

# The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at  
the Old Testament

**Bethlehem Baptist Church, fall 2013–spring 2014**  
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# The Twelve: One Unified Book

Book Sequence		Chronological Sequence		
Sin	Hosea (I)	Jonah (ca. 770) – Israel/ Assyria	Assyria	Pre-exile
	Joel (J)	Amos (ca. 760) – Israel		
	Amos (I)	Hosea (ca. 760–730) – Israel		
	Obadiah (J)	Micah (ca. 737–690) – Judah		
	Jonah (I)	Nahum (ca. 650) – Judah/ Assyria		
	Micah (J)	Habakkuk (ca. 630) – Judah		
Judgment	Nahum (J)	Zephaniah (ca. 627) – Judah	Babylon	
	Habakkuk (J)	Joel (ca. 600?) – Judah		
	Zephaniah (J)	Obadiah (ca. 586?) – Judah/Edom		
Restoration	Haggai (J)	Haggai (ca. 520) – Judah	Persia	Post-exile
	Zechariah (J)	Zechariah (ca. 520–518) – Judah		
	Malachi (J)	Malachi (ca. 450) – Judah		

# Yahweh's Covenant Commitment

Exod 34:6–7. Yahweh, Yahweh, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.

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# Yahweh's Covenant Commitment

## ❖ Yahweh's bent toward mercy shapes Hosea's promise of future hope:

- ❖ Hos 1:7; 2:1. But I will have *mercy* on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen. . . . <sup>2:1</sup> Say to your brothers, "You are my people," and to your sisters, "You have received *mercy*."

❖ **Yahweh's bent toward mercy grounds  
Joel's call to repentance:**

- ❖ **Joel 2:13–14**. “Rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

**The dam of divine mercy and love is opened  
through repentance.**

❖ **Yahweh's bent toward mercy motivated Jonah's disobedience:**

- ❖ **Jonah 4:2**. And [Jonah] prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."

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- ❖ **Shorthand**: "... forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty. . . ."



❖ **Nahum stressed that failure to repent results in divine judgment:**

- ❖ Nah 1:3, 7–8. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. . . . <sup>7</sup> The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. <sup>8</sup> But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

## ❖ **Complacency without repentance also leads to divine judgment:**

- ❖ Amos 9:10. All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, “Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.”
- ❖ Mic 3:11. [Jerusalem’s] heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the LORD and say, “Is not the LORD in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us.”

- ❖ Zeph 1:12. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, “The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.”
- ❖ Mal 2:17. You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

❖ **Micah captures the hope of our day:**

- ❖ Mic 7:18–19. Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

# Reflecting God's Character

## ❖ Reflecting God's worth by honoring him:

### ❖ Keeping God foremost in our affections:

❖ Hos 2:13. And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals when she burned offerings to them and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry, and went after her lovers and forgot me, declares the LORD.

### ❖ Guarding against a haughty spirit:

❖ Hos 13:6. But when they had grazed, they became full, they were filled, and their heart was lifted up; therefore they forgot me.

## ❖ **Prioritizing worship**

❖ **Hag 1:4, 6**. Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? <sup>6</sup> You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

## ❖ **Being mindful of God's greatness**

❖ **Mal 1:6**. A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear?

- ❖ **One day there will be a unified grasp of God's splendor:**
  - ❖ **Mal. 1:14**. Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.
  - ❖ **Zech. 14:9, 20**. And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. . . .<sup>20</sup> And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar.

## ❖ **Imaging God's Faithfulness and Bent Toward Mercy**

- ❖ **Exod 34:6**. Yahweh, Yahweh, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- ❖ **Hos 4:1–2**. The LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; <sup>2</sup> there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.



- ❖ **Hos 6:6**. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
- ❖ **Amos 5:21–24**. I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

❖ **Mic 6:8**. He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- ❖ Zeph 3:3–5, 12–13. Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning. <sup>4</sup> Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law. <sup>5</sup> The LORD within her is righteous; **he does no injustice**; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame. . . .

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- ❖ **Jam 1:27–2:1**. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. <sup>2:1</sup> My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.
- ❖ **1 John 3:17–18**. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

## ❖ **Experiencing Love Should Empower Love**

### ❖ **Jonah's personal experience of divine love:**

❖ **Jonah 2:7–9**. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. <sup>8</sup> Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. <sup>9</sup> But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!

### ❖ **Jonah's dislike of God's love unless he alone was the beneficiary.**

❖ **Jonah 4:2**. That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

**“We love because he first  
loved us”  
(1 John 4:19).**