

The Minor Prophets

Week 2 – Obadiah, Jonah & Joel

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating**
- **Message**
- **Applications**

Obadiah

- **Introduction**

It's not clear who this man is.

Obadiah

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He wrote during a time of great tension between Judah & Edom.

Map of Ancient Near East



Obadiah

- **Introduction**

It's not clear who this man is.

He wrote during a time of great tension between Judah & Edom.

His predictions of Edom's demise came to pass...there's no record of the Edomites after AD 70.

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating**

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating (After 854 BC)**
 - It is grouped with the pre-exilic prophets in the Tenach

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating (After 854 BC)**
 - It's with pre-exilic prophets in the Tenach
 - Jerusalem's fall is past to Obadiah & future to Jeremiah

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating (After 854 BC)**
 - It's with pre-exilic prophets in the Tenach
 - Jerusalem's fall is past to Obadiah & future to Jeremiah
 - Yet, Jeremiah appears to quote Obadiah

Who's quoting whom?

- Jeremiah quotes other prophets
- Jeremiah's descriptions have features of Obadiah's style but not vice versa
- Jeremiah's descriptions include sections of commentary

Obadiah & Jeremiah are describing the same nation but not the same event.

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating (After 854 BC)**
 - It's with pre-exilic prophets in the Tenach
 - Jeremiah appears to quote Obadiah

But, what evidence do we have that Edom participated in the Philistine - Arab attack?

Compare the following with Obadiah 10-14

2Chr. 21:8-10,17 Edom rebelled; Philistines/Arabs from N. Africa (near the Cushites) attacked & carried off wealth from Jehoram's palace...stole all his children but one, Ahaziah (c. 854-855).

Amos 1:6-9, 11 Gaza & Tyre (Philistia) sold people to Edom; Edom guilty of fratricide; Amos can be dated to c.775-750 BC around 75-100 years after the invasion.

Joel 3:4-6 Tyre, Sidon and all regions of Philistia are condemned for looting Judah & Jerusalem and for enslaving the inhabitants
...selling them to the Greeks, while Joel is

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating (After 854 BC)**
 - It's with pre-exilic prophets in the Tenach
 - Jeremiah appears to quote Obadiah
 - And yet, Jerusalem's fall is past to Obadiah & future to Jeremiah
 - Which fall of Jerusalem is Obadiah describing?
 - Obadiah must be describing the sacking of Jerusalem by a Philistine Arab coalition.

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating**
- **Message**
 - 1-14 Edom will fall because of their violence, aloofness & delight in Judah's fall

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating**
- **Message**
 - 1-14 Edom will fall
 - 15-16 Nations will be judged by God
 - 17-21 Israel will be restored

Obadiah

- **Introduction**
- **Dating**
- **Message**
- **Applications**
 - God is sovereign
 - Calamity should evoke mercy & repentance
 - God keeps his promises

Obadiah, Jonah & Joel

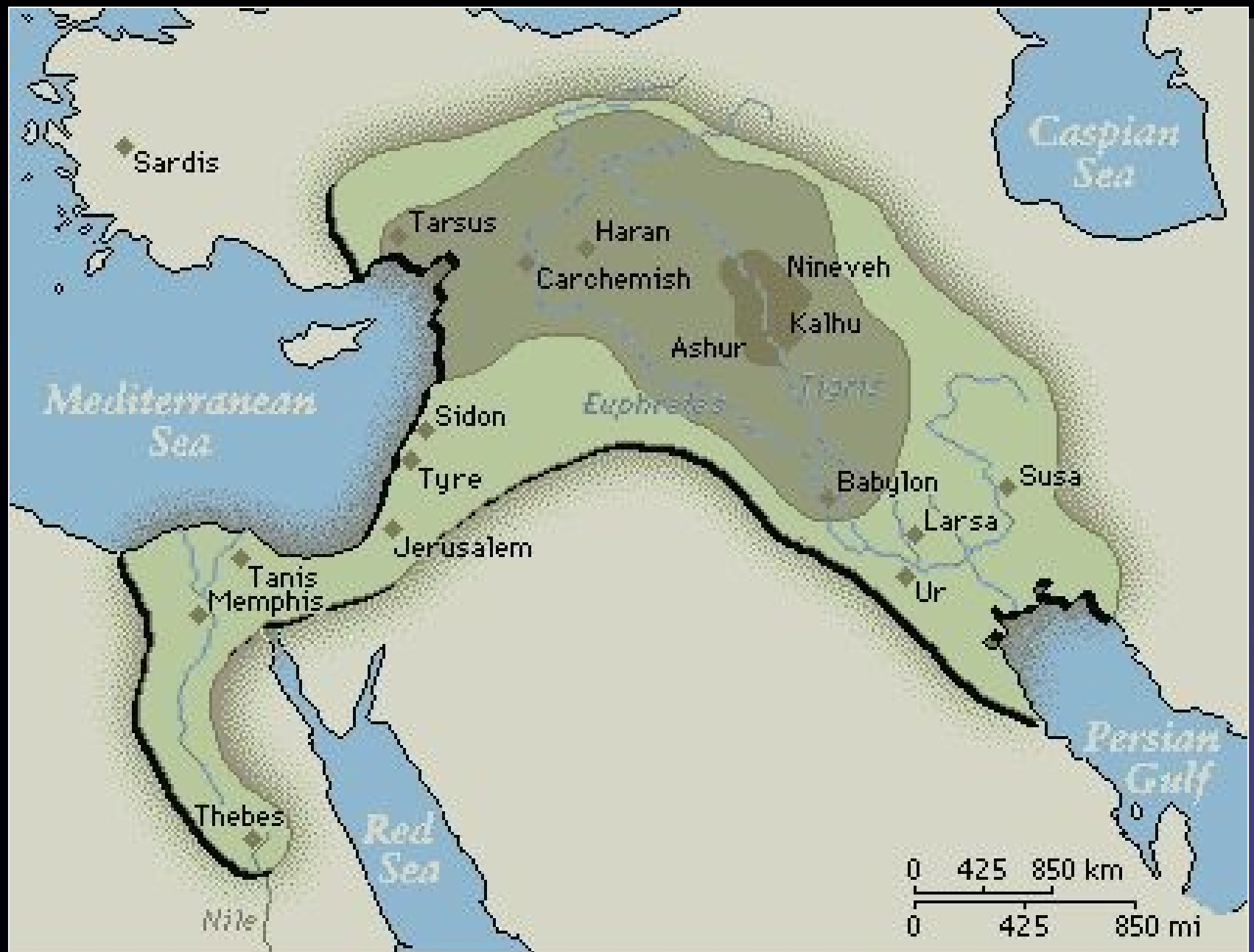
- **Obadiah - Betrayal of the betrayers**
- **Jonah - God is merciful**

