

# Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

## The Historical Context

### The period of history from 760-460 BC

- Time of unprecedented political, military, economic and social upheaval.
- Time of enormous religious unfaithfulness and disregard for the Mosaic Covenant.
- Enormous shifts in the balance of power on the international level.

### The division of Israel: North & South

#### North: Israel, Ephraim

- Disobedience to covenant far outstripped the South.
- Amos, 760 BC & Hosea 755 BC began announcing the coming destruction.
- Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC.

#### South: Judah

- While initially more faithful to the Law, eventually became apostate as well.
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah & Ezekiel (Chapters 1-24) warned of the coming judgment.
- Judah fell to Babylon in 587 BC.

### God's plan for the restoration of His people

- Ezekiel (chapters 33-48), Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi.

### Applying the Historical Context for understanding the message.

Exercise: Amos, Jeremiah, Haggai

## Lesson 13

### Studying the Bible: The Historical Context

January 19, 2016

### Suggested Reading

HTRTBTTJL: pages 95-99; 121-124; 149-152

HTRTB BBB: pages 186-194; 222-227; 252-255

### Scripture Reading

Amos

Jeremiah

Haggai

### Key Verses:

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** <sup>31</sup> "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

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