



THE BOOK OF

# AMOS

*...a verse by verse study*

# Books of the Bible

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

LAW

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

HISTORY

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

POETRY

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

MAJOR PROPHETS

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

MINOR PROPHETS

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

GOSPELS

HISTORY

Acts  
Romans  
1 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians

EPISTLES TO CHURCHES

1 Timothy  
2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon

EPISTLES TO FRIENDS

Hebrews  
James  
1 Peter  
2 Peter  
1 John  
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3 John  
Jude  
Revelation

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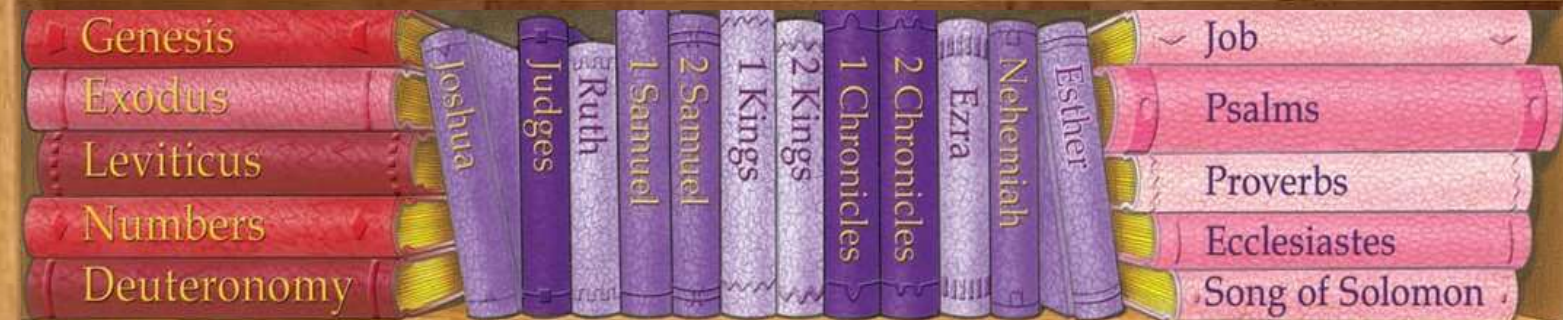
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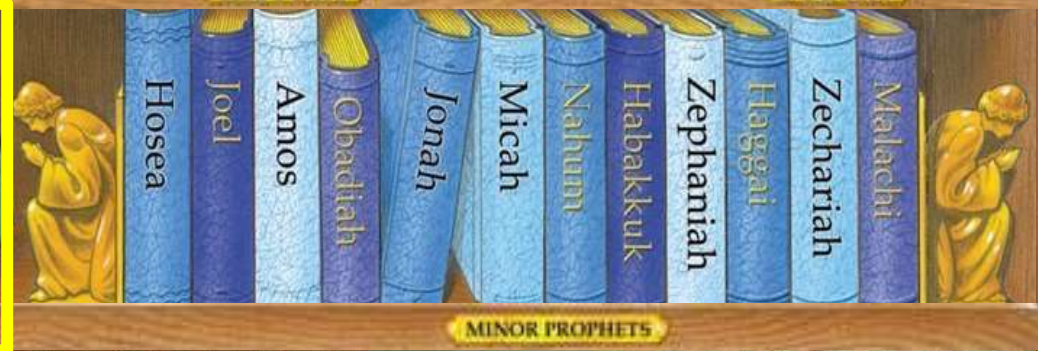
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MAJOR PROPHETS



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GENERAL EPISTLES

# The Minor Prophets



- Hosea
  - The Lord loves Israel despite her sin
- Joel
  - Judgment precedes Israel's future revival
- Amos
  - God is just and must judge sin
- Obadiah
  - Sure retribution must overtake merciless pride
- Jonah
  - Divine grace is universal
- Micah
  - Bethlehem born Messiah will deliver

