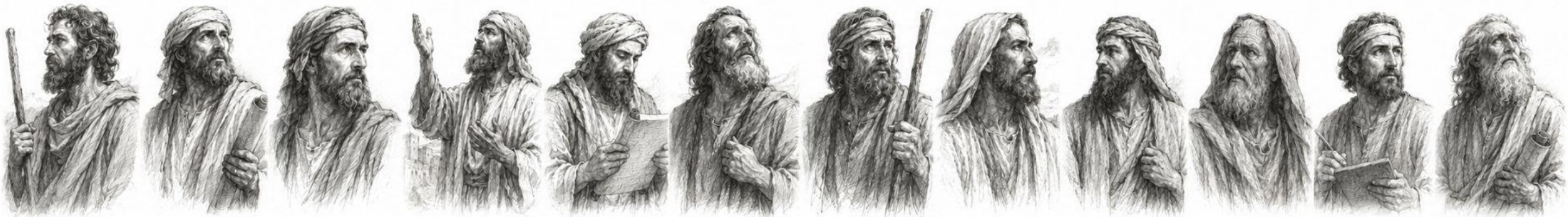
The Twelve

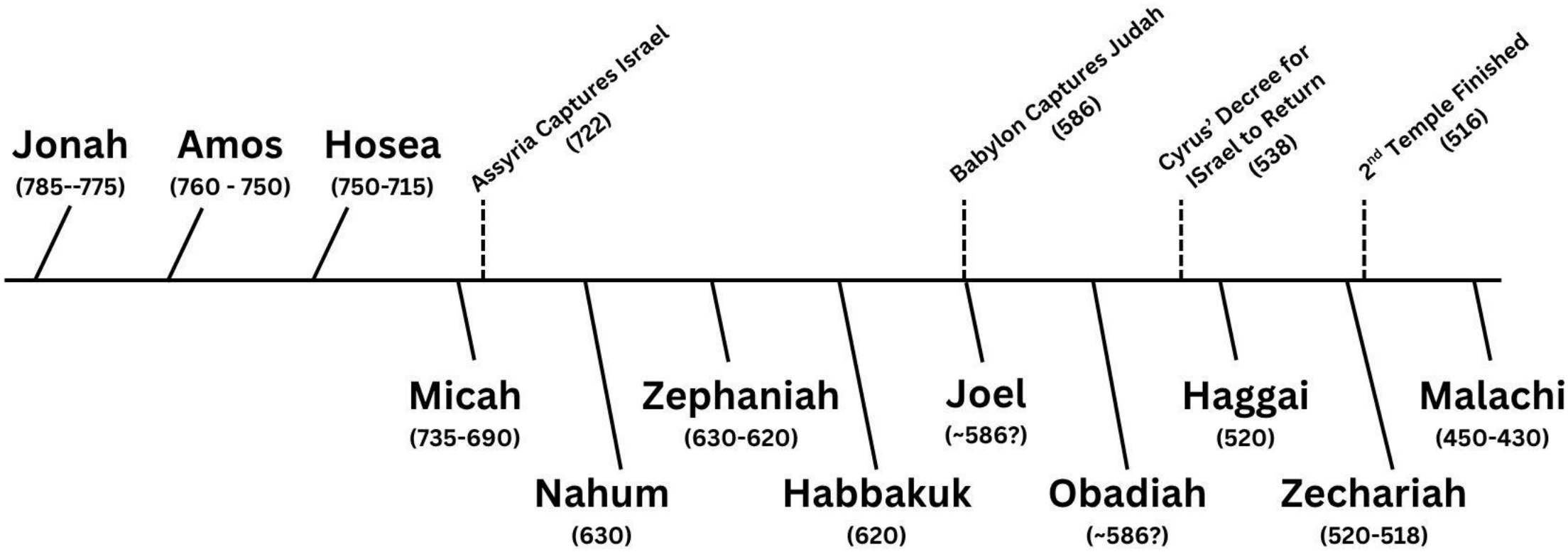


A STUDY ON THE MINOR PROPHETS

CORE TRAINING - WED NIGHTS

FALL 2026

Prophets to Israel



Prophets to Judah

Authorship of Haggai

- Haggai is mentioned 11 times in Scripture:
  - Haggai - 1:1, 3, 12, 13; 2:1, 10, 13, 14, 20.
  - Ezra 5:1; 6:4

- The lack of familial details may serve to support the message's divine origin.

