

Egypt												
Babylon	<p>703 BC - Marduk-apla-iddina rebels against Assyria and takes Babylon. 702 - Babylon captured by Sennacherib. 701 - Sennacherib moves into Judah.</p> <p>ASSYRIA RULES BABYLON</p> <p>Nabopolassar (626-605) - 620: Assyria loses control of Babylon - 616: took Babylonian control from Sin-shar-ishkun of Assyria - 612: took control of Nineveh</p>											
Syria	<p>Hazael (842-799) - Elijah to ancient Hazael, 1 Kings 19:15 - Elisha speaks to Hazael - Fought Jehoram of Israel and Ahaziah of Judah at Ramoth-Gilead - Threatens Jerusalem 2 Kings 21:1-15 - Dies 2 Kings 13:24</p> <p>Ben-Hadad III (796-792) - Erected Tel Dan inscription</p> <p>Rezin (754-732) - 734: Rebels against Tiglath-Pileser - 732: Tiglath-Pileser takes Damascus</p>											
Assyria	Adad-nirari III (811-783) - Defeated Aram - Subjugated Damascus	Shalmaneser IV (773-773) - 1st weak king leading to Assyria's decline	Ashur-Dan III (773-759) - 2nd weak king of decline - 763 BC, solar eclipse	Ashur-nirari V (755-745) - 3rd weak king of decline	Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727)	Shalmaneser V (727-722) - Defeated Israel 722 BC	Sargon II (722-705) - Defeated Israel 722	Sennacherib (705-681) - Invaded Judah - Defeated Lachish 701 BC - Threatened Hezekiah	Esarhaddon (681-669)	Ashurbanipal (669-631, or 627)	Ashur-etil-ilani (631-627?)	Sin-shar-ishkun (627-612) - Nineveh falls
Israel	Jehu (841-814) - Defeated Aram	Jehoash (783-773)	Jeroboam II (793-753)	Zechariah (753)	Menahem (752-742)	Pekah (740-732)	Hoshea (731-721)					
Judah	Joash (836-796)	Amaziah (796-787)	Uzziah (792-740)	Jotham (750-735)	Ahaz (735-715)	Hezekiah (715-686)	Manasseh (697-642)	Amon (642-640)	Josiah (640-609)			
PROPHET	AMOS 760-754			JONAH 759	MICAH 750-686	ISAIAH 740-681	HOSEA 740	NAHUM 663-654	ZEPHANIAH 630	JEREMIAH 627-580	HABAKKUK 609-598	

Samples of Prophets Identifying the Fourth Generation

Hosea (740 BC to Northern Israel falling to the Assyrians. Total destruction 20 years later in 722 BC)

Verse by verse teaching through Hosea notes, charts, maps, audio and video →

http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/hosea.html

- Hosea 4:1-2 – *“Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.”*:
 - No faithfulness
 - No steadfast love
 - No knowledge of God
 - Cursing, lying, murder, stealing, adultery
 - Breaking all bounds
 - Bloodshed follows bloodshed (or, “bloodshed upon bloodshed”)
- Hosea 4:4-9 - *“Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest, You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; I will destroy your mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame. They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity. And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.”*
 - Blame the Priest
 - Priest have rejected knowledge
 - Priests feed on the sins of the people and priest relish in the people’s wickedness
 - Hosea 4:4 literal: “Now let contend no man or rebuke another for your people are like those who contend with the priest!”

- e. Hosea 4:4 paraphrased: “Don’t blame each other! Blame the priests!”
3. Hosea 5:10 – *“The princes of Judah have become like those who move the landmark; upon them I will pour out my wrath like water.”*
- a. The princes or leaders are moving the established landmarks or boundary stones
 - b. Property rights and standards for legal ownership are being changed.
 - i. Micah 6:16 identifies these things as the “statutes of Omri...works of the house of Ahab” when it says – “For you have kept the statutes of Omri, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people.”
 - ii. 1 Kings 21 – Jezebel has Naboth executed for in a false court case with corrupt judges and lying witnesses so Ahab can take the allotted family inheritance of Naboth.
 1. “So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, placed his seal on them...”
 2. “She wrote...” seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both god and the king...stone him to death.”
 3. “When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth’s vineyard.”
4. Hosea 5:13 – *“When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king.”*
- a. Both nations (Northern Israel and Judah) declined into trouble, but went to Assyria for help.
 - b. God used Assyria to destroy and punish both nations
 - c. Hosea 7:11-12 – “Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria. As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them.”
 - d. Hosea 8:9-10 – “For they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey wandering alone; Ephraim has hired lovers. Though they hire allies among the nations, I will soon gather them up. And the king and princes shall soon writhe because of the tribute.
5. Hosea 7:3-10 – *“By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery. They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened. On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers. For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me. Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not. The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him, for all this.”*
- a. Assassination plots inside the government leadership
 - b. Trusted people in the royal court plan overthrow and coup

