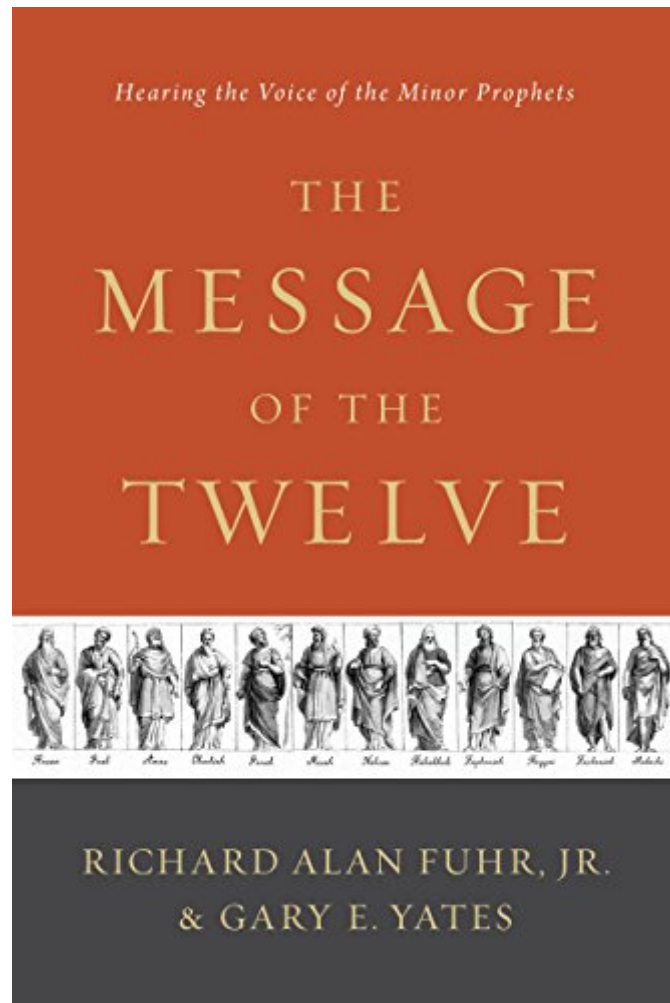


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The Message Of The Twelve: Hearing The Voice Of The Minor Prophets



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.

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Customer Reviews

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? Iâ€™ll 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. Itâ€™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 donâ€™t know where to begin, this is definitely a volume, if not THE volume, with which to begin. Although itâ€™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 â€“ 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.

The so-called Minor Prophets or the Book of the Twelve include some of the most important, and yet neglected writings in the Hebrew Bible. While these twelve prophets held a ministerial voice throughout one of the most formative periods in the history of Israelâ€”a period that stretched more than three centuriesâ€”today their voice has been largely eclipsed by an assumed contemporary irrelevance. It is here that The Message of the Twelve: Hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets by Gary E. Yates and Richard Alan Fuhr seeks to awaken misinformed ears to hear the lasting relevance of this neglected section of the Old Testament. The Message of the Twelve is divided into two major sections. The opening chapters provide the reader with background material needed to properly understand the Minor Prophets. This includes the historical background, the role of the Twelve, the literary genre and rhetorical nature of the writings, and canonical unity of the Twelve such as various themes, motifs, and patterns discovered therein. The second section of the book

focuses more narrowly on each of the twelve books within the Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi). It is here that the reader will discover the bulk of the book. Each chapter examines the historical setting and structure of the individual book, followed by a detailed exposition of the message and an analysis of the theological themes—especially as it relates to the contemporary application in conjunction with the whole of Scripture. This book is a goldmine of practical riches for the contemporary audience. It is clearly and unashamedly targeted towards pastors and students, and would make an excellent companion resource in the library of either.

For so many years I’ve heard that the Bible is a collection of 66 books written by over 40 authors over a period of 1500 years. Yes we talk about the two Testaments—Old and New, and yes sometimes there is a reference to the different genres: the law, the writings, the gospels and the epistles, but something is still lacking. Even when there is a reference to the Prophets, they are quite frequently divided into two groups, The Major Prophets such as Jeremiah and Isaiah; or the Minor Prophets, Malachi, Haggai, Zephaniah, and others. And when we talk about the Prophets, so often most of the information we get about them is under whose reign they served, and whether they were prophesying to the Northern or the Southern kingdom. They all have different messages, and that seems to be what most authors focus on, the differences rather than the similarities. So I was excited that a new book about the Minor Prophets was about to be published, A book that promised to talk about some of the similarities. I was not disappointed with *The Message of the Twelve: Hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets* by Richard Alan Fuhr, Jr. & Gary E. Yates (B&H Academic, 2016). In this Book, Fuhr and Yates look at the twelve individual books bearing the names of the prophets as one book. In doing so they are able to compare how they proclaim God’s Word in a number of ways—but it’s still God’s Word. Part I offers background on the prophets and their times. It consists of four chapters covering a number of important concepts that are crucial to understanding the Twelve as individuals, and as a whole. The first chapter offers insight into the prophets within their historical context.

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