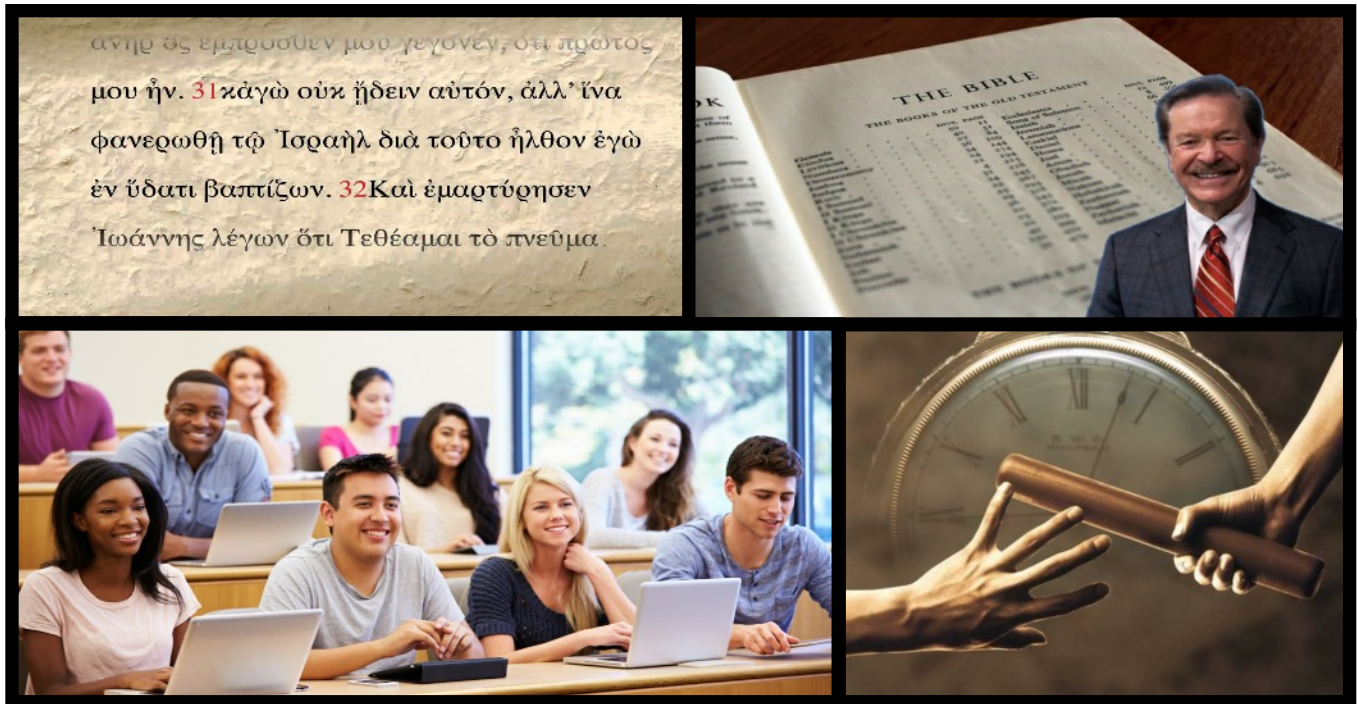


# EMBASSY COLLEGE



## SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

### The Minor Prophets

OT575

Dr. Ian Bond

# BIOT350: THE MINOR PROPHETS

DR. IAN A. H. BOND

Textbook for the Course:  
*Men with a Message: Introducing the Minor Prophets*  
(Second Edition)  
by Dr. Ian A. H. Bond

# Course Syllabus

## I. COURSE: BIOT350 Minor Prophets

## II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course surveys the last twelve books of the Old Testament. These books became known as the Minor Prophets late in the fourth century A.D., not because they were considered less important or less inspired, but because they are generally shorter than the five Major Prophets. Their messages are more succinct than those of the Major Prophets, but the course demonstrates that they are just as powerful, containing some of the most relevant and challenging prophetic truth in Scripture for the church of today.

## III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- A. State the content of each of the Minor Prophets (Knowledge).
- B. Summarize the message of each of the Minor Prophets (Comprehension).
- C. Describe the history of God's people in the ninth through the sixth centuries B.C. and relate it to Minor Prophets (Knowledge and Synthesis).
- D. Identify critical theological issues as they are given in the text of the Twelve and explain their spiritual and practical meaning (Analysis and Evaluation).
- E. Relate the principle truths within these inspiring prophetic books to Christian life and faith today (Evaluation).

## IV. Course Outline

- A. Major Truths from Minor Prophets: An Introduction
- B. Joel: Prophet of Pentecost
- C. Jonah: Prophet to a Dying World: I
- D. Amos: Prophet of Divine Justice
- E. Hosea: Prophet of the Broken Heart
- F. Micah: Prophet of a Coming King

- G. Zephaniah: Prophet of Restored Glory
- H. Nahum: Prophet to a Dying World: II
- I. Habakkuk: Prophet of the Reformation
- J. Obadiah: Prophet to an Agnostic World
- K. Haggai: Prophet of Recovered Loss
- L. Zechariah: Prophet of the Messianic Kingdom
- M. Malachi: Prophet of Right Relationships

#### V. SUGGESTED TOOLS OF STUDY

- A. The Holy Bible—*New King James Version* or *New International Version* or a version of the student's choosing.
- B. This Study Guide/Syllabus.
- C. Textbook: Bond, Ian A.H. *Men with a Message: Introducing the Minor Prophets (Second Edition)*. Columbus: TEC Publications, 2007.

