

Q & A *with the* Minor Prophets

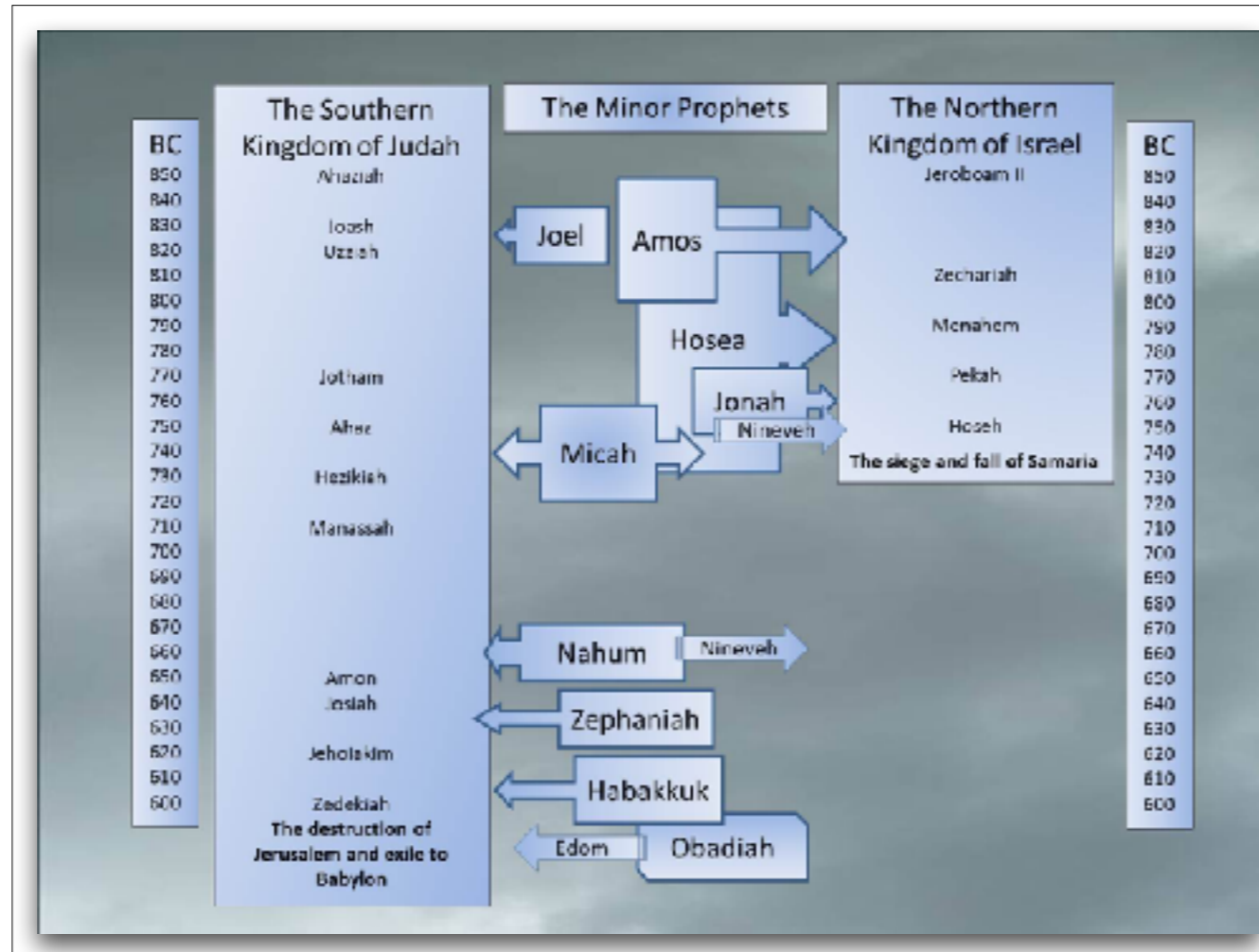


AMOS

*The Shepherd of
Tekoa*



Who Are We?



It helps me when I can understand when things happened and in what order. See separate page.

Discuss at your table: From each scripture shown, who are we?

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Exodus 19:4-6
- Romans 11:17-21
- 1 Peter 2:9-10



AMOS CHAPTER 3

3 Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying:

2 “You only have I known of all the families of the earth;

Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”



Notice that Amos addresses this part of his writing to ALL the children of Israel. He references the release from Egyptian slavery to appear to their common memory and common legacy. The legacy of being the chosen people of God. All 12 tribes.

So we know that our God is a good and just God. He made this world, and informed his creation of how he wanted us to act. And we see recorded in scripture where time and time again, he calls out to his people, he saves them, then after they are safe from harm they turn their face from Him and commit sins of all kinds. It is good for us to be reminded that God hates sin, and He punishes those who abandon His laws for the laws of this world.

**Discuss at your table:
What kinds of things had the Israelites
and surrounding nations done?**

- Amos 1:6
- Amos 2:4
- Amos 2:6
- Amos 3:9-10
- Amos 4:1



Damascus defeated Gilead with iron.

Gaza delivered slaves to Edom

Judah rejected the law of the Lord, and didn't keep His commandments.

They sold slaves.

They violated Nazarite vows and told them to not prophesy.

Throughout Amos, we read about actions of a nation that are ungodly, filled with anger, violence and injustice, and abuses against the poor. Now think about the world that surrounds us.

The Plumb Line



Amos 7

7 This is what He showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall made using a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand.

8 The Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?”
And I said, “A plumb line.”

Then the Lord said, “See, I am putting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel. I will forgive them no more.

9 The high places of Isaac will be destroyed,
the sanctuaries of Israel will be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Amos uses a common image of a plumb line used to measure the straightness of a wall. This was an essential tool in a culture in which walls were built by hand from stone foundations and mud brick, for an error would quickly result in the collapse of a typical Israelite two story house. Here it serves as a metaphor for measuring Israel's moral straightness. Notice the warning that God will destroy the high places and sanctuaries of Israel. For me it is sobering that the plumb line is used to measure the people who are called God's chosen people...

What does it mean to be God's family?



Are there any risks associated with being an adopted child of God? pride, arrogance, free to live however we want, a risk of being tainted by the surrounding world...

Is there a different standard for believers and non-believers?

James 4:4 *do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

James 2:14-24 (Read).

I guess one way to put it is this: It is more than wearing a t-shirt with the family name on it.