6. Hosea 8:2-4 – *“To me they cry, “My God, we—Israel—know you.” Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him. They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.”*
- Israel cries to the LORD, “we acknowledge you” or “we know you!”
 - But, at the same time Israel has rejected or spurned the “good”
 - They use the cover of the name of the Lord without knowing, wanting or embracing the nature of the Lord.
7. Hosea 8:7 – *“For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.”*
- “Wind” is the false philosophies, the alternative realities and the empty deceit. The harvest of these will be a society in chaos that resembles a social hurricane.
 - This is a proverbial saying that means what you sow is what you reap in abundance:
 - Seeds always multiply in the sowing and reaping principle
 - Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
 - This verse is telling Israel that they have sown the seed of wind and the harvest is going to be wind that is pressed down, shaken together and running over – the whirlwind.
 - Ideologically, the wind represents empty philosophy and worldview based on a false reality. The harvest for the seeds of empty philosophy and false worldviews is a whirlwind of social, economic, international, military disasters.
 - If you think and act stupid, you will get a life and a world overflowing with stupid.
 - The second part of this verse just explains the vanity of a little apparent success would only be lost during the next phase of the cycle:
 - The seeds produce a crop (“standing grain”), but the grain has no fruit on it (“heads”)
 - The crop will produce no flour
 - If the seeds produce a crop, with a head, that is ground into flour, then you still would lose it to strangers.
 - Even if Israel is successful in planting, growing, harvesting a crop to produce flour for bread, that bread would be taken by the enemy.
 - POINT:
 - Israel’s thinking is so bad that it will always result in failure.
 - Israel’s plans are so worthless it is not feasible anything they intend will happen.
8. Hosea 9:7-9 – *“The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred. The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler’s snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God. They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.”*
- The **prophet** speaking for God is considered a **fool** (paraphrase: “is considered as one who is not following the science.”)
 - The man **inspired** by the Spirit of God is considered a **maniac** (paraphrase: “a conspiracy theorist.”)
 - People who are “God’s watchmen” set in place to protect society:
 - Face snares set by society (cultural)

- ii. Face hostility in the House of God (religious)
 - d. “Days of Gibeah” are the final days of the book of Judges. See Judges 19-21!!)
 - i. Total breakdown of institutions
 - ii. Society faced unsolvable problems
 - iii. The solutions provided only made the problems worse

- 9. Hosea 10:3-4 – *“For now they will say: “We have no king, for we do not fear the Lord; and a king—what could he do for us?” They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.”*
 - a. Northern Israel’s dynasties have ended and their ruling king in Samaria is a puppet king set up by the Assyrian government (2 Kings 17:4).
 - b. Again, Hoshea, the king of Northern Israel, was NOT the rightful king of Israel, but had been set up by a foreign government:
 - i. 731 BC - King Hoshea assassinated King Pekah
 - ii. 738 BC – King Pekah assassinated King Pekahiah
 - iii. 752 BC – King Menahem assassinated King Shallum
 - iv. 752 BC – King Shallum assassinated King Zechariah (son of Jeroboam II) who reigned for only 6 months of the fifth generation of the Jehu dynasty which began by executing everyone in the household of Ahab (Omri’s dynasty) in their fourth generation according.
 - c. Because there is no legitimate government or legal oversight, there are many words and empty contracts that result in countless court battles.
 - d. Because of these lies and broken contracts, “Lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.”
 - e. The court system is out of control with frivolous cases and broken contracts.
 - f. Nothing is fair. Anything could be legal, or the same thing could be illegal. No one knows.

