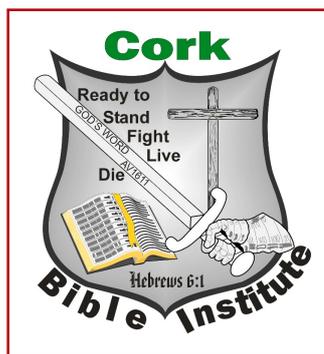


The Bible Companion Series

The Minor Prophets

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

AV 1611 Bible Companion



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Textbook

Only the Bible will be used as our textbook this Semester.

Class Requirements

1. Read through the Minor Prophets TWICE. There are 67 chapters in these twelve small-ish books of the Old Testament. They will need to be read from Hosea through Malachi, TWICE by the end of the Semester. This semester has 15 weeks in it, so that means you need to read 1 to 2 chapters a weekday.
2. Write a two page summary of the LIFE of one of the Minor Prophets: i.e., his background, his burden, the way people responded to his preaching, what God asked of him, etc.
3. Complete the entire class notebook by filling in all the class notes.
4. Attend 80% of the classes (that means at least 12 of the class days). You must have permission to miss any more than 4 days of class.
5. Pass the Final Exam (Greater than 70% to pass).

Introduction to the Minor Prophets

A. Their Importance and Significance

1. Twelve short books from Hosea to Malachi
2. Called 'Minor' Prophets not because of less importance than other prophetic books, but smaller in size. Containing just 67 chapters, they make up just 4% of the Old Testament.
3. Represent some of the most neglected books in the Bible.
4. Are primarily prophetic – foretelling the future, both of coming judgement upon the northern Ten Tribes of Israel, upon Judah, and upon the surrounding nations, as well as future blessings upon the restored nation of Israel.
5. These books, along with Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel all were exciting to the Jewish readers because they focused on how God was working to bring Israel back right through the coming judgment of the mighty Messiah!

B. Their Placement in the Bible

1. _____, right at the end of the Old Testament. Not chronologically. Why?
 - a. They deal with end times and with coming judgment
 - b. They generally skip over the coming of the Saviour from sin, and focus mainly on the coming Messiah and His judgment of sin – which occurs during the Tribulation time period
2. Grouped together, just like several other books are grouped:
 - a. Pentateuch (Gen, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deut) called, "The Books of Moses" (Luke 16:29)
 - b. Poetical books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
 - c. Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
 - d. Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)
 - e. Major and Minor Prophets - called, "The Prophets" (Luke 24:27)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE					
OLD TESTAMENT - 39 Books			NEW TESTAMENT - 27 Books		
LAW - 5	POETRY - 5	MAJOR PROPHETS - 5	GOSPELS - 4	PAUL'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS - 4	
GENESIS EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY	JOB PSALMS PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES SONG OF SOLOMON	ISAIAH JEREMIAH LAMENTATIONS EZEKIEL DANIEL	MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN	1 TIMOTHY 2 TIMOTHY TITUS PHILEMON	
HISTORY - 12		MINOR PROPHETS - 12	HISTORY - 1		
JOSHUA JUDGES RUTH 1 SAMUEL 2 SAMUEL 1 KINGS 2 KINGS 1 CHRONICLES 2 CHRONICLES EZRA NEHEMIAH ESTHER		HOSEA JOEL AMOS OBADIAH JONAH MICAH NAHUM HABAKKUK ZEPHANIAH HAGGAI ZECHARIAH MALACHI	ACTS		
			PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9	GENERAL LETTERS - 9	
			ROMANS 1 CORINTHIANS 2 CORINTHIANS GALATIANS EPHESIANS PHILIPPIANS COLOSSIANS 1 THESSALONIANS 2 THESSALONIANS	HEBREWS JAMES 1 PETER 2 PETER 1 JOHN 2 JOHN 3 JOHN JUDE REVELATION	

C. Time of their writing: 8th to 6th centuries B.C.

1. Span both the Old Testament and the New Testament – not only an Old Testament office
2. There are seven prophetic periods of prophets in the Bible:
 - a. _____ to Abraham
 - 1) Enoch (Jude 14,15)
 - 2) Noah prophesied of the coming flood (Heb 11:7)
 - b. Abraham to _____ – the time of the Patriarchs
 - 1) Abraham was a prophet (Gen 20:7)
 - 2) Job
 - 3) Jacob
 - 4) Joseph (Gen 49)
 - c. Moses to _____ – the time of the Judges
 - 1) Moses (Dt 34:10)
 - 2) Aaron (Ex 7:1)
 - 3) Baalam
 - 4) A Donkey (2Pet 2:16)
 - d. _____ to Hosea (1Sam 3:1) – the time of the Kings of Israel
 - 1) Samuel (1Sam 3:20)
 - 2) King Saul (briefly, 1Sam 10:11,12)
 - 3) King David (Act 2:30)
 - 4) Gad (1Sam 22:5)
 - 5) Nathan (2Sam 7:2)
 - 6) Ahijah (1Kgs 11:29)
 - 7) Jehu (1Kgs 16:7)
 - 8) Oded (2Chr 15:8)
 - 9) Elijah (1Kgs 18:22)
 - 10) Elisha (1Kgs 19:16)
 - 11) Micaiah (1Kgs 22:13)
 - 12) Isaiah (1Kgs 19:2)
 - e. Hosea to _____
 - 1) Daniel (Matt 24:15)
 - 2) As well as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
 - 3) All of the twelve Minor Prophets
 - 4) Then it went quiet for 400 years
 - f. _____ Silent Years
 - g. John the Baptist to Acts 1
 - 1) John the Baptist (Mt 11:9)
 - 2) Jesus (John 4:19)
 - 3) John (Revelation)
 - h. Acts 1 to the completion of the Bible – the foundation of the Church
 - 1) With the Holy Spirit showing us "things to come" John 16:13
 - 2) Paul, Barnabas (Acts 13:1)
 - 3) Judas and Silas (Acts 15:32)

- 4) Agabus (Acts 21:10)
 - 5) See 1Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11
 - 6) This period ends with the completion of the Scriptures (1Cor 13:10)
- i. The Rapture, Through the Tribulation, and into the Millennium (Joel 2:28,29)
 - 1) The 144,000 witnesses with Moses and Elijah in the Tribulation (Mal 4:5)
 - 2) Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy
 - 3) Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
 - 4) Upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.
 - j. NOTE: After the Tribulation, there will not be any more prophets (Zech 13:2-f). They will not be needed anymore! All will know the Lord (Heb 8:11)!
3. Different titles of prophets:
- a. _____ (1 Sam 9:9)
 - b. _____ (1 Sam 9:8)
4. Their Role (Luke 24:25-27, 44)
- a. To prepare people for the coming Messiah (Acts 3:18)
 - b. To explain that God would restore all things (Acts 3:21)
 - c. To WARN God's people of God's coming judgment (Acts 3:23)! They are not primarily called to BLESS!
 - d. To get people to believe on the Messiah, Jesus (Acts 26:27)
 - e. To be an example of suffering and patience (James 5:10)
 - f. To be thoroughly examined, and if true, then obeyed (1Jn 4:1)

E. A Summary of the Themes of the Minor Prophets

1. Hosea - Israel's Unfaithfulness Towards God
2. Amos - When The Lord Roars From Zion
3. Jonah - It's Hard To Love Your Enemies
4. Joel - The Day of the Lord is at Hand
5. Obadiah - Pride Goeth Before Destruction
6. Micah - Gloom Before Glory
7. Nahum - Righteous Revenge
8. Habakkuk - Run Sinner, Run! Flee from the Wrath to Come!
9. Zephaniah - A Consuming Fire
10. Haggai - Finish What You Start Out To Do
11. Zechariah - The Lord Remembers
12. Malachi - When God Doesn't Bless

F. What To Look For in the Minor Prophets

1. _____ of prophecies - at the First as well as the Second Advent.
2. The absence of the _____.
3. The long-term _____ of God through history: not just the short-term judgements and condemnations.

The Book of HOSEA

Israel's Unfaithful Love Towards God!

Key Verse: Deut 6:5

I. Introduction to the Book of Hosea

- A. Author: Hosea under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 781-711 B.C. He lived during the reign of 4 kings of Judah
- C. Theme: The nation of Israel (Northern Ten Tribes) had walked out on God, and had fallen in love with all the gods of the nations surrounding them. God compared it to committing adultery, and invited them over and over to return to God or suffer the consequences of being an adulterer, which was divorce and the judgment of God.
- D. The significance of the name 'Hosea':
 1. Means _____! Or _____
 2. Hosea is another Old Testament name for Jesus. As was Joshua, and Oshea (Num 13:8,16)
- E. The placement of the Book of Hosea:
 1. FIRST of the Minor Prophets.
 2. Note chapter 1:2, "*The beginning of the word of the Lord...*"
- F. Hosea's audience - primarily the 10 Northern tribes of Israel: (Israel, Samaria, and Ephraim). Every now and then a warning goes out to Judah as well.
- G. New Testament Scriptures that emphasize what Hosea preached:
 1. James 4:4
 2. Matt 12:39
 3. Mark 8:38
 4. Acts 2:40
- H. Quotations of Hosea in the New Testament:
 1. Matt 2:15 (Hos 11:1)
 2. Matt 9:13; 12:7 (Hos 6:6)
 3. Rom 9:25,26 (Hos 1:1,2; 2:23) "Not beloved"
 4. 1 Cor 15:55 (Hos 13:14)
 5. 1 Pet 2:5,10 (Hos 1:9,10; 2:23) "nor having obtained mercy."
- I. At the bottom of every page of this study, I would like you to write out TWO things you learned from the materials on that page.

II. Lesson – “Israel’s Unfaithful Love Towards God!”

- A. **Marry a** _____ (1:2-2:23) “Take a whore as your wife”
 1. God had called to this nation in Abraham like a young man calls a woman to be his bride
 2. Abraham had responded with faith – loved God, and followed Him, obeying Him
 3. God’s call to Abraham was AWAY from false gods – away from the world
 4. But 1,000 years later, the nation had stepped out on God, and was not looking back
 5. They had become an _____ – a whore
 - a. A Whore, an Harlot – a woman who by nature was unfaithful
 - b. A Harlot is a love of many, yet a lover of none
 - c. God wanted to restore her to a lover of just ONE – of Him!

Study In The Minor Prophets

The Book of HOSEA

6. But something has happened to the relationship between God and His wife Israel. God was upset with Israel's unfaithfulness to Him.
7. So, God commanded Hosea to go find a harlot and marry her – KNOWING she would be unfaithful to him.
 - a. Someone with a "track-record" of being unfaithful!
 - b. Yet love her with "perfect love" like Christ will love the church (Eph 5:25), because in the long-run, Israel will become faithful (3:5)
 - c. Prophets do all sorts of crazy things to get people's attention:
 - 1) Preach on the street out in front of bus stops
 - 2) Eat locusts out in the desert (John the Baptist)
 - 3) Run around naked for 3 years (Isa 20:2-4)!
8. So, now God must not only picture ISRAEL'S unfaithfulness, but His own righteous judgments against their unfaithfulness
9. Pictured by Gomer having three children:
 - a. Jezreel (1:4) - means " _____ " – that was what was coming!
 - b. Lo-ruhamah (1:6) - " _____ "
 - c. Lo-ammi (1:9) - " _____ "
10. These three names prophesy of the coming judgment on Israel

B. The Promise of a Restored Future Israel (1:10,11)

1. Israel will one day exceed numbering – just like promised to _____
2. Even though disowned and divorced by God.
3. Even though _____ the people of God, one day, they will become again the people of God!
 - a. THROUGH the new birth!!!
 - b. But they must become as children (Mt 18:1-3)
4. Will become a unified nation – gathered together into one
5. Shall appoint/choose one head/shepherd
6. Shall come up out of the land – _____
7. All will happen in the great day of _____ – _____ (or at least at the time of Armageddon, which is the Tribulation).

