

# LESSON ONE

## Introduction to the Minor Prophets

### Introduction

- The Minor Prophets of the Old Testament consist of **12** Prophets. They are:
  - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
- The Minor Prophets present some primary themes such as: Judgments against the sins of Israel and Judah, judgments against the sins of foreign countries, impending captivity of Israel and Judah, the future restoration of Israel, prophecies of the coming Messiah, and the Messiah's earthly reign.
- The Dates of the Minor Prophets ranged from **845 B.C.** to **420 B.C.**

### A Brief History of Israel

- United Israel had three Kings: Saul, David, and Solomon.
- After the reign of King Solomon, Israel split into **two** separate Kingdoms: The Kingdom of Israel 931 B.C.-722 B.C (the northern kingdom) and the Kingdom of Judah 931 B.C.-586 B.C. (the southern kingdom).
- The northern kingdom of Israel never came back after its attack by the Assyrian Army in 722 B.C.
- The southern kingdom of Judah did return after a **70-year** captivity by the Babylonian and the Media-Persian empires.



# Make-Up of the New and Old Testament

- The Bible has a total of **66** books.
- The Old Testament consists of 39 books and the New Testament has 27 books.<sup>1</sup>
- The Old Testament records the beginning of earth's history, the making and development of the Jewish nation, and ends **prior** to Christ's birth.
- The New Testament details the birth of Christ, His death and resurrection, the formation of the Christian church (all believers of Christ), the rapture of the church, the time of tribulation, Jesus' second coming, and the formation of a **new** heaven and new earth.
- The Old Testament consists of the Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.
- The New Testament divides into the **Gospels** (material relating to Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection), history of the early church, letters by the Apostle Paul, and general letters by other New Testament writers.
- The emphasis of this study will focus on the **Minor Prophets** of the Old Testament.
- The study of the Old Testament Minor Prophets is important in that, not only were their writings and prophecies important to ancient Israel and Judah but they are relevant to our **modern** world.

## Categorical Divisions of the Old Testament and the New Testament

OLD TESTAMENT 39 BOOKS			NEW TESTAMENT 27 BOOKS	
<b>LAW 5</b> GENESIS EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY	<b>WISDOM/POETRY 5</b> JOB PSALMS PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES S. OF SOLOMON	<b>MAJOR PROPH 5</b> ISAIAH JEREMIAH LAMENTATIONS EZEKIEL DANIEL	<b>GOSPELS 4</b> MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN	<b>PASTORAL EPISTLES 9</b> 1 TIMOTHY 2 TIMOTHY TITUS PHILEMON
<b>HISTORY 12</b> JOSHUA JUDGES RUTH 1 SAMUEL 2 SAMUEL 1 KINGS 2 KINGS 1 CHRONICLES 2 CHRONICLES EZRA NEHEMIAH ESTHER	<b>MINOR PROPH 12</b> HOSEA JOEL AMOS OBADIAH JONAH MICAH NAHUM HABAKKUK ZEPHANIAH HAGGAI ZECHARIAH MALACHI	<b>HISTORY 1</b> ACTS	<b>PAULINE EPISTLES 9</b> ROMANS 1 CORINTHIANS 2 CORINTHIANS GALATIANS EPHESIANS PHILIPPIANS COLOSSIANS 1 THESSALONIANS 2 THESSALONIANS	<b>GENERAL EPISTLES 9</b> HEBREWS JAMES 1 PETER 2 PETER 1 JOHN 2 JOHN 3 JOHN JUDE REVELATION

## Distinctions between the Prophets of the Old Testament

### Listening to the Prophets

- Two categories group the Old Testament Prophets: Major Prophets and Minor Prophets.
- The distinguishing factor between the Major and Minor Prophets is the **length** of their books.
- There are 12 Old Testament Minor Prophets and 4 Old Testament Major Prophets
- The Minor Prophets follow the Major Prophets in the Old Testament.