- 10. Hosea 11:12-12:1 – *“Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One. Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.”*
 - a. Leadership in Ephraim (or, Northern Israel) has lied to its citizens, they’ve lied to each other, they have tried lying to Assyria, but now, they have lied to the LORD.
 - b. They have sown to the wind (Hosea 8:7), but now they are feeding on the fruit produced by the seeds of:
 - i. False philosophies
 - ii. Alternative realities.
 - c. This leads to:
 - i. more lies (multiplying their falsehoods)
 - ii. more violence (“hamas” – social injustice)
 - d. Now they are messing with Assyria and Egypt which are powerful empires at this time.

11. Hosea 12:7-11 – “A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress. Ephraim has said, “Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin.” I am the Lord your God from the land of Egypt; I will again make you dwell in tents...their altars also are like stone heaps on the furrows of the field.”
- Israel had refined the art of using false balances and oppression.
 - Israel thinks they have master the craft of deception and no one will be able to prove their guilt.
 - The Lord will:
 - The Lord will send them back to a wandering life in tents
 - The Lord will turn their altars into piles of stones and their sanctuaries into fields that are plowed and used to raise crops.

YEAR	EVENTS OF NORTHERN ISRAEL'S FINAL GENERATION
760	Amos prophesies to Israel
753	After a six month reign, King Zechariah is assassinated by Shallum who then takes the throne.
752	After a one month reign, King Shallum is assassinated by Menahem who then becomes king.
752	Menahem reigns as king of Israel for ten years.
743	Tiglath-Pileser III, the King of Assyria, invades Israel and carts away thirty-seven tons of silver (II Kings 15:19).
740	Pekahiah is assassinated after two years by Pekah who then becomes the second to last king of Israel. Hosea prophesies to Israel
732	Tiglath-Pileser takes possession of the northern part of Israel's land (II Kings 15:29).
732	Pekah is assassinated by Hoshea who becomes the final king of Israel.
723	Hoshea betrays Assyria's new king Shalmaneser and is taken to Assyria when Shalmaneser lays siege to Samaria.
721	Israel's capital city of Samaria falls to Sargon, king of Assyria; the people are deported.

Amos (760-754 BC to Northern Israel in the period of prosperity. Total destruction 38 years later in 722 BC.)

Verse by verse teaching through Amos notes, charts, maps, audio and video →

http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/amos.html

- Amos chapters 1-2
 - Six Gentile nations (without the Law of Moses or revealed scripture) were called to account for their “violence”
 - The Gentile nations were judged based on general revelation (Romans 1)
 - The Gentile nations were not judged base on:
 - Law of Moses
 - For following false gods

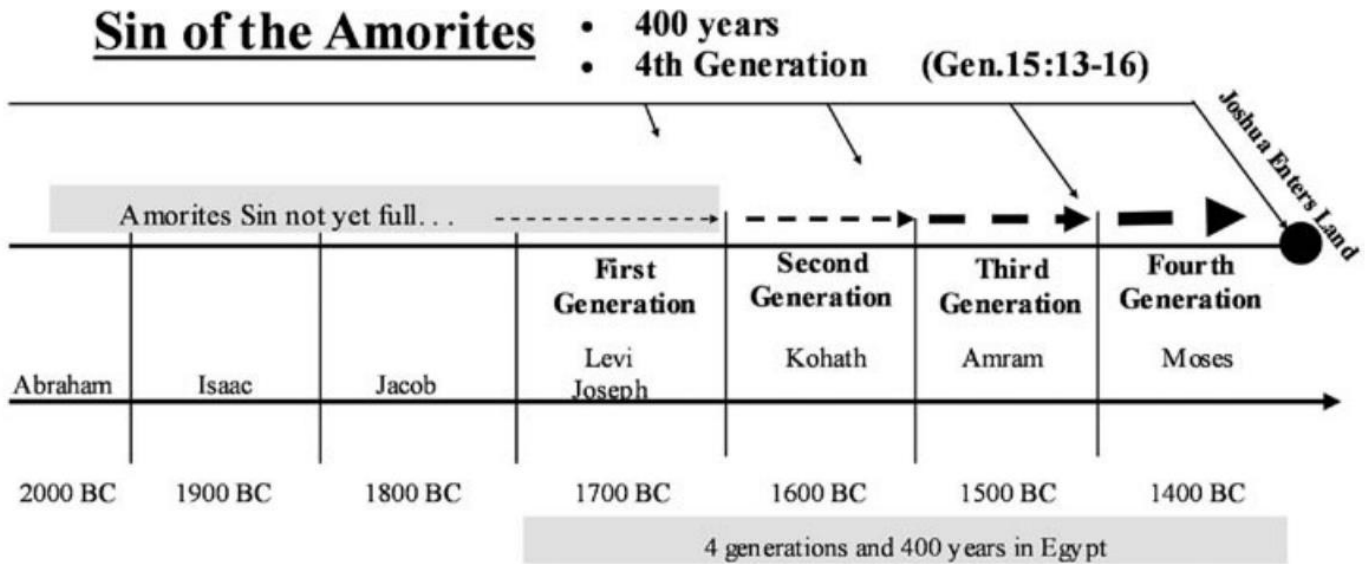
- d. The Gentile nations were judged for their crimes against humanity:
 - i. “hamas” – violence
 - ii. Social violence:
 - 1. Punishing captives of war with iron threshing sled (Aram)
 - 2. Capturing non-battle captives (abduction of entire people groups) and selling them into slavery for profit (Philistia)
 - 3. Deceiving a people with a treaty, then capturing them to sell them into slavery (Phoenecia)
 - 4. Violent war crimes (Edom)
 - 5. Violating national borders to expand their territory even slaughtering pregnant women with their “hamas” or violence. (Ammon)
 - 6. Desecrating the dead in an attempt, they believed, to punish the person in the afterlife (Moab)