C. The Call Back to God (2:1-13)

1. God pleads
 - a. Be "my people" again
 - b. Come and obtain mercy
 - c. Be my wife again
 - 1) Israel was no longer God's wife – not anymore.
 - 2) Adultery is grounds for divorce – the dissolution of the bond of marriage
 - 3) God has not been allowed to be Israel's husband
 - d. Put away whoredoms out of your sight
 - 1) Completely away from you – you should not have anything around that reminds you of previous lovers
 - 2) Idols, riches – anything that you may covet – covetousness is idolatry

2. Or Else, God (_____) will have to Judge
 - a. Publically strip you down
 - b. Make naked
 - c. An overgrown wilderness
 - d. Barren – no successes, no fruitfulness
 - e. Thirsty
 - f. No mercy for your children
 - g. God will hedge you in – box you in, like cattle are penned in (2:6)
 - h. God will make it hard/impossible to love idols – you will not be able to keep up with the world
3. Even if you come back...
 - a. It will usually be only because you are hungry (Cf Jn 6:25,26)
 - b. So God will take away what she has taken for granted – all that Israel had actually came from her Husband, and not from her “lovers” (idols)
 - c. God will expose just how stupid she has been
 - d. God will stop all joyous occasions
 - e. God will visit/bring upon her all His wrath

D. What God Would _____ Do (2:14-23). In that Day, God would rather...

1. “In that day...”
2. Be sweet to Israel
3. Allure her, draw her near to Himself
4. Speak comfortable – not harshly
5. Give her gifts – a door of hope
6. Hear her sing – just as the day when they were first married (2:15)
7. Hear her call Him “my husband” – ishi – and no longer just see Him as an evil “lord” baali
8. No more memory of all the previous lovers
9. Make a covenant of peace with nature
10. Break warfare
11. Start all over again with Israel – remarry her (2:19-23)
12. All of this applies to the nation of Israel – marries again Jehovah (Zech 13:9)
13. But also applies to the Gentiles (1Pet 2:9,10)

E. How An Adulterous Woman/Nation Gets Restored (3:1-5)

1. Through _____ Love - Love _____ an Adulterous Woman (3:1-2)
 - a. Sanctioned by God – even commanded to love her (Eph 5)
 - b. Love her the same way that God loves Israel, and as Christ loves the church
 - 1) Even while the people were away from God
 - 2) And while she longingly loved other gods
 - 3) And while she loved alcohol
 - c. Gomer is gone – with her children
 - d. The only way to love Gomer, or a new wife, after she has left:
 - 1) _____ and damages that she has incurred while away from him
 - 2) Have a time of separation
 - a) From her lovers
 - b) And even from him

- c) To see if she is pregnant
 - d) To see if she will stay
- 3) No _____ – or bitterness on his or her part is allowed
- 2. Through a Time of _____ (3:3,4). This is how you deal with adultery, if you don't want to kill the offender
 - a. A renewal of the marriage covenant/contract - agreement
 - b. Separate from old lovers – “put her away” (Cf Matt 1:19)
 - c. Separate unto Jehovah – Hosea would be FOR her – on her side, protecting her from the judgment she deserved
 - d. No longer playing with sin
 - e. Do _____ everything they as a nation thought that was needed:
 - 1) A king – from 616 BC on. They had so demanded a king at first, and it had ruined them
 - 2) A sacrifice (from 70 AD)
 - 3) An image – pagan idols
 - 4) An ephod – high priesthood
 - 5) A “_____” – family idols
 - 6) Just nothing, but God's word
- 3. Then Afterwards (3:5)
 - a. Israel shall return – Peter and Paul had hoped this would occur win their lifetime (Rom 10)
 - b. Israel shall seek the Lord their God – shall be saved
 - c. Shall submit to _____ their king – resurrected
 - d. Shall fear the Lord
 - e. Shall enjoy His goodness
 - f. All in the “_____”
- F. **God Right Now is Upset** (4:1-19) A controversy
 - 1. Three things were missing among the people
 - a. No _____
 - b. No _____
 - c. No _____ of God – theology 4:6
 - 2. How to get into a controversy with God (4:1-6)
 - a. Remove truth out of the land (4:1) Cf Isa 59:12-15
 - b. Forget _____ in your dealings with each other (4:2-5)
 - c. Cover-up and restrict knowledge (4:6)
 - 3. Therefore, the opposite ruled (took over) 4:2
 - a. Swearing
 - b. Lying
 - c. Killing
 - d. Stealing
 - e. Committing Adultery
 - f. Murder to the place where blood touches blood (multiple murders)
 - g. The land Mourns – Farming and livelihood suffers 4:3
 - h. Unity (wrong) – Everyone like everyone else 4:4,5,9
 - i. Discontentment – never happy never satisfied 4:10,11

4. Prosperity revived them 4:6-8,11
 - a. Forgotten the law
 - b. The more prosperity, the more they sinned
 - c. God gives prosperity and blessings. But Israel, like a whore, ignores the giver
 - d. Therefore God will ruin their success James 5:1-3
 - e. They once loved labor, it was the blessing
 - f. They now love iniquity 4:8
 - g. Woman and wine and even new wine distract them from loving God

5. Seeing blessing from wrong gods, from other religions 4:12
 - a. Prayed to _____ See Isaiah 44:18-20
 - b. Listened to _____
 - c. Servant of whoredom – Demonic pornography! – Lust in the heart
 - d. No longer UNDER their Gods rule – but _____
 - e. Worshiping where it is pleasant
 - 1) The right shadow! That was all that mattered
 - 2) The best hilltop
 - 3) The best oak or popular elm trees
 - 4) The Bibles instruction did not matter 2 Tim 4:2-4

6. Therefore... God's Judgment (4:13 – 19)
 - a. What you do physically, becomes you're life physically
 - b. Out of the heart proceeded all wrong/sinful actions
 - c. You cannot fix it by correcting it from the outside
 - 1) You're daughters will become whores
 - 2) You're wives and husbands will commit adultery
 - 3) AGAINST YOU! Like you did against GOD! 4:13
 - d. God will leave you all alone – worst thing
 - 1) Hell is _____
 - 2) And you will fail. Israel will fail – past the point of no return
 - 3) But not Judah - Needed to take a lesson
 - 4) And fear God doing the same to them
 - a) Stay away from Gilgal
 - b) Bethaven
 - c) No more promises or swearing
 - 5) Those are places Israel Backslid
 - 6) Ephraim is joined/married to idols
 - 7) Stay away from them
 - e. The wine is sour, not sweet – Love is supposed to be sweet 4:18
 - 1) Continual whoredom
 - 2) Love taking and getting, no matter where they get it.

G. More Judgment Against Israel (5:1-15)

1. They made places into traps of sin. Like pubs and cults
2. Rebellious people love to make sacrifices there

3. Even though God rebuked them all
4. God knows Ephraim and Israel completely
5. They will not frame/limit/conform their actions to turn back to God/repent
6. Because of the demonic spirit of the whoredoms 5:4
7. And because they have not known Jehovah! 5:4
8. And because of pride
9. Therefore shall Israel
 - a. Fail
 - b. Judah will fail with them
 - c. Tries to seek the Lord, but will not find him. He has left!! Withdrawn himself
 - d. Be devoured in a month
 - e. Be attacked 5:8
 - f. Become desolate
10. Judah is in trouble too 5:10
 - a. Removed Gods line of boundary/separation
 - b. So they were with Israel in all their sins
11. Eaten up like a moth eaten garment.
12. Incurable by the other nations
13. The Assyrians – type of the _____
14. God will destroy Israel like a lion
15. No one will rescue you
16. God will go away until they acknowledge their sin and seek Gods face
17. It only happens when in trouble/ affliction 5:15

H. A Call to Turn Back to the Lord (6:1-3)

1. Preached by Hosea
2. The judgment is past – has torn plus smitten
3. God will heal us, bind up our wounds
4. 3 days God will _____ to live in his sight
5. “In Christ” all this happens at resurrection
6. Then will we know God, If we continue to know/ Learn – the test
7. And God will come to us and bless us like the latter and forever rains

I. Until Then, What can God do to Israel and Judah? (6:4-11)

1. Their goodness only lasts like a vapour
2. SO they are defeated by the prophets and Word of God
3. He wants to have mercy toward us, not over sacrifices and empty worship
4. He wants us to focus on knowing him than offering our best burnt offerings
5. Yet they deal treacherously
 - a. Gilead is full of murder
 - b. Troops of robbers
 - c. Priests are accomplices by consent
 - d. They are _____ – Driven by lust
 - e. They are like the worst of society
6. An horrible judgment is coming on both Israel and Judah (6:10-11)

J. Israel’s Wicked Government (7:1-7)

1. God can’t forgive or even hear until _____ sins are revealed

- a. They were encouraging lies on the inside, and thievery on the outside
- b. Leaders often forget that God knows our hearts
2. Their own doings, and selfish ways, thrill them
3. They (leaders who should have been Godly examples) were all adulterers – isn't that true today???
4. Their hearts are as burnt bread from an oven
 - a. Thoroughly leavened – totally wicked
 - b. Hardened – not soft and light and doey
 - c. Over-cooked, and burnt
5. All judges have been removed – back to Judges 21:25
6. No one calls on God for help or wisdom or forgiveness

K. Ignorant of Their Sin (7:8-11)

1. The entire nation is ignorant of just how wicked they are
2. Mixed with pagan nations
3. Imbalanced – like a cake not flipped
4. _____ have
 - a. Stolen their strength and glory
 - b. Aged the nation
 - c. And no one is aware that it has happened
5. Sin will always age you faster than normal (Rom 6:23)
6. Pride points to Ephraim's face
7. Pride keeps the people from repenting and seeking God
8. They are like a silly dove, with no heart, no concern – a flittering fool – not thinking at all of the consequences
 - a. Calling to Egypt and Assyria – enemies of God and of Israel
 - b. Calling to them as if they are friends and “lovers”!

L. God's Coming Judgment on Israel – the Northern Ten Tribes (7:12-16)

1. When Israel runs to Assyria for “_____”
 - a. That is when God will capture and enslave them
 - b. And that is when God will begin to chasten them by their captivity
2. Woe unto Israel because...
 - a. They ran FROM God, to other gods
 - b. They sinned against God
 - c. Lied against God
 - d. Have not repented with their heart
 - e. Ignored God as the Giver of _____ their blessings and the good things in their lives
 - f. Imagined mischief against God!
 - g. They often “return” and act sweet and nice... but not towards God.
 - h. It is like when a couple is in a fight, but can instantly be nice to other people, and can pretend to bow and honour when they really want to run away from each other.
3. All the princes and rulers shall die because they rage against God – furious at Him – like a fighting woman in a home

- a. Notice the problem is with the WIFE
- b. Signalled by her anger and attitude
- c. They shall be held in derisive mockery by the people in Egypt who will not help them!

M. Sound the Alarm – the _____ is Coming! (8:1-14)

1. HE shall come
2. Because... here are more reasons for God's judgments (God keeps great records against us)
 - a. Israel broke God's marriage covenant – committed adultery
 - b. Ignored God's rules, and laws
 - c. Have set up kings and princes and entire governments without God
 - d. Made idols out of God's blessings!
3. Israel will try and cry unto God (8:2,3) but to no avail
4. But Samaria's _____ will turn against them (8:5,6)
5. Israel will reap _____ than they planted
6. Nothing they do now will be productive or successful – everything is now cursed
 - a. They as a nation will be swallowed up – among the Gentiles – not a people anymore!
 - b. They are going to Assyria as captives (8:9-10)
 - 1) Not like an army
 - 2) But like a captured wild donkey, alone
 - 3) No matter how many lovers they have PAID to help them
7. Because...
 - a. Of false worship (8:11)
 - b. They rejected God's law – won't endure sound doctrine
 - c. Wrong sacrifices – God won't accept them like he wouldn't accept Cain's
8. Headed _____ into slavery, but this time, into Assyria
 - a. All because Israel FORGOT their Maker
 - b. And because Judah relies on fenced cities (self defence) instead of on God
 - c. And it is no matter, because all of their "protections" will be burned by the Assyrian (8:14)

N. No More _____ – The Results of Captivity (9:1-17)

1. This is all because Israel went whoring away from God
2. No mores!
 - a. No more Harvest
 - b. No more dwelling in "_____ land" – what a name! Headed for e new home – slavery in Assyria
 - c. No more good diets – you will eat only awful, unclean, sinful foods and creatures
 - d. No more Sacrifices (9:4)
 - e. No more worship days, or fest days (9:5)
 - f. No more freedom – Assyria and Memphis (Egypt) will own everything now
 - g. No more godly Prophets or Spiritual Men
 - 1) They will only be fools and madmen
 - 2) The watchmen (warners) were good
 - 3) But the prophets were traps- full of hatred
 - 4) They had deeply defiled and corrupted themselves
 - 5) Israel did NOT start out this way

- a) They had been good grapes back in the wilderness
- b) Now they were bad fruit – abominable – not to be touched
- c) To the same degree of their love for their idols (9:10)
- h. No more children (9:11-14,16)
 - 1) Bereaved of the children that they have – split up
 - 2) You have given them to the murderous Assyrians
 - 3) Miscarriages
 - 4) Starvation
- i. No more love – they will only know the HATRED of God (9:15) who will simply throw them away as a nation (9:17)!

O. Further Description of Israel's Coming Captivity (10:1-8)

1. Because...
 - a. Israel is an empty vine – no fruit (Cf Luke 13:7; Mt 21:19), only full of idols and images and statues, but no spiritual reality
 - b. They are confused about what to do
2. The Assyrian will destroy what Israel has worshipped
3. A king won't help defeat them
4. Swearing by God won't help them – it will be a false swearing
5. Condemnation will spring against them like weeds (10:4)
6. Samaria will watch as their _____ gods are stolen and taken to Jareb. It's "glory" (false as it is) will depart!
7. High places will be destroyed – only to be replaced with thorns and thistles
8. And everyone will want to die, just like in the Tribulation (Cf Rev 6:16).

P. More Reasons For God's Judgment (10:9-15)

1. Israel has been this way a long time – since the Benjaminites of Gibeah (Judg 19,20)
 - a. Showed no kindness (Judg 19:14,15)
 - b. Unsafe streets
 - c. Sodomites – pagan baalites – killers (Judg 19:22; 20:5)
 - d. Gang rapists
 - e. No justice – protected the murderous rapists (20:13)
 - f. Chose to fight against God's people out of pride
 - g. This same attitude and wickedness spread throughout the Northern ten Tribes of Israel
2. Israel never defeated the sin of Gibeah – it only SPREAD
3. So, God has had to constantly chastise
4. But now has to enslave Israel and Judah even (10:11)
5. God begs Israel and Judah to
 - a. Start sowing righteousness (Rom 10:2-10), because you will always reap mercy
 - b. Break up your hard hearts – fallow ground
 - c. Seek the Lord – "it is TIME to seek the Lord"
6. Yet, Israel always responds the same way
 - a. Ploughs sin, and reaps worse sin (10:13)
 - b. Trust in their own way and in their own might
7. Therefore, utter destruction is coming (10:14,15)!!!

Q. Persistent Adultery – Whoredom – rebellion (11:1-7)

1. God drew Israel to Himself
 - a. Not just like a groom calls his bride
 - b. But as a father calls his _____ – referring to Israel being called
 - c. But this is a _____ prophecy (Mt 2:15; Ex 4:23)
 - d. God talks as if He has a son (Cf Prov 30:4; Isa 9:6,7)
2. Yet, when “they” (the other nations) called, Israel abandoned their covenant (wedding vows, marriage covenant)
3. God had taught Ephraim, but they were just blind to God’s help
4. God loved them and drew them gently, freeing them from slavery in Egypt – but the Assyrian will become their king now (THE Assyrian is a reference to a type of the antichrist).
5. All because they refuse to humble themselves, repent, and return to God (their Husband) (11:5)
6. So, all cities will be conquered.