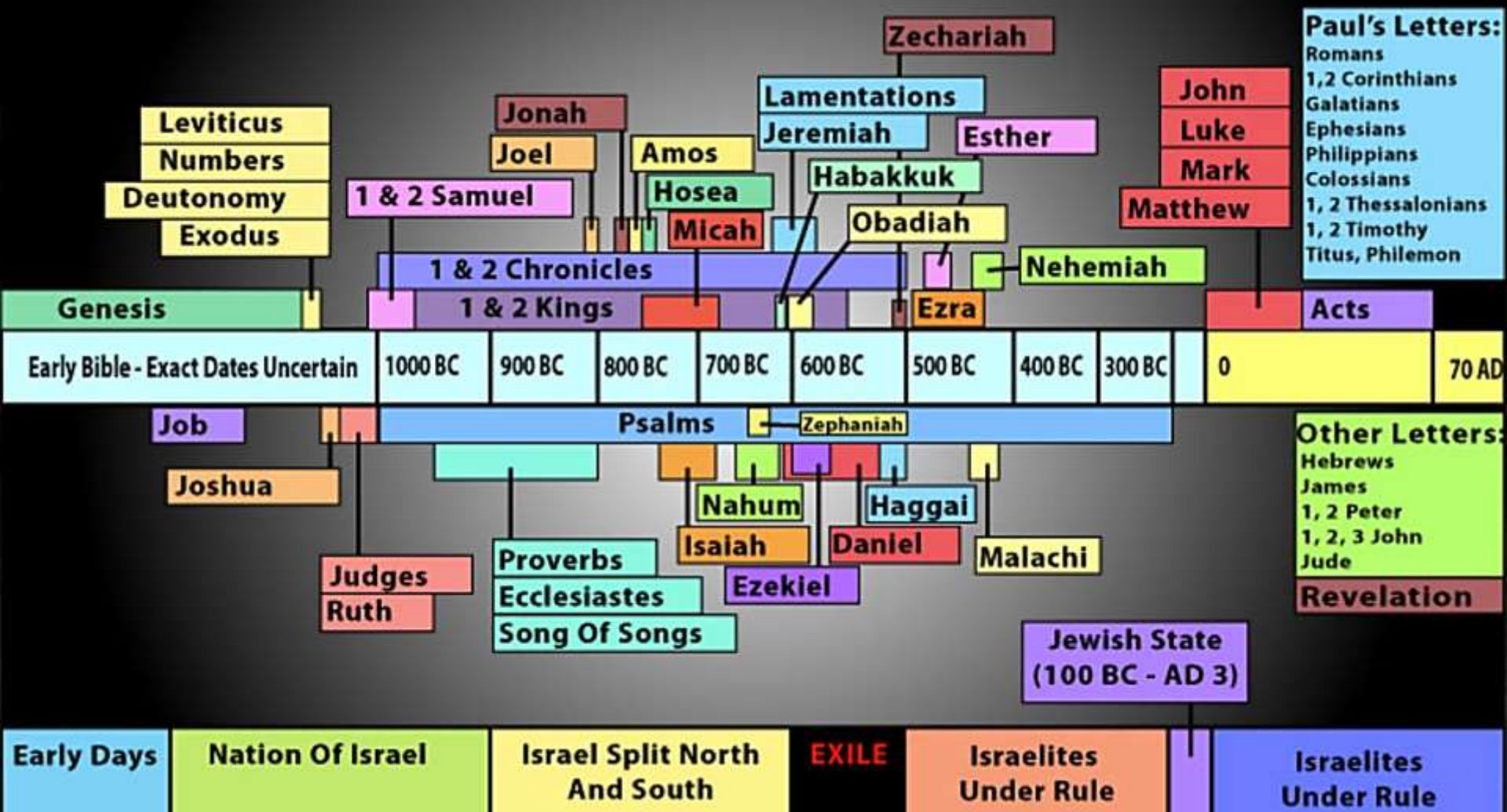
# The Minor Prophets



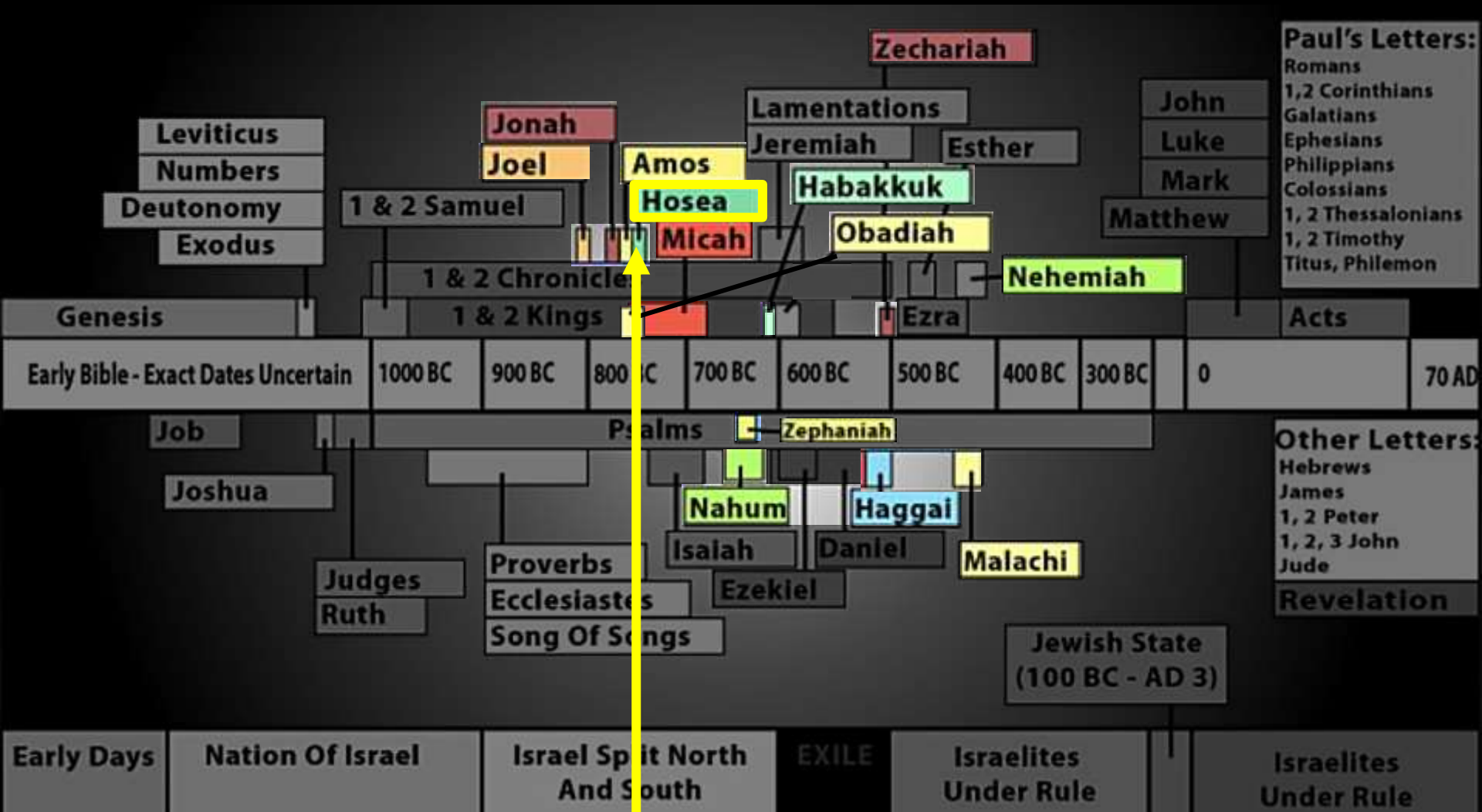
- Nahum
  - Doom is to come on wicked Nineveh
- Habakkuk
  - Justification by faith is God's way
- Zephaniah
  - The Day of the Lord will precede the kingdom
- Haggai
  - Consider your ways! God must be no#1
- Zechariah
  - Repentant Israel will see their Messiah
- Malachi
  - Judgment is certain for the wicked



