

*A People of the Book*  
*8-Year Curriculum*  
*Year 4, Quarter 4*

A Study of  
Selected Texts from

# Minor Prophets II (Jonah – Habakkuk)

Mike White

*Introduction to the Minor Prophets II*

*Read Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk*

*Jonah 1 - October 3*

*Jonah 2 and 3 - October 10*

*Jonah 4 - October 17*

*Preaching from the Prophets - October 24*

*Micah 1 and 2 – October 31*

*Micah 3, 4, and 5 – November 7*

*Micah 6 and 7 – November 14*

*Preaching from the Prophets – November 21*

*Nahum 1 – November 28*

*Nahum 2 and 3 – December 5*

*Habakkuk 1 and 2 – December 12*

*Habakkuk 3 – December 19*

*Preaching from the Prophets – December 26\**

*\*If time allows*

*Introduction to the Minor Prophets**Read Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk*

*Welcome to a study of the Minor Prophets part II which includes a review of the books of Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk. This is a great study of some diverse characters who encountered different challenges in their lives of faith. Without question our hearts can be mightily instructed and encouraged by the lives and words of these men of God who were directed and guided by the Holy Spirit of God.*

*Each lesson has an introduction paragraph that summarizes what the lesson text is teaching us. I also point out what the primary instructional points are coming from the lesson text for today's Christian. It is very important that you read the entire Book and then go back and launch into your study of the particular chapters we will study that week. These books are all short and can be read with thoroughness even in a short period of time.*

*The Review of the Reading segment offers an opportunity to work your way through the reading by answering questions from the text itself. The Thought Question segment allows us opportunity for more in depth thinking and spiritual application of truths we find in the Books of the Minor Prophets. I have also introduced several Preaching from the Prophets lesson plans to help us pull spiritual principles from these great little books of faith.*

*Jonah helps us focus on the love of God and what it means in this world of sin. Jonah's journey to Nineveh helps open our eyes to God's desire to have all men saved. Jonah's reaction to God in*

*this story is immensely important to understanding our relationship with God.*

*Micah is a prophet who warns Judah of their sin and the need to turn back to God before the Assyrian Armies devastate the land. Micah has some of the greatest testimony in the Bible of who God is and what he desires of men.*

*Nahum's Book of Prophecy is focused on the fall and destruction of Nineveh. The description is so vivid and accurate that many scholars have questioned whether the Book of Nahum was written after the fact. What is clear is Nahum's awesome view of God and what God can do in the affairs of men. A question of considerable interest is why God would send Jonah to spare Nineveh and then 100 years later send Nahum to prophesy to her destruction.*

*Habakkuk lived as a contemporary of Jeremiah and his prophesy addressed the upcoming Babylonian invasion of Judah and the fall of Jerusalem. Habakkuk contains the seeds of Paul's teaching on faith and grace. Nowhere in the Bible is there a higher form of a prayer of faith than that recorded by Habakkuk in Chapter 3.*

# Timeline of Minor Prophets II

760 BC - **Jonah** begins prophetic ministry

740 BC - both **Micah** and Isaiah begin their prophetic ministries

722 BC – Assyria takes Israel into captivity and ends the Northern Kingdom

715 BC – Hezekiah becomes King of Judah

701 BC – Sennacherib King of Assyria surrounds Jerusalem

663 BC – **Nahum?**

627 BC – Jeremiah begins prophetic ministry

612 BC – Nineveh destroyed

607 BC – **Habakkuk** begins prophetic ministry

605 BC – Babylon defeats Egypt at Carchemish

592 BC – Ezekiel begins prophetic ministry

586 BC - Jerusalem destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon and deportation

## ***Minor Prophets - Jonah***

***Read Jonah 1  
2 Kings 14:25-27  
Matthew 12:39-41***

***Lesson Purpose: Jonah is one of the most interesting men of the Bible. Jonah is a lot like all of us in that he knew what was right in God's eyes but still intended to follow his own stubborn will in the matter. Although Jonah had been commanded to preach to the City of Nineveh he decided to rebel against the Lord God and head for Tarshish in what we know of now as Spain which is as far from Nineveh as you can get. Jonah knew that Nineveh was an enemy of Israel and any goodness given by the Lord God to Nineveh would mean that at some future point they would come against Israel. So Jonah running from the Lord God experiences events that are beyond our imagination but are literally true as Jesus refers to them in Matthew. Jonah is a reluctant missionary but through his mission to Nineveh we learn of the mercy and care of the Lord God for all of mankind. The most important lesson that we learn from Jonah 1 is that no one can run from the reach of God.***