#### VI. PRE-COURSE WORK

- A. Prayerfully read the Minor Prophets in the *New King James Version* or the *New International Version* and in another modern version of your own choice.
- B. Carefully read the course textbook in its entirety.
- C. Become thoroughly familiar with this Study Guide. Fix the outline of each book of the Minor Prophets firmly in your mind and heart.

#### VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADED STUDENTS

- A. Complete the Pre-Course Work Schedule.
- B. Attend ALL the class sessions.
- C. Complete the final examination.



## VIII. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Zodhiates S. *The Complete Word Study Old Testament*. Chattanooga: AMG, 1994.

**The Minor Prophets**  
**BIOT 350**  
**Study Guide**

**Dr. Ian A. H. Bond**

# Men with a Message

## Major Truths from Minor Prophets

### I. INTRODUCTION

Jesus Ben Sira spoke of “the \_\_\_\_\_ prophets” (Ecclesiasticus 49:10<sup>1</sup>) as a body of prophetic writing parallel to the great prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. He thereby shows that these twelve prophecies were considered as a \_\_\_\_\_ and were likely to have already been written together on a single scroll. It was St. Augustine who was later to call them the “\_\_\_\_\_ Prophets” (*The City of God*, 18.25). This was not to suggest in any way that they are of minor importance, but simply refers to their \_\_\_\_\_ in comparison to the major prophetic books.

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

*Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah*<sup>2</sup>, *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 \_\_\_\_\_. *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 prophecies and compiled a \_\_\_\_\_ volume of prophetic writings, which was accepted as \_\_\_\_\_ and paralleled the three great prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Although some of the major Greek manuscripts of the Bible place the Twelve before the Major Prophets, the tradition Hebrew canon and all modern versions of the Bible place them after the Major Prophets.

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<sup>1</sup> *Ecclesiasticus* is an Apocryphal book written c. 190 B.C.

<sup>2</sup> 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.



## II. CANONICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

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

<u>Canonical Order</u>	<u>Chronological Order</u>	<u>Approximate Dates</u>
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.

## III. *SITZ IM LEBEN* ("SEAT-IN-LIFE")

The Minor Prophets from Joel to Malachi cover a four-century span of history moving through the A \_\_\_\_\_, B \_\_\_\_\_, and P \_\_\_\_\_ Empires.

Prophets before the Exile	Exile Prophets		Prophets after the Exile
<i>To Israel:</i>	<i>To Judah:</i>	<i>To Jews in Babylon:</i>	<i>To the Remnant after returning:</i>
Amos (760)	Joel (825)	Daniel (605)	
Hosea (750)	Isaiah (740)	Ezekiel (592)	Haggai (520)
	Micah (730)	Obadiah (580)	Zechariah (520)
To Nineveh:	Zephaniah (630)		Malachi (450)
	Jeremiah (627)		
Jonah (800)	Habakkuk (610)		
Nahum (620)	Lamentations (586)		

#### IV. THEMES OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

BOOK	KEY WORD	THEME
Joel	Day of the Lord	Day of the Lord; Coming of the Spirit (Pentecostal outpouring); Locusts (demonic activity); Multitudes in the valley of decision.
Jonah	Mercy	God's mercy to all; Sin brings judgment, repentance brings grace. (Arise, go to Nineveh).
Amos	Judgment	Misuse of privilege; Preacher and his message; Five visions. (Prepare to meet God.)
Hosea	God's love	Sin, judgment, love. (Sow wind, reap whirlwind.)
Micah	Restoration	Coming Messianic King and Kingdom; Character of God. (Thou Bethlehem Ephrathah.)
Zephaniah	Day of the Lord	Day of the Lord; God's character combines love and wrath; Restoration. (Lord in midst is mighty).
Nahum	Nineveh	Destruction of Nineveh. (Lord is good, stronghold in day of trouble).
Habakkuk	Faith	Questioning God. (Just shall live by faith.)
Obadiah	Deliverance	Destruction of Edom (for the violence done to your brother Jacob).
Haggai	Reconstruction	Rebuild the Temple; Consider your ways: Be strong and work. (Build the house and I will take pleasure in it).
Zechariah	Vision	Eight Messianic visions; not might, nor power, but God's Spirit. (Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness.)
Malachi	Backsliders	Dialectic method; corruption of priests; divorce; tithe; Elijah coming. (Behold, I will send my messenger.)



## *Yo'el* (Joel): Prophet of Pentecost

READING: Joel 1:1–8, 11–14; 2:1

### I. INTRODUCTION TO JOEL

#### A. The Author

1. “Joel” means “Yahweh is God.”

#### B. The Date

1. The date is not specified within the book.
2. Scholars have suggested dates from 835–400 B.C.
3. The following data is used to pinpoint the date:
  - a. The \_\_\_\_\_ is functioning (1:9).
  - b. Judah is \_\_\_\_\_ (1:2, 11, 14).
  - c. Jews trading with the \_\_\_\_\_ (3:8).
  - d. Tyre, Sidon, Egypt and Edom are mentioned as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel (3:19).
  - e. Joel is placed between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the canon.
  - f. The destruction mentioned in 3:2–3 is so grim that some scholars insist that it must refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ conquest.
  - g. The discussion about God pouring out His \_\_\_\_\_ in Joel 2:28–29 seems to fit well with a final message of preparation for the coming kingdom.
  - h. A \_\_\_\_\_ and B \_\_\_\_\_ are not mentioned at all, which makes one think they have not become a threat yet or perhaps they have come and gone.
4. Conclusion: It is impossible to tell for sure, but we favor a date in the late 9th century (c. \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.).