# Chronology of the Books

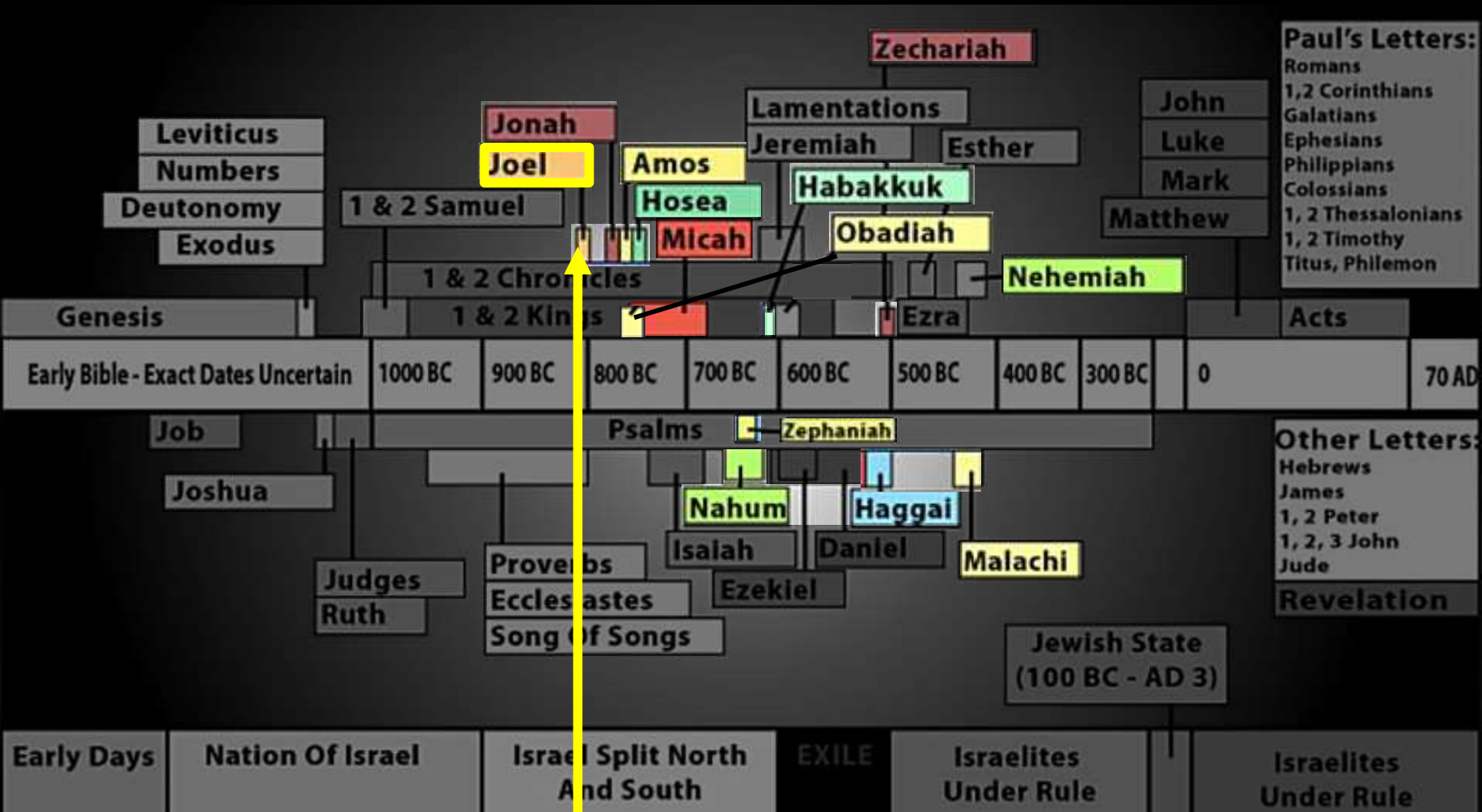


# Ministry of the Minor Prophets



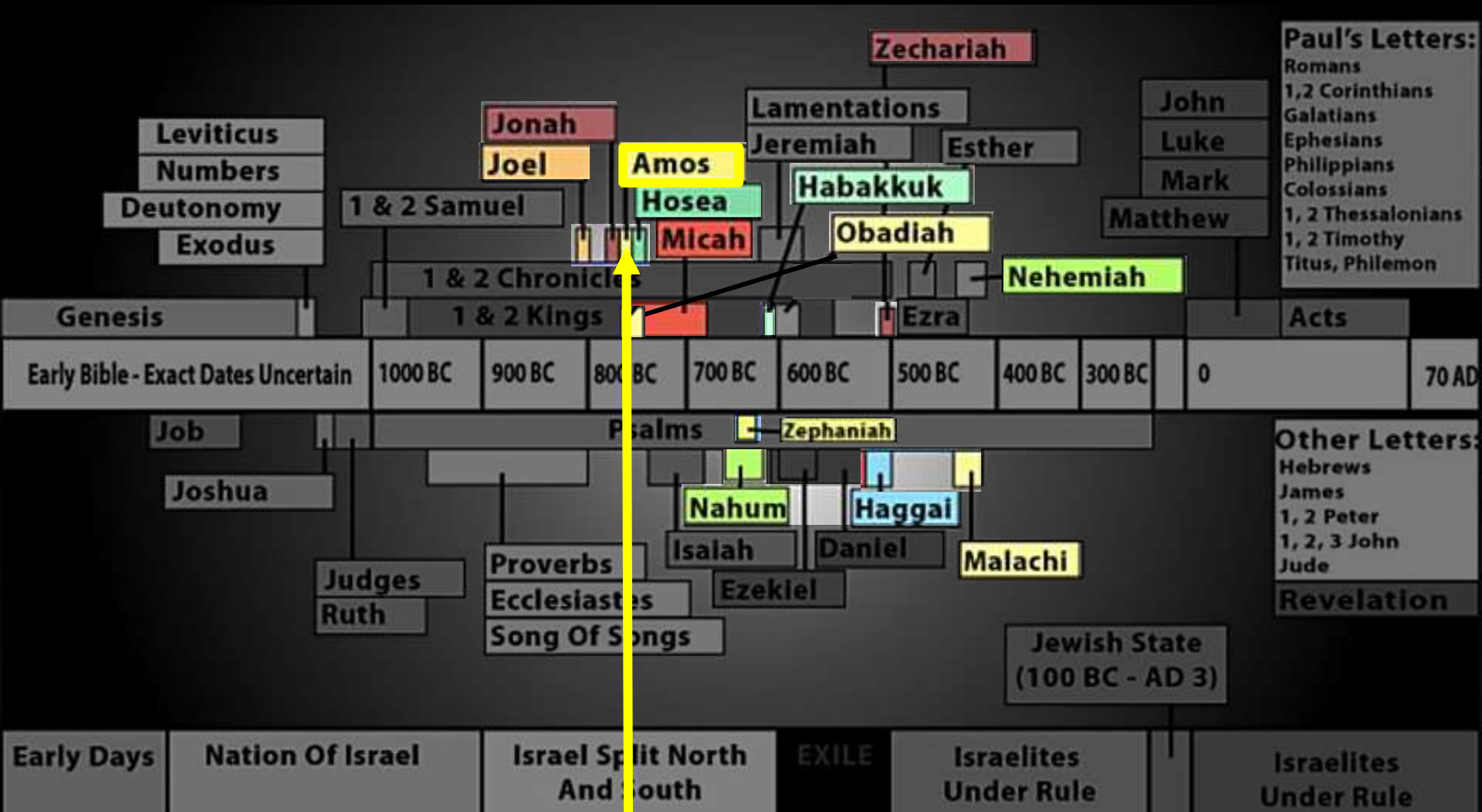
**HOSEA** 793-722 B.C. (Prophet to the Northern Kingdom)

# Ministry of the Minor Prophets



**JOEL** 835-796 B.C. (The earliest prophet?)

# Ministry of the Minor Prophets



**AMOS** 765 - 750 B.C. (Prophet to the Northern Kingdom)



THE BOOK OF

# AMOS

*Chapter 1*

# Amos

- *“The book of Amos is written in some of the finest OT Hebrew style. Amos was a sheep-breeder and tender of sycamore trees. Perhaps he illustrates the appearance of God-ordained men throughout history who speak very effectively and even beautifully for the Lord without the traditional “school of the prophets” background or formal education so much sought after today.”*

*W McDonald: Believer's Bible Commentary*

# Amos

- In his first two chapters, Amos pronounces judgment against eight nations.
- *“Each pronouncement of judgment is introduced by the words, “For three transgressions ... and for four.” Baxter explains this Hebrew idiom for us: The phrase is not to be taken arithmetically, to mean a literal three and then four, but idiomatically, as meaning that the measure was full, and more than full; the sin of these people had overreached itself; or, to put it in an allowable bit of modern slang, they had “gone one too many,” they had “tipped the scale.”“*

W McDonald: *Believer's Bible Commentary*

# Overview of Amos

- Key Verses:
  - 5:24 - "But let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."
  - 8:2 - "Then said Jehovah unto me, the end is come upon my people Israel; I will not again pass by them any more,"
- Key Word:
  - Punishment.
- Key Phrase:
  - "Thus saith Jehovah."



