

Biblical Books and Prophets

1. Name the pre-exilic prophets studied in Units 1-2.

Amos *Hosea* *First Isaiah*
Micah *Zephaniah* *Nahum* *Jeremiah*

2. Name the exilic prophets studied in Units 1-2.

Second Isaiah *Ezekiel* *Obadiah*

3. Name the post-exilic prophet(s) studied in Units 1-2.

Third Isaiah *Haggai* *Zechariah*

4. Name the biblical books studied in Unit 2 that were *unequivocally* written after the Edict of Cyrus (538 BC).

Haggai *Zechariah* *Isaiah 56-66* *Ezra* *Nehemiah*

5. Name the biblical books studied in Unit 2 that were *unequivocally* written before the Edict of Cyrus (538 BC).

Lamentations *Obadiah* *Ezekiel*

6. Name the biblical books studied in Unit 2 that express interest in the Jerusalem Temple.

Ezekiel *Haggai* *Zechariah* (*Third Isaiah – arguably*)
Ezra *Nehemiah (e.g., Neh 13:4-14)*

7. Name three prominent images of God that appear in *Lamentations*.

God the Enemy (e.g., Lam 2:1-8)
God the Just Judge (e.g., Lam 1:5)
God the Redeemer (e.g., Lam 3:55-66)

True or False

1. Third Isaiah prophesied that a return from exile was about to happen. *F – 2 Isaiah*
2. Lamentations consists of four acrostic poems and a fifth that is semi-acrostic. *T*
3. An acrostic poem is a poem structured by the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. *T*
4. Second Isaiah was anointed by the spirit of the LORD. *F – 3 Isaiah*
5. The exile took place *after* King Josiah's Reform. *T*
6. Nehemiah was governor of the Persian province of Judah in the 5th century BC. *T*
7. Edom assisted the Babylonians in the destruction of Jerusalem. *T (see Obadiah)*
8. Nehemiah presided over a covenant renewal ceremony in which marriages to foreigners were dissolved. *F – Ezra presided*

9. Ezra was a scribe and a priest. *T*
10. The returned exiles especially valued partnering with the peoples of the land in Judah and Samaria. *F – Peoples of the land are those who did not go into exile, including those who descended from northern tribes mingled with Assyrian forced immigrants.*
11. The people living in Samaria in the fifth century BC are among those described as “the people of the land” in the Book of Ezra. *T*
12. The prophet Haggai was *most* interested in reforming social abuses. *F – Haggai was most interested in rebuilding the Jerusalem Temple.*
13. The Edict of Cyrus paved the way for exiled Judahites to return to Jerusalem.
14. Nehemiah was *not* interested in reform of social abuses. *F (e.g., Nehemiah 5:1-19)*
15. Obadiah mocks idols as impotent nothings. *F – Second Isaiah*
16. All the events described in the Book of Ezra take place *after* the Temple is rebuilt. *F – Ezra 1-6 describe events that take place between 539 and 520.*
17. The Book of Nehemiah insists on Sabbath reform. *T*
18. Ezekiel contains allegories and parables to describe the religious and political situation of his time. *T (e.g., Ezek 17)*
19. The servant of the LORD in Second Isaiah can be interpreted as an individual and/or as a group of faithful people. *T*
20. The Jordan River flows south from the Sea of Galilee into the Dead Sea along the Aqaba rift. *T*

One-word Answers

1. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that can be rightly called a book of consolation. (Hint: It begins with the word, “Comfort.”) (*Second Isaiah*)
2. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that holds the religious viewpoint most similar to that of Haggai. (*First Zechariah*)
3. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that includes the teachings most similar to that of Nehemiah. (*Ezra*)
4. Name three biblical books studied in *Unit 2* that are set or partially written at the time of the Fall of Jerusalem. (*Lamentations, Obadiah or Ezekiel*)
5. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that describes a covenant renewal ceremony similar to the one found in Joshua 24. (*Nehemiah*)
6. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that refers to Cyrus as “God’s anointed.” (*Second Isaiah*)
7. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that is an extended oracle against Edom. (*Obadiah*)

8. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that includes a prayer of lament which identifies Yahweh as “Father” and “Redeemer.” (*Third Isaiah*)
9. Name the biblical book studied in Unit 2 that contains a paraphrase of the Edict of Cyrus. (*Ezra*)
10. Name the prophet studied in Unit 2 who criticizes the people for building their own houses before the temple is rebuilt. (*Haggai*)
11. Name the biblical book that is comprised of a series of prophetic visions. (*First Zechariah*)
12. Does Nehemiah come *before or after* the beginning of the Persian Empire? (*after*)
13. Does Josiah’s reform come *before or after* the Edict of Cyrus? (*before*)
14. Does the Fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria come *before or after* the prophecies of Jeremiah? (*before*)
15. Does Hezekiah build his tunnel *before or after* the Fall of Jerusalem? (*before*)
16. In what two directions would you have to travel to get from Jericho to Jerusalem? (*south and west*)
17. Is the Dead Sea *north or south* of the Sea of Galilee? (*south*)
18. What river connects the Dead Sea with the Sea of Galilee? (*Jordan River*)
19. What tribal group/nation is located south of the Dead Sea (*Edom*)
20. Name one biblical book studied in Unit 2 which includes messianic hopes (*First Zechariah and/or Haggai*)
21. In approximately what year did Second Isaiah prophesy? (*Ca. 540 BC*)
22. Name the prophet known for lamenting his personal anguish as a prophet in service to the word of God. (*Jeremiah*)
23. Name the religious leader who was the first publically to read Torah as part of a Jewish religious service. (*Ezra*)
24. What year was the Book of Lamentations most likely written. (*Accept one of two answers: 587 or 586*)
25. What prophet was known for visions and angelic interpretations? (*First Zechariah*)
26. What prophet advocated for individual responsibility for sins. (*Ezekiel*)
27. What prophet is known for the theology of redemptive suffering (*Second Isaiah*)
28. Name the two biblical books studied in Unit 2 that were most likely written by priests. (*Ezekiel and Ezra*)
29. Name two biblical books studied in Unit 2 which personifies Jerusalem/Zion as a woman. (*Third Isaiah - Is 60 and Lamentations - Lam 1*)

