

## Walking Through the Word

### Kings and Prophets (Week 15)

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Story: **Special Invitations: Jonah, Isaiah and Hosea** (E: Jonah Disobeys God, Jonah Preaches at Nineveh, Isaiah and Hosea: Two Great Prophets, p 290-294)

Location: **Jonah 1-4, Isaiah, Hosea**

#### Bios & definitions

**prophet:** main role was to preach Gods' word to the people – warning, instructing, and encouraging them to live as they ought; also predicted the future as revealed by God

**Jonah:** son of Amittai of Gath Hepher; prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II, the king of Israel from 793-753 B.C.; grew up hating the Assyrians

**Nineveh:** about 500 miles away from Jerusalem and Jonah's hometown, the most important city in Assyria and would soon become the capital of the huge Assyrian Empire; a very wicked city – guilty of evil plots against God; exploitation of the helpless; cruelty in war; idolatry, prostitution and witchcraft; repented and turned to God after Jonah preached God's message to them

**"casting of lots":** a custom widely practiced in the ancient Near East. The precise method is unclear, though it appears that, for the most part, sticks or marked pebbles were drawn from a receptacle into which they had been "cast"

**Isaiah:** his name means "the Lord saves"; served as a prophet to Judah (mainly in Jerusalem) from 740-681 B.C. during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh of Judah; his main message was calling the people back to a special relationship with God; considered to be the greatest Old Testament prophet

**Hosea:** his name means "salvation"; served as a prophet to Israel from 753-715 B.C. during the reigns of the last seven kings of Israel

**NOTE:** Hosea lived in the tragic final days of the northern kingdom, during which six kings (following Jeroboam II) reigned within 25 years. Four were murdered by their successors while in office, and one was captured in battle. Assyria was expanding westward and just as Hosea and Isaiah prophesied, Samaria was captured and its people exiled in 722-721, bringing the northern kingdom to an end.

## Walking Through the Word

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Story: **Good Kings and God's Servants** (E: Good King Hezekiah, God Spares Hezekiah's Life, Josiah and the Forgotten Book, Five Other Prophets, p 295-302)

Location: **2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 29:1-32:23, Amos, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah**

#### Bios & definitions

**Hezekiah:** son of Ahaz, king of Judah; he was twenty-five when he became king and he reigned twenty-nine years (715-686); his mother was Abijah, daughter of Zechariah; **“trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses”** (2 Kings 18: 5-6); in his sixth year the Assyrians captured Samaria and deported all of Israel to foreign countries

**Sennacherib:** the king of Assyria during Hezekiah's reign; son of Sargon II who had deported Israel's people into captivity

**Josiah:** succeeded his father Amon as king of Judah when he was only eight years old; reigned 31 years; **did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the ways of his father David**; great-grandson of Hezekiah; “in his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images” (2 Chronicles 34:3); died in battle against the king of Egypt

**Hilkiah:** the high priest who found the Book of the Law

**Amos:** a shepherd of Tekoa in Judah; but a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel 760-750 B.C. during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel; contemporaries were Jonah and Hosea; pronounced God's judgment on Israel for their complacency, idolatry, and oppression of the poor

**Micah:** served as prophet to Judah from 742-687 B.C. during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah; contemporaries were the prophets Hosea and Isaiah; predicted the fall of both the northern and southern kingdom as God's discipline on the people

**Nahum:** served as a prophet to Judah and Assyria from 636-612 B.C. during the the reign of Manasseh of Judah; contemporary was Zephaniah; his main message was that the mighty empire of Assyria that oppressed God's people would tumble – bringing comfort to the people of Judah

**Habakkuk:** served as a prophet to Judah during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah between the fall of Nineveh (the capital of Assyria) in 612 and the Babylonian invasion of Judah in 588; contemporaries were Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel; Habakkuk brought the people's questions to God and this book records Habakkuk's dialogue with God

**Zephaniah:** served as a prophet to Judah from 640-621 B.C. during the reign of Josiah; contemporary was Jeremiah; probably influenced Josiah's attempts to turn the nation back to God; his main message was that a day would come when God, as Judge, would severely punish all nations but that after judgment God would show mercy to all who had been faithful to him

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### Kings and Prophets (Week 15)

Story: **The Crying Crier** (E: Jeremiah Answers God's Call, Jeremiah Warns the People, Jeremiah Writes God's Words in a Book, Jeremiah in the Dungeon, p 302-308)

Location: **Jeremiah 1-52, Lamentations**

#### Bios & definitions

**Jeremiah:** son of Hilkiah the priest; was shy and quiet; was called by God at age twenty to be a prophet; served as a prophet to Judah from 627 B.C. until the exile in 586 B.C. during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah; was preceded by Zephaniah and Habukkuk was a contemporary; main message was that repentance from sin would postpone Judah's coming judgment at the hands of Babylon; prophesied both the 70-year captivity in Babylon and their eventual return from exile

**Baruch:** was called on by Jeremiah to write on a scroll all the words that God had given to Jeremiah to speak to the people

**Jehoiakim:** king of Judah from 609-598 B.C. (11 years); burned the book of God's words spoken by Jeremiah; put in prison for many years