

Minor Prophets  
Time Line of  
The Events of the Exile Period

Intro: Tonight we are going to back up and put, as it were. We have been through most of the books of the minor prophets now, and I have tried to keep us in prospective about where we are at in the historical events. But toning I want to take a little extra time to look at the broader view of the events, and the location of the book and their location in these events. Sometimes it is difficult to determine when the events accured, and to place them in the proper order: For instance:

1. Who's story happened first, Daniel, and the three Hebrews, or Queen Esther?
2. What about the book of Ezekiel or the book of Ezra?
3. What about Isaiah or Nehemiah?

This is just three of the issues we face when determine what events took first in the bible.

We have our cannon of scripture and we often assume it goes in chronological order, but this is not always the case. We have the same problem when we get into the New Testament, even the Gospels, we think the writers wrote them in the order they happened in, but this is not always the case.

But the period of the Jewish Exile is form 597 until the rebuilt temple in 408 B.C, however we need to look at the events before the Babylonian carrying away of Jerusalem. For that we need to go back to the 8-900 B.C.

So the goal of this class will be to place the books and events from about 900 B.C to 400 B.C in order and look at the popular events in them.

## **I. The Beginning of the End,**

A. Where did the problem of the conquest begin?

### **i. Israel Wanted to be like other nations,**

a) **I Samuel 8:4-7** “Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,<sup>5</sup>And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.<sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.<sup>7</sup>And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”

- Samuel tried to tell the nation of what would happen if they chose a king,
  - he would take their men, their money their lands, their daughters, etc.
  - But they would not harken to Samuel and said, give us a king.
  - The nation of Israel was to be lead by God, but the nation wanted to be like other nations,
  - Now I suppose one can make the argument there are lots of places where the nation started down the wrong road, and they may all be valid, after all what happened to get them to the point they wanted a king?
  - But for the sake of this lesson, we are going to start here, the Kingdom if Israel.

### **ii. The First Kings of Israel,**

- a) We know the first King was chosen by the people, Saul,
  - Saul, looked like a leader, but he didn't have the heart for it, his heart was never the place where it ought to have been.
- b) and the Second was chosen by God, David.
  - David quite the opposite that Saul, he didn't look like a king, but he did have the heart for it,
  - **Acts 13:22** “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”
    - But, David was not perfect, he had sin in his own life, that led to problems in the kingdom.
    - His sons, and then their children.
- c) After David Solomon took the throne, from here it started to fall apart,
  - murder, deceit, and lies seemed to be the order of the day,
  - they were at one another,
  - and this eventually led to a divided kingdom,
    - **Mark 3:25** “**And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.**”
- d) It was the sons of Solomon that divided the kingdom:
  - Rehoboam the Southern King
  - Jeroboam the Northern King.
    - The Northern kingdom was comprised by:
      - Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Ephraim, and Manasseh,
    - The Southern Kingdom,
      - Judah, Benjamin, and Levi, technically the tribe of Levi was scattered among both the north and the southern tribes.
        - They both had a succession of kings,
          - for the southern tribes the kings were listed on a morality chart, and some were good and some were bad
          - for the northern kingdom, all of the kings were listed as bad.

### iii. The Split Kingdom,

- a) they basically ran as two separate countries,
  - they had two capitol cities, they had two kings, and they even had two central places of worship,
    - For the southern kingdom, it was as it was supposed to be in Jerusalem,
    - For the northern kingdom it was set up in two places for convenience:
      - IN Bethel, in the northern part of the kingdom, Samaria
      - and in Dan, the lower portion of the kingdom,
        - although it is recorded that some still went to Jerusalem to worship.
- b) See **I Kings 12:16**

## II. The Invaders,

A. The Babylonians and Assyria, 1894 B.C – 539 B.C.

### i. The Difference between the two,

- a) Babylon was located in South Mesopotamia
- b) Assyria was located on in North Mesopotamia
  - the Assyrians never entered into the Southern Kingdom, they were the throne in

the flesh of the northern kingdom.

