



Book
— **By** —
Book

OUR GOAL

To encourage you to read at least one book of the Bible each month so that you may:

- 1) better understand who God is
- 2) where you fit into His story.

BIBLE STUDY METHOD

OBSERVATION

What does the text say?

INTERPRETATION

What does it mean?

APPLICATION

What did I learn that should affect my life?

WHAT IS OBSERVATION?

Observation is the process of collecting facts, like a detective at a crime scene.

It's about focusing only on what the text says.

Do not rush observation.

The more time you spend in Observation, the less time you will need to spend in Interpretation and the more accurate your results will be. The less time you spending Observation, the more time you will need to spend in Interpretation and the less accurate your results will be.

—Howard Hendricks

GENERAL GUIDELINES

To establish your approach to a passage, first identify the type of literature.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

Summary accounts of people and events

Over 40 percent of the Old Testament

Stories about the life/events of Jesus

Significant part of Acts

Tells the highlights, not every detail

Rarely include direct commands

LAW: instructions given to Israel by God

Large parts of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers,
and Deuteronomy

Does apply: Moral Laws

Does not apply: Ceremonial Laws, Civil Laws

POETRY: poems or songs written to describe the experience of God's people or to praise him

Main book is Psalms

Can be used as a guide to worship

Can point us to an honest relationship with God

PROVERBS: wise sayings

Contain God's wisdom about skillful living, better living, wiser living

Designed to teach what works in the greatest number of cases without stating the exceptions

Principles, not promises

PROPHECY: writings that reveal a message from God much of which was previously unknown

Usually includes predictions about the future

Can make God's heart or intentions known

PARABLES: fictional stories designed to illustrate a spiritual or moral concept

Found in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)

Generally teach one key truth

EPISTLES: letters sent to individuals or groups of people

21 in the New Testament

13 written by Paul

Knowing the reason for the letter is crucial to understanding it.

LUKE 12

¹³ Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” ¹⁵ Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

A. Historical Narrative.

B. Law.

C. Poetry

PSALM 4

Answer me when I call to you,
O God who declares me innocent.
Free me from my troubles.
Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

A. Parable

B. Poetry

C. Proverb

MATTHEW 20

“For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.

