

### Putting the Prophets in Their Place

<b>Book</b>	<b>Era</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b>Theme(s)</b>
Isaiah (chs. 1–39)	Pre-exile c. 700 B.C.?	Judah	Judgment against Judah and Israel; prophecies of promise and blessing; judg- ments against nations
Isaiah (chs. 40–55)	Exile c. 680 B.C.?	Judah	Deliverance and restoration of Israel; the servant’s ministry; God’s call to salvation
Isaiah (chs. 56–66)	Uncertain	Judah	Condemnation of wicked; worship; restoration; everlasting deliverance, everlasting judgment
Jeremiah	Pre-exile 7th/6th century B.C.	Judah	Warnings and exhorta- tions; his suffering; fall of Jerusalem; judgment against nations
Lamentations (Jeremiah)	Pre-exile/exile c. 580 B.C.	Judah	Laments over destruc- tion of Jerusalem

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Ezekiel	Exile 6th century B.C.	Jews in Babylon	God's sovereignty over creation, people, nations and history; God's holiness; judg- ment against Judah and pagan nations; God's future work in history
Daniel	Exile c. 530 B.C.	Jews in Babylon	Prayer; spiritual war- fare; living by God's standards in a hostile environment; God's sovereignty
Hosea	Pre-exile 8th century B.C.	Israel	Just as Hosea is be- trayed by his beloved, God is betrayed by his beloved Israel; loving commitment can overcome betrayal
Joel	Pre-exile Uncertain	Judah	God's people have a choice: keep doing wrong and be judged, or repent and receive God's forgiveness and salvation
Amos	Pre-exile 8th century B.C.	Israel	Israel ignores what matters to God— justice, compassion and worship from the heart—and God's impending judgment
Obadiah	Pre-exile c. 587 B.C.	Edom	Edomites, who treated Israel unjustly, now face God's anger

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Jonah	Pre-exile 8th century B.C.	Assyria	God's forgiveness of us; our need to forgive others
Micah	Pre-exile 8th century B.C.	Judah	God's judgment for idolatry and oppression; his mercy for the obedient; our need to show mercy; the coming Messiah
Nahum	Pre-exile 7th century B.C.	Assyria	The judgment of Assyria and its capital, Nineveh
Habakkuk	Pre-exile 7th century B.C.	Judah	Is God ignoring evil, or will he settle the score?
Zephaniah	Pre-exile 7th century B.C.	Judah	Judgment day is coming; closing promise
Haggai	Post-exile 6th century B.C.	Jews in Jerusalem	God's blessings, and what the Jews did to hinder them; Jews rebuild the temple
Zechariah	Post-exile 6th/5th (?) century B.C.	Jews in Jerusalem	God's encouragement to exiles who return from Babylon; prophecies about the coming Messiah; salvation
Malachi	Post-exile 5th/4th (?) century B.C.	Jews in Jerusalem	God's readiness to replace the old covenant with the new; prophecies about the Messiah, who will usher in the new covenant

*[Source: Zondervan Handbook of the Bible, 411, and the author.]*