### ***Review of the Reading***

- 1) Who was Jonah? Jonah 1:1***
  
- 2) Why did God tell Jonah to go preach to Nineveh? Jonah 1:2***

- 3) *Why did Jonah run away from his mission to Nineveh?  
Jonah 4:2*
  
- 4) *Jonah set sail from \_\_\_\_\_ and headed for  
\_\_\_\_\_. Where else in the Bible do we read of the city  
that Jonah set sail from? Jonah 1:3*
  
- 5) *Jonah ran away from God and then God did what? Was  
this a miracle? Jonah 1:4*
  
- 6) *How could Jonah go to sleep during this storm? Jonah 1:5*
  
- 7) *Who called Jonah to prayer? Jonah 1:6*
  
- 8) *Is casting lots a way to make decisions? Jonah 1:7*
  
- 9) *What was Jonah's suggestion to the sailors to calm the  
storm? Jonah 1:12*
  
- 10) *Did the Sailors act honorably toward Jonah? Jonah  
1:13-14.  
Did you assign any significance to their reaction?*
  
- 11) *What happen when Jonah was thrown into the raging  
sea? Jonah 1:15 Was this a miracle?*

**12) What happen to Jonah? Jonah 1:17 Was this a miracle?**

***Thought Questions***

**1. Psalms 139 speaks to men running from God. Is it possible to flee from God as Jonah tried to do?**

**2. Do you think there are consequences brought directly into our lives by God when we refuse to obey him as happened to Jonah?**

**3. Why did God care about Nineveh since they were a wicked and violent City?**

**4. The actions of the sailors were more righteous than Jonah's actions. How does this impact our view of people who know not the Lord?**

**5. Do you believe that Jonah was really swallowed by a fish or is it a fable? Why do you believe that way?**

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

## ***Minor Prophets - Jonah***

***Read Jonah 2-3  
Matthew 12:39-41***

***Lesson Purpose: Prayer is the most powerful activity a person can devote themselves to in this life. James 5:13 says “Is anyone of you in trouble? He should pray.” Certainly in our lesson today Jonah finds himself in trouble. His prayer in the belly of the fish is at the extremity of trouble but it tells us much about Jonah and his faith in God. This prayer also illustrates principles of effective prayer that we all should remember. The most important lesson that we can learn from Jonah 2-3 is that regardless of who you are or what you have done, when you are in trouble PRAY TO THE LORD! The second most important lesson you can learn is that the power of the word of God on the hearts of men is limitless.***

### ***Review of the Reading***

- 13) How does Jonah describe his frame of mind in the belly of the fish? Jonah 2:2***
  
- 14) What did Jonah call out for? Jonah 2:2***
  
- 15) Did God answer Jonah’s prayer? Jonah 2:2, 10.***
  
- 16) When you are in the pit or your life is ebbing away, what should you do? Jonah 2:7, Psalms 107***

- 17) *What did the Lord do? Jonah 2:10. Was this a miracle?*
- 18) *What did Jonah do when the Lord commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh a second time? Jonah 3:3*
- 19) *How long did it take a person to visit Nineveh? Jonah 3:3 what does this mean?*
- 20) *We only have eight words of the sermon that had the greatest impact on the unsaved in recorded history. What were they? Jonah 3:4*
- 21) *How did the Ninevites respond? Jonah 3:5*
- 22) *How did the King respond? Jonah 3:6-9*
- 23) *What was God's response to the Ninevites? Jonah 3:10*