A. Proverb

B. Prophecy

C. Parable

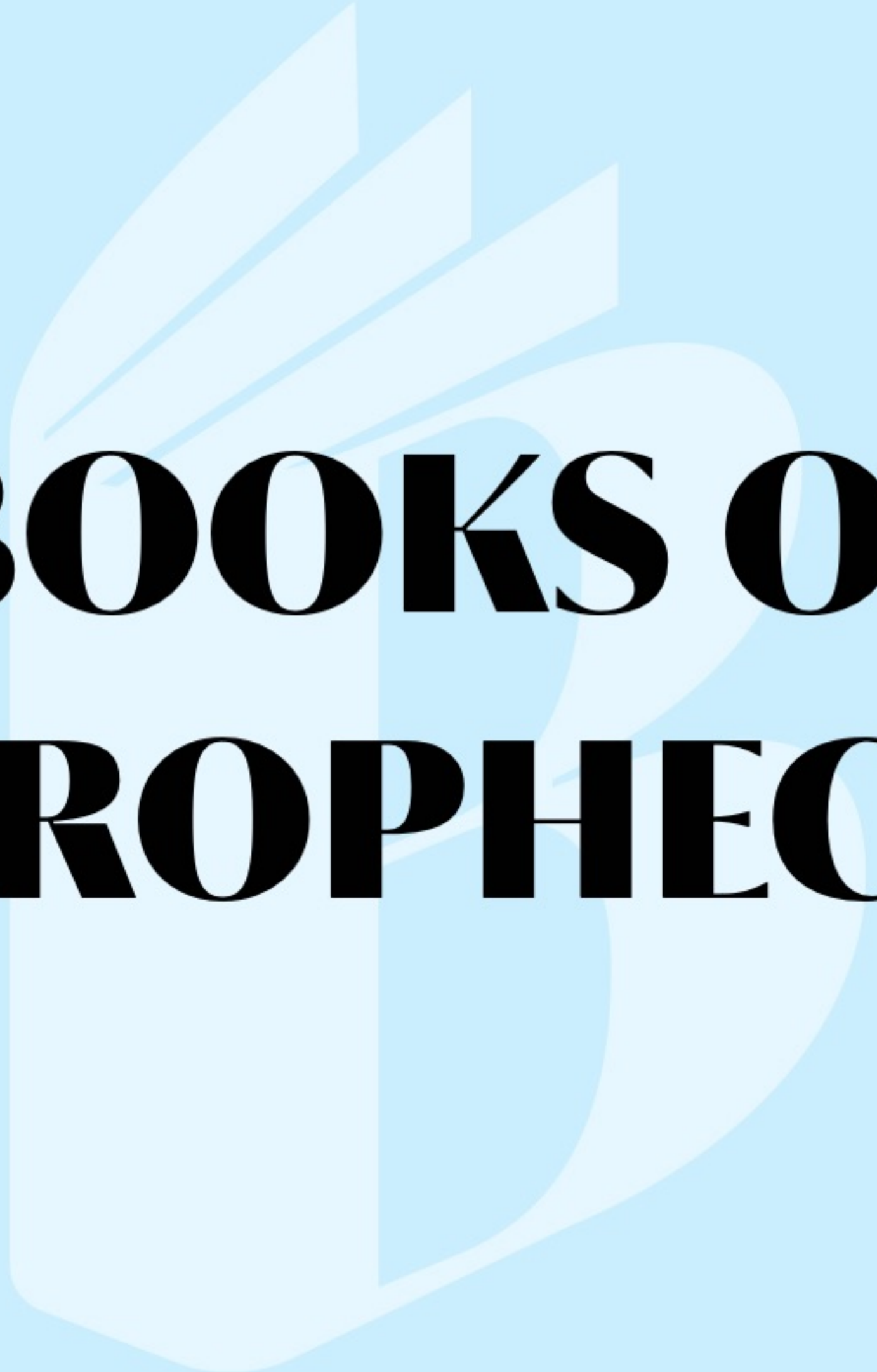
GROUP TALK

How new is this information to you?

What are some possible pitfalls of failing to consider the literary type of a passage?

YOU ARE HERE

- Law (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
- History (Joshua - Esther)
- Poetry (Job - Song of Solomon)
- Major Prophets (Isaiah - Daniel)
- ➔ Minor Prophets (Hosea - Malachi)