R. God Does Not Judgment (11:8-12)

1. God asks, How can He let Israel go???
2. He struggles in His heart – repenting back and forth! THAT IS WHAT LOVE WILL DO TO YOU. _____ had the SAME DILEMMA in Matthew 2!
3. God will not utterly destroy Israel
 - a. He sure could have and even should have
 - b. But thankfully, He is _____ and NOT man
4. Israel shall, one day, follow the Lord
5. But right now, Israel is in trouble with God (11:12)!
6. And at that moment, Judah was staying faithful

S. Israel needs to Know Some Things (12:1-14)

1. Realize that you are feeding on Assyria’s affection
2. Remember that your base sin is selfishness. Okay. Be selfish enough to seek GOD again! For your own benefit!
 - a. Jacob wrestled with God and WON! He got power with God, and prevailed, and heard God speak to him
 - b. Therefore, turn back to God yourselves!
3. You are like a greedy merchant
 - a. You think that you are rich – like the _____ Christians (Rev 3)
 - b. Think you have no sin – like the _____
4. But God will bring you back – it is a vow – a promise (12:9,10)
5. Unfortunately there is sin everywhere; In Gilead (Hos 6:8), and in Gilgal
6. Israel has forgotten just how good God has been to them, providing for them, preserving them, and protecting them
7. You had better know that God’s bitter wrath is coming against you!

T. Israel's Falling Away (13:1,2)

1. Israel used to tremble, and be soft – that was how king Saul started. It is how most Christians start. The key is to _____ that way too!
2. God exalted you
3. But when Israel as a nation turned to Baal, he died spiritually
4. And it didn't stop there
 - a. Sin feeds on itself – only grows
 - b. They made great and delicate images by craftsmen – put out their best efforts
 - c. Even _____ the calves - _____

U. Therefore, God's Judgment is Right (13:3-9)

1. Israel, as a nation will disappear like a _____
2. Because _____ is the Lord and not Baal
3. "I am the same God that delivered you from Egypt's dominion
4. You will NOT know any love, or any other god but Jehovah's!
5. There is NO other _____ but me (Isa 43:3,11; 45:21)
6. God took good care of Israel while they journeyed I the wilderness
7. Yet, they still _____ God (13:6)
8. So, God will become as a _____ and will devour (13:7,8)
9. And it is all because of Israel – it is not God's will (13:9a; Cf 2 Pet 3:9)

V. If Only Israel Would Let God Save Them (13:9-16)

1. God asks, "Let me be your king"
 - a. "I gave you what you wanted" King Saul
 - b. "Saul didn't work out did he?"
 - c. "Let me lead and govern you"
 - d. "Quit trying to be a controlling woman" trying to make what you want to happen, happen! You don't belong in the delivery room!
2. It is GOD who will fight for you and deliver you – always has been that way
3. IF you will just let Him
4. He can and will deliver from:
 - a. The power of the _____
 - b. From the absolute power of _____
5. God is determined to do this
6. But since you won't allow Him to fight for you, God's judgment is coming from Assyria – from the EAST (13:165,16)

W. Israel's Future Restoration (14:1-8)

1. If you would only listen and learn
2. If you would only talk with GOD! And ask Him
 - a. Take away all our iniquity – _____ can be taken away, not bit by bit
 - b. Receive us by _____
3. And the commit to doing the following:
 - a. We will sacrifice with our LIPS
 - b. We will accept that Assyria will not be good for us
 - c. We won't look to horses for help

- d. We will no longer worship idols and the works of our hands
- e. We will commit to those things because YOU are MERCIFUL

4. God makes several good promises

- a. To heal their backsliding
- b. Love them freely – starting all over again
- c. No more anger
- d. Give blessings once again on Israel
- e. Expand Israel
- f. Return the people to their land
- g. Revive the nation
- h. Ephraim will one day become sick of their idolatry and will fall back in love with their God, Jehovah (14:8)

X. If Only SOMEONE was Smart Enough to Read and Understand This Prophecy and Turn Back to God (14:9)!

- 1. Because God is RIGHT in what He does to Israel and to all people who turn away from Him
- 2. Because the godly shall live by these words
- 3. But the rebellious shall be ruined!
- 4. SO! This is a GOSPEL TRACT written to get Israel to repent before it is too late!

III. Brief Summary

- A. First, your own review – write out what you think you learned from this Book (go back and see the two things from each page that you wrote down): _____

- B. The Book of Hosea is a prophetic accounting of God’s relentless love for His children. Since the beginning of time God’s ungrateful and undeserving creation has been accepting God’s love, grace, and mercy but unable to refrain from its wickedness. Hosea takes this act of unfaithfulness personally as he takes a prostitute in marriage.
- C. Hosea shows how God’s love is once again restored to His children and the sins of His children are forgotten with a repentant heart of His followers. The prophetic message of Hosea foretells the coming of Israel’s Messiah 700 years in the future and Hosea is quoted often in the New Testament.

IV. Practical Application:

- A. The Book of Hosea assures us of God’s amazing love for mankind. But it is also a picture of how God is dishonoured and hurt by the actions of His people. How can a wife who is given an abundance of love, mercy, and grace treat her lover with so much disrespect? Yet, we have done just that for centuries. As we look at how the Israelites turned their backs on God we need to look no further than the mirror in front of us to see a reflection of those same Israelites.
- B. Only by remembering how much God has done for each us will we be able to avoid hurting the One who can give us eternal life in Glory instead of the Hell we deserve. It is essential that we learn to fully reverence our Creator. When we do make a mistake Hosea has shown us that if we have a sorrowful heart and a promise of repentance then God will again show His never-ending love to us.

The Book of JOEL

The Day of the LORD is at Hand

Key Verse: Joel 2:12,13**I. Introduction – Take note of:**

- A. _____ fulfilment of the prophecies - at the First Coming as well as the Second Coming.
- B. The absence of the _____ in the prophecies.
- C. An almost totally _____ view of the near future.
- D. The long-term objectives of God through history: not just the short-term judgements and condemnations. These include:
 - 1. _____ of Israel
 - 2. The placement of _____ forever as king in Israel
 - 3. The Messiah as King of Kings in the New Jerusalem
 - 4. The restoration of the earth

II. Introduction to the Book of Joel

- A. **Author:** Joel under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. **Date of writing:** 800-750 B.C.
- C. **Theme:** The coming judgement upon Judah, then upon the Gentiles at Armageddon, and finally the restoration of Israel.
- D. **The significance of the name 'Joel':**

- 1. Jo-El Means " _____ ", or "The LORD, He is God".
- 2. Represents a testimony to this fact. Joel is written to prove that Jehovah is God

NOTE: The Bible places great significance upon the meaning of names. Examples include: Saul's name being changed to Paul; Simon being changed to Peter; the name Moses meaning "drawn out" to represent the children of Israel being drawn out of Egypt; as well as the names of ALL the prophets.

E. Joel's audience (3 fold):

- 1. The tribe of Judah at the time of writing, as well as the people of Jerusalem (3:1)
 - 2. All New Testament saints since it is part of the eternal Scriptures
 - 3. The world during the tribulation.
- F. Joel's message is on the occasion of a very severe plague of locusts and terrible drought. He gives the moral and spiritual application. He is quoted by Isaiah, Micah, Amos, Nabu, Zephaniah, Obadiah, Ezekiel, Malachi, and by some of the Psalmists.
 - G. A plague of locusts of unprecedented severity has come upon the Land - a real plague of locusts. The accuracy of his description, down to details, is confirmed by eyewitness accounts both ancient and modern. It is not an allegorical description of an invading army or of the enemies of Israel, as has been done by some.
 - H. Joel, gives more than a surface description of the plague... He interprets it in depth, as a meaningful act of the God of judgment and salvation. He bids the people look beneath the surface of devastation and despair and see in the plague, most of all an indication of the coming great Day of the Lord, which bids them cry to the Lord.
 - I. Second, by using the term "the northerner" for the locusts (2:20) he begs his people to see in them an approaching last judgmental visitation, which calls men return to the Lord and find deliverance in Him. (2:1-27)

- J. Third, Joel's prophetic vision, pierces into the future, and he gives a full-scale depiction of the coming day of the Lord (2:28-3:21)

III. Lesson - "The Day of The LORD Is At Hand"

A. The Spiritual Condition of Judah (1:1-20)

1. Never been so bad before, never will be as bad (1:1-3)
2. Four-fold pestilence was on its way:
 - a. Palmerworm A voracious kind of young grasshopper that shreds everything in its path
 - b. Locust It multiplies so rapidly that it eats everything in its path
 - c. Cankerworm A worm that licks and sucks up everything in its path
 - d. Caterpillar A young larva of a butterfly that devours everything in its path
 - e. Everything about Judah will be destroyed, wave by wave
 - f. Just like everything was destroyed step-by-step by the plagues of Egypt
 - 1) Loss of the fish industry (Ex 7:14-25)
 - 2) Human health hazards of frogs, lice and flies (Ex 8)
 - 3) Most cattle killed-off by a murrain (Ex 9)
 - 4) Human health hazards of boils (Ex 9)
 - 5) Most crops destroyed by fire mixed with hail (Ex 9)
 - 6) Remaining crops destroyed by locust (Ex 10)
 - 7) All human hope taken away by darkness (Ex 10)
 - 8) Strength to fight taken away by the loss of the firstborn (Ex 12)

PRINCIPLE: God's judgements are not worth getting involved with. The message of the Gospel is basically the same as that of these Old Testament prophets: "Flee from the wrath to come", by coming to One who can "hide you till the storm passes by".

3. Judah is in a _____ state (1:5)
4. The Babylonian Army was coming (1:6,7)
5. It's time to weep and lament (1:8-13)
 - a. Like a virgin bridesmaid who loses her husband just before the day of her wedding
 - b. No more sacrifices
 - c. Farms ruined
 - d. The harvest is spoiled
 - e. Everybody should be weeping: priests, the Lord's ministers, husbandmen (farmers), everyone (sons of men)
6. It's time to call for fasting and prayer for the nation (1:14-20)
 - a. Gather everyone, from the elders and leaders down
 - b. Gather at the House of the Lord
 - c. Cry aloud and pray
 - d. Because the great DAY OF THE LORD is at hand – near! The first time this appears
 - 1) It describes the coming battle of Armageddon (Joel 3:14)
 - 2) The destruction that would be caused by the Babylonian army was just a picture, a taste of the destruction by the coming army of heaven!
 - e. Fasting and prayer would have helped – would have postponed the disasters. But no one responded, and so judgment fell!

B. The Call To Sound The Alarm: The Day of the LORD is "At Hand" (2:1-11)

1. The Day of the LORD (central theme of the Minor Prophets)
 - a. Isa 13:6-13
 - b. 1 Thes 5:1-3
 - c. 2 Pet 3:10
 - d. Amos 5:18-20
 - e. Obediah 15
 - f. Zeph 1:7-18; 2:2-3
 - g. Zech 14:1-21
 - h. Mal 4:1-4

2. The conditions as prophesied by Joel:
 - a. Darkness (thick darkness - it can be _____; Ex 10:21,22)
 - b. Gloominess
 - c. Clouds (Matt 24:30)
 - d. An army of a multitude of people riding upon horses, spread upon the mountains like the morning like, called "his army" (Rev 19:11-17)
 - e. Fire from that army that devours both in front of them, and behind (2 Thes 1:6-10)
 - f. Immortal warriors (1 Cor 15:52,53; Phil 3:21)
 - 1) Riding on horses
 - 2) Running
 - 3) Flying - Leaping from mountain top to mountain top
 - 4) A strong people – army – well organized in battle array
 - 5) Striking fear into everyone who sees them
 - 6) Burning everyone they pass by
 - 7) Climbing walls
 - 8) Never breaking rank – like the British military tactics up until the 1900's
 - 9) No friendly-fire – never a mistake killing each other
 - 10) Never wounded when cut
 - 11) Able to pass throughout the cities of the enemy without hindrance
 - g. Earthquakes (Rev 6:12; 8:5; 11:13; 16:18)
 - h. Heaven itself _____ – this is a wild thought (Isa 13:13; Hag 2:6) – things in heaven are going to be moved out of place! Stars? Probably planets. Things you can see with the naked eye!
 - i. Sun, moon, and stars _____ (Rev 8:12)
 - 1) QUESTION: Technically, when does all the above occur?
 - 2) Has it ever happened yet in the past?

C. The Call To _____ (2:12-27) - A sure cure for judgement!

1. Joel says, "There's still a chance for us, but it's up to us!" Same with Nineveh
2. The conditions for repentance (2:12-17)
 - a. Turn to the LORD (meaning of repentance) – turn to another mind
 - b. Rend (break) your heart (inward), not clothes (outward)
 - c. Yield - Let God do what He thinks is right (2:14)
 - d. Call a fast for all people (Cf Jonah 3:5-10) at a solemn assembly (2:15,16)
 - e. Weep and pray for deliverance (2:17)

3. The promised effect (2:18-27) - The LORD will:
 - a. Be jealous once again for His land (2:18)
 - b. Pity His people (2:18)
 - c. Answer prayers again (2:19)
 - d. Bountifully bless His people once again (2:19)
 - e. Drive away the enemy, and judge him (2:20)
 - f. Bring back the rain (2:23; Cf Elijah)
 - g. Restore everything back to the way that it was before the sin came (2:24-26; Cf Job 42)
 - h. Be "in the midst" of His people (2:27; Cf the name 'Emanuel')

APPLICATION: When sin has run its course in a persons life, judgement can only follow (i.e., homosexual & promiscuous living is followed by AIDS). God has worked out a system however where man can get his life back in order before the judgement takes effect. All revivals occurred just prior to great catastrophes: England in 1737 under Whitefield, America under Wesley in 1750s, Billy Sunday in 1920s.

