

EMBASSY

COLLEGE



TEXTBOOK (ACADEMIC VERSION)

MEN WITH A MESSAGE

COURSE: THE MINOR PROPHETS (OT575)

Dr. Ian Bond



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MEN WITH A MESSAGE

An Introduction to the Minor Prophets

Revised and Expanded Second Edition

Dr. Ian A. H. Bond

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Second Edition

Ian A.H. Bond

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FOREWORD

Gifted and divinely called teachers are still too rare in the Body of Christ. When one emerges and begins to walk firmly in revelation and to effectively communicate it so as to bring life and enthusiasm into the Christian experiences of others, it is a joy to behold. Such is the case in my coming to know our author, Dr. Ian Bond. His own enthusiasm for the Word and for teaching is contagious. His competent handling of the Scriptures builds confidence in the thoughtful conclusion he shares with students in his classes and his preaching.

One of the rising generation of scholars and teachers in the Body of Christ, Dr. Bond is already very popular and beloved, being invited to return to churches, schools, and colleges for other courses.

I found this particular study of the minor prophets to be especially inspiring and helpful. Professor Bond treats the major emphasis of each prophet carefully and sensitively. He probes each prophet's unique revelation, showing how his was a divine word in season to his contemporaries. Then with considerable aplomb, he points to the overall message of the twelve. Together with the syllabus "Major Truths from the Minor Prophets," or standing alone, this text will

inspire and instruct anyone who reads it. I heartily recommend both the book and its author.