# Overview of Amos

- Key Thought:
  - God's justice demands punishment upon Israel for their injustice.
- Key Characters:
  - Amos, the shepherd, commissioned by God to be a prophet to Northern Israel.
  - Amaziah, the corrupt priest of the shrine of Bethel.
- Stephen quotes Amos 5:24-27 in Acts 7:42-43.
- James cites Amos 9:11 in Acts 15:16-18.

# Overview of Amos

- The Author:
  - It is "the words of Amos" the herdsman of Tekoa (1:1).
- All we know is revealed in this book.
  - He was a native of Tekoa, a small mountain village 12 miles south of Jerusalem, 22 miles from Bethel.
  - It was a lonely, sparsely populated district overlooking the wilderness of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, some 18 miles away.

# Overview of Amos

- Amos means "burden-bearer."
  - We must not confuse him with Amoz, the father of Isaiah.
  - The fact that his father's name is not mentioned suggests that he was probably from a poor, obscure family.
- His occupation:
  - He was a humble shepherd of an ugly type of sheep with fine wool, called "noked" (7:14).
  - He was also a dresser of sycamore trees, a poor quality of figs called mulberry figs.

# Overview of Amos

- "Dresser" means pincher.
  - The unripe fruit had to be punctured to promote ripening.
  - The fruit was infested with insects and inedible until the top was punctured so the insects could escape.

# Overview of Amos

- His ministry:
  - He was neither a prophet nor a son of the prophets (7:14),
    - That is, he was not a professional prophet.
    - Nor had he been to a school for prophets (II Kings 2:3).
- God had called him specially for his mission

# Overview of Amos

- *"Amos, a son of the wilderness, a man of granite make, stern, fearless, self-contained, of powerful, well-knit mind, vivid imagination, and lofty bearing."*

G. G. Findlay.

# Overview of Amos

- He was deeply devoted to God and his law.
  - Amos had a special fondness for Deuteronomy. He alludes to it repeatedly.
    - See 2:10 (Deut. 29:5); 4:10 (Deut, 4:30; 30:2); 4:11 (Deut. 29:23); 5:11 (Deut, 28:30-39).
- His preaching was blunt, courageous, and powerful, preaching repentance.
  - He has been called "the plumb line preacher" (7:7).
  - He is the John the Baptist of the Old Testament.
- *“He was educated and a first-rate orator, using the Hebrew without blemish”*

- John Waddey

# Background of the Times

- Politically:
  - Assyria had long been casting a lustful eye at the rich lands of Israel.
  - Jeroboam II had ascended Israel's throne in 783 B.C. and ruled as a military despot.
  - Uzziah had become king of Judah in c.a. 786 B.C.
  - Both kingdoms enjoyed success and prosperity both politically and economically.



# Background of the Times

- Socially:
  - With their prosperity came luxury and corruption in government and justice, both domestically and morally.
  - The poor were crushed and abused by the greed of the wealthy.

# Background of the Times

- Religiously:
  - Religion had degenerated into a commercial racket. Jehovah had been reduced to the level of a pagan god in the public mind.
  - The only impact their religion had on their daily life was bad. It corrupted them rather than strengthened them.

# Background of the Times

- His mission:
  - Go to Bethel, the religious center of the north, and proclaim the doom of the nation.
    - Viz. Israel will be destroyed; nothing can avert it.
- Amos' predictions came true within 30 years.

# Background of the Times

- Bethel was a small town 10 miles north of Jerusalem.
- It was a chief national religious shrine where Jeroboam had placed a golden calf.
- It was especially sacred because Jacob had his dream about the ladder into heaven there. (Ref I Kings 12:28-31).

# Time of Writing

- Amos prophesied around 765 B.C.
- His contemporaries were Hosea in the north and Isaiah and Micah in the south,
- *“The words of Amos can only be understood in light of his social, economic, and historical background”.*

- John Waddey

# Reason for Writing

- 1. To announce coming judgment upon Israel because of their idolatry and sin.
- 2. To make plain to the people of Israel what the demands of God's service truly are.
- 3. To remind Israel that God cares for all nations and exercises sovereignty over them.
- 4. To show that all nations are expected to respect such basic rules of human conduct as integrity, honesty, purity, and fairness.
- 5. To show that cruel, inhumane treatment of one's neighbor will negate all worship, no matter how elaborate.
- 6. To remind Israel of Jehovah's faithfulness to his covenant and law and their accountability to a practical observance thereof.

- John Waddey

# Amos' Message

- The promised judgments of eight nations
  - Chapters 1–2
- The guilt and punishment of Israel
  - Chapters 3–6
- The symbols of approaching judgment
  - Chapters 7:1 – 9:10
- The future restoration of Israel
  - Chapters 9:11–15

# Introduction to Ch 1&2

- Amos prophesies God's judgment on:
  - Damascus 1:3
  - Gaza 1:6
  - Tyre (Phoenicia) 1:9
  - Edom 1:11
  - Ammon 1:13
  - Moab 2:1
- And then Amos speaks of judgment on..
  - Judah! 2:4
  - Israel 2:6





THE BOOK OF

# AMOS

*Chapter 1*

<sup>1</sup> The words of Amos, who was among the herdman of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

Amos 1:1

- Amos' calling:
  - “It seems that Amos had no "formal" theological or prophetic training, though there was a "school of the prophets" known as the sons of the prophets at that time Amos was a simple man, a farmer, who had been uniquely called to ministry”. – David Guzik
- God can use anyone, from anywhere.