- It was Babylonian that invaded Nineveh, and drove out the Assyrians,
- and then they advanced their empire to include the northern kingdom.
  - The Assyrian empire was all but done by the time Babylon invaded the Southern Nation in 612: B.C.

## ii. Looking Toward the Invasions,

- a) Between 900 B.C. And 800 B.C. Lived the prophets **Joel, Elisha and Elijah**
  - Approximately between **I Kings 17 & II Kings 13**
- b) 793-740 was the time period that **Micah Amos & Hosea** prophesied,
  - These prophecy's were to both the north and the southern kingdoms
- c) About 740 B.C. Was the time **Isaiah** was called of the Lord to minister,
  - Isaiah would be right at the end, of the period where the Northern kingdom would be scattered.
  - In fact Isaiah records the Assyrian invasion
  - It was Isaiah that wrote in **Isaiah 37:36** about the angel of the Lord killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, and turned them away from the southern kingdom.
- d) Also in this time period before the Northern Invasion, **Jonah** prophesied,
  - Jonah was sent to Nineveh during the reign of Jeroboam II, who reigned between 793 & 752 B.C.,
    - So we can see that Israel was not occupied by the Assyrians at the time of Jonah, but the influence of Assyria was growing, and Jonah was sent to warn them of the destruction that was to come,
      - when they repented, and they stood for another 100 years or so, before the Babylonians came in.
    - So Before the Invasion of the Northern Kingdom was:
      - **Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jonah**

## iii. The Northern Kingdom taken, 740 B.C.

- a) 740 is when Assyria set their eyes toward Israel to begin to take it,
- b) It would be about 20 years after this that the capitol of the north would be taken.
- c) But eventually the entire Northern nation would fall to the Assyrian's.
  - Upon capture the Northern tribes would be scattered, and they have never been a kingdom again,
    - this is where the lost tribes come from,
      - they were sent to other places in the Assyrian empire where they lived, had children and died.
      - Some of them kept their Jewish heritage, while others lost it.

## iv. During that time,

- a) Nahum, Zephaniah and Habakkuk prophesied To the Nation
  - **Nahum**- around 650 B.C
  - **Habakkuk**- around 640-630 B.C.
  - **Zephaniah**- around 640-620 B.C.
    - This was the time frame that King Josiah began to restore Israel to the Lord,
      - It was also during this time that the Lord told Him that He was not going to see the captivity, but Israel, including the southern kingdom would.
      - When we were in Habakkuk, we stated that the reason Josiah was able to reign was because Assyria was declining, and Babylon had not reached their heights yet.

## B. Babylon, 612 B.C.

### i. The Captivity in 3 stages,

- a) it is after the fall of the southern kingdom where a lot of the events take place that we read about,
  - it was where we find Daniel, The Three Hebrews, Ester,
- b) the difference between the Assyrian conquest, and the Babylonians and the way they exiled the nation is this:
  - the Northern kingdom was scattered all over the Assyrian kingdom, and never sent back home. So the national identity was lost.
    - This is why they are considered the lost tribes of Israel.
    - Even after the Assyrians lost their power, the Israelis were left in the place they were sent to, and the land they were given by God was occupied by other people.
    - Most of the Jews were sent away, but the ones that stayed, were the ones who married and lived with Gentiles, and they became known as what the New Testament calls Samaritans.
  - The Southern Kingdom was taken captive and Exiled as well,
    - but this was not on the scope of the Northern.
    - Some accounts only displace about 10,000.
    - and a large portion of the poor and weak were left in the Southern kingdom.
    - Also, during the reign of Cyrus, we will see how the Jews were sent back to their home, and were able to re-establish life.
      - This led to a reanimate being left, and able to grow into a nation once again.
- c) After Babylon came to power,
- d) Babylon came in in three stages to take Israel,
  - the **first** was in 612 B.C. And it was to take the elite.
    - **II Kings 24**, Jehoiakim rebels against the Babylonian rule, and Nebuchadnezzar retaliates by taking them captive.
      - The first wave took the elites, the cream of the crop,
        - this would be the wave that took the King, princes, the rulers,
        - this was also the wave that took Daniel, and the Three Hebrews.
      - **Esther 2:6** records that Mordchai and Ester was taken at the same time,
        - it also records that Mordchai was her uncle, and she was orphaned, wonder how that happened?
  - The **second wave** came in 597,
    - Jehoiakim led Israel against Babylon again, and joined up with Egypt,
      - this was done against the word of **Jeremiah**, and this led to the second deportation,
    - in 598 King Jehoiakim died, and Jehoiachin (Coniah, the king that displeased God to the point He cursed him) **II Kings 24:8**
    - continuing on in **II Kings 24**, we see that taken captive this time was all the captives, the next tier of elites in Israel,
      - this included **Ezekiel** And **Obadiah**,
      - This is also when they spoiled the temple and carried the treasures away,
        - all the gold silver and fine work.

