

Chronology of the writing prophets

The sixteen writing prophets ministered during a period of almost 400 years from before 800 BC (the time Joel's ministry according to many scholars) to around 430 BC (Malachi). This long period covered the golden age of the two Israelite kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south to over a century after the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon. Most of them ministered in Judah. Only Amos and Hosea served God in Israel. Jonah was sent to Assyria, and Daniel and Ezekiel lived in Babylon.

This is a chronological list of the 16 writing prophets (but not all Bible scholars would agree to the order and the years when they ministered):

1. **Joel** ministered in Judah perhaps around 820 BC during the early years of the reign of king Joash of Judah (but most scholars date him much later).
2. **Jonah** from Israel was sent by God to Nineveh in Assyria perhaps around 780 BC. This was during the time of king Jeroboam II of Israel (793–753 BC, compare 2 Kings 14:23–25).
3. **Amos** from Judah ministered in Israel around 760–750 BC during the reigns of king Jeroboam II of Israel and king Uzziah/Azariah of Judah (see Amos 1:1).
4. **Hosea** ministered in Israel around 755–720 BC during the reigns of kings Uzziah/Azariah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah and the reign of king Jeroboam II of Israel (see Hosea 1:1).
5. **Micah** ministered in Judah (but he had messages of warning for both Israel and Judah) around 740–710 BC during the reigns of kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah (see Micah 1:1).
6. **Isaiah** ministered in Judah around 740–680 BC during the reigns of Uzziah/Azariah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh of Judah (the first four are mentioned in Isaiah 1:1, 6; 7:1–3, 10, 12; 14:28. The death of king Sennacherib of Assyria, which took place in 681 BC during the reign of Manasseh, is mentioned in Isaiah 37:38).
7. **Nahum** ministered in Judah in the period between the downfall of Thebes in 663 BC (see Nahum 3:8) and the fall of Nineveh in 612 BC (see Nahum 1:1, 8).
8. **Zephaniah** ministered in Judah around 620 BC during the reign of king Josiah of Judah (see Zephaniah 1:1).
9. **Jeremiah** from Judah ministered from 626 BC to around 585 BC during the reigns of kings Josiah, Jehoahaz/ Shallum, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah of Judah (see Jeremiah 1:2, 3; 3:6; 22:1, 11, 18, 28; 24:1; 27:1; 32:1; 34:6; chapters 37–39 and 52). He was then taken to Egypt (see Jeremiah 43:6–7).
10. **Habakkuk** ministered in Judah probably around 610–605 BC.
11. **Obadiah** ministered in Judah probably around 605–585 BC.
12. **Daniel** from Judah was taken captive to Babylon in 605 BC, and he ministered there to around 535 BC.
13. **Ezekiel** from Judah was taken captive to Babylon in 597 BC, and he ministered there from around 593 BC to around 571 BC.
14. **Haggai** ministered in Judah/Jerusalem in 520 BC.
15. **Zechariah** ministered in Judah in 520 BC (and perhaps also later).
16. **Malachi** ministered in Judah, probably around 430 BC.