### *Thought Questions*

1. *What impresses you most about the prayer of Jonah in the belly of the fish?*

***2. What does Jonah's story teach us about responding to the call of the Lord?***

***3. Jonah's sermon had a tremendous impact on the Ninevites. To what do you ascribe this impact?***

***4. What does God's compassion for the Ninevites teach us about God and the mission of the Church?***

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

**Minor Prophets - Jonah**

**Read Jonah 4  
Matthew 12:39-41**

***Lesson Purpose: One of the greatest blessings of being a child of God is knowing his patience in teaching us important lessons of life. If anyone needed to be taught about what was important to God it was Jonah. Jonah had a stubborn heart and even after God had shown Jonah mercy in the belly of the fish, Jonah was reluctantly willing to share God's mercy with the Ninevites. The most important lesson we can learn from Jonah 3 is that God's love and concern for mankind is limitless and to serve God we must share him with the lost. The second most important lesson you can learn from Lesson 3 is that you cannot substitute your judgment for the judgment of God nor can we be more concerned about our selfish desires that God's love for mankind.***

***Review of the Reading***

- 24) ***Why was Jonah angry? Jonah 4:1-2***
- 25) ***What did Jonah mean by his statement that it would be better for him to die than to live? Jonah 4:3***
- 26) ***What did Jonah do? Jonah 4:5.***
- 27) ***Why in the world would Jonah do that?***

- 28) *What did the Lord do for Jonah? Jonah 4:7-8. Was this a miracle?*
- 29) *What God gives he can take away. So what did God do next? Jonah 4:7-8*
- 30) *How did Jonah react to God's action? Jonah 4:8*
- 31) *I don't get Jonah's attitude but he was so angry he could die. Why?*
- 32) *Did Jonah do anything for the vine? Jonah 4:10*
- 33) *How did many people were in Nineveh? Jonah 4:11*

### *Thought Questions*

5. *Why was Jonah such an angry man? Did he have a right to be?*
6. *Where else in the Bible do you find a story of unhappiness when salvation came to a person? What is the common denominator of his attitude with Jonah's attitude?*

***7. Why would Jonah hang around Nineveh?***

***8. What lesson did God teach Jonah using the gourd?***

***9. What does God's mercy for the Ninevites teach us about mission work?***

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

## *Minor Prophets – Preaching from the Prophets*

*Read Jonah 1-4  
Matthew 12:39-41*

*Lesson Purpose: The Book of Jonah offers Christians today a great opportunity to learn of God's ways with men. Jonah was a stubborn and self-willed prophet who attempted to substitute his judgment for the judgment of God. Jonah was willing to risk his life rather than follow the direction of God to Nineveh. God dealt with Jonah in an extraordinary manner because God wanted to use Jonah to reach a people ripe for repentance. God taught Jonah and he teaches us today some critical life lessons about who God is and how he operates in the lives of men. There are six spiritual principles defined in this little Book of Jonah that we can apply to our Christian living.*

*Principle 1: God is in control of all men in all circumstances at all times.*

- 1. How many miracles occur in the Book of Jonah?*
- 2. Does it make any difference if I do not believe that Jonah was swallowed by a fish?*

*Principle 2: A man cannot run away from God. Every man must give an answer to God.*

- 3. How do we try to run from God today?*
- 4. What does Psalms 139 teach us about our God?*

***Principle 3: Disobedience to the will of God produces negative consequences in our lives.***

***5. Jonah was thrown into the sea and swallowed by a fish as a direct result of his disobedience. Do you believe disobedience results in negative consequences today and if so why do you believe it?***

***Principle 4: Prayer is the most powerful weapon in spiritual warfare. Whenever in trouble you must PRAY IMMEDIATELY!***

***6. How do you think Jonah felt in the belly of the fish?***

***7. We haven't been in the belly of the fish but there are times we are overwhelmed in life. Why is it so hard to depend upon the power of prayer at times when the situation seems so hopeless?***

***8. What does Jonah teach us about how to pray to God?***

***Principle 5: The power of the word of God cannot be overestimated and God expects each one of his people to plant the seed of the word in the hearts of men.***

***9. Jonah who went to Nineveh reluctantly preached the most impacting sermon in recorded salvation history. What does this teach us about the word of God?***

**10.      *Would you pick Nineveh to evangelize as a priority? If not, why not?***

***Principle 6: Never ever underestimate the love of God for all mankind. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross speaks to the love of God for all men. Christians are called to share this love to all men in their generation.***

