



# **Teshuvah and the Twelve:** *Exploring A Thematic Thread through Trei Asar*

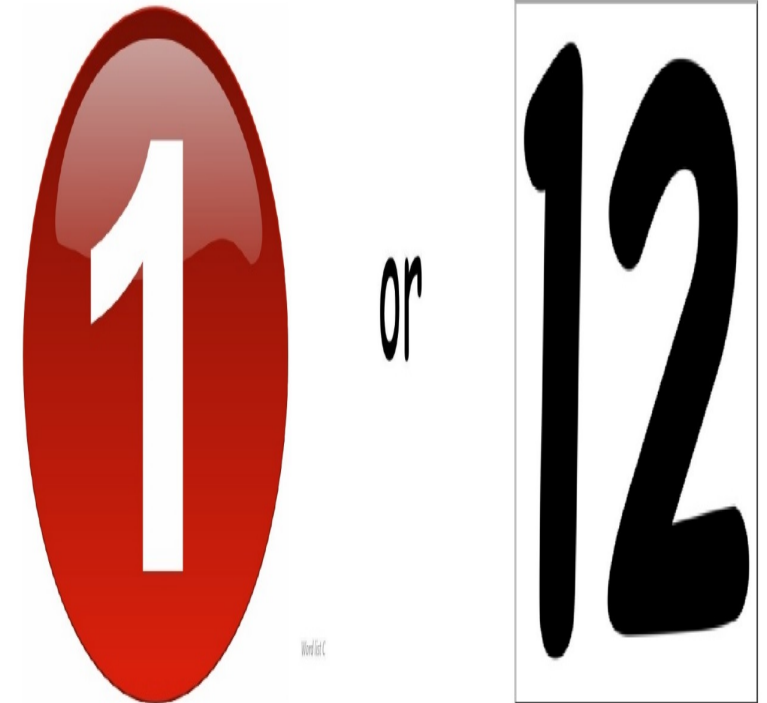
**For 24 in 8 by Yaakov Beasley**

**ט"ז מנחם-אב, תש"פ**

# The Nature of the Book – One Redacted Work or Twelve ?Independent Texts

| ARGUMENTS AGAINST:  | ARGUMENTS FOR:  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- No ancient reader would have read them as a unit</li><li>- Clearly delineated boundaries</li><li>- Repeated words/themes signifies common issues, not intentional redaction</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Traditionally treated as one scroll</li><li>- Possible to identify common themes and linguistic repetitions that transcend the boundaries of each individual work</li></ul> |

SUGGESTED READING – **Ehud Ben Zvi** and **James Nogalski**, *Two Sides of a Coin: Juxtaposing Views on Interpreting The Book of the Twelve/The Twelve*.