- Translations of the OT other than the Hebrew have attributed Haggai as the author of several psalms.



Date of Haggai

- King Cyrus granted the Jews permission to return to their native land in 538BC. While some Jews returned, many chose to stay in their exiled land.

- Unlike the preceding rulers, Cyrus believed submission was best gained by allowing the conquered peoples to live and worship in their native lands.

- Haggai dates his prophecy to the second year of King Darius.
  - Darius reigned from 522-486 BC.

- Darius continued the foreign policy given by Cyrus.

“Such policies adopted by Persian kings toward their non-Persian subjects were particularly evident in two areas. In matters pertaining to local law, considerable latitude was granted to the wishes of indigenous populations, and in matters pertaining to religious practice, government funding was made available for building temples of regional interest.”

-Richard Taylor

Date of Haggai

- Unlike other Minor Prophets, Haggai gives us the specific dates of his prophecies:
  - Message #1 (1:1-15) August 29, 520BC
  - Message #2 (2:1-9) October 17, 520BC
  - Message #3 (2:10-19) December 18, 520BC
  - Message #4 (2:20-23) December 18, 520BC

Audience of Haggai

- Written to the Jewish people who had returned from exile to their homeland.
- Three waves of Jewish return:
  - 538 BC - Ezra 2:64-65 - Led by Zerubbabel
  - 457 BC - Ezra 7:1-8 - Led by Ezra
  - 444 BC - Nehemiah 1-2 - Led by Nehemiah

- Not only were the Jewish people allowed to return home; Cyrus also encouraged them to rebuild the destroyed temple. To further encourage them, Cyrus gave the people the necessary funds (Ezra 1:1-4, 9).

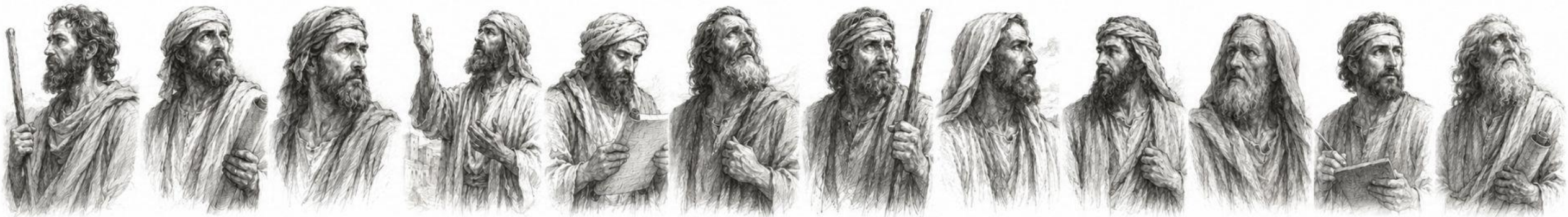
- Zerubbabel was the governor of Jerusalem at this time, and Joshua was the high priest.

- Haggai writes to these returned people, spurring them on to continue to rebuild the temple into a place where the one true living God may be worshiped.
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Structure of Haggai

- 1:1-15 – Message #1 – Consider what you are doing
  - 1:12-15 – The People Respond to Haggai's message
- 2:1-9 – Message #2 – The Past Temple and Future Temple
- 2:10-19 – Message #3 – Uncleanliness, Repentance, and Blessing
- 2:20-23 – Message #4 – The coming judgment and signet ring.

The Twelve



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