**11.      *What does the story of the gourd teach us about Jonah?***

**12.      *What does the Book of Jonah teach us about missions and the Church?***

**13.      *Does God count souls? If so, what does that tell you about God's expectation of you?***

## ***Minor Prophets - Micah***

### ***Read Micah 1-2***

***Lesson Purpose: Micah was a prophet from the rural area of Judah and he saw things through the eyes of a common man to include and how the momentous events of history impacted them. Micah prophesied to Judah at the same time Isaiah was prophesying in Jerusalem. About this time Hosea was also prophesying in the Northern Kingdom. The Book of Micah has some of the mountain top peaks of the Old Testament on the character, nature, and work of God. Micah lived at a time of spiritual decline and national malaise and his message reflects his burning desire to warn Judah of the disaster that lay ahead of it and a call to national repentance. In our first lesson of Micah chapters 1-2 we get a real sense that God is fed up with his people and will tolerate it no more. The Lord's judgment is on the way because of the sins of the people but Micah still provides a hope through the prophecy of the Messiah to ensure that people know that God will never forsake his people. The most important lesson we learn in Micah 1-2 is that there are always negative consequences for disobeying God.***

### ***Review of the Reading***

- 1. Who was Micah? Micah 1:1***
- 2. Who were the kings during his prophetic ministry? Micah 1:1***

3. *What kind of king was Jotham? 2 Kings 15:32-38, 2 Chronicles 27*
  
4. *What kind of king was Ahaz? 2 Kings 16, 2 Chronicles 28*
  
5. *What kind of king was Hezekiah? 2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 29-32*
  
6. *Micah was given a vision. What was it? Micah 1:1*
  
7. *Why is the Lord coming in judgment to his people? Micah 1:5-9*
  
8. *Micah mentions the path of the invading army in Micah 1:10-16. Among this listing of towns which one was most important to Micah?*
  
9. *What will happen to the children? Micah 1:16*
  
10. *What were the rich doing to the poor in this society? Micah 2:1-2, 2:8-9*
  
11. *The Lord is in control and has the last word in the matter. What will the Lord do? Micah 2:3-5*

**12. What do the false prophets keep telling the people?  
Micah 2:6**

**13. Micah prophesies of the remnant and the Messiah.  
What does Micah say about the Messiah? Micah 2:13**

### ***Thought Questions***

**1. In Micah's day there were many false prophets as there are today. What do you think is the motivation for false prophets? Why do people listen to them?**

**2. The rich of Micah's day were very active in making money off of the poor. What should the Christian do today when he or she sees this happening?**

**3. Micah ends chapter 2 with a marvelous passage of hope about the remnant and the Messiah. What do you recognize in this chapter about the Jesus of today?**

**4. In Micah 2:13 it is said that Lachish was the beginning of sin for the daughter of Zion. What is Micah referring to?**

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

## ***Minor Prophets - Micah***

### ***Read Micah 3-5***

***Lesson Purpose: Micah was a simple man from a farming village in Judea not far from Jerusalem. What Micah saw through his prophetic eyes was the overwhelming disruption, destruction, and despair caused by the invading Assyrian army. Assyria was a terror to the nations and where her armies went destruction, murder, rape, and stealing would occur. Even during this terrible period of time, Micah is transported by God in his mind to reveal to us some of the peaks in Old Testament prophecy. Micah was blessed by God to see beyond the history he was living through to the coming Messiah and the kingdom of God. The most important lesson of Micah 3-5 is that God is in control and he has a plan for mankind. We should never get out ahead of God.***

### ***Review of the Reading***

- 1. What type of leaders did the Jews have at this time? Micah 3:1-3***
- 2. What will God do to these leaders? Micah 3:4***
- 3. False prophets will always be found out to be false. Why is that? Micah 3:7***
- 4. Micah on the other hand was especially blessed by God in what way? Micah 3:8***

5. *Micah brings some specific charges to the Jewish leaders. What were they? What was the root of the leaders' sin? Micah 3:9-11*
6. *What did Micah prophesy would happen? Did it happen? Micah 3:12*
7. *Where else in the Bible is the saying of Micah 4:1-3 found?*
8. *What kind of times will the last days be? Micah 4:4-8*
9. *Micah prophesied that the people would go to what land? Micah 4:10*
10. *What does Micah say will happen to these godless nations? Micah 4:12*
11. *Where does Micah prophesy that the Messiah would be born? Micah 5:2*
12. *What will the Messiah do and what will he achieve? Micah 4:4-5*
13. *What historical event is Micah referring to when he prophesies that the Jews would be delivered from the hand of the Assyrians? Micah 5:6*
14. *Micah prophesied that all those things the Jews found strength in would be destroyed. What were these crutches? Micah 5:10-14*