Jonah

- Introduction
- Dating
- Message
- Applications

Jonah

- Introduction
 - A prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II
 - This is an historical narrative



ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

1800 - 1600 BC

1244 - 1208 BC

699 - 627 BC

Jonah

- Introduction

- A prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II

- This is an historical narrative

Is Jonah myth?

Is Jonah a myth?

- **Could he have survived a three day ingestion by a sea creature?**
- **Can a plant grow tall overnight?**
- **Did the Ninevites abruptly respond to his preaching?**

There are 4 possibilities:

- 1. these events did not occur - they are legends**
- 2. these events did occur; they are rare but natural events that Jonah falsely believed had spiritual significance**
- 3. these events did occur; they are rare but natural events that God brought about at this time and place to advance his own purposes**
OR

4. these are entirely supernatural

Is Jonah a myth?

- **Could he have survived a three day ingestion by a sea creature?**
- **Can a plant grow tall overnight?**
- **Did the Ninevites abruptly respond to his preaching?**

Jonah

- **Introduction**

- **Dating**

- If written by Jonah then c. 800-750 BC

**Is Jonah a legend written after
why would you think
Assyria fell?
this?**

'*mallah* (sailor), *s^epinah* (ship), *se* (which) and *ribbo* (ten thousand) were words thought to be of Aramaic origin'

'*goralot* (lots) the singular form is used before the exile and the plural form after the exile.'

'The size of Nineveh seems exaggerated'

'Assyrian's didn't say, 'king of Nineveh' (3:6)'

'Nineveh **was** a very important city' suggests the city was no longer important at the time of Jonah's writing.'

Jonah

- Introduction
- Dating
 - If written by Jonah then c. 800-750 BC
 - There's no compelling reason to late date Jonah.

Jonah

- Introduction
- Dating
- Message

Jonah

- Introduction
- Dating
- Message
 - Jonah flees 1:1-17
 - Jonah repents 2:1-10
 - Jonah engages God's task & Nineveh repents 3:1-10
 - Jonah regrets his service to God & God responds to his lack of mercy 4:1-11

Jonah

- Introduction
- Dating
- Message
- Applications
 - It is fruitful to obey God
 - God is merciful
 - To follow God is to have your views challenged

"From some I cut off their noses, their ears and their fingers, of many I put out the eyes...I bound their heads to tree trunks round about the city" typical Assyrian inscription

Mass deportations, were employed as an effective means of destroying national feeling.

"The king knows that all lands hate us." governor's report to the king

"Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her?...All who hear the news of her fall, shall hiss and shake their heads. For

Jonah

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 - It is fruitful to obey God
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Obadiah, Jonah & Joel

- **Obadiah - Betrayal of the betrayers**
- **Jonah - God is merciful**
- **Joel - The day of Yahweh**

Joel

- **Introduction**
- **Date**
- **Message**
- **Application**

Joel

- **Introduction**

- **Date**

- It is with the pre-exilic prophets
- A temple exists
- A scattering of Hebrews is mentioned
- A king, idolatry, Assyria or Babylon are not mentioned.
- Philistia, Egypt, Phoenicia & Edom named
- Others cite Joel not vice versa

Joel

- **Introduction**
- **Date 875-750 BC**
 - It is with the pre-exilic prophets
 - A temple exists
 - A scattering of Hebrews is mentioned
 - A king, idolatry, Assyria or Babylon are not mentioned.
 - Philistia, Egypt, Phoenicia & Edom named
 - Others cite Joel not vice versa

Joel

- Introduction
- Date (875-750 BC)
- Message
- Application
 - God is sovereign
 - God is merciful
 - God will judge the rebellious and bless his people

Obadiah, Jonah & Joel

- Obadiah - Betrayal of the betrayers
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Homework Assignment

- Read & annotate Amos & Hosea
- Memorize Hosea 10:12
- As you read find applicable principles.
- **Prepare answers for the following**
 - **I.D. the relevant kings of Israel & Judah.**
Commended?/Condemned?
 - **What nations threatened Israel & Judah?**
 - **I.D. one theme from each book.**