

## **“The Role and the Importance of the Old Testament’s Minor Prophets in the Theology of the Holy Gospels”**

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### **Abstract**

The “Book of the Twelve” Minor Prophets of the Old Testament have been renowned in the history of the chosen people by keeping alive the hope of salvation in Israel and the righteous judgment of Yahweh on His people. This is most likely the reason why the Four Holy Gospels of the New Testament cite them quite often (or use sometimes allusions to their writings). Thus, in the St. Mark’s Gospel there are two quotations and more allusions, which generally rely on the text of the Septuagint, and have as their main theme the eschatological events and the description of the Final Judgment. At the same time, St. Matthew’s Gospel contains ten such quotations (more than any other prophetic collection), taken from: Hosea, Jonah, Micah, Zechariah and Malachi. The Evangelist usually interprets them in a messianic sense (directly or indirectly). In some cases, their fulfillment is typological. They are also used to substantiate the teaching of the Savior Jesus Christ on purity and righteousness, hypocrisy, and at the same time to describe the time of the Parousia. There are three relatively short quotations in the St. Luke’s Gospel (and four more quotes in the Acts of the Apostles), which serve to legitimize the mission to the Gentiles. Their context in the Septuagint has certainly influenced their use and meaning within the blessed work. There are also two quotations and a series of allusions within the writing of St. John the Theologian, which especially support the Christological teaching of this “Spiritual Gospel” (cf. Clement of Alexandria). The author largely respects the early Christian tradition and interprets small prophets especially to support the principle that the Old Scriptures testify of Jesus Christ the Resurrected Lord.