

Old Testament Prophets

This is a brief outline of the books of the prophets, in chronological order. All dates are approximate.

Who	When	Where	What
Jonah	760 B.C.	Nineveh (ancient capital of Assyria)	Jonah hated the Gentiles in the city of Nineveh and did not obey when God told him to go preach to them. But God's plans will not be thwarted, as He had prepared a special fish to swallow Jonah and take him to Nineveh. Jonah eventually preached in Nineveh and the people repented of their sins, the only recorded time in the Old Testament when God saved a large group of people outside of Israel.
Amos (Key Chapters: 3-5, 8-9)	750 – 700 B.C.	Israel	God will punish the nations for their transgressions, but especially Israel, who had God's special favor upon them. Yet after all of that, God will ultimately restore His people.
Hosea (Key Chapters: 1-3, 6, 13-14)			God tells Hosea to marry a prostitute to give Israel a picture of their unfaithfulness (idolatry) to Him. The people of Israel will be judged for their sin, and God in His mercy explains that He will extend salvation to the Gentiles.
Isaiah (Key Chapters: 1, 5-12, 25-29, 40-66) (Other Notable Verses: 13:11, 14:27, 16:5, 33:22, 35:5, 37:18-20)			(Ch. 1-12) God will judge Israel, yet His Son, Immanuel, will be born of a virgin and will reign over His people. (Ch. 13-24) God will judge all the wicked, sinful nations. (Ch. 25-27) Praise God for His victory and salvation! (Ch. 28-35) Woe to all who trust in their wisdom or in other nations instead of trusting God. But there is a future hope! (Ch. 36-39) God defeats boastful King Sennacherib of Assyria and extends King Hezekiah's life. [2 Kings 18-20] (Ch. 40-48) Unlike worthless idols, God created all things, actively rules over all things, and will redeem His people. (Ch. 49-55) God's Servant is coming for Jews and gentiles. (Ch. 56-59a) God desires humility, not self-righteous works. (Ch. 59b-66) God will save gentiles due to Israel's idolatry.
Micah	750 – 700 B.C.	Israel and Judah	Judgment is coming upon Israel and Judah due to their sin, but then the promised Messiah will come out of Bethlehem.
Nahum	660 B.C.	Nineveh (ancient capital of Assyria)	God used Assyria to bring judgment upon Israel, but they failed to repent as they did in Jonah's time and they will be destroyed. (History records that Assyria fell to Babylon within 60 years.)
Joel	<i>(unknown)</i>	Judah	The great and terrible Day of the Lord is coming. Whoever (whether Jew or gentile) repents to the Lord will be saved!
Obadiah	<i>(unknown)</i>	Edom (Esau's descendants)	God will deliver His people, but Edom will be brought down for their pride and their actions against Israel. [Numbers 20]

Habakkuk	625 – 575 B.C.	Judah	Habakkuk asks God why there is so much injustice. God is raising up the Chaldeans (Babylon) to bring judgment upon Judah, then the ungodly Babylonians will also be punished.
Zephaniah			God will bring judgment upon Jerusalem and all the prideful nations, but God will then restore those who are faithful.
Jeremiah (Key Chapters: 1-5, 17-18, 23, 30-33, 50-51) (Other Notable Verses: 9:23-24)			(Ch. 1) Jeremiah is called by God and given His protection. (Ch. 2-23) Judah has broken its covenant with God. They will be taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. (Ch. 24-29) Some faithful Jews are taken captive in order to preserve them from the coming 70 years of desolation. (Ch. 30-33) God will bring Israel back into their land, and in the new covenant, He will redeem and unite His people. (Ch. 34-45, 52) Jerusalem fell to Babylon. Some tried to go against God and flee to Egypt but were also overtaken. (Ch. 46-49) God proclaims judgment upon other nations. (Ch. 50-51) God proclaims judgment upon Babylon for their attack on Judah. (Babylon would fall to Persia about 50 years later.)
Lamentations (Key Ch: 3-4)			The prophet Jeremiah laments (mourns) over Jerusalem, which has now fallen to Babylon because of its idolatry.
Ezekiel (Key Chapters: 2-3, 8-16, 20-24, 33-34, 36-37, 43)	600 – 530 B.C.	Among the exiles in Babylon	(Ch. 1-3) God calls Ezekiel, giving him great responsibility. (Ch. 4-24, 33) Due to temple idolatry, which God compares to harlotry, Jerusalem will be sieged and fall to Babylon as Judah goes into captivity. (This all took place within a decade.) (Ch. 25-32, 35) God proclaims judgment on other nations. (Ch. 34, 36-48) God will restore Israel to its land and protect His people. The temple will be rebuilt. God will send His Servant as their Shepherd to lead His sheep.
Daniel			(Ch. 1, 3-6) Daniel and his companions continue to trust and obey God even while in captivity in a foreign land. (Ch. 2, 7-12) There will be four great kingdoms (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome), then 483 years after the order to rebuild the wall, the Son of Man (the Messiah) will come.
Haggai	520 B.C.	Among the exiles who returned to Jerusalem	Despite their initial selfishness, God stirred up the hearts of the exiles who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild His temple.
Zechariah (Key Chapters: 1-3, 7, 9, 12-14)			God warns against empty religion, yet He will restore Israel and remove sin by sending His Servant (the Branch, the Shepherd), who will be lowly and riding on a donkey. God will pour out grace, yet they will pierce Him and mourn.
Malachi	430 B.C.	Jerusalem	The people have not given proper offerings to God. Yet God does not change, so He will not destroy His people. The Sun of Righteousness will arise to heal and refine, and the name of God shall be made great among the Gentiles.