## ***Thought Questions***

- 1. Did the Jews accept during the time of Christ that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem?***
- 2. Micah 5 and Isaiah 2 have very similar passages. Did Micah copy Isaiah?***
- 3. One of the great tragedies of life is that God does not answer our prayers. How does that happen to us?***
- 4. Was Micah filled with the Holy Spirit and if so what does it mean about the Book of Micah?***
- 5. The Jews became dependent on things that brought them strength and comfort. God was going to destroy them all and take them away as a life crutch. What are some of the things that compete for our trust that we sometimes use as a crutch?***

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

## ***Minor Prophets - Micah***

### ***Read Micah 6-7***

***Lesson Purpose: Micah ends his book with some of the highest and most spiritually motivating words of the Old Testament. It is clear that Judah had lost their way and was in desperate need of God's love, protection, and comfort. But the people refused to be obedient to God, and, therefore, God brings a charge against them. What God is looking for are not extravagant public acts but rather a simple spiritual life dominated by humility and obedience. In Micah 6:8 we have the highest form of God's expectation for man. But because the people are unresponsive God brings them "leanness of soul". Alone and without God there is misery upon misery in the land. Even families are disrespectful and hateful of one another. Micah calls himself and each one of us to the mission of the servant of God in Micah 7:7. The book ends with recognition of who God truly is in Micah 7:18-20. There is no more powerful passage on the work of God in our lives than these three verses. Although Micah was from a rural area and a common man, his Spirit inspired thinking and writing offer us a glimpse into the greatness of God and what God's desire is for each one of us. The most important lesson you can learn from Micah 6-7 is to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.***

### ***Review of the Reading***

- 1. What did the Lord say against his people? Micah 6:2***
- 2. Who did God send to lead his people? Micah 6:4***

3. *Who was Balaam and what did God do for his people in spite of Balaam? Micah 6:5*
4. *What does the Lord really want from all men? Micah 6:8*
5. *What is wisdom? Micah 6:9*
6. *Read Micah 6:14-15. What is God telling his people?*
7. *What kinds of people are left in the land? Micah 7:1-4*
8. *What is said about neighbors and friends? Micah 7:5*
9. *What is the state of the family? Micah 7:6*
10. *What is Micah's response in this godless and chaotic land? Micah 7:7-8*
11. *Micah speaks to the faithfulness of God by identifying 9 things that God does for man. What are they? Micah 7:18-20*

### *Thought Questions*

1. *Micah states that God requires three things of us. What are they and what does this mean for the Christian's walk today?*

***2. Leanness of soul comes when God gives us the desires of our heart and yet they do not satisfy us. Why does this happen to us?***

***3. The duty of the Christian is to watch and wait for the Lord. What does that really mean?***

***4. What does Micah 7:18-20 teach us about God?***

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

***Minor Prophets – Preaching from the Prophets***

***Read Micah 1-7***

***Lesson Purpose: Micah’s greatest contribution as a prophet is his description of who God is, what is important to God, and how God works in our lives. Nowhere else in the Old Testament do we have the true picture of the majesty and character of God presented in a more understandable manner than in Micah. That Micah a rural and common man could achieve this understanding is dramatic proof of the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of Micah.***

***Without question for me Micah 5:8 stands out as the center piece of what God expects from men:***

- 1. Do justice***
- 2. Love mercy***
- 3. Walk humbly***

***I see six spiritual truths that we must apply with urgency to our life from the book of Micah.***

<b><i>1. God is not mocked.</i></b>
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***How does Micah demonstrate to us that there are consequences to sin in our life?***

***2. Jesus is our peace.***

***What does Micah say about this truth and what does it mean for us?***

***3. Simple obedience is what God desires.***

***What does Micah 5:8 mean for the Christian in his walk with the Lord today?***

***Where else in the Old Testament is this truth reinforced? Hint Samuel***

***4. Sin never satisfies.***

***What does Micah 6:14-15 tell us about leanness of soul?***

***What is the root cause of leanness of soul?***

***Is leanness of soul irreversible in one's life?***

***5. The Christian is to wait on the Lord while in this world.***

*Micah 7:7 sheds some light on this command. How does this passage help in our understanding of Hebrews 9:28?*