D. The Culmination: The Pouring Out of the _____ (2:28-32)

1. Note the words: "it shall come to pass _____..."
 - a. After what?
 - b. After Israel getting broken and right with God
2. What circumstances surround this "outpouring?"
 - a. God pours out His Spirit upon _____ flesh (2:28,29)
 - 1) Israel's sons and daughters will prophesy (2:28)
 - 2) Old men shall dream dreams
 - 3) Young men shall see visions
 - 4) Servants, handmaids – even slaves – will receive the Holy Spirit
 - b. _____ will be on earth and in the heavens (2:30-32):
 - 1) Blood on earth = warfare
 - 2) Fire on earth = warfare
 - 3) Pillars of smoke (Cf Ex 14:19; 33:9)
 - 4) Sun is darkened
 - 5) Moon is turned into blood – hard to take literally.
 - a) Maybe there will be people living on the moon that will be killed
 - b) Maybe moon dust will turn into blood just as the water of the river Nile turned to blood
 - c. All before the culmination, apex, climax of the _____ – which is the Second Coming of the Messiah
3. It is at this time that anyone can just “call on the name of the Lord” and be delivered (Rom 10:13; Acts 2:21)
4. Concerning "Pentecost" (Acts 2:14-21)
 - a. Only partial fulfilment of Joel’s prophecy
 - b. Peter believed the fact that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was just the beginning, and that it would culminate in Jesus returning right then in Acts. But Peter was wrong.

E. The Call For The Gentiles to The Battle of Armageddon (3:1-21)

NOTE: The theme moves from judgement upon God's people (where it must first begin [1 Pet 4:17]), to the Gentiles.

1. The gathering of _____ nations (Zeph 3:8; Zech 14:1-4; Math 25:31)
2. The valley of Jehosaphat ("Jehovah hath judged") - _____
3. Call to arms (3:9-14) – you gentiles had better be ready for war
4. The valley of _____ (a decisive battle indeed!)
5. The appearance of the LORD and His army (3:16)
6. After, and ONLY after the battle will Israel will be restored to a perfect state (3:17-21).
This then places these prophecies where in time?

IV. Conclusion

- A. **Brief Summary:** A terrible locusts plague is followed by a severe famine throughout the land. Joel uses these happenings as the catalyst to send words of warning to Judah that unless the people repent quickly and completely, the enemy armies of Babylon will come next and devour the land as did the natural elements. Joel appeals to all the people and the priests of the land to fast and humble themselves as they seek God's forgiveness. If they will but respond, there will be renewed material and spiritual blessings for the nation. But something much worse than their current calamity was coming - the Day of the Lord. At that time, the dreaded locust will seem as gnats in comparison, as all nations on that day, will receive their judgment.
- B. **Practical Application:** Without repentance, judgment will be harsh, thorough and certain. Our trust should not be in our possessions but in the Lord our God. God at times may use nature, sorrow or other common occurrences to draw us closer to Him. Oftentimes, troubles are warnings of worse times coming, and need to be heeded, so that we repent and get right instead of get harder!

The Book of AMOS

When The Lord Roared From Zion

Key Verse: Amos 1:2

I. Introduction to Amos

- A. **Author:** Amos 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Amos as the Prophet Amos.
- B. **Date of Writing:** The Book of Amos was likely written between 760 and 753 B.C. You will note that the books are not laid-out chronologically according to their date of writing.
- C. **Purpose of Writing:** Amos is a _____ (7:14,15) and a fruit picker from the Judean village of Tekoa when God calls him, even though he lacks an education or a priestly background. Amos' mission was directed to Israel. His messages of impending doom and captivity for the nation because of her sins were largely unpopular and unheeded, however, because not since the days of Solomon have times been so good in Israel. Amos' ministry takes place while Jeroboam II reigns over Israel, and Uzziah reigns over Judah.
- D. **Brief Summary:** Amos can see that beneath Israel's external prosperity and power, internally the nation is corrupt to the core. The sins for which Amos chastens the people are extensive: neglect of God's Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corrupted leadership and oppression of the poor. Amos begins by pronouncing a judgment upon all the surrounding nations, then upon his own nation of Judah, and finally the harshest judgment is given to Israel. His visions from God reveal the same emphatic message: judgment is near. The book ends with God's promise to Amos of future restoration of the remnant.
- E. **Practical Application:**
 1. Sometimes we think we Christians are not much to look at or listen to (7:14,15)! We think we are just a salesman, farmer or housewife. Amos would be considered a nobody by most people. He wasn't a prophet or priest or the son of either. He was just a shepherd, a small businessman in Judah. Who would listen to him? But instead of making excuses, Amos obeyed and became God's powerful voice for change.
 2. God uses nobodies such as shepherds, carpenters, fishermen all through the Bible. Whatever you are in this life, God can use you. Amos wasn't much. But he was a servant for God, and he impacted an entire nation for God!

II. Study Outline of Amos

A. Amos' "vision" – what he "saw" (1:1)

1. This vision and prophecy was written 2 years before the famous earthquake described in Isaiah 6
2. The Lord will "roar from Zion" – will speak, OR APPEAR from Jerusalem!
3. A prophecy of the word of the Lord proceeding from the mouth of the Lord from within the walls of Jerusalem – Jehovah would literally come to Jerusalem, stand within the city walls, and pronounce judgments one day

B. Pronouncing Judgment Against the Nations (chapters 1-2). God's Wrath against Eight Nations:

1. _____ (1:3-5) – a nation North of Israel. Lebanon
 - a. Judgment because of four sins
 - b. They had fought against Gilead
 - c. They as a nation will be burnt down and destroyed, and the people taken away as captives to Assyria



2. _____ (1:6-8) – located Southwest of Judah – a main city where the Philistines lived
 - a. Judgment also because of four transgressions again God
 - b. They helped trap and deliver God’s people into captivity – never delivered them from their enemies
 - c. A fire was coming against Gaza
 - d. All people and cities of the Philistines will be take captive one day

3. _____ (1:9-10) – located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in Lebanon
 - a. Because the inhabitants sinned over and over four times
 - b. And because they gave God’s people as captives over to Edom and forgot about the natural brotherly covenant between Israel and Esau (Edom)
 - c. God will burn this city to the ground

4. _____ (1:11-12) – a nation directly South of Judah
 - a. Sinned over and over
 - 1) Chasing Israel with the sword
 - 2) Had no pity on his brother Israel
 - 3) Anger against Jacob controlled him and tore at him
 - 4) Esau kept his anger continually – never let it go
 - b. So, God was going to burn all of Edom

5. _____ (1:13-15) – A Country east of Israel, on the other side of the Jordan River
 - a. Sinned over and over
 - 1) Tortured and killed pregnant women “ripped them open” – abortion!
 - 2) Killing people and destroying Judean lives so that THEY (Ammonites) could come into the lands and expand their own empire
 - b. So, God was going to judge and destroy the entire kingdom – and He did

6. _____ (2:1-3) – nation directly east, across on the other side of the Dead Sea
 - a. Mistreated the bones of the king of Moab – used them for building materials
 - b. So they will be burned to the ground

7. _____ (2:4-5)
 - a. They despised God’s law
 - b. Not kept God’s commandments
 - c. Lived by their lies
 - d. Just like their fathers did
 - e. So, the palaces of Judah will be burned with fire

8. _____ (2:6-16) – Northern ten Tribes
 - a. Sold the righteous for money
 - b. Sold the poor for a _____
 - c. Were more interested in the dust on the head of the poor than on the poor themselves
 - d. They loved diverting the meek from their meekness
 - e. And father and son loved to have sex with the same woman (see 1Cor 5)
 - f. All out of disgust for the name and honour of the Lord
 - g. And they sleep on, and ruin the pledge clothes of people
 - h. And they drink the wine that was meant for the condemned, in their own pagan houses
 - i. And they have forgotten what all God had done for them (2:9-11)
 - 1) Destroyed the Amorite – their arch-enemy
 - 2) Brought Israel out of their bondage in Egypt

- 3) Led them forty years through the wilderness
 - 4) Put them in the land of the Amorite
 - 5) Raised up the people as Nazarites
- j. But God will judge you now (2:12-16)
- 1) Because you got your Nazarites _____
 - 2) Because you stopped the prophets from preaching
 - 3) Because you squeezed God out of your lives
 - 4) So, your won't be able to run away
 - 5) Your strength to fight will be gone
 - 6) You won't be able to fight with a bow
 - 7) You will be totally defeated in battle

C. Specific Judgments Against Israel (3)

- 1. Against ALL Israel including Judah
- 2. God and you cannot walk together, because you won't agree with HIM (3:3)
- 3. This Judgment is not for nothing
 - a. Lions roar when they have their prey in view
 - b. A bird is only caught in a trap when there is a gin, a trap laid
 - c. No snare/trap is set without food in it to lure the prey
 - d. A trumpet is blown so that people fear
 - e. Troubles and evil in a city are because God is behind it
 - f. And all judgments by God are first revealed to His prophets
 - g. Proverb: If the lion has roared, everyone should fear. Well if the Lord hath spoken, shouldn't people prophesy and preach about it?
- 4. This judgment against Israel will be heard of in Ashdod, and even down in Egypt (3:9)
- 5. Because Israel doesn't even know HOW to do right
- 6. Therefore, Israel will be surrounded by an adversary and destroyed – by a LION (_____), and the devil)
- 7. A SHEPHERD (_____) will come and save out of the mouth of the LION (Satan)
 - a. Just two legs
 - b. Or a piece of an ear
 - c. Not the whole lamb (Israel)
 - d. In other words, what is left will be only bits and pieces of the once great people of God
- 8. Everything in Israel will be destroyed (3:14,15)

D. The Captivity of Samaria – Northern Israel (4:1-13)

- 1. Like cattle to the slaughter
- 2. God talks facetiously “this is like you”
 - a. Come to Bethel – the house of God – and sin – COME DO IT OUT IN PUBLIC at the most sacred place
 - b. At Gilgal – a place of sanctification and purity - sin much
 - c. Make sure you keep up your religious rituals (4:4,5)
 - d. Offer your sacrifices with _____ (4:5)
- 3. God reveals that His judgment has already begun
 - a. No food on their teeth because there was no food being eaten
 - b. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
 - c. No rain
 - d. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
 - e. Blasting (fungus) and mildew, and insects ruining all your harvests (4:9)
 - f. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
 - g. Pestilences like those in Egypt

- h. Young strong men have been slaughtered
 - i. You have lost all your horses that you trusted in
 - j. Your army camps stink of rotting flesh
 - k. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
 - l. Overthrown you like God did Sodom
 - m. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
4. So, because none of that upsets you enough to get right with God...
5. _____ (4:12) the God who made you and everything else!

E. Seek the Lord (5:1-21)

- 1. You have fallen, and none can help you
- 2. You used to win, but now are 1/10th your old self
- 3. Don't go looking for help at Bethel, or Gilgal – they are ruined
- 4. Look to the Lord and live (5:6; Isa 45:22)
- 5. Or you will be judged, and die
- 6. Seek Him who...
 - a. Maketh (constantly creating) the seven stars (Pleiades)
 - b. Maketh _____ – a stellar nursery
 - c. Changes the shadow of death into morning light
 - d. And maketh the day into the darkest night
 - e. Controls the weather
- 7. The Lord, Jehovah is His name
 - a. He strengthens the conquered against the strong
 - b. He sends the kind of people against us that we hate – rebukers, and those that speak uprightly (5:10)
- 8. It is all because of how you treat Godly people (5:10-13)
- 9. God's Commands on getting right
 - a. Seek _____
 - b. _____ the evil
 - c. Establish righteous judgment in the courts (the gate)
 - d. It “_____” that the Lord will be gracious
 - e. Or else there will only be ruin, and wailing
 - f. Don't look forward to the Day of the Lord (5:18-20)
 - 1) The day when God appears, passing through
 - 2) It is a day of darkness
 - 3) A day when people will flee from one danger and encounter a worse one
 - g. Don't trust in your ceremonial Rituals (5:21-24)
 - 1) God will not accept them from wicked hearts and hands
 - 2) God will reject your songs
 - h. But instead let righteous judgments flow like rivers
- 10. It has not been to Jehovah that you have been worshipping (5:25-27)
 - a. But to _____ (Lev 18:21) a god that demanded the sacrifice of children. Also called “Milchom” (1Ki 11:5,33; 2Ki 23:13)
 - b. Chiun – the star of Rempham (Acts 7:43) – a star-god
- 11. Therefore, to Assyria will your entire nation go into captivity!



F. Assyria is Coming (6:1-14)

1. Woe to all you who don't care
2. Who trust in your own strength and army
3. Go check on all the surrounding nations and see if they have withstood Assyria
4. Look at how you are ignoring God's warnings
 - a. Lie upon beds and couches of ivory – live wealthy
 - b. Eat best lambs
 - c. Make sweet music like David did
 - d. Drink bowls full of wine
 - e. Anoint yourselves with ointment
 - f. But are not grieved about the spiritual condition of Joseph (Northern ten tribes of Israel) (6:7)
5. You all shall take the lead in captivity (6:7)
6. God hates and abhors everything about Jacob's pride now
7. No one will be missed from judgment
8. No farming anymore (6:12)
9. Assyria is coming (6:14)

G. Judgment of _____ (7:1-3)

1. All the grass was eaten by locusts
2. Amos prayed for God to forgive the nation, or else Jacob won't be able to rise again
3. And the Lord DID repent, and did not completely destroy the nation

H. Judgment of _____ (7:4-6)

1. Burned up all the water – the great deep
2. Amos prayed for God to forgive
3. And God did forgive

I. Judgment of Plumb Line (7:7-9)

1. God showed all Israel being razed to the ground, and a plumb line making sure that everything has been brought low
2. God then declares He is not going to work there anymore

J. Amos and Amaziah the Priest of Bethel (7:10-17)

1. Amaziah the Priest of Bethel (7:10-13)
 - a. Accuses Amos of conspiracy – _____
 - b. Summarizes what Amos has prophesied (7:11)
 - 1) That Jereboam will die by the sword
 - 2) And Israel will be taken away into captivity
 - c. Tries to scare Amos into going to Judah to prophesy there – wants Amos to leave them alone
2. Amos answers (7:14-17)
 - a. I am a nobody – I have no agenda – I didn't ask for this job
 - b. It was the Lord who made me preach all this
 - c. So, here is some more from the mouth of GOD
 - 1) Amaziah's wife shall become an harlot
 - 2) His children will die by the sword
 - 3) He will lose all his farms
 - 4) Amaziah will die in a polluted land
 - 5) And Israel shall go into captivity
 - 6) JUST like Amos prophesied!

