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SCROLL 12

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CHAPTERS

THE MINOR PROPHETS

# Introduction to The Twelve

(AKA the minor prophets)



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# Lesser known facts

- These are not minor at all, just shorter — influential guy in early 5th century
- In the Hebrew Bible – on one scroll, arranged almost chronologically, called The Twelve, part of the Nevhi'im (Prophets)
- This scroll concludes the TORAH and the PROPHETS, but not the Hebrew Bible



# Lesser known facts

- Some parts obviously assume you read the rest beforehand
- Three parts are AFTER the Exile (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) the rest before



# Great themes

## Accusations

- Disloyalty to YAHWEH and the covenant → idolatry → Torah (law) broken → broken society
- Kings and leaders abusing power, being greedy
- Priests being immoral and corrupt
- Prophets being commercial and political (follow the money...)
- Wealthy abusing the poor
- Social injustice, marital infidelity



# Great themes

## Warnings of consequences

- Judgement based on the covenant curses, called “The Day Of The Lord”
- Invasion by foreign armies
- Exile and total destruction



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# Great themes

## Messages of hope

- The kingdom will be restored
- A good shepherd-king will come
- The nations will be added to the family
- Evil will be judged, punished and finally eliminated
- One can live by believing loyalty (faith) through the tough times



# Things to ponder

- Even the exile and destruction didn't cure the root problem! (Malachi 100yrs after the Exile)
- Choices matter, they have consequences:
- The Kingdom of God will come IF...
- Exile and destruction will come IF NOT...
- How did YAHWEH measure their disloyalty? What were the parameters?





# Things to ponder

- Not following Torah instructions
- Despising YAHWEH's presence and house
- Abusing fellow humans
- Social injustice



# Is this scroll practical? *The frame:*

The first ends: (Hosea 14:9)

“Who is wise that he can understand these things? Who is discerning that he knows them? The ways of Yahweh are right, and the righteous walk in them; but transgressors stumble in them.”



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## Is this scroll practical? *The frame:*

The last ends: (Malachi 4:4-6)

“Remember the instruction of my servant Moses, which I commanded him at Horeb to all Israel, the rules and regulations. Look! I am going to send to you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of Yahweh! And he will bring back the hearts of the fathers to the sons, and the hearts of the sons to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land with a ban. “



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# Is this scroll practical? *The frame:*

It's a call to reflection and meditation,  
perhaps communal pondering.

It will shape our understanding of causality  
(if this then that) and will give wisdom.



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# Is this scroll practical?

*It presents different facets of YAHWEH's character*

- His uncorrupted justice (The Day Of The Lord)
- His power to control evil empires (Assyria, Babylon)
- His fairness in warning about the consequences
- His unwavering covenant loyalty and covenant love (Hosea)
- His deep emotions about injustice and suffering (Hosea 11:8)

# Is this scroll practical?

*It presents different facets of YAHWEH's character*

- His deep concern for redeeming bad nations (Jonah)
- His planning of eradicating evil and bless the faithful remnant
- His provision for perplexing and ongoing difficulties



# Is this scroll practical?

*There's wisdom for:*

- Marital calamities (Hosea)
- How to hang in there when it's tough for a long time
- Worship without hypocrisy (Amos)
- Not neglecting God's business of transformation (Haggai)



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# Is this scroll practical?

The scroll doesn't answer the question about how to live to go to heaven!

But it talks a lot about how to live to have heaven come to us!

Micah 6:8

“do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.”



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