

Trei Asar

Book of Hosea

The Book of Hosea is the eighth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Hosea prophesied during a time in Israel's history where the Northern Kingdom was declining and would eventually be exiled by the Assyrians. Idolatry was rampant God agonizes over the betrayal of Israel. The prophecy of Hosea is centered around God's unending love toward a sinful Israel.

Chapters one and two are an account of Hosea's marriage with Gomer – an adulterous woman. This is seen as a metaphor for the relationship between God and Israel who deserted God and became an adulterer with idols. Chapter three is an account of Hosea's re-marriage to Gomer. This is a metaphor of the enduring love of God for His people despite their unfaithfulness. Chapters four through fourteen include a judgment upon Israel for not living up to the covenant between God and the people.

Book of Joel

The Book of Joel is the ninth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Based upon the traditional years of Joel's life according to Rabbinic Judaism, the traditional dating of the Book of Joel would be during the Persian period which would make Joel one of the latest writing prophets.

The Book of Joel is divided into two separate sections.

The first section – 1:1-2:17 – is a lament over a great locust plague and a severe drought.

The second section – 2:18-4:21 – is a promise of future redemption and blessings.

Book of Amos

The Book of Amos is the tenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Amos prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam, ruler of Israel and Uzziah, king of Judah when both kingdoms were at the peak of their prosperity. The Book of Amos is set in a time when the people of the Northern Kingdom had reached a low point in their devotion to God and the greedy people were becoming wealthy at the expense of the poor.

The Book of Amos is generally divided into three sections.

Chapters one and two open with statements of punishment for the Nations that surround Israel as well as Judah and Israel.

Chapters three through six are statements made directly to the Northern Kingdom of Israel regarding their transgressions against God and a call to repentance.

Chapters seven through nine are a series of visions from God.

Book of Obadiah

The Book of Obadiah is the eleventh book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

The Book of Obadiah is a prophetic book that concerns itself with the divine judgment of Edom and the restoration of Israel. The text consists of a single chapter describe Edom's judgment and Israel's restoration.

Book of Jonah

The Book of Jonah is the twelfth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

The Book of Jonah is set during the reign of Jeroboam in the eighth century BCE. The book is the story of Jonah who is sent to prophesy the destruction of Nineveh and his attempts to escape this calling.

The Book of Jonah can be divided into two sections. The first section consists of God's first commission to Jonah and his rebellion (chapters 1-2). The second section consists of God's second commission to Jonah and his obedience (chapters 3-4).

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Book of Micah

The Book of Micah is the thirteenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Micah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam, ruler of Israel and the kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah when both kingdoms were at the peak of their prosperity. Micah prophesied against Israel but his prophecies were seen as being mostly targeting Judah.

The Book of Micah is generally divided into three sections. Chapters one through three are a divine judgment against Samaria and Judah. Chapters four and five reference the Messianic Age. Chapters six and seven deal with the corruption of Israel and Micah's lamentation over her destruction.

Book of Nahum

The Book of Nahum is the fourteenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Nahum prophesied during the reign of Manasseh, king of Judah approximately 70 years before the destruction of Solomon's Temple. The Book of Nahum reveals the prophecy about the destruction of Assyria.

Book of Habakkuk

The Book of Habakkuk is the fifteenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Habakkuk prophesied during the reign of Manasseh, king of Judah approximately 70 years before the destruction of Solomon's Temple.

The Book of Habakkuk can be divided into three sections according to the three chapters. The first chapter is a discussion between Habakkuk and God. The second chapter is a prophecy against Babylon. The third, and last, chapter is Habakkuk's prayer.

Book of Zephaniah

The Book of Zephaniah is the sixteenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of the Judean king Josiah before the religious reform of King Josiah was established. Zephaniah was a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah.

The Book of Zephaniah can be divided into two broad sections. The first part speaks about the coming judgment upon the world (chapters 1-3:7). The second section is the promise of a universal salvation (chapter 3:8-20).

Book of Haggai

The Book of Haggai is the seventeenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Haggai prophesied during the time when the Jews were permitted to return to Jerusalem and begin rebuilding the Temple by decree of the Persian King Cyrus.

There are four discourses that are written in the Book of Haggai.

1. The first discourse is dated the first day of the sixth month of the second year of Darius (chapter 1).
2. The second discourse is dated the twenty-first day of the seventh month of Darius (chapter 2:1-9).
3. The third discourse is dated the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month of Darius (chapters 2:10-19).
4. The fourth discourse is also dated the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month of Darius (chapter 2:20-23).

Book of Zechariah

The Book of Zechariah is the eighteenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

Zechariah prophesied during the reign of Darius the Great and was a contemporary with Haggai. Zechariah emerged as a leader of the Exiles with his leadership centering around the rebuilding of the Temple.

The Book of Zechariah can be divided into four sections.

Introduction (1:1-6)

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Set of Visions (Chapters 1:7-6)
Seed of Peace (Chapters 7-8)
Further Prophecies (Chapters 9-14)

Book of Malachi

The Book of Malachi is the nineteenth book in the Nevi'im (Prophets) section of the Tanakh and is part of the Trei Asar – Twelve Prophets.

The Book of Malachi was written as a response to the lax religious and social behaviors of the Israelites. The people's commitment to God and Torah began to wane and Malachi was called by God to rebuke the people.

The Book of Malachi can be divided into six sections.

Introduction (Chapter 1:1)

Preference of Israel Over Edom (Chapters 1:2-2:9)

The Covenant Profaned by Judah (Chapter 2:10-17)

The Coming Angel (Chapter 3:1-6)

Plea for Return (Chapter 3:7-18)

The Day of the Lord (Chapter 3:19-24)