K. Judgment of Summer Fruit (8:1-3)

1. Last fruits before the winter – show the end is come
2. Songs of the harvest will be turned into howlings of hunger and destruction
3. Death everywhere
4. All because
 - a. They ignore the needy
 - b. Kill off the poor
 - c. Are only interested in buying and selling – even by falsifying scales
 - d. Buying and selling the poor as slaves – even for a pair of shoes
5. God _____, He will never forget these evil works
6. And will in one day cause:
 - a. The land shall tremble
 - b. The people will mourn
 - c. Disaster shall come as a flood – _____
 - d. The sun will go down at noon
 - e. Darkness will cover the earth without clouds – a darkness out in outer space
 - f. Fear, mourning and lamenting, sackcloth, disease (baldness)
 - g. A famine of the _____ – God will not speak THEN (8:11)!
 - 1) People will be hungry for it THEN
 - 2) But no one will find it
 - 3) And people will only turn to their false gods
 - 4) And the people will be destroyed!
7. God's Serious Attitude About the Coming Judgment (9:1-10)
 - a. God will destroy the house from the doorway in
 - b. Them that flee will be caught
 - c. Those that dig downward to hell, will be brought up
 - d. Those that climb, rocket, try to escape into the _____, will be brought down
 - e. Them that hide in mountain caves, or even in the deepest parts of the sea will be exposed and brought back
 - f. The serpent will kill them – like in Numbers 21
 - g. Captivity will not protect them from the sword
 - h. The land will melt
 - i. Everyone will mourn
 - j. Death will come like a flood
 - k. This will be done by God who made His stories in the heaven – His dwelling – layers upon layers – don't think this is just the Assyrian king. It is GOD'S wrath
 - l. Israel is no different than any of the surrounding nations that God has judged
 - m. God always judges every sinful nation
 - n. Except, He will NOT utterly destroy JACOB – because of David (9:8)
 - 1) Israel will be sifted
 - 2) And the remnant will one day return
 - 3) But all sinners shall die
8. Restoration of the Davidic Dynasty in Judah (9:11-15) – the Millennium
 - a. In that Day – _____
 - b. The kingdom will be restored (Acts 1)
 - c. All the surrounding nations that are called by God's name will be possessed, ruled once again – including _____ nations that have believers
 - d. Paradise will return (9:13)
 - e. God will bring again all the people back from captivity
 - f. Rebuild the waste places
 - g. Israel will no more be judged for sin (Dan 9)

III. Conclusion

The Book of OBADIAH

Pride Goeth Before Destruction

I. Introduction

- A. Now we come to the shortest book in the Old Testament.
- B. It is short, but not sweet!
- C. Obadiah is one of the few prophets that God sent to nations other than Israel:
 - 1. Jonah and Nahum to Nineveh
 - 2. Here Obadiah to Edom.
- D. The problem with Edom is that they hate Israel, and God holds them accountable for how they treat His people (Gen 12).

II. Introduction to the Book of Obadiah

- A. Author: Obadiah under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 899-795 B.C. (Contemporary of Jonah, Hosea)
- C. Theme: Edom should not have rejoiced over the calamity of the judgement upon Israel and Judah.
- D. The significance of the name 'Obadiah':

- 1. Means "Servant of Jehovah" - There is no greater title!
- 2. We don't know who this Obadiah was, or where he came from.

Principle: It is not just the messenger, but the message that is important. Note Phil 1:1; James 1:1.

- E. Obadiah's audience: The _____ (descendants of Esau).

- 1. Some background:
 - a. Birth of twins: Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:34), which are set against each other from birth.
 - b. NOTE: Esau means "hairy"; Jacob means "deceiver";
 - c. Esau's name gets changed to Edom which means "red";
 - d. Adam means "red", or "ruddy".
 - e. Jacob's name gets his name changed to Israel which means "prince with God".
 - f. SPIRITUAL LESSON:
 - 1) Esau comes out first, then Jacob. They start off into a war then doesn't end until the millennium.
 - 2) The same goes for the "flesh", and the "spirit."
 - 3) First comes Cain, THEN Abel.
 - 4) First comes the water birth, THEN the spirit birth (John 3:5-7).
 - 5) See Gal 5:17. You are born with your flesh, but when get born-again, then enters the Holy Spirit, and a battle commences!
- 2. Esau (Edom) develops an advanced governmental system earlier than his brother Jacob (Israel) (Gen 36).
- 3. Edom is idolatrous in its worship (2 Chron 25:20)
- 4. When Israel requested passage through the land of Edom to the Promised Land, the Edomites refused and went out to war against Moses and Israel forcing them to go around (Numbers 20).

PRINCIPLE: You cannot "short-cut" your spiritual growth. You cannot get to the place God wants you to be spiritually by working through the "flesh." You are going to have to struggle "around", and against the flesh. Also, the "flesh" will fight your spiritual growth at every turn!

- 5. Under David, the Edomites were subject to Israel (2 Sam 8:14). After the death of Solomon however, they became major trouble to Israel.
- 6. At this point, Edom is watching and rejoicing at Judah's calamity as they are carried away captive to Babylon.

III. Study - "Pride Goeth Before Destruction"

- A. The _____ (vs 1)
1. The message - "You're History Edom!"
 2. The originator of the rumour - the LORD!
- B. The _____ (vss 2-4) - You Have a Problem with Pride
1. Your pride has deceived you (Cf John 7:3-10)
 2. You think that you are invincible:
 - a. They liked "getting high" (joke)
 - b. Note the reference to the "eagle"
 - c. They set themselves "among the stars" (Cf Space Shuttle, airlines, Moon bases, Mars missions). We sure do have a very "up-to-date" Bible!

APPLICATION: Direct application to the people of America and Europe. We think that we are something when we really are nothing! We are deceiving ourselves into thinking that we are "advancing" when really we are in a downward spiral headed for trouble from God.
- C. The Retribution (vss 5-16), or The Divine " _____ "
1. God will balance the books, and boy will you pay. Edom will be "cleaned-out" (vss 5-9)
 2. The reasons for the coming judgement upon Edom (vss 10-16)
 - a. Violence against Jacob (Cf Gen 12:3)
 - b. Participating in the destruction of Jacob (vs 11,14; Cf Rom 12:19)
 - c. Apathy in helping your brother Jacob (vss 12-13)
 - d. God's law of "sowing and reaping" (vss 15, 16)
- D. The _____ (vss 17-21) of Israel
1. NOTE: God is going to use the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon for one last task before He destroys them completely: to protect His people during the tribulation.
 - a. In the middle of the tribulation, the Jews are told to "flee into the mountains" (Matt 24:15-22, Rev 12:6, 13-16)
 - b. The Antichrist will make war with all nations but will not be able to conquer these three countries (Dan 11:36-45)
 - c. The Jews will run to a place called " _____ " (rock), or "Sela" which was the ancient capital of Moab (Isa 16:1-5) and will hide there 3 1/2 years.
 2. Notice where God centres His attention: _____
 3. Jacob becomes a "burning fire" (Jesus Christ, 2 Thes 1:7-10)
 4. The Jews will finally completely possess everything promised to them back in Gen 15 (vs 19)
 5. Those led away captive in defeat will return again soon (vs 20)
 6. Notice the term " _____ " in vs 21 (Cf 1 Cor 6:1-3)
 7. Finally, the kingdom shall be the LORD's (Cf Rev 11:15)

IV. Brief Summary

- A. Obadiah's message is final and it is sure: the kingdom of Edom will be destroyed completely.
- B. Edom has been arrogant, gloating over Israel's misfortunes and when enemy armies attack Israel and the Israelites ask for help, the Edomites refuse and choose to fight against them, not for them. These sins of pride can be overlooked no longer.
- C. The book ends with the promise of the fulfilment and deliverance of Zion in the Last Days when the land will be restored to God's people as He rules over them.

- V. **Practical Application:** God will overcome in our behalf if we will stay true to Him. Unlike Edom, we must be willing to help others in times of need. Pride is sin. We have nothing to be proud of except Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.

The Book of JONAH

It's Hard to Love Your Enemies

I. Introduction to Jonah

A. **Author:** Jonah 1:1 specifically identifies the Prophet Jonah as the author of the Book of Jonah.

B. Who was Jonah?

1. Jonah was a prophet from Gath-hepher, which is a few miles north of Nazareth. He is thereby a prophet from Galilee (just as Jesus would be).
2. The only OT person likened by the Lord to Himself (Matt 12:38-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32).
3. Jonah lived and preached in the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the days of king Jeroboam 2nd and predicted victories over Syria, restoring the land of Israel to its ancient boundaries (2Kgs. 14:27).
4. But at the same time the Assyrian Empire was flexing its muscles and preparing to attack, and conquer those same Northern Tribes of Israel.
5. It was after the defeat of Israel by the Assyrian army that God calls Jonah to preach to those people in Nineveh.

C. **Date of Writing:** The Book of Jonah was likely written between 793 and 758 B.C.

D. Meaning of the name Jonah – _____

E. **Purpose of Writing:** To show just how far GOD will go to get us to do His will, and how rewarding doing God's will can be. The revival which Jonah brings to Nineveh is one of the greatest evangelistic efforts of all time.

F. **Brief Summary:** Jonah's fear and pride cause him to run from God. He does not wish to go to Nineveh to preach repentance to the people, as God has commanded, because he feels they are his enemy and he is convinced that God will not carry out his threat to destroy the city. Instead he boards a ship for Tarshish, which is in the opposite direction. Soon a raging storm causes the crew to cast lots to determine that Jonah is the problem. He is so determined to NOT do the will of God, that he would rather die in the sea than obey God. They throw him overboard, and he is swallowed by a whale. Jesus said it was a whale! In its belly for 3 days and 3 nights, Jonah repents of his sin to God, and the fish vomits him up on dry land (we wonder what took him so long to repent). Jonah then makes the 500 mile trip to Nineveh and leads the city in a great revival. But the prophet is displeased (he actually pouts) instead of thankful when Nineveh repents. God uses a wind, a gourd and a worm to teach him that God is merciful, but Jonah never gets his attitude right towards God's mercies.

G. **The book of Jonah is unique** in the Minor Prophets in many ways. It is chiefly a book about a prophet instead of being a collection of the preaching of the prophet. Only five Hebrew words, translate into eight English words are needed to report Jonah's prophetic utterance in Chap. 3:4 - "and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."

1. Jonah is the only minor prophet, in whose career _____ play a prominent role.
2. The only minor prophet whose major activity is on foreign soil.
3. The only minor prophet who preaches exclusively to a foreign people.
4. Jonah is the only Old Testament character represented as taking a trip on the Mediterranean.
5. Jonah is also the only minor prophet mentioned by Jesus.
6. The only Old Testament character likened by the Lord to himself (Matt 12:38-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32).
7. The book stresses the universality of God's presence more than any other minor prophet, and God's universal concern for mankind.

H. Who Were These Ninevites?

1. _____ People
 - a. Ziggurats - pyramids
 - b. Multitude of gods and goddesses – Marduk the highest
 - c. No good afterlife – you only go into the underworld
2. Wicked People

Study In The Minor Prophets

The Book of JONAH

- a. When the Ninevites captured a city they slaughtered all the leading citizens. When I say slaughtered, They stretched men out flat on the ground and tied their hands and feet to stakes and literally, with a knife, skinned them alive. They drove a pointed pole into the lower chest of others; picked them up, placed the pole in a hole, and left them there squirming until they died. They made pyramids out of hu-man skulls to mark the route the conquerors had taken.
- b. One historian says, men were actually skinned alive, children burned, some were blinded, some had hands and feet, noses and ears cut off.

3. Condemned People

- a. Every nation has a period of time that where they grow and mature, but at some point will have to give account to God, or be judged
- b. Assyria (Nineveh was the capital) had been a nation for a 1,000 years by the time of Jonah, and had become the greatest empire of its day
- c. But they were rapidly decaying, and would soon be judged by God
- d. It was at this time, that God wanted to warn them through Jonah of the impending judgment
- e. But Jonah WANTED them destroyed by God

I. The World's Spiritual Condition at the time of impending Judgment

1. _____ prophets/preachers – full of anger, bitterness, and rebellion towards God (you would think otherwise)
2. General _____ – people only believing in signs and miracles, angels and apparitions
3. An Evil Generation – against God – loving evil instead of good
4. An Adulterous Generation – violating homes and families (TV, rock music, country and western music)
5. Unconcern for people
6. Universal need for _____ – not more religion
7. Need for unconditional _____ of God

- J. **Practical Application:** We cannot hide from God. Regardless of our patriotism, we must never put our country ahead of God. Regardless of our reputation, nationality or race God loves us. Rejoicing in the salvation of others is an experience God wants us to enjoy with Him (not be resentful, jealous or thinking it is not "real").

II. Study Outline of Jonah

A. The Great Commission (Chapter 1:1,2)

1. God's Man
 - a. A preacher, prophet, ambassador
 - b. A bearer of _____ news, warnings, rebukes (examine the messages of ALL of the preaching in the Bible)!
 - c. Yet modern "preachers" are only positive and uplifting
2. God's Message
 - a. It is what _____ would say if He was there
 - b. God speaks through dreams (see Peter in Acts 10), trances, inescapable revelations (See 2 Cor 12:1-7)
 - c. Is always directed to a people – Nineveh – who they were (Cross Culturally) Capital City
 - d. "_____ " – not just preach
 - e. Because of their sin – time was up – see Amorites in Gen. 15:16 – An Affront to God!

