

The Twelve

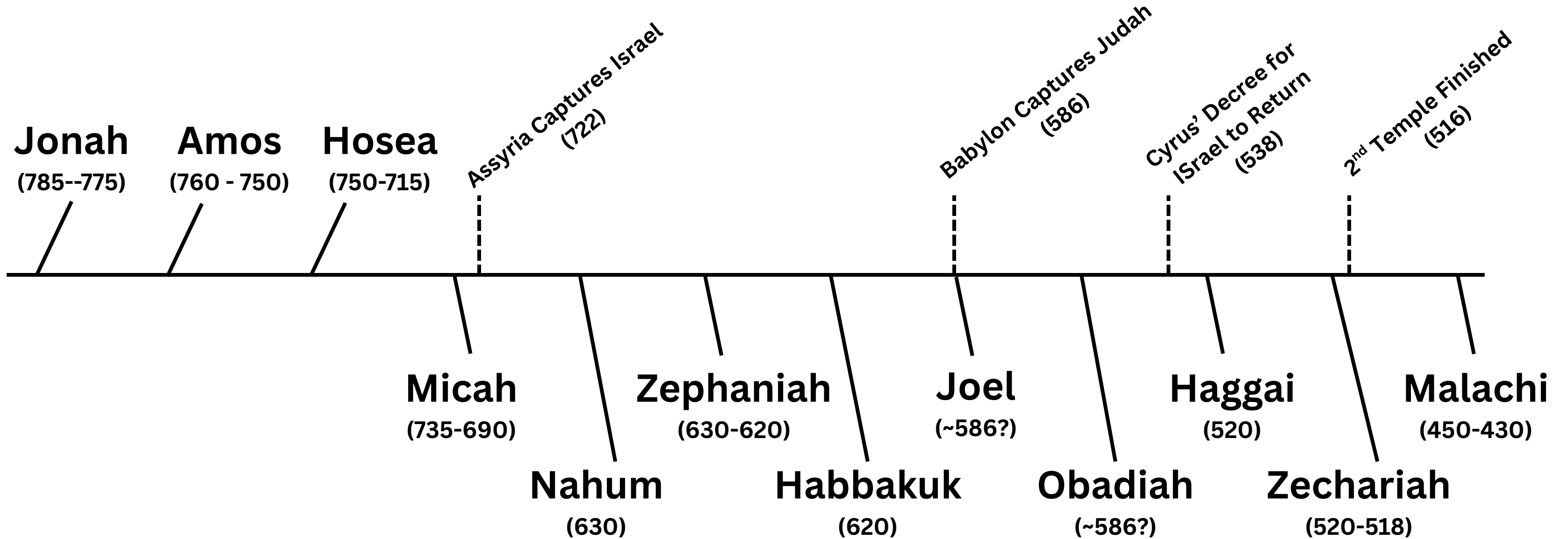


A STUDY ON THE MINOR PROPHETS

CORE TRAINING - WED NIGHTS

FALL 2026

Prophets to Israel



Prophets to Judah

Authorship of Jonah

- Jonah is not listed as the author of this book, but historically he is attributed authorship.
- Jonah was prophet to the northern nation of Israel.
- Jonah is the only prophet to be specifically sent to a foreign people group to prophesy.