# THEMATIC/LITERARY LINKS CONNECTING THE BOOKS

| THE BOOK BEGINS WITH   | THE BOOK ENDS WITH   |
|--|--|
| JOEL – The book begins with the destruction of all the vegetation and crops  | HOSEA – The book ends with promises of bounteous vegetation and crops  |
| AMOS – “And he said: The Lord shall roar from Zion, and He shall give forth His voice from Jerusalem,” (1:2)   | JOEL – “And the Lord shall roar from Zion, and from Jerusalem He shall give forth His voice” (4:16)  |
| OBADIAH – “So said the Lord God concerning Edom; We have heard tidings from the Lord” (1:2)  | AMOS – “On that day, I will raise up the fallen Tabernacle of David ... In order that they inherit the remnant of Edom and all the nations” (9:12)   |
| NAHUM – “The Lord is a jealous and vengeful God and is full of wrath; the Lord avenges Himself upon His adversaries, and He bears a grudge against His enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, but He will surely not acquit; the Lord-His way is with a tempest and with a storm? and cloud is the dust of His feet.” (1:2-3)  | MICAHAH – “Who is a God like You, Who forgives iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not maintain His anger forever, for He desires loving-kindness. He shall return and grant us compassion; He shall hide our iniquities, and You shall cast into the depths of the sea all their sins. You shall give the truth of Jacob, the loving-kindness of Abraham, which You swore to our forefathers from days of yore.” (7:18-20) |
| ZEPHANIAH – “I will totally destroy everything from off the face of the earth ... The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens greatly, the sound of the day of the Lord, wherein the mighty man cries bitterly. <b>That day is a day of wrath; a day of trouble and distress; a day of ruin and desolation; a day of darkness and gloom; a day of clouds and thick darkness ...</b> ” (1:2, 14-15) | CHABAKKUK - I heard, and my inward parts trembled; my lips quivered at the sound. Decay entered my bones, and I quaked in my place, that [the time] I would rest is destined for a <b>day of trouble</b> -to bring up a people that will troop back. (3:16)  |
| CHAGGAI – the return and rebuilding  | ZEPHANIAH – “Return to Zion and Rebuilding” (3:9-20)   |
| ZECHARIAH – “I saw tonight, and behold! A man was riding on a red horse, and he was standing among the myrtles that were in the pool, and after him were red, black, and white horses.” (1:8)  | CHAGGAI – “Say to Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, saying: I am shaking up the heaven and the earth. And I will overthrow the throne of the kingdoms, and I will destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations. And I will overthrow the chariots and their riders; and the horses and their riders shall come down” (2:23-24)  |
| MALACHI – “The prophecy of the word of the Lord [ 1:1]” [מִשְׁאֵה דְבַר ה' ]   | ZECHARIAH – “The prophecy of the word of the Lord [ 12:1 ,9:1]” [מִשְׁאֵה דְבַר ה' ]   |

# DIFFERENCES in the ORDER b/t MT and LXX

## The Twelve Minor Prophets

### MT

- Hosea [before 721]
- Joel
- Amos [ca 793-740]
- Obadiah
- Jonah [2 Kgs 14:25]
- Micah [ca 750-700]

### LXX

- Hosea
- Amos
- Micah
- Joel
- Obadiah
- Jonah

## FINAL SIX BOOKS

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Chaggai

Zechariah

Malachi

# CHRONOLOGY OF THE TWELVE

| POST EXILIC PERIOD | BABYLONIAN PERIOD | ASSYRIAN PERIOD |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Chaggai            | Nahum             | Hosea           |
| Zechariah          | Habakkuk          | <i>JOEL</i>     |
| Malachi            | Zephaniah         | Amos            |
|                    |                   | <i>OBADIAH</i>  |
|                    |                   | Jonah           |
|                    |                   | Micah           |

# FRAMEWORK OF THE TWELVE

**HOSEA** - Strive with your mother, strive, for she is not My wife, and I am not her Husband, and let her remove her harlotries from her face and her adulteries from between her breasts. (2:4)



**MALACHI** - Because the Lord testified between you and the wife of your youth, that you dealt treacherously with her, and she is your companion and the wife of your covenant (2:14)

# HOSEA - תְּחִלַּת דְּבַר ה' בְּהוֹשֵׁעַ

## Returning to the RELATIONSHIP's beginning

| HOSHEA 4-14  | HOSHEA 1-3  |
|--|---|
| <p>6:1 – “Come and let us return ( וְנָשׁוּבָה ) to the Lord, for He has torn and He shall heal us; He smites, and He will bind us up.”</p>  | <p>1:1-2:3 – Hosea marries Gomer, has “illegitimate” children, and God promises redemption.</p>   |
| <p>12:6 – “And you shall return ( תָּשׁוּבוּ ) by your God: keep loving-kindness and justice, and hope to your God always.” ... “<b>I knew you in the desert</b>, in a land of deprivation” (13:5)</p> | <p>2:4-2:27 – Describes Israel’s historic infidelity to God, but concludes with a plea to return to the original relationship - “<b>I will betroth you to Me</b>”.<br/>[ULTIMATELY UNSUCCESSFUL]</p>  |
| <p>14:1 – “Return ( שׁוּבָה ), O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled in your iniquity”</p>   | <p>Ch. 3 – Hosea marries another woman of questionable morals, but she stays faithful, and ultimately – “Afterwards shall the children of Israel return ( יָשׁוּבוּ ), and seek the Lord their God and David their king, and they shall come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness at the end of days.”</p> |

# JOEL – Successful Repentance, 13 Middot, Uncertainty, and “the Day of the Lord”

“The Day of the Lord” - “The sun shall turn to darkness, and the moon to blood, prior to the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.1:5; 2:1, 11, 3:4; 4:14

**12**And even now, says the Lord, return to Me with all your heart ((שְׁבוּ עָדַי כָּל־לִבְבְּכֶם)) and with fasting and with weeping and with lamentation. **13**And rend your hearts and not your garments, and return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil. כִּי־תִתְנֹן וְרַחֲמוֹם הוּא אֲרָד.