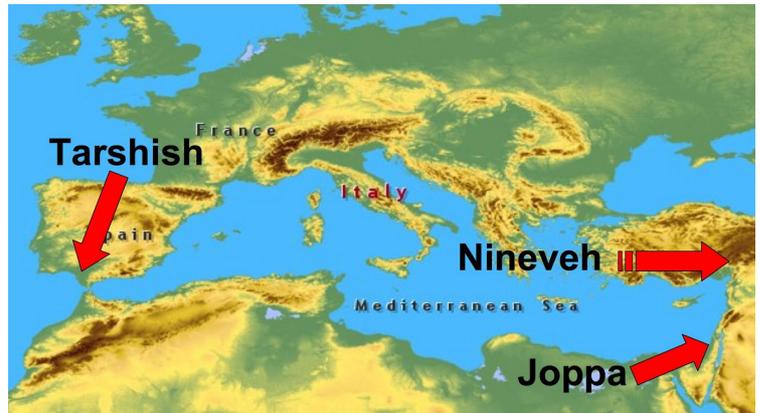
B. The Great Rebellion (1:3-12)

1. Principles of the Will of God
 - a. It USUALLY is _____ – something we usually DON'T want to do!

- b. It demands _____ than we can give
- c. It will always have supernatural results that we _____ have accomplished ourselves
- d. God's will, _____ get done, whether we go along with it or not

2. Jonah's Rebellion

- a. It is amazing that _____ rebel as much as we do!
- b. Fled to _____
- c. "From the presence of the Lord" on purpose
- d. From God's presence – Is that possible?
- e. Searched & found a ship
- f. Paid the fare
- g. Quite at peace with it all too – asleep (1:5)



3. The Storm – the COST of resisting the Holy Spirit

- a. Great wind – hurricane – NT Euroclydon (Act 27:14)
- b. There are loads of storms in Bible
- c. Everyone on the ship was about to perish – a major crisis
- d. Everyone cried out to their false gods – no hope
- e. Except Jonah – he only had a _____ – grateful for disasters
- f. The men tried to save the ship

4. Upset with Jonah – O Sleeper! What a slam against us!

- a. They became Universalists – very accommodating of other religions
- b. Here was an opportunity for God to show himself strong
- c. They were searching for the _____ of the trouble
- d. Cast lots – the Lot fall upon Jonah
- e. Questions Jonah
 - 1) Who are you trying to hurt?
 - 2) What is your occupation?
 - 3) Where are you from?
 - 4) What is your country?
 - 5) What is your nationality
- f. He gives two answers (1:9)
 - 1) An _____
 - 2) I fear the Jehovah – said God's name
 - a) God of heaven – above the story
 - b) Creator of the vast sea & land
 - 3) These are like the words of a _____
- g. This revelation _____ these sailors
 - 1) More than the storm!
 - 2) They realized God was after Jonah who was running from Him. Maybe even bragged about it to them before
 - 3) They were curious why Jonah, knowing how powerful God was, why would he try & hide from Him?

5. Concerned About what to do next (1:11)

- a. See Acts 2:36, 37
- b. They wanted Jonah to get things right with God
- c. They (pagans) were willing to help him get right!

6. Jonah has a Death Wish (1:12)

- a. Cannot commit suicide – needs someone to kill him
- b. Same with Elijah 1 Kg. 19:4
- c. “Throw me away” – That’s how low he felt
- d. Expected to drown in the sea

7. Jonah’s Prophecies (1:12)

- a. The sea will be calm
- b. The storm really IS for his sake
- c. They come true

C. The Conversion of Pagan Men (1:13-17)

1. Trying to save Jonah (1:13)

- a. These pagan sailors cared more about Jonah than he did himself
- b. Feared God more than Jonah did
- c. The men wore themselves out trying to save a rebellious, ungrateful, backslidden prophet of a God they did not know!
- d. But they could not get to safety - the storm was too greats!

2. Concern for “their” relationship with Jonah’s God as well

- a. Their guiltiness for what they were about to do
- b. Concern for their souls
- c. Called upon His NAME – Jehovah
- d. Begged God, “Don’t hold us guilty for Jonah’s death” – innocent blood
- e. We know you are in control
- f. They yielded to God’s will

3. They Obeyed the Man of God

- a. Took him up
- b. Cast him overboard into the sea
- c. Expected him to drown
- d. Jonah expected to just drown and that be the end
- e. Instantly the storm ceased

4. These pagan men were _____ (1:16)

- a. Feared Jehovah exceedingly – His judgement & power
- b. Gave sacrifices
- c. Made vows

5. Jonah’s Affliction (Psalm 119:71) - God had Jonah right where he needed to be

- a. Instead of letting him drown
- b. Prepared a Great Fish – not just a fish
 - 1) The Hebrew word is _____
 - 2) Jesus calls it a _____ (Mt 12:40)
 - 3) A whale is a mammal, so technically is not a “fish”
 - 4) But that is MAN’S way of classifying it
- c. To swallow Jonah
 - 1) Not normally possible

- 2) Neither is keeping a man alive for 72 hours INSIDE a fish swimming at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea (1 mile deep) “possible” either!

d. Left there in the belly for 72 hours – to rot!

D. Jonah’s Confession (Chapter 2)

1. Jonah was finally _____ (2:1,2)

- a. Still in the belly of the whale
- b. He had had enough of affliction – the LORD made his life miserable
- c. It was HELL in there to him
- d. Closed in around his SOUL (2:5)
- e. He finally was worn out (2:7) and finally prays! He was silent the entire time in the whale’s belly, waiting to die – and yet he didn’t die!
- f. He realised anyone who believes lying vanities (stupid lies), forsake God’s mercy available to them – and HE was the guy who believed his own lie that he could escape the will of God (2:8)

2. Full Surrender to the Will of God (2:2-9)

- a. Prayed to the LORD – the Lord of Jonah
- b. KNEW that God heard him finally
- c. God took over Jonah’s life – showing HE was GOD
 - 1) Took him into the belly of the whale
 - 2) Left him there until Jonah broke
 - 3) Took that whale down under the ocean – completely surrounded by water
 - 4) Wrapped in seaweed in that belly
 - 5) To the bottom of the mountains (2:6)
 - 6) The bars of the earth? (Job 38:4-11)
 - 7) In darkness (no light in that belly)
 - 8) God did not speak to him the entire time - Jonah had to figure this all out himself!
- d. That’s when he remembered the LORD – that He was GOD!
- e. Because, in that whale’s belly, under all that pressure, he still had hope, and confidence (2:4,6)
 - 1) “He _____ again look to the temple in Jerusalem”
 - 2) He knew he would live and not die
- f. When God delivers Jonah from the whale’s belly, He was delivering him from certain death – “corruption”
 - 1) Corruption as decay in the grave
 - 2) Here, decay in the hydrochloric acid
- g. It was THEN that he finally decides to... (2:9)
 - 1) Sacrifice his praise when he wanted only to complain and quit
 - 2) Pay the _____ of service that he made years earlier when God called him
 - 3) Trust that God would save him from death in that whale!

3. And THAT is when God had that fish spit him out upon dry land (2:10)

E. Conversion of Ninevites (Chapter 3)

1. God calls Jonah a second time (3:1,2)

- a. God is more interested in two things than in Jonah’s “feelings” about the matter:
 - 1) About the _____ of the Ninevites who had a chance
 - 2) And in obedience by the _____
- b. So God calls Jonah a SECOND time to do what he said do at the first – God doesn’t change!

- c. Arise, and Go, and Preach the same thing I told you to preach at first
2. So Jonah agrees (3:3)
- Travels to Nineveh
 - A city three days journey in _____, not distance
 - Went one day's journey into the city limits
 - Remember what Jonah probably looked like as he walked amongst the thousands of people
3. Jonah's Preaching (3:4)
- Right in the heart of the city – not out in the outskirts!
 - Preached ___ simple, words – at the top of his lungs – with authority
 - "Yet forty days" – time is short! But there is TIME to get right!
 - "Nineveh" – YOU, ALL of you – not someone else!
 - "Shall be overthrown" – like as in Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:25)
 - Very authoritative – not wishy-washy
 - Probably preached in Hebrew!
 - Probably repeated that message over and over as he walked through the city
4. The People Believed the Preaching (3:5-9) **Why Did the Ninevites respond so well?**
- They _____ - They knew of God's judgment in the past
 - Noah's flood of the whole world
 - Fire and brimstone of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Judgment upon Egypt – 10 plagues
 - They " _____ " (see Rom 4:3 and Gen 5:16 where that was ALL that was needed to be justified)
 - They _____ on their repentance and faith
 - The king made a "religious" decree – a righteous decree! A desperate decree!
 - Took the judgment seriously – FASTED
 - Humbled themselves – wore sackcloth
 - Sat in ashes
 - No food or water for any living thing. Just stop and wait and see if God will TURN from His fierce wrath!
 - The king commanded everyone to cry mightily unto GOD and agree to repent from his evil way and from their violence
 - They trusted in God's _____ (3:9) – did not demand it, but just hoped in His mercy, which is how ALL sinners get born again!
5. God changed His mind (3:10)
- God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way – John the Baptist demanded WORKS that proved they had repented
 - God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.
 - Gen 6:5-7 "it _____ the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."
 - Ex 32:11-14, "And the Lord _____ of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."
 - 1 Samuel 15:10,11 "It _____ me that I have set up Saul to be king"
 - 2Sam 24:15,16 "And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord _____ him of the evil"
 - Ps 90:13 "Return, O Lord, how long? and let it _____ thee concerning thy servants."
 - Ps 135:14 "For the Lord will judge his people, and he will _____ himself concerning his servants."

c. Apparent Contradictions

- 1) Num 32:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”
- 2) 1Sam 15:28,29 “And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.”

F. Compassion on Jonah (Ch. 4)

1. Jonah 4:1, “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.”
 - a. What displeased Jonah?
 - b. That God actually did NOT destroy Nineveh! That God actually had mercy on THEM!
 - c. The picture is of the Jews not caring at all about the Gentiles
 - d. Obviously, God wanted to prepare the Jews for the eventual reunification of both Jew and Gentile into ONE Body
 - e. This lesson is also well illustrated in the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15.
2. Jonah’s Selfish Anger (4:2,3)
 - a. Rebukes God for being gracious
 - b. Reminds God that His graciousness was the _____ and not Jonah’s attitude! At least that was what JONAH believed!
 - c. Prays for God to STILL _____ him!
 - 1) Suicide is NOT a Spirit-led idea!
 - 2) You may want to die, but you wouldn’t take your own life unless the devil was given the chance to influence you!
3. God’s _____ Question (4:4)
 - a. “Doest thou well to be angry?”
 - b. Same question He made to Cain
 - c. Same kind of question He asked of Elijah
 - d. God was attempting to reason with an angry man – rarely does it ever work
4. Jonah was Stubborn (4:5,6)
 - a. Not interested in being reasoned with
 - b. Jonah left the city limits, and waited out the 40 days there
 - c. Note how that 40 day cycles are throughout Scripture...
 - d. Probably up on a hill somewhere with a good view of the city – still WISHING that God would change His mind BACK again and go ahead and destroy Nineveh!
 - e. Built a _____ to stay in – a makeshift camping tent – HIS effort
 - f. God GAVE Jonah a plant that miraculously grew to cover him with shade
 - g. That _____ made Jonah SUPER happy!
 - h. Amazingly, Jonah was happier about the GOURD leaves than about the salvation of condemned souls in Nineveh!!!
5. God’s Judgment Against _____ (4:7,8)
 - a. Sent a hungry WORM
 - b. Just like he sent a hungry WHALE
 - c. Destroyed the gourd plant overnight
 - d. Then a fierce east, dry, hot wind, along with the heat of the sun, beat down upon Jonah
6. Jonah is Back to Just Wanting to Die (4:8)
 - a. Still a selfish wreck
 - b. Demon-possessed!

c. Paul said to live is Christ and to die is gain, but Paul never wished to die! Lived for God!

7. God's Final Reasoning With Jonah (4:9-11)

a. Asks Jonah if being angry about the destruction of a gourd – is that something to be upset over?

1) Environmentalists would be

2) But God couldn't care less about plants, and "mother earth"

b. Asks why Jonah would have PITY, compassion on a gourd

c. But not want to have pity/compassion on a city full of SOULS!

1) _____ young people – who are too young to know their left and right hands - innocents

2) Much cattle

3) God would have had to judge everything and everyone in that city

d. Jonah _____ gets right in his heart about the Gentiles. Evidently, NO amount of reasoning about the coming judgment of God on this world will affect a bitter man!

III. The following are God's Warning Signs of Coming Judgment – present in Jesus' Day, and in Our Day

A. **Storms** (Mt 24:3-8). Not everything is just wind and water, but also sometimes, the clear judgment of God on sin in this world!

B. **Beached Whales** (Jonah 2:10) – the only creature (along with dolphins and porpoises) who beach themselves just as Jonah's whale did – should always remind our generation of a warning being given to a wicked generation

1. What the scripture reveals with Jonah being vomited upon dry land is something that happens today and when it does, it makes the major news outlets. That event is called 'A whale on the beach!'

2. I long held the view that the whale vomited Jonah out on dry land and went on its way. I had not considered exactly how a whale in the ocean vomited (cannon-balled) a man to dry land from 150 yards out, so that the man lands on dry soil without the landing killing him.

3. After pondering this subject for a few days I realized:

a. The whale rode the tide in.

b. Beached itself as whales do.

c. The tide receded leaving the beached whale there with old Jonah in its belly.

d. The whale delivered its cargo (Jonah) and died. When that whale hit the beach, it was for the set purpose of delivering Jonah to dry land, for we were plainly told he was vomited out on dry land not into the ocean. Other than a dolphin or porpoise what other marine life hits the beach for the set purpose of dying?

e. In the heat of the day the gases inside the whale expanded and the end results was Jonah was vomited out on dry land some 72 hours after entering the whale when the gas was released.

4. The above scenario could have happened and not violated one scriptural point. I must admit such thinking varies from what I have been taught and previously thought. Those thoughts of Jonah in such a predicament are distasteful and less than pleasant.