~ 1580 AD

Date of Jonah



~ 1580 AD

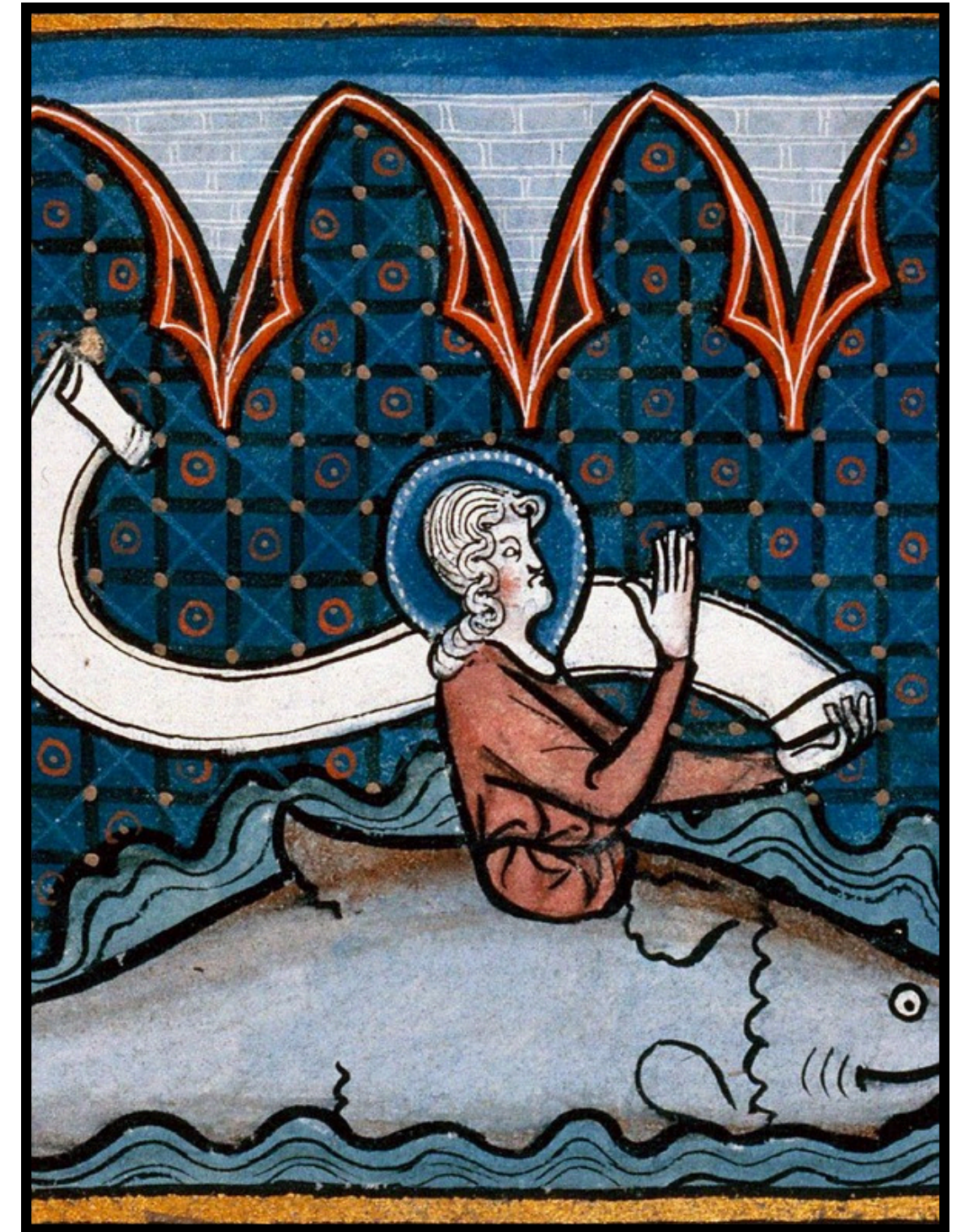
- Jonah's birth and death are not recorded in history.
- The book contains no reference to its dating, any attempt to do so must rely on outside sources.
- The only OT reference we have of Jonah come ins 2 Kings 14:25

“He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.”

2 Kings 14:25

Audience of Jonah

- Jonah does not mention to whom the book is written.
- Considering his nature as a prophet to Israel we can assume that Jonah was written to the northern nation.



~ 1280 AD

Assyria



~ 650 BC

- Assyria at this point was the strongest nation on the world stage, and was continuing to grow in power.
- Nineveh had approx. 300,000 people.
- The Assyrians cruelty and barbarianism was known throughout the world.

“I captured many troops alive: I cut off of some their arms [and] hands; I cut off of others their noses, ears, [and] extremities. I gouged out the eyes of many troops. I made one pile of the living [and] one of heads. I hung their heads on trees around the city. With their blood I dyed the mountain red like wool, [and] the rest of them the ravines and torrents of the mountain swallowed. I carried off captives [and] possessions from them. I cut off the heads of their fighters [and] built [therewith] a tower before their city. I burnt their adolescent boys and girls.”

- Ashurnasirpal

Interpreting Jonah

- This book contains only one utterance of prophecy consisting of only four Hebrew words (3:4b).
- Four main ways to interpret this story:
 - Allegory
 - Parable
 - Embellishment
 - History



~ 1180 AD

Probelmatic Texts

- “Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days’ walk” (3:3).
- “When the word reached the king of Nineveh” (3:6)



~ 1621 AD



Outlining Jonah

- Chapter 1 - Jonah flees with pagan sailors
 - Chapter 2 - Jonah turns to the Lord
- Chapter 3 - Jonah tells the pagan Ninevites to turn to the Lord
 - Chapter 4 - Jonah's anger over the Lord's compassion



~ 1850 AD

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