Ronald E. Cottle, Ph.D., Ed.D
Founder of Beacon University
Columbus, Georgia

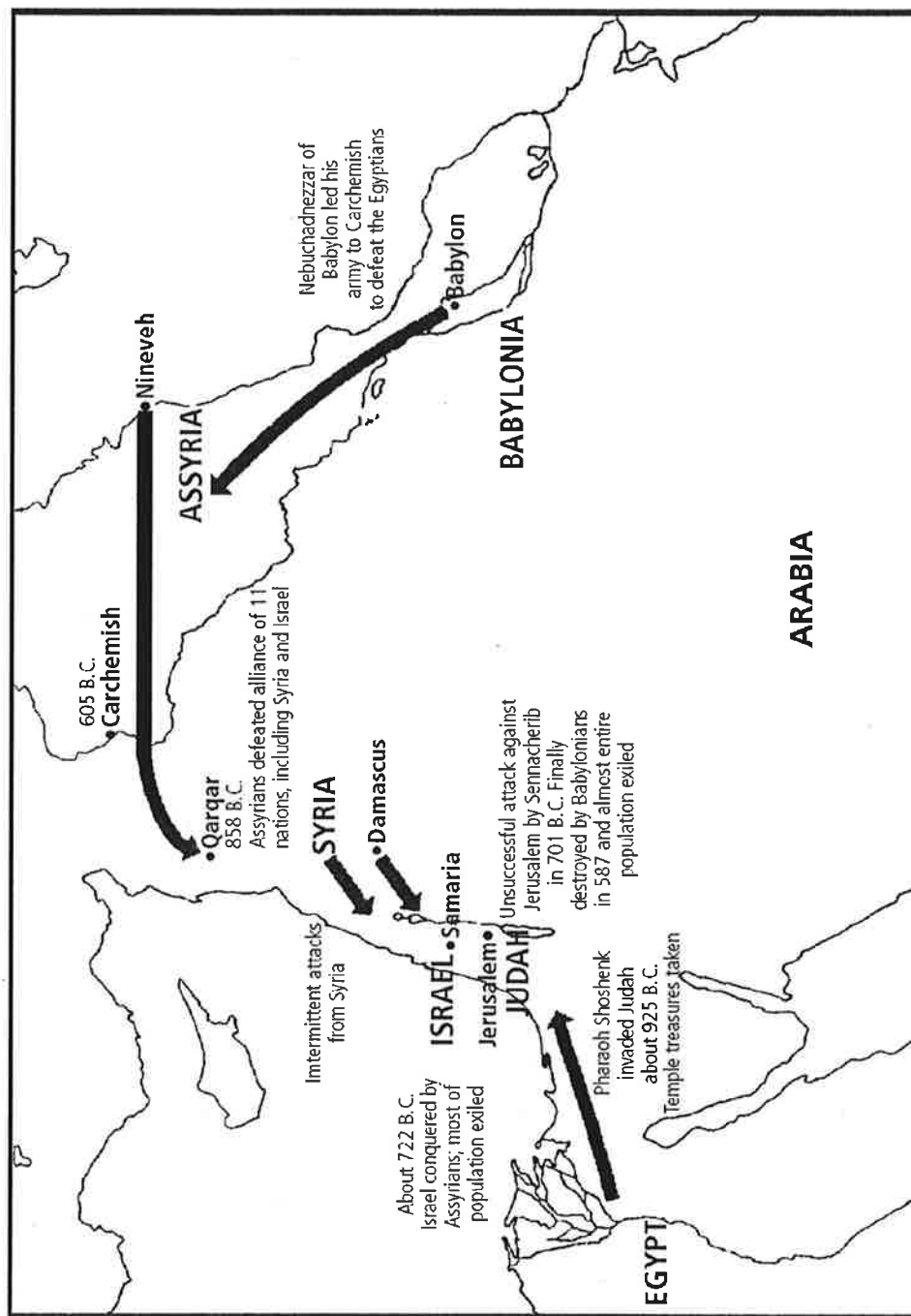
Kings and Prophets Chart

1000 B.C.	Reign of David c. 1010–c. 970 Reign of Solomon c. 970–931 THE TWO ISRAELITE KINGDOMS	
	JUDAH (Southern Kingdom)	ISRAEL (Northern Kingdom)
950 B.C.	Rehoboam 931–913 Abijah 913–911	Jeroboam 931–910 Nadab 910–909
900 B.C.	Asa 911–870	Baasha 909–886 Elah 866–885 Zimri 7 days in 885 Omri 885–874
		Prophets
	Jehoshaphat 870–848	Elijah
		Ahab 874–953
		Ahaziah 853–852
850 B.C.	Jehoram 848–841 Ahaziah 841 Athaliah 841–835	Joram 852–841
		Elisha
	Joash 835–796	Jehu 841–814
		Jehoahaz 814–798
800 B.C.	Amaziah 796–781	Jehoash 798–783
		Amos
	Uzziah 781–740	Jeroboam II 783–743
750 B.C.	Prophets	Zechariah 6 months in 743
	Isaiah	Shallum 1 month in 743
		Menahem 743–738
		Pekahiah 738–737
		Pekah 737–732
		Hoshea 732–723
		Fall of Samaria 722
		Hosea
	Ahaz 736–716	
	Micah	
	Hezekiah 716–687	

Kings and Prophets Chart

700 B.C.	<p>THE LAST YEARS OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH</p> <p>Manasseh 687–642</p> <p>Prophets</p>
650 B.C.	<p>Amon 642–640</p> <p>Josiah 640–609</p> <p>Joahaz 3 months in 609</p> <p>Jehoiakim 609–598</p> <p>Prophets</p> <p>Zephaniah</p> <p>Nahum</p> <p>Jeremiah</p> <p>Habakkuk?</p>
600 B.C.	<p>Jehoiachin 3 months in 598</p> <p>Zedekiah 598–587</p> <p>Fall of Jerusalem July 587 or 586</p> <p>Ezekiel</p> <p>THE EXILE AND THE RESTORATION TO THE HOMELAND</p> <p>The Jews taken into exile in Babylonia</p>
550 B.C.	<p>PERSIAN RULE</p> <p>Edict of Cyrus allows Jews to return 538</p> <p>Foundations of new Temple laid 537</p> <p>Haggai, Zechariah</p>
500 B.C.	<p>Obadiah</p>
450 B.C.	<p>Restoration of the walls of Jerusalem 445–443</p> <p>Malachi</p> <p>Joel?</p>

Map Countries in Conflict (Tenth to Sixth Centuries B.C.)



INTRODUCTION

Major Truths from Minor Prophets

Ancient Jewish books were written on a scroll, a long rolled strip of papyrus or parchment. The books of three major prophets would each have been written on a single scroll. The twelve minor prophets taken together are approximately the same in length as one of the major prophets and would have been written on a single scroll. Jesus Ben Sira spoke of “the twelve prophets” (Ecclesiasticus 49:10¹) as a body of prophetic writing parallel to the great prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. He thereby affirms that these twelve prophecies were considered as a unit and were likely to have already been written together on a single scroll. Peter Craigie argues that the minor prophets were collected in this way at an early date, perhaps as early as the third century B.C.² It was St. Augustine who was later to call them the “Minor³ Prophets” (*The City of God*, 18.25). This was not to

¹ *Ecclesiasticus* is an apocryphal book written c. 190 B.C.

² Peter C. Craigie, *Twelve Prophets*. Vol. 1. *The Daily Study Bible Series* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1984), 6.

³ From the Latin *minor*, “shorter.”

suggest in any way that they are of minor importance, but simply referred to their size in comparison to the major prophetic books.

The traditional Hebrew Bible (the *Tanakh*) arranged the books in what was thought to be their chronological order:

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah,⁴ *Jonah*, and *Micah*, which were written during the period of Assyrian power (9th–8th century B.C.);

Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah, which came from the period of the decline of Assyria (7th century B.C.); and

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, which are attributed to the postexilic period (6th–5th century B.C.).

The first Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, the *Septuagint*, arranged the Twelve in the following order: *Hosea, Amos, Micah, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi*. The order of the first six was probably determined by length. *Jonah* was placed last, because of its different character, although in length it would come between *Micah* and *Joel*.

Therefore within a century of the writing of *Malachi* the Jews had collected the twelve Minor Prophets and compiled a single volume of prophetic writings, which was accepted as canonical and paralleled the three great prophetic books of *Isaiah, Jeremiah* and *Ezekiel*. Although some of the major Greek manu-

⁴ The date of *Obadiah* is disputed. The Hebrew canon attributes it to the 9th century B.C. However, it was probably written much later in the early 6th century B.C.

scripts of the Bible place the Twelve before the major prophets, the traditional Hebrew canon and all modern versions of the Bible place them after the major prophets.

CANONICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

The order that we shall study the Minor Prophets is strictly chronological. This will help the readers to grasp the flow of the history of the people of God and relate the respective prophetic messages to it.

Canonical Order	Chronological Order	Approximate Dates
1. Hosea	1. Joel	825 B.C.
2. Joel	2. Jonah	800 B.C.
3. Amos	3. Amos	760 B.C.
4. Obadiah	4. Hosea	750 B.C.
5. Jonah	5. Micah	730 B.C.
6. Micah	6. Zephaniah	630 B.C.
7. Nahum	7. Nahum	620 B.C.
8. Habakkuk	8. Habakkuk	610 B.C.
9. Zephaniah	9. Obadiah	580 (840?) B.C.
10. Haggai	10. Haggai	520 B.C.
11. Zechariah	11. Zechariah	520 B.C.
12. Malachi	12. Malachi	450 B.C.