### THE MINOR PROPHETS (Update)

Prophet	Date (B.C.) Approx	Name Meaning	Prophecies To/About	King at Time (assumption)
Obadiah	845-750	'Servant of the Lord'	Israel/Edom	Jehoram (Ju) Joram (Is)
Joel	835-796	'Yahweh is God'	Judah	Joash (Ju) Jehu/Jehoahaz(Is)
Jonah	793-753	'Dove'	Nineveh	Jeroboam 11 (Is) Amaziah/(Ju)
Hosea	753-715	'Salvation'	Israel	Jotham/Ahaz (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah/Hoshea (Is)
Amos	760-755	'Burden-bearer'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Uzziah (Ju) Jeroboam/Pekah (Is)
Micah	770-710	'Who is like unto the Lord'	Israel/Judah	Jotham/Ahaz/Hezekiah(Ju) Zechariah – Hoshea (Is)
Nahum	655	'Consolation'	Nineveh	Manasseh (Ju) *
Zephaniah	625	'Yahweh hides'	Judah/Assyria. And Nations	Josiah (Ju)
Habakkuk	610	'Clings to'	Judah/Nations	Josiah/Jehoahaz/Jehoiakim
Haggai	520	'My Feast'	Judah	N/A
Zechariah	520	'Yahweh has remembered'	Judah	N/A
Malachi	460 - 420	'My Messenger'	Judah	N/A

Unknown

<https://thebiblebrief.com/minor-prophets/>

## The Major Prophets

Prophet	Date	Name	Prophecies to/about	King at Time
<b>Isaiah</b>	740-680 B.C	The Lord is Salvation	Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh (s)
<b>Jeremih</b>	627-585 B.C.	Jehovah establishes	Jews in Judea and captivity	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (s)
<b>Ezekiel</b>	592-570	God Strengthens	Judah	Future restoration of Israel
<b>Daniel</b>	537	God is my judge	The times of the Gentiles and Israel's kingdom	Jehoiakim (S), Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus

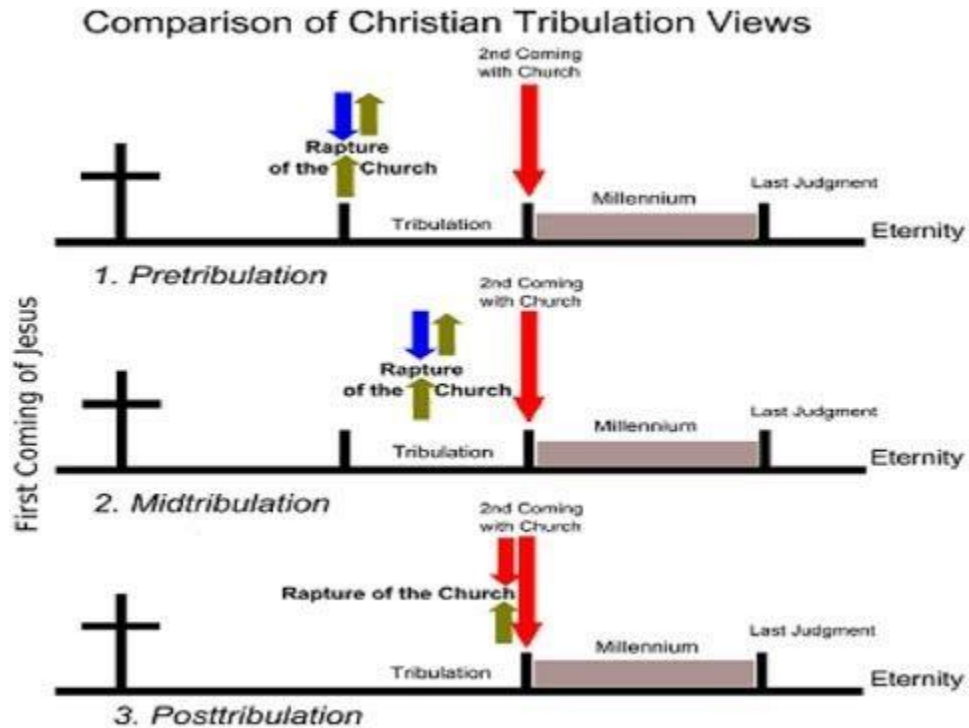
## Ages of the Bible

- Various ages of time show God's relationship to humanity.
- These ages can help one organize the structure of the Bible.