- 2. Amos 2:4-5 – Judah is judged for:
 - a. Rejecting the Law of Moses (Truth)
 - b. Following false gods (False philosophies and false realities)

- 3. Amos 2:6-16 – Israel is judged for social oppression of their own people:
 - a. Trampled on the poor (which had previously been the middle class)
 - b. Denied justice to the oppressed
 - c. Engaged in sexual abuse
 - d. Corrupted the financial system to benefit the elite
 - e. Enacted government penalties and taxes on the middle class that only benefited the elite
 - f. Forced people to compromise their convictions
 - g. Refused to let the prophets of God speak
 - h. For the rich and powerful in Israel, these were the best of times. People who occupied prestigious positions had many advantages. The financial, judicial, and governmental systems were all set up to benefit them (having first been corrupted by them). While the rich continued to profit, the poor were further oppressed. God teaches that the rich have a social responsibility to society. God does not teach socialism or communism but calls for social responsibility. Men are to care for and assist those who are less fortunate. This is tempered with Paul’s words to the Thessalonians: *“When we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘If a man will not work, he shall not eat’”* (II Thessalonians 3:10). Here are a few things God says in Deuteronomy and James regarding the rich and their duty to the poor:
 - i. Deuteronomy 15:10-11 – *“You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’”*
 - ii. James 5:3-5 – *“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure bin the last days.*

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter."

4. Amos 2:9 – “Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.”
 - a. The Lord destroyed (overthrew) the Amorites (Canaanites) in their fourth generation.
 - b. The Lord told Abraham in Genesis 15:16, “In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”



5. Amos 2:11-12 – “And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?” declares the LORD. “But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, ‘You shall not prophesy.’”
 - a. Israel made the Nazirites drink wine which violated their conscience and personal vow.
 - b. Israel commanded the prophets not to prophesy.
 - c. Northern Israel overruled personal conviction and censured those who spoke out.

6. Amos 3:9 – “Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt, and say, “Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria, and see the great tumults within her, and the oppressed in her midst.”
 - a. “Great tumults” (or, “great unrest”) in Northern Israel’s society during the 40 years preceding the total overthrow in 722 BC.
 - i. “Great tumults” or “great unrest” is from *mehumot* in Hebrew which means “tumult, confusion, disquietude, discomfiture”
 - ii. This “confusion”, “unrest” or “tumult” is promised as a curse to Israel in Deuteronomy 28:20
 - b. “Oppressed” in the midst of Northern Israel’s society
 - i. “oppressed” is *ashuqim* which also means “extortion”

