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# JOURNEY: Joel, Amos, Jonah

Key Word	Key Passage	Key Themes	Key People
"Justice"	"Return to me with all your heart..." -- Joel 2:12-13 "But let justice roll on like a river..." -- Amos 5:21-24 "Let them give up their evil ways..." -- Jonah 3:7-10	Judgment Promise of Holy Spirit Justice Heartfelt Faith God's Compassion	Joel Amos Amaziah Jeroboam II Jonah the Prophet

## Introduction

### 1. The organization of the Old Testament canon

The Law	History	Poetry & Wisdom	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	1 & 2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	1 & 2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Jonah
	1 & 2 Chronicles			Micah
	Ezra			Nahum
	Nehemiah			Habakkuk
	Esther			Zephaniah
				Haggai
				Zechariah
				Malachi

Major vs. Minor prophets: one criterion: *length*

### 2. Historical time frame

#### a. Joel:

- kingship of Israel: Jehu, Jehoahaz, Joash (Jehoash); 841 – 793 B.C.
  - 2 Kings 9:1-10:36, 2 Kings 13:1-9, 2 Kings 13:10-14:16
- kingship of Judah: Joash, Amaziah; 835-796 B.C.
  - 2 Kings 11:2-12:21, 2 Kings 14:1-20

#### b. Amos and Jonah:

- Israel: Jeroboam II; 793-753 B.C.; 2 Kings 14:16-29
- Judah: Uzziah (Azariah); 792-753 B.C.; 2 Kings 15:1-17

#### c. Generally, a time of economic prosperity and political stability

- Gave way to spiritual decay and social injustice

### 3. The progressive fulfillment of prophecy

- Immediate fulfillment
- Messianic fulfillment
- Apocalyptic fulfillment

## The Book of Joel

1. General information
  - a. Describes the massive locust plague and severe drought devastating Judah as the judgment of God upon the land
    - Joel 1:1-4, 10-12, 15
  - b. Restoration
    - Joel 2:25-27
  - c. The promise of the Holy Spirit
    - Joel 2:28-32
    - Acts 2:17-21
  - d. The promise of permanent restoration
    - Joel 3:17-21
2. **Representative passage: Joel 2:12-13**

*“Even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”*

- a. The plague of locusts and the drought are seen as God’s judgment
- b. Judgment is intended by God to bring repentance
- c. Genuine repentance is heartfelt
- d. Repentance returns our affection to God

## The Book of Amos

1. The pronouncement of judgment
  - The formula: “For three sins of [Damascus], even for four, I will not turn back my wrath”
  - NLT: “The people of [Damascus] have sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not let them go unpunished any longer!”

a. Damascus (1:3)	d. Edom (1:10)	g. Judah (2:4)
b. Gaza (1:6)	e. Ammon (1:13)	h. Israel (2:6)
c. Tyre (1:9)	f. Moab (2:1)	
2. Judgment on Israel
  - a. “deny justice” (2:7)
  - b. “trample the poor” (5:11-13, 8:4)
3. Consequences for sin
  - a. “Chosen and therefore punished...” (3:2)
  - b. “Therefore I will send you into exile, beyond Damascus...” (5:27)
  - c. “stir up a nation against you, O house of Israel” (6:14)
  - d. “...Israel will certainly go into exile, away from their native land.” (7:17b)

#### 4. Representative passage: 5:21-24

*"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies'... But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"*

- a. Genuine religion (genuine faith) is not a matter of outward rituals
- b. Genuine religion is a matter of justice and righteousness
  - Justice is a matter of treating others with the respect they deserve as those created in the image of God
- c. Two images
  - 1) The plumb line (7:7-8) –God’s righteous standard
  - 2) The basket of ripe fruit (8:1-7) – ripe for judgment
- d. Message of hope (9:11-15)

#### The Book of Jonah

1. Historical setting: threat of Assyria
  - Nineveh = “the great city” in Assyria
  - Known for its wickedness
2. The Story
  - Built on the irony of Jonah’s attitude

#### 3. Representative passage: 3:6-10

*The King of Nineveh: “But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent...”*

- a. The city of Nineveh experienced genuine repentance
- b. God extended his compassion and relented from his intention to destroy the city
- c. This act of God’s grace angered Jonah
- d. God’s love extends to all people, not just the Israelites

#### Life Application

1. The list below represents different dimensions of the Church’s ministry. Prioritize them in order of importance, “1” being most important, “8” being least important.

- \_\_\_ Bible Study
- \_\_\_ Evangelism
- \_\_\_ Fighting abortion
- \_\_\_ Fighting human trafficking
- \_\_\_ Political involvement
- \_\_\_ Providing for the poor & hungry
- \_\_\_ Working for civil rights
- \_\_\_ Worship

#### 2. Group Discussion:

- The evangelical Church has long resisted the “social gospel.” Is there a social aspect to the gospel of Christ?
- Some say that working for social justice is forsaking our primary calling. How do you respond?
- To what degree do you associate repentance with justice?