

Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Nine: Introduction to Prophecy and the Fall of Israel –
2 Kings 14-17, with Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Joel, Micah, Isaiah

The Book of Jonah: In order to place Jonah in the context in which he lived, and in keeping with our chronological tracing of the kings of Israel and Judah, read 2 Kings 14:23-25 (a prophecy of Jonah's is mentioned that is not addressed in the book of Jonah). Then, glance at the following references to get a feel for the growing threat Assyria was to Israel: 2 Kings 15:19-20, 15:29, 16:7-9, 17:3-6, 17:24, and 18:13-16. Finally, read the four short chapters of Jonah (note: Nineveh was an important Assyrian city that later became the capital of the Assyrian Empire).

- 1) Unlike other Biblical books of prophecy, the primary focus of book of Jonah is not Jonah's prophecies.
 - a) What portion of Jonah contains the Lord's message to the Assyrians in Nineveh, the message that Jonah was asked to deliver, and what was the message?

 - b) Since the book of Jonah says little about his prophecies, it must have been recorded and preserved in the Scriptures for another purpose. What does the book teach us about the human struggles of a man called by the Lord to be a prophet?

- 2) What do you learn about God from the book of Jonah?

- 3) Jonah resisted God. Is there something the Lord has asked you to do (or not do) that you have resisted doing (or giving up)? If so, what action do you need to take?

Kings Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea of Israel and the Book of Joel

- 4) Skim 2 Kings 14:23-17:6 and 18:1, identifying the chronological order of the kings of Israel and Judah and adding them to the chart of kings you began in Lesson 6. (Compare 2 Kings 15:1 and 13, noting King Azariah's alternate name, by which the prophets referred to him.) Which of these kings' reigns did the Assyrians impact in some way?

- 5) The prophets listed below were God’s spokesmen to the kings of Israel and Judah during the time when the Assyrian Empire (the arch-villain of Old Testament prophecy) threatened national security. Examine the following references and list the kings of Israel and Judah to whom these prophets prophesied.
- a) Hosea 1:1
 - b) Amos 1:1
 - c) Micah 1:1
 - d) Isaiah 1:1; 7:1
- 6) Neither the Assyrian nor Babylonian Empires is mentioned in the book of Joel, making the book difficult to date. However, Joel covers subjects and contains elements that are common to most of the prophetic books of the Bible. Questions 6a-d will help you discover typical prophetic subjects or elements.
- a) Judgment is a common theme in the writing of the prophets. Which repeated phrase refers to it (see Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; and 3:14)?
 - b) Sometimes, the prophets described a current or near-future event as prefiguring an event that found (or will find) its ultimate fulfillment at a much later date. Read Joel 1:4, 6-7, together with Joel 2:3-11. What image did Joel use to describe a near-term judgment on Israel that may yet have a future and final fulfillment?
 - c) Another common theme in Biblical prophecy is found in Joel 2:12-17. What is that theme?
 - d) The prophets often place two particular events side by side. What are the two events that are described in Joel 3:1-2 and 12-18?
- 7) Joel records an invasion that the Lord sent to devastate the land.
- a) Has the Lord allowed some kind of devastation in your life in order to get your attention? Has He “stripped you” (Joel 1:7) of anything? If so, what?
 - b) According to Joel 2:25-27, what does the Lord intend to do for those who respond to His “invasion” with humility and repentance?

Amos and Hosea prophesied in the northern Kingdom of Israel.

- 8) Read Matthew 5:11-12, Acts 7:51-52, and Hebrews 11:32-40, together with Amos 7:10-15 and Hosea 1:2-3, 3:1-3. How did Amos and Hosea suffer as God’s representatives?

9) Which key words in Hosea 4:1-2, 10-18 reflect the Lord's indictment against Israel (also illustrated by Hosea's marriage [1:2-3, 3:1-3])? What evidence you have seen in our study of Israel's monarchy that the Lord's indictment was fitting?

10) See Amos 2:6-7, 3:10, 15; 4:1, 5; 5:10-12; 6:1, 4-6.

a) What was the socio-economic and spiritual condition of the people in Israel when Amos addressed them?

b) What eternal loss can result from self-absorption, according to Amos 8:11?

c) How can you guard against self-absorption and complacency?

Read 2 Kings 17.

11) How do the following passages relate to the historical events that occurred in 2 Kings 17: Exodus 20:3-17, 24:7-8; Deuteronomy 9:5, 12:1-4, 18:9, 28:15, 49-52, 64?

12) Reread 2 Kings 17:13.

a) Why did God send prophets to Israel and Judah, according to 2 Kings 17:13 and Micah 1:3, 5a, 16 and 3:8?

b) Which special group of individuals was disbelieving of Micah's message and spoke against it? See Micah 2:6, 11 and 3:5.

c) Read Psalm 119:89, Matthew 24:34-35, 1 Peter 1:25, and 2 Peter 3:3-9. For which scoffing, disbelieving person will you pray today?

Micah and Isaiah prophesied in the southern Kingdom of Judah.

13) Reread 2 Kings 17:18-19 with 18:17, 19:1-2, 20, 35-36, and 21:10-12. According to this information, what was going on in the southern Kingdom of Judah in the years immediately prior to the northern Kingdom's exile (this will be covered more completely in the following lesson)?

14) The prophets Micah and Isaiah witnessed the horror of Israel's exile, but their primary ministries were to the kings in Judah (see your updated chart of kings and your answer to question 5c and d.) How is God's expectation of His people, in all ages, summarized in the following passages?

a) Micah 6:8

b) Isaiah 1:16-18 and 58:6-14

c) Isaiah 57:15 and 66:2

15) Describe the horror of God's judgment or the wonder of His mercy, as expressed in these verses:

a) Micah 2:3-4

b) Micah 6:13-15

c) Micah 7:18-20

d) Isaiah 2:19-21

e) Isaiah 24:1-6

f) Isaiah 30:15-21

g) Isaiah 40:28-31

h) Isaiah 43:1-7

i) Isaiah 43:25

j) Isaiah 49:14-15