7. Amos 3:10 – *“They do not know how to do right,” declares the LORD, “those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds.”*
- a. They do not know how to do “right” (*nekoachah* meaning “equity, right thing, uprightness”)
 - b. Store up “violence” (*hamas*) in their “strongholds” (*armon* meaning “palace”, “citadel”, “strongholds”, “fortified building”)
 - c. Store up “robbery” (*shod* meaning “violence, havoc, devastation, ruin”) in their strongholds
8. Amos 4:1-2 – *“Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’ The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.”*
- a. The elite Women in Northern Israel:
 - i. “cows of Bashan” refers to the well fed cattle on the fertile hills of Bashan on the east side of the Sea of Galilee
 - ii. They oppress the poor
 - iii. They crush the needy
 - iv. They are living in a society that has deconstructed the natural order:
 1. Giving orders to their husbands
 2. Husbands are serving the wives drinks
 3. Wives, mothers, women are living life like well fed cattle in a fertile hills. They are only good for slaughter or captivity.
 - a. Pleasure
 - b. Luxury
 - c. Upside-down and deconstructed institutional roles
9. Amos 4:4-5 – *“Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!” declares the Lord GOD.”*
- a. Go to Bethel, Gilgal (religious centers and religious shrines)
 - b. Religious activities were leading the people into sin and even more sin practicing their religion
 - c. Their sin or transgression was their:
 - i. Morning sacrifices
 - ii. Tithes
 - iii. Thanksgiving sacrifices
 - iv. Offerings
 - v. Proclaiming or publishing their religious performances
 - d. They were using the name of YHWH, but practicing pagan rituals while thinking in line with pagan theology

10. Amos 4:6-12 – Five Cycles of Discipline for the Four Generation Cycle of a Declining Culture:
 - a. **First Generation** faces = 4:6 – “lack of bread...yet you did not return to me.”
 - b. **Second Generation** faces = 4:7-8 – “withheld the rain...random weather pattern...yet you did not return to me.”
 - c. **Third Generation** faces = 4:9 – “blight and mildew...gardens...vineyards...fig trees...olive trees the locust devoured...yet you did not return to me.”
 - d. **Fourth Generation** faces = 4:10 – “pestilence (plague)...sword (war in your land)...loss of military equipment (horses)...yet you did not return to me.”
 - e. At the end of the Fourth Generation:
 - i. = 4:11 – “overthrew...yet you did not return to me.”
 - ii. = 4:12 – “Therefore,... prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

11. Amos 5:7 – “*O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!*”
 - a. Justice becomes bitterness
 - b. Cast righteousness to the ground

12. Amos 5:10 – “*They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth.*”
 - a. Hate the one who reproves in court
 - b. Despise him who tells the truth

13. Amos 5:11 – “*Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.*”
 - a. Trample poor
 - b. Force poor to give the elite their grain

14. Amos 5:12 – “*For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.*”
 - a. Oppress the righteous
 - b. Take bribes
 - c. Deprive the poor of justice in court

15. Amos 5:13 – “*Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.*”
 - a. The times are evil (described in 5:7-12):
 - i. Justice produces bitterness in your life
 - ii. Righteous men are thrown down
 - iii. Non-elite get trampled
 - iv. Middle class give their crops (earnings, profits) to the elite
 - v. Righteous men are oppressed
 - vi. Elite make decisions based on bribes
 - vii. Poor (middle class) deprived of courtroom justice

16. Prudent know they can't win, so they keep quiet Amos 5:21-23 – “*I hate, I despise your feasts, 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 peace offerings of your fattened animals, I*

will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.”

a. The LORD:

- i. hates,
- ii. despises,
- iii. takes no delight in,
- iv. will not accept,
- v. will not look upon them,
- vi. will not listen to:
 1. Religious feasts
 2. Assemblies (religious gatherings and services)
 3. Offerings
 4. Noisy songs and music

17. Amos 6:1 – *“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!”*

a. Woe to the elite at ease!

- i. At ease
- ii. Feel secure
- iii. Notable men
- iv. First of the nations
- v. Those to whom the people come

18. Amos 6:4-6 – *“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!”*

a. Woe to those who:

- i. Lie on beds inlaid with ivory
- ii. Lounge on couches
- iii. Dine on choice lambs and calves
- iv. Strum on harps (guitars) and improvise music
- v. Drink wine by the bowlful
- vi. Use finest lotion

b. But, do not grieve over the ruined condition of the nation and cultural decline!