**14** אֲפִלִּים וְרַב־חֹסֵד וְנָחֵם עַל־הָרָעָה **Who knows** (מִי יוֹדֵעַ) shall repent and regret , and it shall leave after it a blessing, a meal offering and a libation to the Lord your God.

**15**Sound a shophar in Zion; proclaim a fast, call an assembly. **16**Gather the people, prepare the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the infants and the sucklings; let a bridegroom come out of his chamber and a bride from her canopy. **17**Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep, and let them say, "O Lord, have pity on Your people, and do not make Your heritage a derision, for nations to make them an example. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' “**18 And the Lord was zealous for His land, and He pitied His people.**





# SEEING THE 13 MIDDOT IN ACTION

| NAHUM 1:2-3  | MICAH 7:18-20   | JONAH 3:8, 4:2  | JOEL 2:13  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>The Lord is a jealous and vengeful God and is full of wrath; the Lord avenges Himself upon His adversaries, and He bears a grudge against His enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, but He will surely not acquit;</p> | <p>Who is a God like You, Who forgives iniquity and passes over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not maintain His anger forever, for He desires loving-kindness. He shall return and grant us compassion; He shall hide our iniquities, and You shall cast into the depths of the sea all their sins. You shall give the truth of Jacob, the loving-kindness of Abraham, which You swore to our forefathers from days of yore.</p> | <p>King of Nineveh - Who knows? Repent and God will relent, and He will return from His burning wrath, and we will not perish.</p> <p>Jonah to God –<br/>For this reason I had hastened to flee to Tarshish, for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, with much kindness, and relenting of evil.</p> | <p>And rend your hearts and not your garments, and return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil. Whoever knows shall repent and regret ...</p> |

# ZEPHANIAH - Uncertainty

Zephaniah 2:2-3 - before the day of the Lord's Anger comes upon you. Seek the Lord, all you Humble of the earth who executed His judgment; Seek righteousness, seek humility! **Perhaps** you will be concealed on the day of the Lord's wrath.

R. Ami would cry when he reached this verse, saying, “They will do of this [be humble and righteous], and still, ‘Perhaps?!’” (Chagiga 4b).

RECOMMENDED READING - Hayyim Angel, “The Uncertainty Principle of Repentance in the Books of Jonah and Joel,” in *Revealed Texts, Hidden Meanings* (Brooklyn: Ktav, 2009), 148–161.



# CHAGGAI and ZECHARIAH – Getting it Right

## ZECHARIAH

And you shall say to them: So said the Lord of Hosts, Return to Me, said the Lord of Hosts, and I will return to you, said the Lord of Hosts. Be not like your fathers, to whom the early prophets called, saying: So said the Lord of Hosts: Return now from your evil ways and your evil deeds. But they neither obeyed nor hearkened to Me, said the Lord. ... But My words and My decrees that I commanded My servants, the prophets-did they not overtake your fathers? And they returned and said: "As the Lord of Hosts planned to do to us, according to our ways and according to our deeds, so He did to us."

## CHAGGAI

And Zerubbabel the son of Shaltiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, and all the remnant of the people heeded the command of the Lord their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people feared the Lord.

# MALACHI – Setting up the Finale

Then the God-fearing men spoke to one another, and the Lord hearkened and heard it. And a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared the Lord and for those who valued His name highly. And they shall be Mine, says the Lord of Hosts, for that day when I make a treasure. And I will have compassion on them as a man has compassion on his son who serves him...

Lo, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord, that he may turn the heart of the fathers back through the children, and the heart of the children back through their fathers-lest I come and smite the earth with utter destruction. (3:16-7, 23-4)