***6. Our God is a faithful God! A mighty God is He!***

*List the characteristics of God mentioned by Micah in 7:18-20*

*Which ones are the most important to you and why?*

*What is the key in accepting the truth of God as revealed in this passage?*

### *Minor Prophets - Nahum*

*Read Nahum 1  
2 Kings 18-19  
2 Chronicles 32*

*Lesson Purpose: Nahum was a prophet to Judah whose sole focus was to pronounce God's judgment against Nineveh. Nahum prophesied at the same time as Micah and Isaiah. The Book of Nahum is a sequel to the Book of Jonah. As you recall the Book of Jonah was written about 100 years earlier and tells the story of God's gracious call to the Ninevites through the Prophet Jonah to repent. The Ninevites repented and God spared them but within 50-60 years they were attacking the City of Jerusalem (2 Kings 18-19). Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria and they were a violent and ruthless force that brought terror to her neighbors. The sin of Nineveh was now ripe and God sent Nahum to prophesy on the destruction of Nineveh. God would tolerate their sin no longer. God protects his own and Nineveh had attacked God's people and God had destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers camped in front of the walls of Jerusalem by an angel of death. Assyria immediately broke the siege and returned to Nineveh. The Book of Nahum emphasizes that it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God who is an avenging God. The most important lesson that I want you to learn from Nahum 1 is that God is in control of history, nations, and men. God alone will determine the outcome of history and he alone is our refuge in our troubled world.*

#### *Review of the Reading*

12. *The Book of Nahum is called what by Nahum? Nahum 1:1  
What does it mean?*

13. *The Lord is a jealous God. What does Nahum mean by this term? Nahum 1:2*
14. *How many times does Nahum mention the vengeance of God in Nahum 1:2? Why does he do this?*
15. *The Lord is in total control of the nations. How does Nahum point this out? Nahum 1:3*
16. *Nahum emphasizes that God is our refuge in Nahum 1:7. Why is this verse important to God's people at this time?*
17. *How will Nineveh come to an end? Nahum 1:8*
18. *Will Assyria escape God's vengeance to make trouble again? Nahum 1:9*
19. *Who is Nahum referring to in Nahum 1:11?*
20. *What does the Lord command concerning Nineveh? Nahum 1:14*
21. *What does Nahum 1:15 refer to? How does Paul use this verse in Romans?*

### *Thought Questions*

1. *When Sennacherib the King of Assyria attacked Jerusalem how did King Hezekiah respond to this threat? What does his response teach us today as Christians?*

***2. Why would God act to save the Ninevites only to destroy them? Do you not think that Jonah was justified to be frustrated with God?***

***3. What does Nahum mean to you when he says that the “clouds are the dust of his (God’s) feet” in Nahum 1:3?***

***4. When chaos and trouble reign in our world it is good to know that the Lord is a refuge in times of trouble (Nahum 1:7). What did this verse mean for the Jews at this time? What does it mean for Christians living in the world today?***

***5. What does it take to be a person whose has feet that brings good news?***

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

## *Minor Prophets - Nahum*

### *Read Nahum 2-3*

*Lesson Purpose: The Book of Nahum chapters 2 and 3 describe in horrific and graphic detail the historical fall and destruction of Nineveh before the event in 612 BC. That God would use Nahum to paint such a terrifying picture points to God's determination to punish Nineveh for all its sins including those inflicted on God's people. The 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Nahum describes the actual fall of Nineveh. This chapter is unparalleled in its description of a military assault on a fortified urban position. It describes Nineveh's preparation for invasion, the first sighting of the armies, the overrunning of the city's suburbs by enemy chariots, defense of the walls, use of the river to undermine the city's foundation, and the plunder and killing that ensued.*

*Ancient sources give a remarkably consistent picture of the destruction of Nineveh. There had been rebellions in the Assyrian empire for some time. But in 612 BC the doom of the City arrived. The combined armies of the Babylonians and Scythians marched up the left bank of the Tigris River and surrounded the City. It happened in the early spring at the time of the annual rainfalls. Since the rains were especially hard that year, the Tigris River and other rivers overflowed flooded and washed away a portion of the walls that breached the protective defenses of Nineveh. (Nahum 1:8)*