BOOKS OF PROPHECY

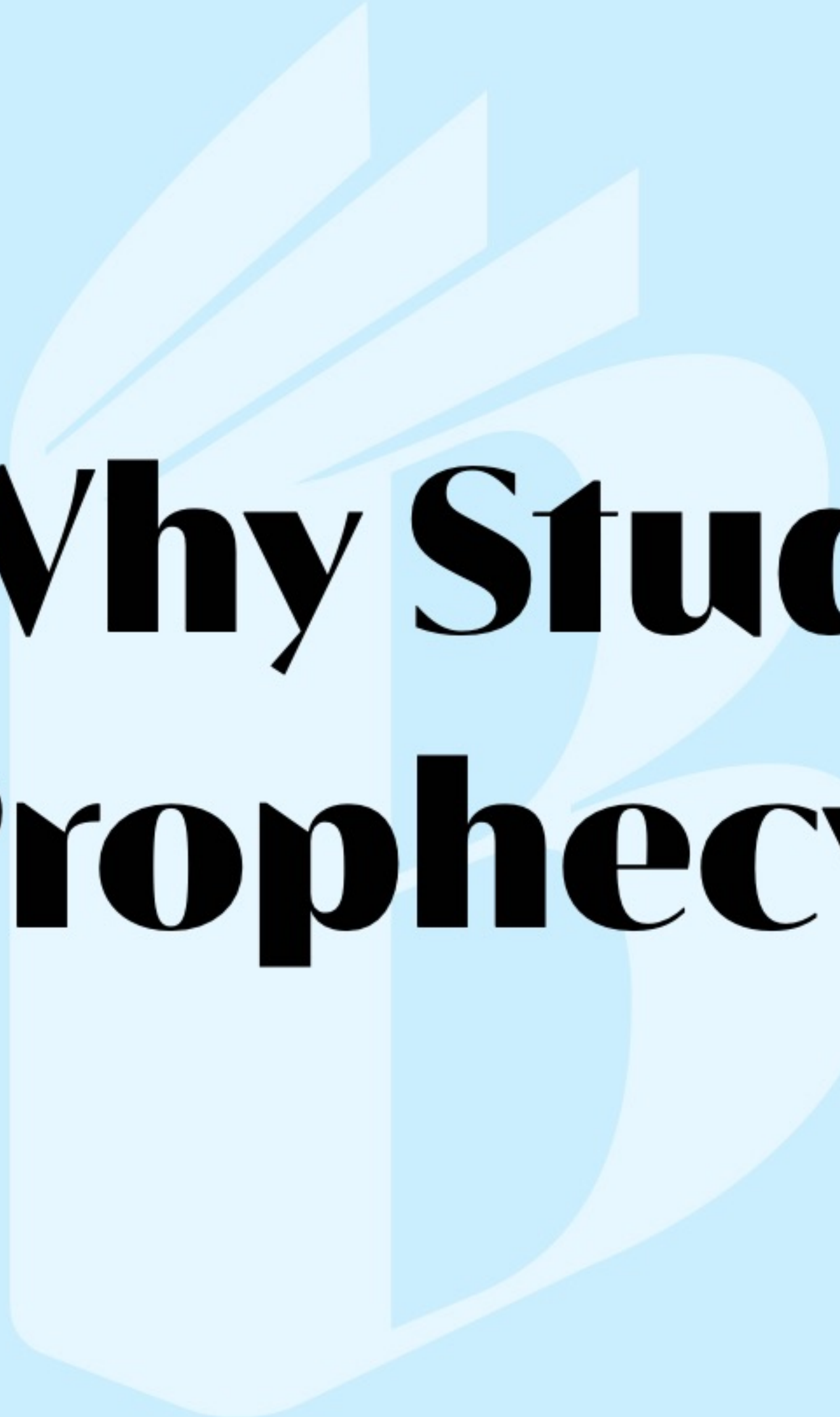
MAJOR PROPHETS

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel



MINOR PROPHETS

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi



Why Study Prophecy?

WHY PROPHECY?

1) A call to godly living

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

Isaiah 1:18

WHY PROPHECY?

2) To build faith and confidence in the God who miraculously foretold events.

I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe. John 14:29

OFFERS HOPE AND COMFORT

Prophecy provides assurance that evil will be defeated, the world will be restored, and God will fulfill His promises.

PROVIDES A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

It shifts focus from immediate, earthly struggles to an eternal perspective.

KEEP IN MIND

The prophets did not always indicate intervals of time between events nor did they always write in chronological order.

Always consider the historical context of that writing, remembering that God was delivering His prophecy to a particular people at a particular time.

KEEP IN MIND

The meaning of a specific prophecy could not always be understood by the prophet or by the people who heard the message.

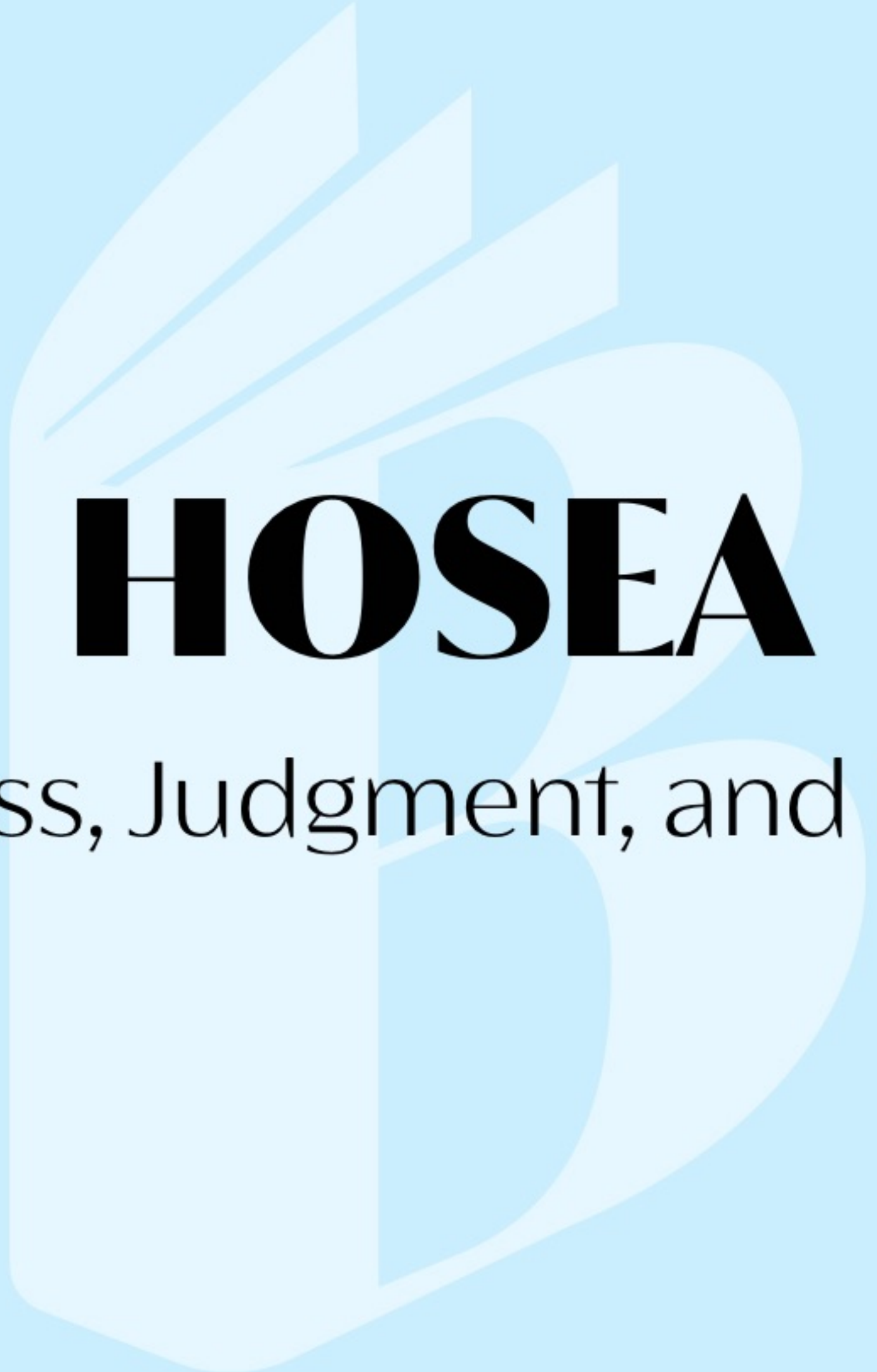
I heard what he said, but I did not understand what he meant. So I asked, “How will all this finally end, my lord?”

But he said, “Go now, Daniel, for what I have said is kept secret and sealed until the time of the end.

Daniel 12:8-9



REVIEW



HOSEA

Unfaithfulness, Judgment, and Redemption

THE BACKSTORY

A Kingdom United

Under Saul, David & Solomon

A Kingdom Divided

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

TWO KINGDOMS

Israel (North) 19 Kings — all evil

Judah (South) 20 Kings — 8 followed God

KINGDOMS CONQUERED

Israel Conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC

Judah Conquered by Nebuchadnezzar
(Three Phases)
605, 597 & 586 BC

THE KINGS DURING HOSEA'S MINISTRY

Israel (aka Ephraim)

- Jeroboam II

Judah

- Uzziah
- Jotham
- Ahaz
- Hezekiah

YEARS OF MINISTRY

Hosea served for 60 or 70 years which makes Hosea one of the longest-serving prophets in the Bible.

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS

In Judah

- Isaiah
- Micah
- Oded (interesting story in 2 Chronicles 28)

KEY VERSES

My people are being **destroyed** because they don't know me.
Hosea 4:6

I will return to my place **until** they admit their guilt and turn to me. For as soon as **trouble** comes, they will earnestly search for me.
Hosea 5:15

Oh, that we might **know** the Lord! Let us press on to **know** him. He will **respond** to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.”
Hosea 6:3

KEY VERSES

I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.
Hosea 6:6

They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind.
Hosea 8:7

Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.
Hosea 10:12

KEY VERSES

For my people are determined to desert me. They call me the Most High, but they don't truly honor me.
Hosea 11:7

I have been the Lord your God ever since I brought you out of Egypt. You must acknowledge no God but me, for there is no other savior.
Hosea 13:4

Bring your confessions and return to the Lord. Say to him, "Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you our praises."
Hosea 14:2

KEY VERSES

Let those who are wise understand these things. Let those with discernment listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But in those paths sinners stumble and fall.

Hosea 14:9

THE PRODIGAL PEOPLE

There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. (4:1)

You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. (4:2)

There is violence everywhere—one murder after another. (4:2)

They have deserted the Lord to worship other gods. (4:10-11)

Wine has robbed my people of their understanding. (4:11)

They ask a piece of wood for advice! They think a stick can tell them the future! (4:12)

You refuse to understand. (4:14)

THE PRODIGAL PEOPLE

When the rulers of Israel finish their drinking, off they go to find some prostitutes. (4:18)

They love shame more than honor. (4:18)

Their arrogance testifies against them, yet they don't return to the Lord their God or even try to find him. (7:10)

They do not cry out to me with sincere hearts. Instead, they sit on their couches and wail. They cut themselves, begging foreign gods for grain and new wine, and they turn away from me. (7:14)

JUDGMENT

My God will reject the people of Israel because they will not listen or obey. They will be wanderers, homeless among the nations. (9:17)

The Lord will break down their altars and smash their sacred pillars. (10:2)

Samaria and its king will be cut off; they will float away like driftwood on an ocean wave. (10:7)

JUDGMENT

Now whenever it fits my plan, I will attack you, too. I will call out the armies of the nations to punish you for your multiplied sins. (10:10)

Now the terrors of war will rise among your people. (10:14)

But since my people refuse to return to me, they will return to Egypt and will be forced to serve Assyria.⁶ War will swirl through their cities; their enemies will crash through their gates. They will destroy them, trapping them in their own evil plans. (11:5-6)

REDEMPTION

“Yet the time will come when Israel’s people will be like the sands of the seashore—too many to count! Then, at the place where they were told, ‘You are not my people,’ it will be said, ‘You are children of the living God.’ Then the people of Judah and Israel will unite together. They will choose one leader for themselves, and they will return from exile together. What a day that will be—the day of Jezreel—when God will again plant his people in his land.

Hosea 1:10-11

REDEMPTION

¹⁴ “But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there. ¹⁵ I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. She will give herself to me there, as she did long ago when she was young, when I freed her from her captivity in Egypt. ¹⁶ When that day comes,” says the Lord, “you will call me ‘my husband’ instead of ‘my master.’ ¹⁷ O Israel, I will wipe the many names of Baal from your lips, and you will never mention them again.

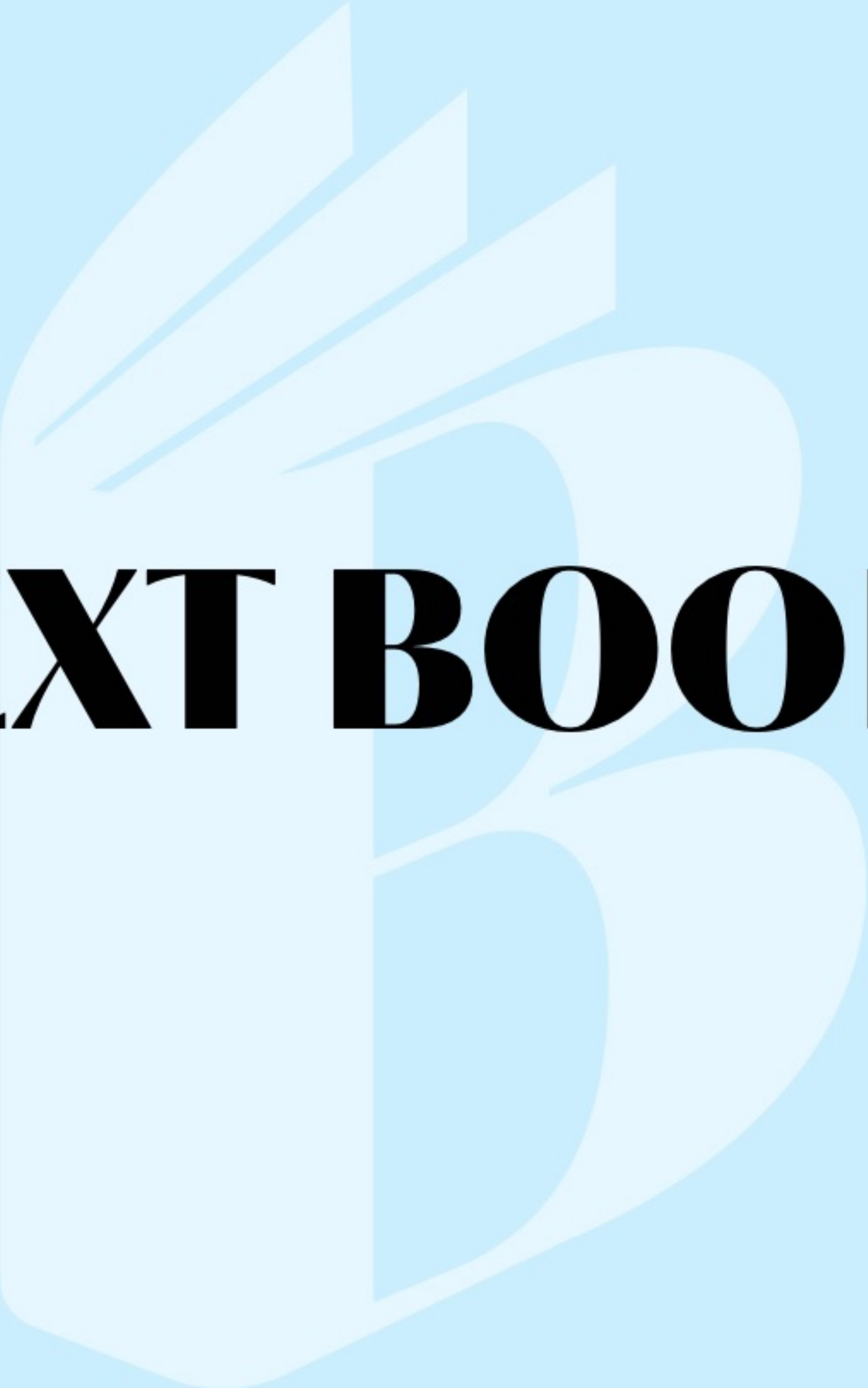
REDEMPTION

¹⁸ On that day I will make a covenant with all the wild animals and the birds of the sky and the animals that scurry along the ground so they will not harm you. I will remove all weapons of war from the land, all swords and bows, so you can live unafraid in peace and safety. ¹⁹ I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. ²⁰ I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord.

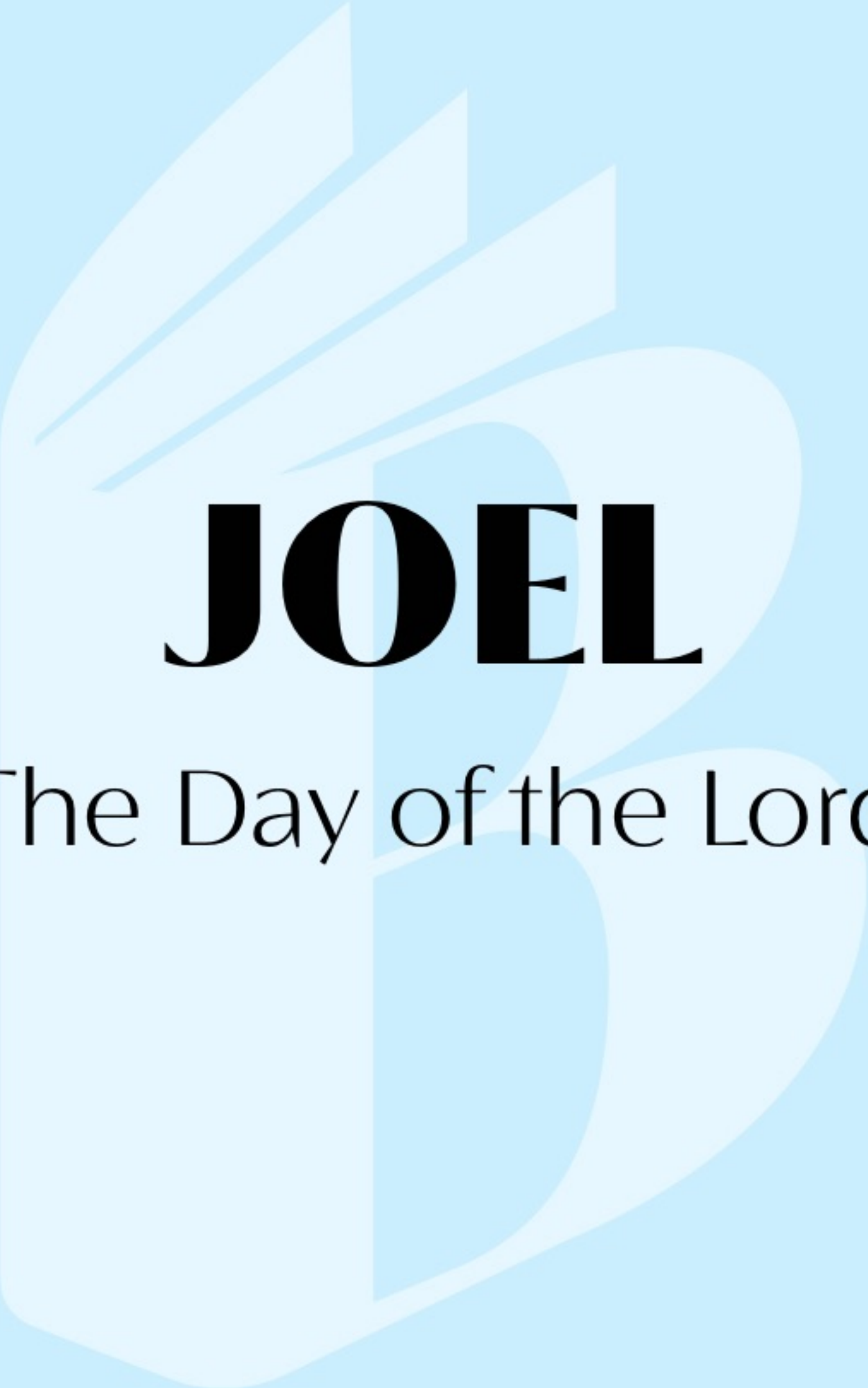
REDEMPTION

²¹ “In that day, I will answer,” says the Lord. “I will answer the sky as it pleads for clouds. And the sky will answer the earth with rain. ²² Then the earth will answer the thirsty cries of the grain, the grapevines, and the olive trees. And they in turn will answer, ‘Jezreel’—‘God plants!’ ²³ At that time I will plant a crop of Israelites and raise them for myself. I will show love to those I called ‘Not loved.’ And to those I called ‘Not my people,’ I will say, ‘Now you are my people.’ And they will reply, ‘You are our God!’”

(Hosea 2:14-23)



NEXT BOOKS



JOEL

The Day of the Lord

- 
- Dramatic and Painful Events
 - Calls to Action
 - Celebration



AMOS

Repent before Judgment Comes

- 
- Nations facing Judgment
 - A Stubborn People
 - God's Plea for Repentance
 - When God Relents
 - A Promise for the Future

GOAL FOR THIS MONTH

Read the books of Joel and Amos
(Total of 12 chapters.)

As you follow the handout, be sure to make notes of any insights you gain as you read and study along with any questions you encounter.

PREVIOUS NOTES

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