19. Amos 6:12 – *“you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood”*

- a. To do justice is like drinking poison
- b. Righteousness produces bitter fruit
- c. This means it is painful and deadly to do the right thing in this culture

20. Amos 7:10-17 – Amos is forbidden to proclaim the Word of the Lord in Northern Israel by the priest Amaziah

21. Amos 8:4-6 – *“Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, “When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?”*

- a. Trample the needy
- b. Bring an end to the poor
- c. Change the standards of measurement for financial gain
- d. The elite use deceit in financial exchanges with the middle class
- e. The middle class becomes poor and end up selling themselves and being exchanged like commodities
- f. Inferior products are sold as genuine

22. Amos 8:11 – The Lord will prevent this generation from hearing the Truth of the Word of God. He will make them suffer in their false reality and false philosophies:

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.”

Obadiah

(After 586 BC to Edom after assisting the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem. Edom was removed.)

Obadiah 3 – THIRD GENERATION operates in PRIDE: *“The **pride** of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, “Who will bring me down to the ground?”*

Obadiah 10 – FOURTH GENERATION operates in VIOLENCE: *“Because of the **violence** done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.”*

Micah

(735-700 BC to Jerusalem and Judah facing Assyria. Hezekiah and the nation listens according to Jeremiah 26:12-17 and was spared from the 701 Assyrian invasion that came within 40 years of Micah’s prophecy.)

Verse by verse teaching through Micah notes, charts, maps, audio and video →

http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/micah.html

Micah 2:1-2 – *“Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.”*

1. Woe to those who have the power to perform the wickedness they devise and the evil they plan:
 - a. They covet fields and seize them
 - b. They covet houses and take them
 - c. They oppress or defraud a man of his house
 - d. They oppress or defraud a man of his inheritance
2. Elites driving middle class into poverty

Micah 2:6-7 – *“Do not preach”—thus they preach—“one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us.” Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the Lord grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?”*

1. The elites and their prophets tell the prophet Micah:
 - a. “Do not preach (or, prophesy)”
 - b. “You should not preach (or, prophesy) such things!”
 - c. “Disgrace will not overtake us.”
 - d. “Should it be said,
 - i. “The Spirit of the Lord is angry?”
 - ii. “The Lord is impatient?”
 - iii. “Are these His deeds?” or, “Does he do such things?”

Micah 2:8-9 – *“But lately my people have risen up as an enemy; you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war. The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever.”*

1. Elite drive the middle class into poverty:
 - a. The elite strip the rich robe from those who trust them
 - b. The elite drive women from their delightful, pleasant houses
 - c. The elite take away the allotted tribal inheritance of the children (or, descendants)

Micah 2:11 – *“If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,’ he would be the preacher for this people!”*

1. They censure prophets and preachers who say things that they do not approve.
2. They only want prophets and preachers saying things that support their agenda and life style.
3. They only will accept preaching, prophecy and words that agree with their:
 - a. False philosophies (“utter wind”)
 - b. False realities that deconstruct Truth (“lies”)

Micah 3:1-3 – *“And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice?—you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people and their flesh from off their bones, who eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron.”*

1. The elite and the leaders (“heads...and rulers”):
 - a. They do not know justice.

- b. They hate the good and love the evil
- c. They devour the people, which means the middle class are driven into poverty just like Proverbs 30:14 identifies the fourth generation:
 - i. Tear the skin from off my people
 - ii. Tear the flesh from off their bones
 - iii. Eat the flesh of my people
 - iv. Flay their skin from off them
 - v. Break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron
- d. Proverbs 30:14 describes the elite in the fourth generation as:

***“those whose teeth are swords,
whose fangs are knives,
to devour the poor from off the earth,
the needy from among mankind.”***

- the fourth generation in Proverbs 30:14

Micah 3:5-7 – *“Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry “Peace” when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths. Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.”*

- 1. Professional prophets or career religious leaders:
 - a. Lead people astray
 - b. If the people “feed” or “pay” the prophets they proclaim “peace”
 - c. If a people do not support the desires of the professional prophets then these same prophets and religious leaders will “prepare to wage war” against this group of people
- 2. God will stop speaking to that generation through the culturally appointed prophets and preachers.