*Nahum wrote these words at the height of Assyria's powers but they are so dead accurate that many accuse Nahum of having written these words after the fall of Nineveh. The most important lesson to learn from Nahum 2-3 is that God is not mocked and whatever a man sows he will also reap (Galatians 6:10). The*

*same applies for the kingdoms of men. The second most important lesson is that our God is in control of the kingdoms of men (Daniel 4:25).*

*One of the most chilling pronouncements in the entire Bible is found in Nahum 2:13 and Nahum 3:5: "I AM AGAINST YOU!" Not one of us should ever wind up on the wrong side of God like Nineveh.*

### *Review of the Reading*

- 1. What is Nineveh to face? Nahum 2:1*
  - 2. What will happen to Judah? Nahum 2:2*
  - 3. What does this tell us about why Nahum was written?*
  - 4. How did the City of Nineveh fall? Nahum 2:3-10*
  - 5. How would you feel if you were in that City?*
  - 6. What happened to the palace? Nahum 2:6*
  - 7. The Lord makes a stunning charge to Nineveh. What does the Lord say? (Nahum 2:13)*
  - 8. Nineveh was called a city of \_\_\_\_\_, full of \_\_\_\_\_, full of \_\_\_\_\_, never without \_\_\_\_\_. Nahum 3:1*
  - 9. What sin was Nineveh deeply involved in? Nahum 3:4*
- What does this tell us about our lives today? Ephesians 6*
- 10. Not only did the floods help destroy Nineveh but what else? Nahum 3:15*

## *Thought Questions*

- 1. When God says I am against you what does that mean?*
- 2. What does it mean when God says that he is for us? Romans 8:31*
- 3. Nahum's prophecy is so descriptive and absolutely confirmed by the historical record that many scholars say the Book of Nahum was written after the fact. How would you defend the Book of Nahum against the criticism that it was obviously written after the fact?*
- 4. What does the fall of Nineveh tell us about the protection of walls, armies, and money in our lives?*
- 5. What does the repentance of Nineveh followed by its destruction and removal from the earth warn us of?*

***Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.***

*Minor Prophets - Habakkuk**Read Habakkuk 1-2*

*Lesson Purpose: Habakkuk is one of my favorite books of the Bible. This little Book sets the foundation for understanding what it means to live by faith. Habakkuk was a prophet who lived during the same time period as Jeremiah and he prophesied to the Jews in the years preceding the Babylonian invasion and deportation of the Jews to exile. It is clear from this Book that Habakkuk is upset with the sin and violence in the land and he asks God to do something about it. Habakkuk asks God to punish the sin of the people. God answers Habakkuk that he is sending the Babylonians to Judah to punish the people. This answer really bothers Habakkuk because he doesn't understand why God would use a nation more unrighteous than the one being punished. Habakkuk asks God "why do you tolerate the treacherous?" God's response is the foundation of Paul's thinking in Romans and the doctrine of faith and grace. God tells Habakkuk in Habakkuk 2:4 that "the righteous will live by faith". What God tells us through Habakkuk is that God is in control and his timetable will be used to punish Babylon. In the meantime Habakkuk is to live by faith trusting God through the terror filled days that lie ahead for Judah. The Book of Habakkuk offers a mountain top experience in the Old Testament and provides great insight into what it means to walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7) The most important lesson we learn from Habakkuk 1-2 is that we can only survive in times of stress and uncertainty if we live by faith and trust God to strengthen us through our difficulties.*

*Review of the Reading*

*11. What does the name Habakkuk mean?*

12. *Who did Habakkuk prophesy to?*
13. *In what period of time did Habakkuk prophesy?*
14. *What was the first question Habakkuk asked God?  
Habakkuk 1:2-4*
15. *What was God's answer? Habakkuk 1:5-11*
16. *Describe the Babylonians. Habakkuk 1:5-11, 2:5*
17. *Did Habakkuk accept God's answer? Habakkuk 1:12-2:1*
18. *What was God's answer about Habakkuk's complaint of  
using the Babylonians to punish the Jews? Habakkuk 2:2-4*
19. *Babylon will be dealt with by God in his way at his time.  
Habakkuk mentions five woes that Babylon is guilty of. What  
are they?*
  - a. *Habakkuk 2:6*
  - b. *Habakkuk 2:9*
  - c. *Habakkuk 2:12*
  - d. *Habakkuk 2:15*
  - e. *Habakkuk 2:20*
20. *What will the earth be filled with? Habakkuk 2:14*
21. *Habakkuk is reminded of what in Habakkuk 2:20? Why is  
this important?*