5. When the Hebrew children came out of the fiery furnace, there was no smell of smoke upon them and their hair was not singed, Dan 3:27. To think that Jonah came out of the belly as clean as they, are two separate situations. The Hebrew children were in the will of God and under His protective care. Jonah was under His protective care, but his state of fellowship was not as wholesome.

6. Today when a whale hits the beach, an all out effort is made to get it back into its habitat. Would it be too far fetched in our thinking to say that each time we hear of beached whale(s), God may be sending us a message? Instead of trying to get the whale back into the ocean, perhaps mankind ought to consider the spiritual aspect of the beaching?

C. **The Judgment of God's People** – Jonah himself judged by God in that whale's belly. Judgment begins in the house of God (1Pet 4:17)

D. **The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ** (Acts 2:22-24, 36-41)

E. **Preachers with a Bible, and a call** – Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites of God's coming judgment (Lk 11:30).

The Book of MICAH

Gloom Before Glory

I. Introduction

- A. As humans, we want the glory, and the victory, and the triumph, and the peace on earth, and the successful life, yet without dealing with the sin and judgment that must first prepare us for these things. There is no gain without pain, and there is no glory without gloom first. In other words, as Christ said, you must die before you can live (Matt 10:39).
- B. The same holds true for Israel. The prophet Micah is going to foretell the coming gloom upon Judah that must first come, and then will describe the coming glory that follows.

II. Introduction to the Book of Micah

- A. Author: Micah under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 750 B.C. (Contemporary of Isaiah, Hosea & Amos)
- C. Theme: The coming destruction upon the kingdom of Judah because of the sins of its rulers, with emphasis upon a coming Ruler who will bring the entire nation back to righteousness.
- D. The significance of the name 'Micah': Means "who is like Jehovah?"
- E. Micah's audience: _____ primarily, as well as Samaria (N. Israel) – two centres of worship
- F. Seven chapters
- G. Key Verses:
 1. Micah 2:7 “do not my words do good to him that _____?”
 2. Micah 4:3 “they shall beat their _____ into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they _____ any more.”
 3. Micah 5:2 “out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from _____.”
 4. Micah 7:18 “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.”

III. Lesson - "Micah: Gloom Before Glory"

A. The Current Leadership (1:1-3:12)

1. Micah's call (1:1)
2. Micah's commission (1:2-4)
 - a. To reprove – God is a witness against you
 - b. To warn – that God HIMSELF was coming down to
 - 1) Destroy the high places – false strongholds, and false worship
 - 2) Melt the mountains
 - 3) Split the valleys even wider
 - 4) All describing the coming battle of _____
3. God's complaints (1:5-3:12):
 - a. All of God's judgments are because of SIN – from the top down!
 - b. With the Religious system (1:5-9)
 - c. This judgment cannot be stopped – is _____ (1:9)
 - d. With Judah's testimony to the rest of the world - basically it is "shot/ruined" (1:10-16). They all know about Israel's wickedness – especially since they know them as God's people!
 - e. NOTE: Someone called “The Glory of Israel” will come! Referring to the _____ (1:15,16)
 - f. Specific sins:
 - 1) Wicked imaginations (2:1)
 - 2) Violence (2:2)
 - 3) Hating rebuke (2:6)

- 4) Abused the Innocents (2:8-11) for personal gain
- 5) Loved and followed Liars (2:11) – notice the
“ _____ ”
- 6) These people attempted to cover their sins by stopping the preachers in the land (2:6), but God has fixed it so that you get what you ask for, and therefore, what you deserve (2:11).
 - g. NOTE: God’s word only does good to him who WANTS it (2:7; see 1Cor 1:18)
4. God’s Restoration of Israel (2:12,13) – of the Remnant, not all
 - a. One flock
 - b. The “Breaker” is Babylon – breaking Israel free from the Assyrians
5. More Sins of Leaders (3:1-8)
 - a. With the God-ordained authorities of the land (3:1-4) They hate the good, and love the evil (see Isaiah 5:11,12,20-23)
 - b. With the religious leaders - the _____ (3:5-12)
 - 1) They influence people to do wrong
 - 2) Give false hope crying "Peace"
 - 3) No word from God – no discernment – only spiritual darkness (3:6)
 - 4) They were preparing for war against their God
 - c. NOTE: Micah was nothing like the prophets of the day. Even though Micah is outnumbered and unpopular, he has no problem delivering God's message right to the "top" (3:8).
6. Micah’s Message (3:9-4:1)
 - a. To stubborn rebels
 - b. To people who built their nation with murder and with blood!
 - c. PRINCIPLE: All kingdom builders are bloody killers! Roman Catholic Church in the Dark Ages; Hitler; Mohammed.
 - d. People who only acted out of reward and for money – filthy lucre
 - 1) The leaders judge only for reward
 - 2) The priests teach for hire
 - 3) The prophets prophesy for money

PRINCIPLE: The love of money is the root of all the evil (I Tim 6:10). Note that not one of the above people are God-followers anymore. It is "Me first" and "forget the rest of the world".
 - e. People who acted pious and good
 - f. Warning that Zion/Jerusalem will be plowed and destroyed
 - g. But not forever (4:1)
7. A _____ was Coming (4:1-8)
 - a. A Mountain was coming – the _____ (Ps 48:1,2)
 - b. On top of all mountains
 - c. The Kingdom of Heaven on earth
 - d. Many nations will flow into it
 - e. The MESSIAH will judge and rebuke all nations – a world empire (4:3)
 - f. No more war in this kingdom (4:3; Cf Joel 3:10) The world at rest. Motto of the United Nations
 - g. No more religious confusion – people will have made up their minds (4:5)
 - h. No more judgments against Israel (4:6)
 - i. No more change (4:7)
 - j. “It” – the highest kingdom – will come (4:8)
8. Yet, Now is a Time of Judgment (4:9-13)
 - a. Of pains and travail until a new nation is born

- b. Into and back out of captivity in Babylon
- c. Even though your enemies will plunder you, you will conquer like a _____ (4:13)

B. The _____ (4:1-5:15)

1. In the midst of trouble, TWO Rulers shall be born (5:2-15)

a. The first Ruler (5:2-5) - A Judge

- 1) This Ruler will rule Israel, and be Deity in the flesh (from everlasting), and yet is called a "man" (5:5). Who will this be? (See Matt 2:6)
- 2) This is just one of 48 prophecies concerning the first advent of the Messiah, all which came true on the money (with odds of 1×10^{157} against them).
 - a) He will be _____ (Isa 53)
 - b) Born in Bethlehem (5:2) – HAS to be the Messiah because of the last two words!
 - c) Shall live forever
 - d) Shall rule
 - e) Will come at the right time (Gal 4:4) – just like when a baby is born
 - f) He will stand in the strength of _____
 - g) He will rule the whole world
 - h) He will defeat THE _____ – not just the nation of Assyria (5:5,6)

b. The second ruler (5:5-15)

- 1) Called " _____ " (5:5), and is connected with Nimrod (5:6). Who will this be?
 - a) An invader
 - b) Takes over the rich – palaces
 - c) Like Nimrod
 - d) Israel, as a nation, will keep their identity even though they are in a foreign nation, surrounded by heathen
 - e) Will be destroyed by God (5:8-15)
- 2) This ruler will ultimately be destroyed, along with all the sin of Israel (5:8-15).

C. God's Controversy With Judah (6:1-7:7)

- 1. God asks, "Where did I go wrong in all my dealings with you?" (6:1-5) - A review of "His Story"
- 2. Micah's reply as Israel (6:6-16)

a. There is no current sacrifice that can cure our sin, not even the sacrifice of our "firstborn" (6:7)

PRINCIPLE: It is going to take the sacrifice of *God's* own first born to clear their sins.

- b. We Judeans know what we ought to be doing (6:8), but we refuse.
- c. Therefore, we will reap what we have sowed (6:13-7:7)
 - 1) No satisfaction in anything that you do.
 - 2) No real prosperity
 - 3) No stature among the nations
 - 4) No more good men will be in thee
 - 5) No more friendships

D. Israel's Future Confidence (7:7-20)

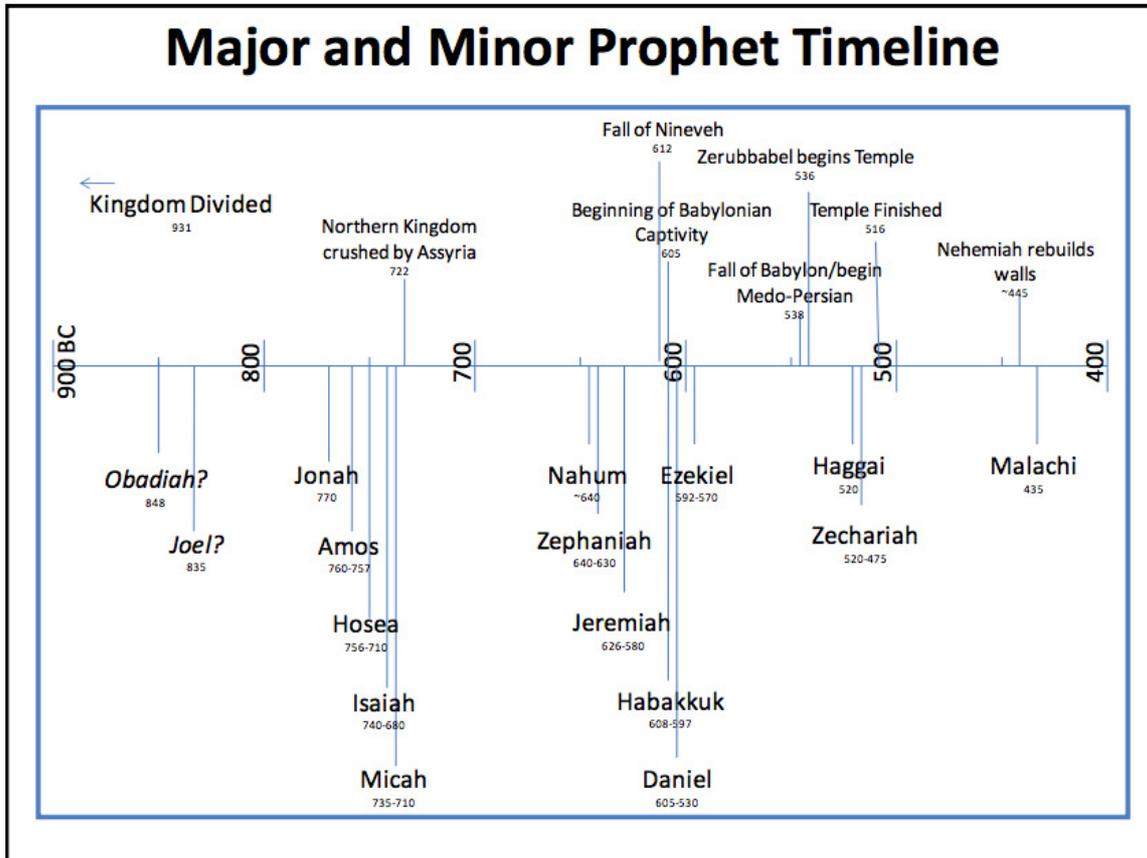
- 1. Man's TASK: "look and live!" (7:7)
- 2. Even though Israel falls, she shall " _____ " (7:8)
- 3. Israel will yet "behold His righteousness" (7:9)
- 4. God will once again do wondrous things in the midst of Israel (7:15)

NOTE: All this is because of God's mercy in pardoning Israel's sin for His promises' sake made to Abraham.

The Book of NAHUM

Righteous Revenge

A Chart listing when all the minor and major prophets preached



I. Introduction

- To a Jew, the book of Nahum was a wonderful book with "good tidings" about the coming destruction of their worst enemy again; the Ninevites!
- To the Ninevite, this book was to become a burden upon them for all the affliction that they had imposed upon Israel and Judah.
- To the Christian, Nahum's prophecy should be an encouraging book about the soon destruction of *our* worst enemy, for God is not just sitting idly by as the Tempter destroys Christians left and right, but is working out His plan "according to the Book."

II. Introduction to the Book of Nahum

- Author: Nahum under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- Date of writing: c. 740 B.C. (Contemporary of Isaiah)
- Theme: The coming destruction upon the kingdom of Nineveh
- The significance of the name 'Nahum': Means "consolation" and comfort
- Nahum is an Elkoshite (1:1). He seems to be from the city later called Capernaum (which literally means "the village of _____") at the Sea of Galilee.
- Nahum's audience: The people of the city of Nineveh (1:1), as well as Judah
- Nahum has only three chapters

III. Purpose of Writing:

- Nahum did not write this book as a warning or "call to repentance" for the people of Nineveh. God had already sent them the prophet Jonah 100 years earlier with His promise of what would happen if they continued in their evil ways.

Study In The Minor Prophets

The Book of NAHUM

- B. The people at that time had repented, but this current generation now lived just as bad if not worse than they did before. The Assyrians had become absolutely brutal in their conquests (hanging the bodies of their victims on poles and putting their skin on the walls of their tents among other atrocities).
- C. Now Nahum was telling the people of Judah to not despair because God had pronounced judgment and the Assyrians would soon be getting just what they deserved.

IV. Lesson - "Nahum: Righteous Revenge"

A. The _____ of Nineveh (Nahum 1:1)

1. This prophecy becomes a "burden" for Nineveh
2. It is a vision of hope for Nahum of the future:
 - a. The soon coming defeat of Assyria by Babylon
 - b. Distant coming defeat of the world by Jesus Christ at 2nd Advent

B. The Balanced Character of God (1:2-8)

1. The Jealousy/Vengeance of God (1:2)
2. The Longsuffering of God (1:3)
3. The Justice of God (1:3)
4. The Omnipotence of God (1:3b-5)
5. The Holiness of God (1:6)
6. The Goodness of God (1:7) toward Judah in the "day of trouble"

APPLICATIONS:

- a. Historically, this Book applies to when Babylon destroys Nineveh
 - b. Doctrinally, it applies to the day of "Jacob's Trouble"
 - c. Spiritually, applies to any "rough" day (Ps 50:15)
7. The Effectiveness of God (1:8) - He always will "get you"!