# The Calling of Amos

<sup>14</sup> I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet, but I was a sheepbreeder and a tender of sycamore fruit.

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

**Amos 7:14-15**

<sup>1</sup> The words of Amos, who was among the herdman of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

**Amos 1:1**

- The nation had been divided for around 150yrs
- For around 100 years God had been silent.
- Now God brings warning of impending judgment through his servants
- Just as earthquakes preceded the 'real judgment' thy served as the 'beginning of sorrows'

# The History of the Kings Judah

Rehoboam 17y

Abijam 3y

Asa 41y

Jehoshaphat 25y

Jehoram 8y

Ahaziah 1y

Q. Athaliah 6y

Jehoash 40y

Amaziah 29y

Isaiah (Uzziah) Azariah 52y  
Hosea  
Amos

Micah  
Hosea  
Isaiah

Jotham 16y

Ahaz 16y

Hezekiah 29y  
(722 B.C.) Israel go into captivity

Manasseh 55y

Amon 2y

Zephaniah

Josiah 31y

Jehoahaz 3mts

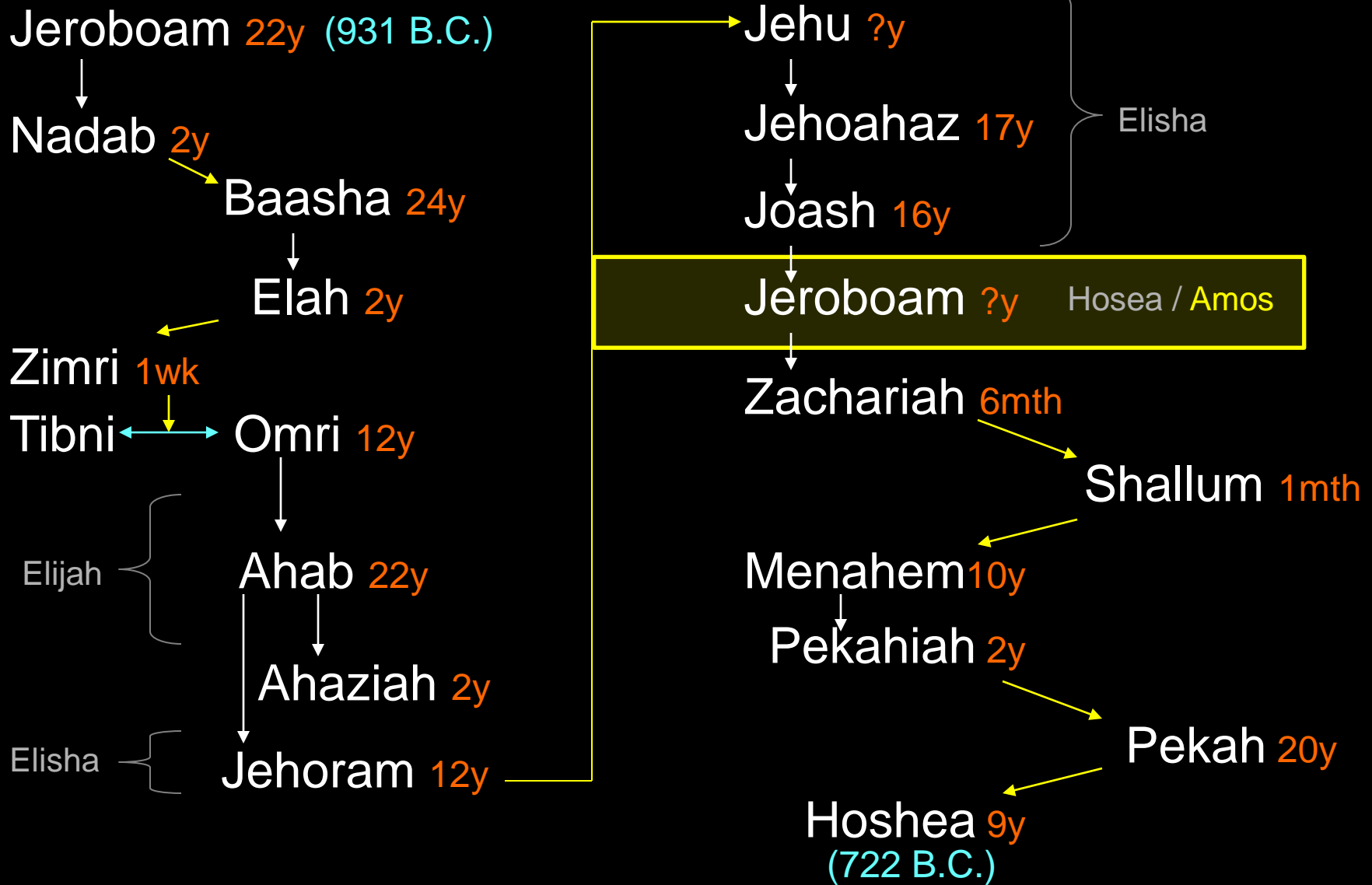
Jeremiah

(Eliakim) Jehoiakim 11y

Jehoiachin 3mts (606 B.C.)