Micah 3:8 – *“as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.”*

- 1. Micah’s experience is contrary to the elite, professional, career driven prophets who are in darkness
- 2. Micah remains:
 - a. Filled with power
 - b. Filled with the Spirit of the Lord
 - c. Filled with justice
 - d. Filled with might
- 3. Micah continues to:
 - a. “declare to Jacob his transgression”
 - b. “declare...to Israel his sin.”

Micah 3:9-12 – *“Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel,*

who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity. Its heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the Lord and say, "Is not the Lord in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us." Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height."

1. The elite, or the "heads...and, rulers" are described:
 - a. They "detest justice"
 - b. They "make crooked all that is straight"
 - c. They build their society and city "blood and...iniquity"
 - d. The judges decide legal cases based on "a bribe"
 - e. The priests (philosophical, higher education, academia, religion) teach for a price
 - f. The "prophets practice divination for money" or mystical insight for cash
2. The elite (judges, rulers, priests, prophets) do all this evil for temporal gain and worldly advances, but yet still claim the HIGH GROUND saying they are on God's side by stating: "Is not the Lord in the midst of us?"

Micah 3:12 – *"Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height."*

1. This verse was spoken by Micah around 744 BC, and his generation in Jerusalem took it to heart and repented and were delivered about 40 years later in 701 BC from Sennacherib's invasion and overrunning of the southern nation of Judah. (Northern Israel did not listen to the prophets and were totally destroyed by Sennacherib's father, Sargon, and his uncle, Shalmaneser.
2. In 608 BC this verse and how the people of 744 BC responded to it 136 years before was still remembered by the elders and government officials in Jerusalem when the elite prophets and priests brought Jeremiah to them to be convicted and executed for giving a similar warning:

"Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!"...Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God." Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people, "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says:

***'Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.'***

"Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!"

-Jeremiah 26:11-19

Micah 6:10-11 – *"Can I forget any longer the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed? Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights? Your rich men are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth."*

1. Ill-gotten treasure
2. Short ephah
3. Dishonest scales
4. False weights
5. Violent rich men
6. Lying people
7. Deceitful tongues

Nahum

(645 BC to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, during the reign of Ashurbanipal (reigned 669-631 BC). Assyrian decline was setting in by 640 and total destruction by the rising Babylonians occurred 33 years later in 612 BC.)

Verse by verse teaching through Nahum notes, charts, maps, audio and video →

http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/nahum.html

Nahum 3:1 – *“Woe to the bloody city (Nineveh), all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey!”*

Nahum 3:15-19 – *“There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the locust. Multiply yourselves like the locust; multiply like the grasshopper! You increased your merchants more than the stars of the heavens. The locust spreads its wings and flies away. Your princes are like grasshoppers, your scribes like clouds of locusts settling on the fences in a day of cold—when the sun rises, they fly away; no one knows where they are. Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria (Ashurbanipal); your nobles slumber. Your people are scattered on the mountains with none to gather them. There is no easing your hurt; your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?”*

1. Extreme and exaggerated multiplied titles, degrees, honors and positions until these seats of distinction are meaningless. Everyone has an award, an advanced degree, a noble title, so in reality there is no longer any actual heroes or distinguished citizens. Mediocrity rules the day when Nineveh is rolled over by the invading and rising Babylonians.
 - a. “Multiply yourselves like locusts...grasshoppers”
 - b. “Increase your merchants like stars”
 - c. “Your princes are like grasshoppers”
 - d. “Your scribes like clouds of locusts”
 - e. “Your shepherds are asleep”
 - f. “Your nobles slumber”
2. The leaders, the merchants, the military are not committed to the society, but to their own finances and advances. So, when the city begins to fall the elite flee to the next financial opportunity.
 - a. “The locust spreads its wings and flies away.”
 - b. “Your princes like grasshoppers...fly away...no one knows where they are.”
 - c. “Your scribes like clouds of locusts...fly away...no one knows where they are.”
3. The middle class is scattered, lost and wounded to death
 - a. “Your people are scattered on the mountains.”
 - b. “None to gather them.”
 - c. “No easing your hurt.”
 - d. “Your wound is grievous.”

Habakkuk

(609-598 BC concerning Judah's coming fall to the Babylonians. Habakkuk would wait for the day that Babylon itself would be overthrown.)

Habakkuk 1:5-7 – *“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.”*

Habakkuk 1:12-13 – *“Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?”*

Habakkuk 3:16-18 – *“I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us. Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.”*