## *Thought Questions*

- 1. Habakkuk 2:4 is a basic statement of the Christian faith. Where is this concept addressed elsewhere in the New Testament?*
- 2. Why was it important for Habakkuk to understand that the righteous shall live by faith?*
- 3. Contrast the attitude found in Habakkuk 2:20 with that found in Daniel 4:30.*
- 4. Was Habakkuk right in questioning God? Should we question God today?*

*Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.*

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*Minor Prophets - Habakkuk*

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*Read Habakkuk 3*

*Lesson Purpose: The last chapter of Habakkuk is one of the great prayers in the Bible of a man of faith. This prayer represents what we need to understand as Christians about prayer when we approach God's throne of grace. With the Babylonian Army bearing down on the nation of Judah, Habakkuk is of calm spirit and of humble mind as he turns to God with absolute confidence in his sufficiency. Habakkuk doesn't fret about what he cannot control but accepts that God will be his strength during the storm. The last three verses of Habakkuk should be enshrined in our minds if we are to live by faith and not by sight. We simply cannot be controlled by a spirit of fear in an uncertain world if we are to be men and women of faith. The most important lesson to learn from Habakkuk 3 is that we must stand firm in our faith or we will not stand at all. The second lesson that we must learn is that prayer is our access to God and his joy and strength can be ours IF we will live by faith.*

*Review of the Reading*

- 22. What is a shiginoth?*
- 23. Does Habakkuk express a different attitude toward God than we see in chapter 1? Habakkuk 3:2*
- 24. What does Habakkuk pray for? Habakkuk 3:2*
- 25. As Habakkuk prayed what happened to him? Habakkuk 3:16*

26. *Does Habakkuk understand what is going to happen to Judah? Habakkuk 3:16*
27. *How would you describe his attitude in face of what was going to happen? Habakkuk 3:16*
28. *What kind of devastation will occur to the land? Habakkuk 3:17*
29. *What does Habakkuk plan to do in spite of the devastation that will occur? Habakkuk 3:18*
30. *What adjective does Habakkuk use to describe the Lord? Habakkuk 3:19 Why does he use it?*
31. *How sure footed are deer? What's Habakkuk's point? Habakkuk 3:19*

### *Thought Questions*

1. *What does Habakkuk's prayer teach us about approaching God?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. *How does one possibly stay calm and patient in the day of calamity?*

- 3. We are to live by faith and not by sight. Habakkuk was able to rejoice in the Lord despite facing the loss of all things and possibly death or deportation. How is this possible?*
  
- 4. I find Habakkuk 3:19 a very challenging verse to our faith. What are some of the key core beliefs a Christian must have to stay faithful in tough times?*
  
- 5. Does Habakkuk show any spiritual growth in this book?*

*Write Your Questions....what questions do you have from this reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.*

# ***A People of the Book 8-Year Curriculum***

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	<b><i>Matthew</i></b>	<b><i>Genesis</i></b>	<b><i>Galatians &amp; Ephesians</i></b>	<b><i>Isaiah</i></b>
2008	<b><i>Exodus</i></b>	<b><i>I &amp; II Timothy, Titus</i></b>	<b><i>Hebrews</i></b>	<b><i>Minor Prophets I (Hosea-Obadiah)</i></b>
2009	<b><i>Mark</i></b>	<b><i>Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</i></b>	<b><i>Romans</i></b>	Jeremiah & Lamentations
2010	I & II Thessalonians	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	James, I & II Peter	Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)
2011	Luke	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	I, II, III John & Jude	Daniel
2012	Acts	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	I Corinthians	Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)
2013	John	Job	II Corinthians	Psalms
2014	Philippians, Colossians & Philemon	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Revelation	Ezekiel

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