Zedekiah 11y (587 B.C.)

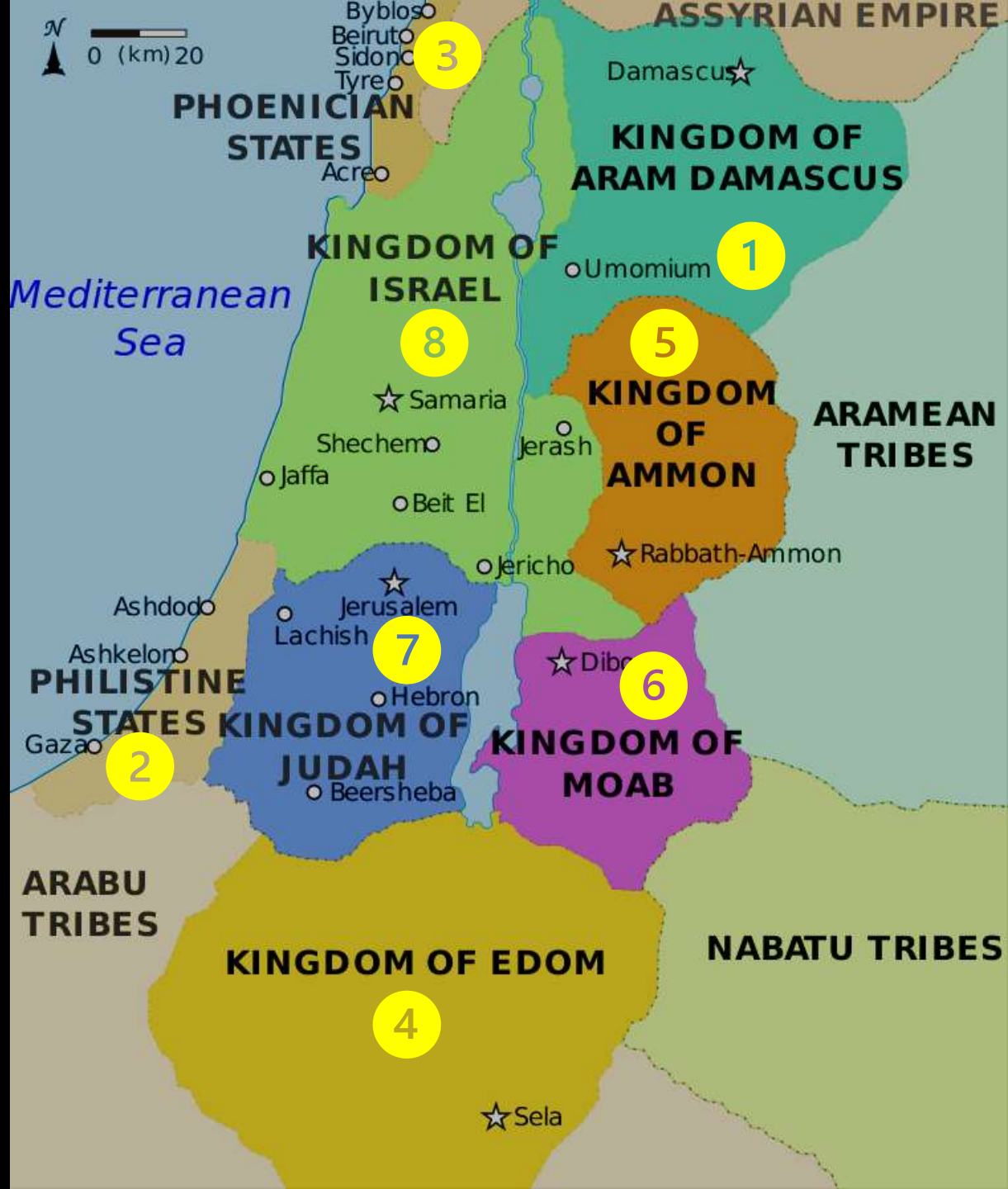
# The History of the Kings of Israel



<sup>2</sup> And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.

**Amos 1:2**

- The opening prophecy immediately jumps to the Day of The LORD.
- God is still on His throne... everything is on-track despite man's iniquity
- Of the 121 prophetic verses, 117 have already been fulfilled
  - But types and shadows abound





## JUDGMENT ON DAMASCUS

<sup>3</sup> Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron:

<sup>4</sup> But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-hadad.

<sup>5</sup> I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.

## JUDGMENT ON DAMASCUS

<sup>9</sup> So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin.

2 Kings 16:9

- *"Threshing sledges with iron prongs or teeth are probably a figure of speech implying extreme cruelty and utter thoroughness in the treatment of those who opposed."* (Hubbard)

# Damascus Today



## JUDGMENT ON GAZA

<sup>6</sup> Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom:

<sup>7</sup> But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, which shall devour the palaces thereof:

<sup>8</sup> And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD.

