

Timeline of the Prophets*

DIVIDED KINGDOM (928-722 BC)				JUDAH ALONE (722-586 BC)			EXILE (606-516 BC)			POST-EXILE (POST-538 BC)						
<i>Verbal prophets</i>				<i>Written prophets</i>			<i>Written prophets</i>			<i>Written prophets</i>						
Elijah	874-850 BC	1 Kings 17ff	To the kings	Habakkuk	Pre-606 BC	To Judah	Jeremiah	597-586 BC	To the exiles	First wave of return (Cyrus → Darius)						
Elisha	850-795 BC	2 Kings 2ff	To the kings	Zephaniah	640 BC	To Judah	Ezekiel	593 BC	To the exiles	Ezra 1-6 & scroll of Zerubbabel	538 BC					
<i>Written prophets</i>										Daniel	Post-586 BC	To future believers	Haggai	520 BC		
										Zechariah		515 BC	Interlude (Xerxes)			
										Obadiah	850 BC	To Edom	Esther	483 BC	Second wave of return (Artaxerxes)	
										Joel	800 BC	To Judah	Ezra 7-10		457 BC	
										Amos	790-750 BC	To Judah & Israel	Third wave of return (Artaxerxes)			
										Jonah	780-770 BC	To Nineveh	Nehemiah	444 BC	Post-return	
										Isaiah	720s BC	To Judah & Israel	Malachi		425 BC	
										Micah	720s BC	To Judah & Israel				
Hosea	720s BC	To Judah & Israel														
<i>Message of the divided kingdom prophets:</i> “Israel, get your act together or get kicked out. Judah, pay attention and don’t be like Israel!”				<i>Message of the Judah-alone prophets:</i> “Judah, don’t follow Israel’s example or you’ll get kicked out too!”			<i>Message of the exilic prophets:</i> “Okay, Judah, you blew it. God, will you please bring them back?” <i>Secondary theme:</i> How to be God’s people in a foreign land			<i>Message of the post-exilic prophets:</i> “Now that you’re back in your land, don’t do it again! This is your second chance.”						
<i>*Many of these dates are approximate, based on our best knowledge of the history & events surrounding the prophets.</i>																