- The **third deportation** took place in 586 B.C.
  - This time they killed countless people, and destroyed Jerusalem,
    - they burned the palace, the fine places, and they also set fire to the temple.'
      - the wood inside was consumed, the temple was effectively destroyed, only the stones remained.
- b) This was life for the Jews during the time of the Babylonians,
  - they were slaves and were ruled by a Gentile government,
    - they had their prophets like Ezekiel who prophesied about a bright day coming, but for now, they were captive.
    - It was during these dark years that **Jeremiah** wrote the book of **Lamentations**
- c) During this time, there were two powers that were rising in the world,
  - The Persians and the Meds,
    - In the span of about 10 years Cyrus would become the king of Persia, and then conquer Med, and become ruler of both.
      - At first this would be a split kingdom, but eventually be united under one king.

#### B. The Persians 539,

- a) Cyrus defeated Nebuchadnezzar, this is the handwriting on the wall in Daniel
  - over night they stopped up the river and walked under the wall and defeated Babylon,
  - Now the Jews were under the rule of another, the Persian empire.
- b) However, this one was not as bad,
  - during the first year of his rule, Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild.
    - This is when we find the stories of:
      - **Nehemiah** and **Ezra**.
      - It is also where we read the story of Queen **Esther**.
        - How she saved the Jews from a evil plot, and helped to preserve the Nation.
      - **Nehemiah** and **Ezra** were responsible for Rebuilding and Re-establishing worship.
      - Only about 50,000 would return with them.

## II. The Return to Israel,

### A. Rebuilding a Nation,

#### i. Rebuilding Begins,

- a) Nehemiah began to rebuild, but the enthusiasm quickly subsides,
  - and as often happens people lose their fire, and return to their usual life.
  - Building stops
- b) threat of war, and problems keep the people from what they were supposed to do,

#### ii. More Prophets Needed,

- a) you would think after all the Nation had been through, they wouldn't need springing on like they did.
  - You would think they would be dedicated to the task at hand, but they were human like we are.
  - Some of the things that are interesting we will find in the remaining three books are things like this: when they returned to Jerusalem, they were sent with the

supplies they needed to complete the rebuilding of the temple, this included the wood, but when Zechariah writes there is no wood for the temple, what happened to it?

- b) So the Prophets: **Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi** prophesy about the order which the Nation is rebuilding their lives, and living in comfort, but neglecting the things of God.
- c) This brings us to the place where we are going to be in the last three books of the Old Testament,

### **iii. The Rise and Fall, and Rise of a Nation,**

- a) It is amazing how the nation was preserved through the ages,
    - The Babylonians, the Med Persian empire,
      - after the Persian, Israel would still be occupied by the Greece, and then the Romans,
        - Perhaps we will do a night on the 500 years of silence between the testaments,
        - But after all this, we still see a Jewish people in the New Testament.
- B. So the time they were captive until they were allowed to go back to Israel was, 70 Years