Name	Scripture	Responsibilities	Judgment(s)
Innocency	Genesis 1:3-3:6	Keep garden; do not eat one fruit; fill, subdue earth, fellowship with God	Curses, and physical and spiritual death
Conscience	Genesis 3:7-8:14	Do Good	Flood
Civil Government	Genesis 8:15-11:9	Fill earth, capital punishment	Forced scattering by confusion of languages
Patriarchal Rule	Genesis 11:10-Exodus 18:27	Stay in Promised Land, believe and obey God	Egyptian bondage and wilderness wanderings
Mosaic Law	Exodus 19:1-Acts 1:26	Keep the law, walk with God	Captivities
Grace	Acts 2:1-Revelation 19:21	Believe on Christ, walk with Christ	Death, loss of rewards

Millennium	Revelation 20:1-15	Believe and obey Christ and His government	Death, Great White Throne Judgment
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## Rapture of the Church



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/306244843384859062/>

### Pre-Tribulation

- Pre-Tribulation states that Jesus will come for the church (the **rapture**) before the Tribulation.
- This belief comes from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:6-9; Revelation 4:1
- I will base our study on the **Pre-Tribulation** view.

### Mid-Tribulation

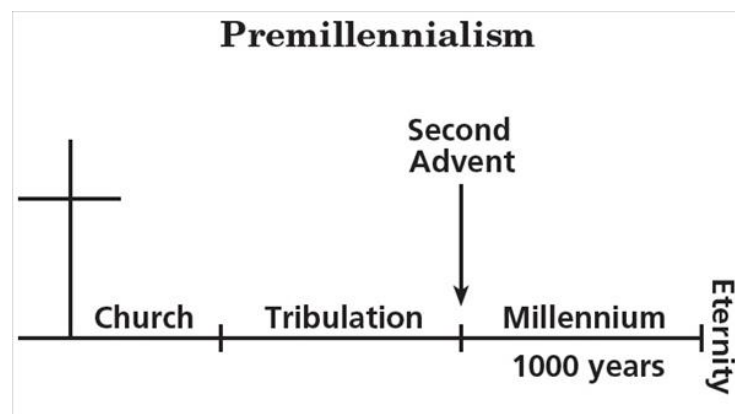
- This view believes Jesus will rapture the church after the **first** 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period.<sup>iii</sup>
- Mid-Tribulationists base part of their views on Revelation 11:3-12.
- Mid-Tribulationists view Revelation 11 as allegorical rather than literal.

## **Post-Tribulation**

- Post-Tribulationists believe that Jesus will come for the Church **after** the Great Tribulation.
- They feel Jesus' coming will usher in the Millennial period.
- Post-Tribulationists interpret Revelation 19:11-16 to mean that Jesus will come for His church after the tribulation and at the start of the Millennium.

## **Millennial Period**

- The Bible predicts that Jesus will return to earth and establish a **millennial** (1,000 year) kingdom (Revelation 20:1-3).
- Bible scholars disagree as to when Jesus will return to establish this 1,000-year rule and whether the 1,000 years is allegorical.