30. Name the prophet studied in Unit 2 who is the first prophet in the Bible to insist without qualification in religious monotheism for Israel. (*Second Isaiah*)
31. Put the following items in historical, chronological order:
- Ezekiel, Haggai, Edict of Cyrus (*Ezekiel→the Edict of Cyrus→Haggai*)
 - Fall of Jerusalem, Reform of Josiah, First Zechariah (*Reform of Josiah→Fall of Jerusalem→First Zechariah*)
 - Assyrian Empire, Persian Empire, Babylonian Empire (*Assyrian Empire→Babylonian Empire→Persian Empire*)
 - Obadiah, Fall of Northern Kingdom, Edict of Cyrus (*Fall of the Northern Kingdom→Obadiah→Edict of Cyrus*)
 - Nehemiah, Second Isaiah, Fall of Jerusalem (*Fall of Jerusalem→Second Isaiah→Nehemiah*)
 - Ezekiel, Ezra, Second Isaiah (*Ezekiel→Second Isaiah→Ezra*)
 - Lamentations, Third Isaiah, Edict of Cyrus (*Lamentations→Edict of Cyrus→Third Isaiah*)
32. Name two biblical characters studied in Unit 2 that are given messianic importance in the restoration community. (*Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel – see Zech 3:8 and Haggai 2:3-9*)
33. Name two groups of people who were excluded from the Jerusalem temple, which Third Isaiah invites into the Second Temple and into God's salvation. (*Foreigners and eunuchs – Isaiah 56:1-8*)

Short Answer Questions

- Name three important messages given by Second Isaiah to the exilic community. Choose one and explain why it might be important today.
- Name two significant themes that are explored in Third Isaiah. Cite at least one biblical reference for each theme.
- Describe the significance of Ezra the Priest in forming post-exilic Judaism.
- How is prayer used in the Book of Nehemiah to demonstrate the theology and restoration program favored by Nehemiah?

Overview of Biblical Books Studied in Unit Two**Lamentations**

Date: ca. 587-86 BCE Setting: Jerusalem, after the destruction by Babylon

Structure: 5 Laments written as an acrostic

Themes:

- Suffering
- Call to admission of sin and conversion
- Hope in the midst of pain

Obadiah

Date: after 587-86 BCE

Situation: Edom assisted Babylon in destroying Jerusalem

Theme: Oracle against Edom

Ezekiel

Date: ca. 593-573 BCE

Setting: Babylon—the priest Ezekiel prophesied to the exiles during the early years of the Exile

Call: Ezekiel experiences the glory of God in a chariot vision; he heats the scroll of lamentation

Themes:

- The glory and holiness of God
- Images of hope and restoration
- God present in the Exile
- Individual responsibility for one's sins
- Symbolic prophetic actions
- Temple as an image of judgment and restoration

Second Isaiah

Date: ca. 540 BCE

Setting: Babylon—shortly before Cyrus conquered Babylon

Themes:

- Consolation and comfort signaling the end of the Exile
- Cyrus of Persia as God's "anointed one"
- Restoration and return: the suffering of Jerusalem at an end
- Importance of monotheism
- Servant Songs: Israel the servant of the Lord

Haggai

Date: ca. 520 BCE

Setting: Jerusalem, after the Exile. Haggai urges the people to rebuild the Temple

Theme:

- Importance of rebuilding the Temple

Zechariah

Dates: ca. 520-518 BC

Setting: Zechariah receives a series of 8 visions addressing the post-exilic population

Themes:

- Call to conversion from sin
- Importance of Jerusalem and the Temple
- Satan, the accuser and member of God's council
- Social justice

Third Isaiah

Dates: early post-exilic period

Setting: Problems and hopes of a post-exilic community in Jerusalem

Call: The prophet anointed by the spirit of the Lord (Isa 61)

Themes:

- Zion and Jerusalem as a mother
- God as warrior and redeemer
- The inclusion of all people and nations into the community
- Community divisions that cause conflict
- Social justice tied to religious observance

Ezra

Dates: final editing: late 5th-early 4th century

Ezra's Mission: ca. 458 or 398 BCE

Situation: Two periods: 1) return of the exiles, conflicts with locals, rebuilding of the Temple; 2) religious reforms of Ezra, priest and scribe

Themes:

- Continuity with the past regarding worship
- Exclusivity
- Torah observance
- Temple and cult restored
- "People of the land" as negative

Nehemiah

Dates: final editing: late 5th-early 4th century

Nehemiah's Mission: last half of the 5th century

Situation: 1) Nehemiah as governor of Judah from 445-433; returned to Persia and then back to Judah; 2) Rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem; dealt with social and religious abuses in the post-exilic community

Themes:

- Exclusivity
- Rebuilding Jerusalem's walls
- Reforms: Sabbath observance; social justice issues; temple abuse
- Centrality of prayer
- Covenant renewal by Ezra the priest