**Amos 1:6-8**

*""The condemnation here is not against slavery in and of itself, just as the previous oracle was not against war in and of itself. The crime is not that soldiers were enslaved after being taken in battle, which was the standard practice, but that the Philistines used their temporary supremacy to enslave whole populations - soldiers and civilians, men and women, adults and children, young and old - for commercial profit. Gaza did not even need the slaves. She merely sold them to Edom for more money." (Boice)*

# Gaza Today



## JUDGMENT ON TYRE

<sup>9</sup> Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant:

<sup>10</sup> But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof.

Amos 1:9-10

- *"The walls of a city were her defense and strength. If the walls were burnt, the city was defeated. (Guzik)*

# Lebanon (Tyre) Today



- *“Lebanon’s economic crisis: ‘No food, no gas, no hope’.*  
(BBC News)



## JUDGMENT ON EDOM

<sup>11</sup> Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:

<sup>12</sup> But I will send a fire upon Teman, which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.

**Amos 1:11-12**

- The book of Obadiah is entirely concerned with the judgment on Edom
- Yet Edom will escape the reign of Antichrist

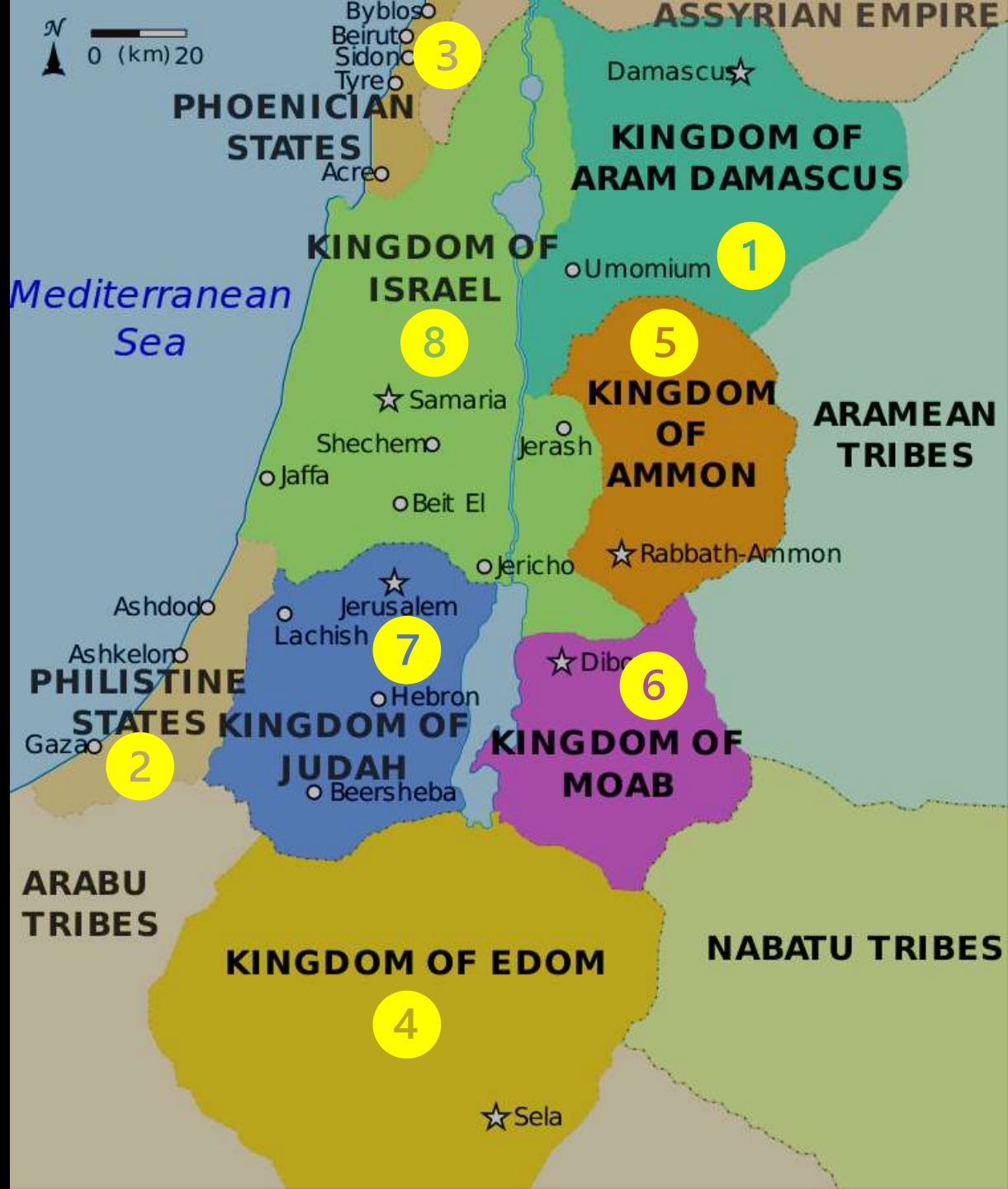
## JUDGMENT ON AMMON

<sup>13</sup> Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:

<sup>14</sup> But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind:

<sup>15</sup> And their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, saith the Lord.

**Amos 1:13-15**





THE BOOK OF

# AMOS

*Chapter 2*

## JUDGMENT ON MOAB

- 1 Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:
- 2 But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet:
- 3 And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the Lord.



THE BOOK OF

# AMOS

*To be continued...*



calvary  
chapel  
portsmouth

[www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk)