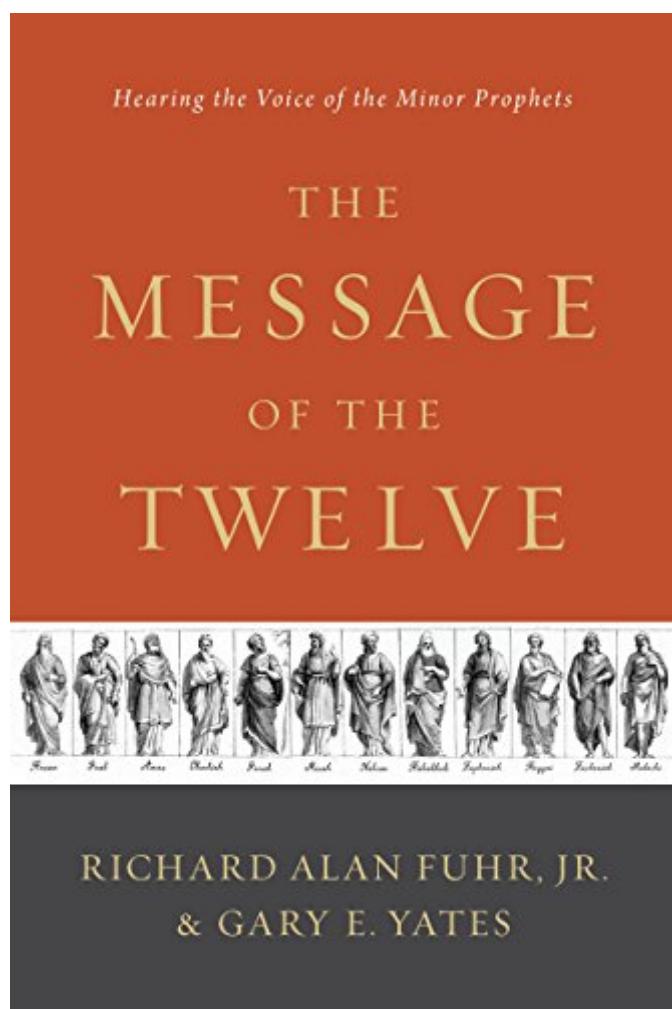


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# The Message Of The Twelve: Hearing The Voice Of The Minor Prophets



## Synopsis

Although they ministered for more than three centuries during some of Israel's most tumultuous days, the Minor Prophets remain a mystery to many Christians in the 21st century. Old Testament scholars Richard Alan Fuhr, Jr. and Gary E. Yates believe that the message of the twelve Minor Prophets is relevant for the church today, and they re-introduce these important books of the Bible to contemporary Christians. Ideal for use as a textbook as well as for personal study, *The Message of the Twelve* surveys the historical background of each prophetic book, the prophet's message and themes, as well as the book's place in the biblical canon. The authors also provide in-depth exposition of each book—from Hosea's metaphor of Israel's infidelity and Nahum's warnings of foreign judgments, to Haggai's postexilic call and Malachi's vision of future restoration. *The Message of the Twelve* goes beyond typical biblical surveys to examine the key interpretive issues in each book, including important literary insights from the Hebrew text. Drawing on the prophets' proclamations to ancient Israel and Judah, the authors emphasize that the church today must heed the call to reject apathy and return to a vibrant relationship with the living God.

## Book Information

File Size: 7861 KB

Print Length: 384 pages

Publisher: B&H Academic (September 1, 2016)

Publication Date: August 16, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01KL4HO5I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #327,770 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #47

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Prophets #110 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Prophets #383 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality >

## Customer Reviews

The book did a good job of giving background information and the book-by-book summaries were very helpful. I would recommend to Sunday school teachers and pastors alike.

Okay, so, if you just saw the title of this book, what do you think the subject matter concerns? Come on now, be honest! How many thought it dealt with the twelve apostles? I'd bet a very high percentage. If you went with the twelve apostles, you were mistaken. Now the full title: The Message of the Twelve: Hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets. It's all about the last twelve books of the Old Testament. The book is written by Richard Alan Fuhr, Jr. and Gary E. Yates. Both are professors at Liberty University School of Divinity. Fuhr deals in biblical studies and Yates in Old Testament studies. The book is published by B&H Academic. If you have never applied yourself to a study of the minor prophets (as I suspect many have not) and you have a desire to do so, but don't know where to begin, this is definitely a volume, if not THE volume, with which to begin. Although it's been written by two scholars, it is designed for pastors, teachers and even personal study. The book has two major sections although they are not designated as such in the Table of Contents. Chapters one through four comprise introductory matter familiarizing us with the twelve minor prophets and their world. Then in chapters five through sixteen Fuhr and Yates take us through a book-by-book study of each of the prophets in biblical order. Each of these twelve chapters follows a similar arrangement: Introduction, Structure, Exposition and Theological Message and Application. Scattered throughout the volume are diagnostic charts to assist in the understanding of the prophet. There is an extensive bibliography at the end for those who wish to dig in even deeper. To gain the maximum understanding, my suggestion for using this book is to read and digest chapters 1-4 and then systematically study chapters 5-16. Have your favorite Bible and a notepad beside you when you commence. While this is not the be-all, end-all commentary on the minor prophets, it is comprehensive and you will leave this book feeling like a scholar on the minor prophets. Pastors and teachers should rush to procure this volume especially if the minor prophets are in their near future. Disclaimer: This book was provided to me by B&H Publishing for a fair and honest review.

The Book of the Twelve is a wild ride, however, because we are so far removed from this culture

and history, even the harshest critiques preached against Israel (see #1, Nahum 1.13) put many right to sleep. What hope is there for the modern day mother with kids to understand the hope found in Zechariah? What conviction is Joel supposed to bring to the busy husband who is tired from a long week of work? Richard Fuhr, Jr. and Gary Yates have written *The Message of the Twelve: Hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets* with the purpose of unveiling some of the mystery that shrouds the Twelve from our eyes. Fuhr and Yates aim to present to the reader of the the individual voices that make up the Twelve.

**Layout:** There are two parts to the book. Part 1 consists of four chapters: The World of the Twelve (the historical placement of the Minor Prophets), the Role of the Twelve (what were the OT prophet's job description?), the Words of the Twelve (the literary techniques they used to get grab their audiences attention), and the the Book of the Twelve (the unity of the twelve books).

**Part 2** The next twelve chapters are summaries of each of the Twelve's books. After introducing the book and giving some of the historical background information, the authors present the structure of the book, showing that each book was purposefully written. None of them were just thrown together (although Hosea is difficult to outline). The authors then give a brief commentary on each section, ending with a Theological Message and Application of X section where the message of the book is condensed into a few paragraphs and its significance throughout the canon of Scripture (and primarily in the NT) is brought to light.

**Conclusion** This book is a plea for the church to renew their interest in the Twelve. It remains part of God's inerrant and inspired word. There are four ways the Twelve continues to speak to the church. (1) It gives a distinctive portrayal of God, (2) it gives an ethical call for God's people to "act justly, love faithfulness, and walk humbly" with God (Mich 6.8), (3) it shows ways God deals with his people and the nations, and (4) it comforts the church with its message of comfort, restoration, and the kingdom of God that is coming in full.

**Recommended?** For twelve books that many of us have a difficult time reading and understanding today, Fuhr and Yates have provided the church with an important work. They provide the literary structure of each book. They show wordplays that we miss in English translations, and connections within the literary structure from from the repetition of certain words. They clearly explain each section of each book, and finish it off with it's application for believers today. This is a solid work for the student, pastor, and teacher. This is the perfect primer to use when studying the Minor Prophets. This should be read with a Bible on your desk and a pen in your hand.

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