

# Introduction

## Sermon 1 -- The Minor Prophets

### I. Our Plan in this Study

We will examine 7 main points in each book

1. The prophets place in history
2. The significance to the Babylonian Captivity and destruction of the Temple
3. The regathering -- the second Temple – and its transformation to Herod’s Temple
4. Prophecies of the coming of Messiah
5. Prophecies of the New Covenant
6. Prophecies of the destruction of the second Temple (70 AD) “the day of the Lord”
7. The Day of the Lord – the second coming and eternal state

- Anthony Selvaggio – “The Prophets Speak of Him” is a major resource.
- Another major resource is “The Exegetical and Expository Commentary on the Minor Prophets” edited by Thomas E. McComiskey

### II. The Twelve Prophets in History

Their ministries extend about 300 years.

Hosea was written about 750 BC.

Malachi was written in about 460 BC.

Their histories span the Kings of Judah and Israel.

They encompass the world kingdoms of Assyria and Babylon.

Some experienced the various invasions, captivity, and regathering.

One theme they share – they speak about CHRIST – and that will be our constant theme as we go through this series.

### III. Our Interpretive Method

1. There are explicit citations from the NT. (Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1)  
Micah 5:2
2. We also have **thematic warrant** – as Jesus one who delivers his people from spiritual slavery as Moses delivered the children of Israel from physical slavery.
3. There is **also typology**. These are legitimate analogies and parallels.  
In Romans 5:14 – Paul says Adam was “a type” of him (Christ) who was to come.  
With the type – we have the anti-type (which is the NT fulfillment of what was promised in the OT and the principle of “escalation”).

## IV. An Overview of the Twelve Prophets

**Hosea** -- One of the prophets we know least about regarding his history. But we also have one of the most intimate and heartbreaking stories in all of Scripture of his personal life in chapters 1-3.

The names of the children have a prophetic message – and also a message of reality for Hosea.

There is a human account, and the rest is the message of God in prophecy to Israel, Judah and Assyria, Egypt, and others. With all the heartache – we see God’s kind compassion.

**Joel** -- Joel proclaims the dawning of a new era for God’s people.

**Amos** – A shepherd who lived in apparently prosperous times in northern Israel, but who was sent to declare God’s impending judgment for their sin.

**Obadiah** – A message of doom against Edom – and their treachery against Israel – based on a historical fact -- but with a reference to messiah

**Jonah** – You know that account well.

**Micah** – best known the prophecy of the very place of Messiah’s birth, but there is also more.

**Nahum** – Another prophecy against Ninevah – after the time of Jonah -- but this time – there is no repentance and turning from sin as we see in Jonah’s book.

**Habakkuk** – a prophet who battled with much of the same problem as Job. Why do the righteous suffer while the wicked appear to prosper? He dares ask God why – and then waits for his rebuke – and in the end – turns it over to God.

**Zephaniah** – Ministered in Judah during the time of Jeremiah. Israel had already gone into Assyrian captivity. After the horrible reigns of Manasseh and Amon, he ministered just before the reforms of Josiah when the law was found once again in the Temple. It appears Zephaniah was of royal blood and was related to King Hezekiah (who had ruled 70 years previously).

**Haggai** – The prophet who comes after the Babylonian captivity. He ministers to those who returned to Jerusalem – and charges them to get their priorities right. They had forsaken the rebuilding of the Temple – putting all their energies into building their own homes, etc.

**Zechariah** – a contemporary of Haggai – but his message is very different. He speaks of the suffering servant (not in those exact words that Isaiah uses) but foretells the good and the bad – the suffering of the savior, the betrayal, the piercing, and eventual death. Also, he looks to the hope to come in the gospel and the eventual end of this present world as we know it.

**Malachi** – Historically, the last book of the OT. Most famous for his exhortations to tithing and giving. He foretells of John the Baptist coming before the revealing n of Messiah. After Malachi – there is no open revelation (for over 400 silent years – until the events of the miraculous conceptions of John the Baptist and Jesus.