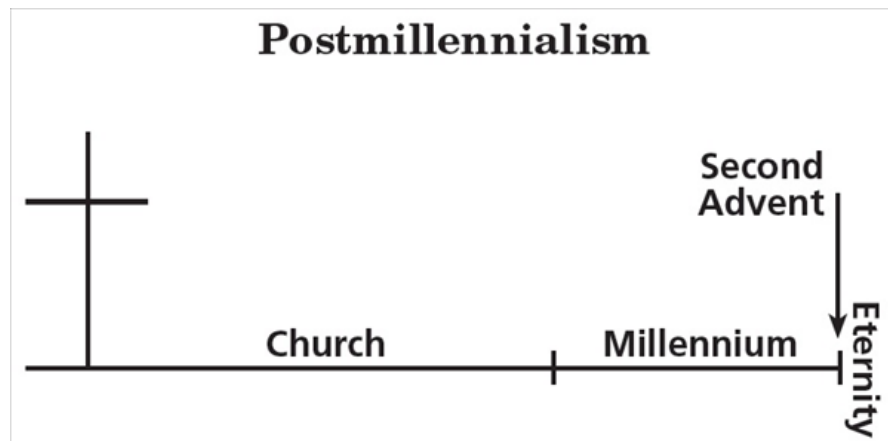


<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-premillennialism.html>

## **Premillennialists**

- Jesus will rapture the church **before** the Tribulation period (7 years-1 Thessalonians 5:9).
- **After** the Tribulation, Jesus will bring the church back to earth to reign with Him for 1,000 years (Revelation 19:11-15).

- After 1,000 years (millennialism), God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 20:1-3, 7; 21:1-2).
- I will take the Premillennialist view.



<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-postmillennialism.html>

### Postmillennialists

- Jesus will come for the church **after** the millennial period.
- The Millennial period will constitute a time when good will eventually overrule evil (Matthew 13:36-43).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-3 and Matthew 24:10-12 refute this theory.

### Amillennial View



[www.zeteo316.com](http://www.zeteo316.com)

<https://www.zeteo316.com/millennial-definitions/amillennialism/>

## **Amillennialism**

- Amillennialism does not promote a **literal** millennial period (1,000-year period of Christ's reign on the earth).
- They interpret the millennium as a spiritual kingdom whether this kingdom is in heaven or represented by the current church age.<sup>iv</sup>

## **Summary**

- Israel and Judah failed to repent after warnings by the Old Testament prophets. As a result, foreign countries captured Israel and Judah. Israel fell in 722 BC and Judah fell in three waves by the Babylonians (605 BC, 597 BC, and 586 BC). After 70 years of captivity, the Judean captors allowed the Israelites passage back to Jerusalem.
- The Old Testament Minor prophets prophesied of Israel and Judah's demise, their contemporary restoration, and their future restoration during Jesus' millennial reign. The prophecies proved amazingly accurate. Their future prophecies are yet to come.
- God has given us a timeline of ages that help to clarify His dealing with humanity. Within each timeline, there are three stages: God's requirement for humanity, man's failure to meet those requirements, and God's punishment for not adhering to those requirements.
- Since the Jewish nation refused to accept Jesus, God created the church age on the day of Pentecost. The Church today consists of anyone (Jew and Gentile) that has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal lord and savior.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-52 states that one day Jesus will return in the sky, rapture all believers, and take them to heaven. After the rapture, a seven-year tribulation period will begin in which evil will reign under the leadership of the Antichrist. After the seven-year period, Revelation 19:14 states that Jesus will come back to earth with all believers who will reign with Him for one-thousand years (the millennium). Revelation 21:1 states that after the one-thousand years, God will create a new heaven and earth and all believers will live with God forever-AMEN!



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Lesson One

1. Are the Old Testament Prophets a new study for you?
  - A. What parts seem confusing?
  - B. Do you find the chart of God's ages helpful? Explain.
  - C. Why did God choose to create the various ages?
  
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-52 states that God will rapture the Church (all believers) before the tribulation period.
  - A. Why would God rescue the Church from the Tribulation period?
  - B. Does the rapture mean persecution will not come to Christians prior to the rapture?
  - C. Why does God allow the persecution of Christians?
  
3. Revelation 20:4 states that we will reign with Christ upon the earth for 1,000 years. We call this the Millennium.
  - A. How will the earth look during the Millennium?
  - B. How does Isaiah 11:6-8 illustrate the millennial period?
  - C. Why don't we experience this earthly peace?
  
4. We define the church as all believers in Christ.
  - A. How does this definition differ from the church as a local congregation (Hillside Community Church)?
  - B. Explain the importance of the local church?
  - C. How does Christ see the church in Ephesians 5:25-27?

