

Prophetic Book Outline

You are creating an outline for the prophetic book that has been assigned to you. Your outline will consist of three sections: theme, outline, and summary. This needs to be typed (Times New Romans, 12 pt, 1-inch margins, single-spaced.)

At the top of your paper you should concisely state the major theme of the book in a sentence or two, at the most. This is much easier after you have read the book in its entirety. Look for repetition of ideas or phrase to determine the theme.

Next divide the book into three to four divisions (including chapter and verse references). Major divisions can be based on a change in the topic, speaker, or who is being addressed or discussed. For each division write a two to four sentence summary of what you think is the main idea and message of that division.

See the Amos example on the opposite side to see an example of what this assignment should look like.

The prophetic book that you are assigned is determined by the assigned seat that you sit in class.

First and fourth rows: Nahum

Second row: Zephaniah

Third row: Habakkuk

Amos Outline Example

Theme: Amos addressed the Northern Kingdom and focused on the people's social injustice and lack of care for the poor and oppressed.

Outline and Summary:

I. Israel is no better than the other nations (1:1-2:16)

Yahweh promises to judge the nations around Israel for their sins and how they have treated His chosen people. Yahweh then promises to judge the combined nations of Israel for their disobedience to the Law and abuses to His people. However, He also makes the point that Israel is no better than the nations around them by listing more of their sins than He did for the other nations.

II. Prophecies against Israel (3:1-6:14)

Yahweh reveals that just because Israel are His chosen people does not mean that they get special treatment. In fact they are held to a higher standard than the other nations. Through oracles Yahweh proclaims to Israel that they should repent, but their coming judgment will certainly occur because of their arrogant sin against the weak and upright. Yahweh judges them for their economic oppression of the poor, their lack of love for the widows and orphans, and their religious hypocrisy.

III. Five visions of judgment (7:1-9:10)

Through a series of five visions (locust-swarm, destructive fire, plumb line, picked ripe fruit, and a fire image of Yahweh) illustrating the rebelliousness of the nation, Amos proclaims certain judgment leading to captivity which will come upon Israel for their abusive actions to the poor and needy in the land.

IV. Promises of restoration (9:1-15)

Even though Israel will be judged as any other evil nation will be judged for their sins, Yahweh promises not to totally destroy the house of Israel and promises to raise up the falling house of David to possess all of those from the nations who will obey Yahweh in a future day of restoration. Yahweh promises a future day when He will permanently restore the nation Israel to the land, which will be abundant in blessing.