zephaniah	Day of the Lord	The coming day of the lord is a time of awesome judgment followed by great blessing. Judah stands condemned, but God will restore the fortunes of the remnant.
Haggai	Reconstruction of the Temple	After the Babylonian exile, Haggai urges the Jews to put God first and finish the Temple they had begun so that they can enjoy God’s blessing.
Zechariah	Prepare for the Messiah	Like Haggai, Zech. exhorts the Jews to complete the construction of the Temple. He relates it to the coming of messiah in a series of visions and messianic prophecies.
Malachi	Appeal to Backsliders	The spiritual climate of the people had grown cold, and Malachi rebukes them for their religious and social compromise. if they return to God with sincere hearts, they will be blessed.

*Adapted from Hayfords Bible handbook