C. The Belief of Nineveh (1:9-11)

1. That it was _____ (1:9) – that is the belief of EVERY successful person, and empire!
2. That the LORD Jehovah was not anyone to be worried about

NOTE: This was only 130 years after the preaching of Jonah where the entire city believed that God was someone to be _____ (see Jonah 3:5-9)

3. Take note of "the wicked counsellor" in vs 11. Compare with Isaiah 9:6. Satan always has his counterfeits.

D. The Breaking of the Yoke of Nineveh Off of Judah (1:12-15)

1. Comforting words to Judah as captives about the coming destruction of the Ninevites by Babylon (1:12)
2. Cutting words to the Ninevites (1:13,14)
3. Forthcoming words about the millennial kingdom (1:15)

APPLICATIONS:

- a. Historically, applies to those who proclaim Nahum's message concerning Nineveh
- b. Doctrinally, applies to the coming Prince of Peace
- c. Spiritually, applies to the Gospel (Rom 10:15) that makes anyone in bondage, free!

E. The Coming Battle Against Nineveh (2:1-13)

1. Make yourself ready for war, because here comes Nebuchadnezzar, the hammer! (2:1)
2. There is no further need for you Nineveh, because God has completed His work upon Judah *through you* (2:2).

- a. God USED Pharaoh, and because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, when God was finished, He destroyed Pharaoh.
 - b. God used the Assyrians to humble Judah
 - c. Be careful that the Lord doesn't use you and then have to destroy you!
3. Nebuchadnezzar's warriors are (will be) the best (2:3-5)
- a. They have been in constant hand-to-hand combat, and won!
 - b. Their chariots are going to burn, but not burn up (2:3) – could this internal combustion, or an incandescent light?
 - c. Their chariots, when on the ground, are going to "run like the _____" (2:4) – quite fast!
 - d. These chariots can't wait to get to Nineveh, to fight with, and destroy it (2:5)
4. The city of Nineveh will just dissolve away (2:6)
5. Huzzab probably was the _____ of Nineveh (2:7)
6. Everyone will flee the city (2:8)
7. Nineveh becomes like a homeless lion, no longer king of the jungle, and no longer with any influence (2:9-13).

F. **The Blame for Nineveh's Doom** (3:1-4)

1. The fact that it is a bloody city (Cf Rev 17) Murdering God's people, as Rome did and does still to this day!
2. Deceit - It really was no better than any other city
3. Continual warring (3:2,3; Cf James 4:1-4 for how God has to judge Christians for the same thing)
4. Religious harlotry (3:4)
 - a. _____.
 - b. The selling of nations and families in the name of "religion" (Cf the dark ages, Hitler, etc)

-
- _____ (3:5-18)_____
5. A shameful burial - No going down in "glory" (3:5-7)
 6. A repetitive burial (3:8-14):
 - a. "Those who never learn the lessons of history are destined to repeat them."
 - b. "The only thing that men learn from history is that men never learn from history."
 - 1) Israel conquers Canaanites
 - 2) Assyrians conquered Israel (as they did "No")
 - 3) Babylonians will conquer Assyria
 - 4) Medes and Persians will conquer Babylonians
 - 5) Alexander the Great will conquer Medes and Persians
 - 6) Rome conquers Greece
 - 7) Finally, the "stone" cut out of a mountain made with out hands comes and stops the entire process and sets up His kingdom, the millennium.
 7. There is no hope for you now Nineveh - this is God's Righteous Revenge (3:15-19)
 - a. There will be no "getting right", for it is too late now (3:19). There is a limit to God's grace and longsuffering to usward!
 - b. PRINCIPLE: There comes a time when you have had all the chances that God is going to give you to get right. After that, God's judgement MUST fall.
 - 1) Sodom and Gomorrah
 - 2) The entire world in Noah's day
 - 3) So, therefore, if you here His voice, harden not your heart, for now is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation, don't put it off any longer!!!

V. Conclusion

- A. In _____ B.C. the Babylonians and the Medes joined together and attacked the fortress city of Nineveh. The Ninevites lived inside walls 100ft high and wide enough for four chariots to ride abreast. They felt so secure in their stronghold that the king even gave wine to his soldiers to drink even though he knew the enemy was close. Still, God's promise came true when He sent a flood and washed away part of the wall. The attackers rushed in and the drunken Assyrians ran away. The soldiers stopped chasing the Ninevites and plundered the city.
- B. **Practical Application:** Nineveh once had repented and served the Lord God Jehovah (see Jonah). That had changed over the course of 130 years. They had turned away from God again and so God was judging them. The same holds true for us today. God is patient. He gives every country time to proclaim Him as their Lord. But He is not mocked. Any time a country turns away from Him to serve it's own motives He steps in with judgment. As Christians it is our duty to stand up for Biblical principles and Scriptural truth. We are our country's only hope.

VI. Next Study - The Book of Habakkuk

The Book of HABAKKUK

Run Sinner, Run!

I. Introduction

- A. Nineveh, that powerful nation that took away captive the Northern ten tribes of Israel for her sins, has now been destroyed by the Babylonians.
- B. But the fighting isn't over, and God's justice is not satisfied, for Judah is next, and the command from the Lord by the hand of Habakkuk is, "Run sinner, run!"

II. Introduction to the Book of Habakkuk

- A. Author: Habakkuk under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 606-600 B.C. just after the destruction of Nineveh as foretold by Nahum.
- C. Theme: The coming destruction of Judah by the Babylonians
- D. The significance of the name 'Habakkuk': Means " _____ "
- E. Habakkuk's audience: The tribe of Judah
- F. Habakkuk has three chapters

III. Lesson - "Habakkuk: Run Sinner, Run!"**A. Habakkuk's Request For Answers (1:1-4)**

- 1. Habakkuk sees what lies ahead for his people in Judah and begins his book by directly asking God about the future:
- 2. NOTE: Habakkuk was a man of _____ for his people according to 1:2.
 - a. How long before you do something Lord?
 - b. Why do you let me see all this travesty?

B. The Lord's Reply (1:5-11)

- 1. Look out on the horizon among the heathen for the answer and you will find it, but you won't believe it (1:5)
- 2. NOTE: God does not ignore His servant's cry, but will always answer " _____ ."
- 3. I raise up the _____ (Babylonians) to bring judgement upon Judah (1:5; Cf Acts 13:41)
 - a. They are unmerciful, taking what is not theirs
 - b. Their horses are inescapable (1:8; Jer 4:13)
 - c. Their horsemen are effective in battle (1:8)
 - d. They come to take you away into captivity (1:9)
 - e. They come unafraid of anyone, or anything (1:10)
- 4. But the Babylonians will not last forever. Because Nebuchadnezzar will change his mind and start attributing all of his success to himself and his own Gods instead of to the Lord (Cf Dan 3; Ex 32)

C. Habakkuk's Reasoning (1:12-17)

- 1. Habakkuk accepts that:
 - a. The Lord is not like unto _____ - things that we can relate to and totally comprehend
 - b. Israel is " _____ " from the world system and cannot be completely destroyed as a nation
 - c. God holds the heart of the king in His hand (Pr 21:1)
- 2. But it is not so easy to accept that:
 - a. The Lord would use a _____ to judge His people (1:13)
 - b. The Lord would use an nation that worships anything and everything but Him to carry Judah away into captivity (1:14-17) - a very humiliating situation

D. **Habakkuk's Resolve** (2:1)

1. To wait upon the Lord as a " _____ " (2:1; Cf Ezek 33:1-16; Matt 24:42; 26:41 1Thess 5:6; Rev 16:15)
2. To write the vision (2:2)
 - a. Make it _____, and simple
 - b. Make it _____
 - c. Make it _____ to all to read

NOTE: These are characteristics of the Scriptures

- d. Make it practical - to warn people to " _____ "
 - 1) For sinners, "Flee from the wrath to come" (Matt 3:7)
 - 2) For Christians, run the race that is before us with our eyes on Jesus (Heb 12:1,2)

E. **The Lord's Revelation** - _____ (2:2-4)

1. The just - there is a way for a man to become righteous (See Job 25:4; Romans 1:16,17)
2. Shall live - there is a fulfilled life, free from the curse and bondage of sin and strife (Gal 3:10-13)
3. By his faith - personal relationship that matches "the faith" that was once delivered to the saints (Heb 10:38; Jude 3)

F. **Five Woes Upon Babylon** (2:5-20)

NOTE: Habakkuk here begins a description and prophecy concerning Nebuchadnezzar that doctrinally point to " _____ " yet to come.

1. Woe to him that increases that which is not his (2:5-8)
2. Woe to him that covets (2:9-11)
3. Woe to him that builds with murder and sin (2:12-14)
4. Woe to him that causes others to drink (2:15-17)
5. Woe to him that worships idols (2:18-20)

G. **Habakkuk Reviews God's Marvellous Works In The Past** (3:1-16)

NOTE: Habakkuk's burden turns into prayer. It becomes a prayer for revival.

1. God came from Teman and from mount Paran (Num 20; Dt 33:1,2; Cf Ps 121:1,2)
2. He measured out the earth and divided-up the promised land unto His people by driving out the Canaanites (3:6,7; Cf the Book of Joshua)
3. He parted the Jordan river (3:8-10; Cf Josh 3:12-17)
4. He caused the sun and the moon to stand still (3:11; Cf Josh 10:12,13)
5. He wounded the head of " _____ " (reference to Satan in Gen 3:15)

NOTE: Habakkuk takes a long look back at the history of Israel and sees that the Lord has brought them through so many miraculous times, only now to be brought very low by Babylon.

H. **Habakkuk Resolves To _____ In The Lord** (3:17-19)

1. In spite of failed crops (3:17)
2. In spite of failed livestock (3:17)
3. " _____ I will rejoice in the Lord, in the God of my salvation" (3:18,19)
 - a. This joy is to be found only "in the Lord"
 - b. This joy is based upon the future (3:19)
 - c. This joy is totally independent of earthly possessions (Cf the life of Job)

IV. Brief Summary

- A. Habakkuk starts with Habakkuk crying out to God for an answer as to why God's chosen people are allowed to suffer in this captivity (Habakkuk 1:1-4). The Lord gives His answer to Habakkuk stating, "you wouldn't believe it if I told you" (Habakkuk 1: 5-11).
- B. Habakkuk then follows up by saying, "Ok you are God, but still tell me more about why this is happening" (Habakkuk 1: 17-2:1). God then answers him again and gives him more information then tells the earth to be silent before Him (Habakkuk 2:2-20).
- C. Then Habakkuk writes a prayer that is a psalm because it is set to music that expresses his strong faith in God, even through these trials (Habakkuk 3:1-19).

V. Practical Application

- A. The Book of Habakkuk inspired Martin Luther's reformation and the book "Hinds Feet on High Places" by Hannah Hunnard. The application to the reader today is this, it is ok to question what God is doing. Sometimes it is not evident to us what is going on. Especially if we are thrown into suffering for a period of time or if it seems our enemies are prospering while we are just barely getting by.
- B. This book however, affirms that God is God. We just need to be still and know He is at work. He is who He says He is and does keep His promises. He will punish the wicked. Even when we cannot see it, He is at work. We need to stay focused on this, "The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments" (Habakkuk 3:16-19). Enabling us to go on the heights is taking us to the higher places with Him where we are set apart from the world. Sometimes the way we have to go to get us there is through suffering and sorrow but if we rest in Him and trust Him we come out where He wants us.

VI. The Next Book - The Book of Zephaniah

Quiz #2

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SCORE: _____

1. Remember the Themes of the Minor Prophets

- a. Hosea - Israel's _____ Towards God
- b. Amos - When The Lord _____
- c. Jonah - It's Hard To _____
- d. Joel - The _____ is at Hand
- e. Obadiah - _____ Goeth Before _____
- f. Micah - _____ Before Glory
- g. Nahum - _____
- h. Habakkuk - Run Sinner, Run! _____ to Come!
- i. Zephaniah - A _____
- j. Haggai - _____ What You _____
- k. Zechariah - The Lord _____
- l. Malachi - When God _____ Bless

2. The name 'Hosea' Means _____

3. Hosea's audience - _____

4. Hosea was commanded to _____

5. Gomer had three children. What did their names mean?

- a. Jezreel (1:4) - _____
- b. Lo-ruhamah (1:6) - _____
- c. Lo-ammi (1:9) - _____

6. These three names prophesy WHAT? _____

7. The great day of **Jezreel** is what day? _____

8. There were two main steps that explained how an Adulterous Woman/Nation Gets Restored in Hosea 3:1-5. List them:

- a. Through God's _____
- b. Through _____

9. What TWO nations were used by God to judge both Israel, and Judah?

- a. _____
- b. _____

10. Explain what DUAL fulfilment of prophecies means: _____

11. What is absent in the prophecies of the Minor Prophets? _____

12. Throughout the Minor prophets, there is basically an almost totally NEGATIVE or POSITIVE view of the near future (circle the right answer).

13. The meaning of the name 'Joel': _____

14. What is the central theme of the Minor Prophets? _____

15. Describe five conditions of that theme, especially described by Joel?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

16. What will be poured out at that time? _____
17. The valley of Jehosaphat (“Jehovah hath judged”) refers to what event? _____
18. Amos was what by occupation? _____
19. Basically, the prophet Amos wrote most of his letter against what? _____
20. Two false Gods were listed in Amos 5. List them:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
21. The meaning of the name 'Obadiah': _____
22. Obediah prophesies against what nation? _____
23. Why was God upset with that nation? _____
24. That nation had a problem with what attitude? _____
25. Jonah generally lived and preached in what area? _____
26. Meaning of the name Jonah – _____
27. Circle the numbers of which of the following statements that are TRUE
 - a. Jonah is the only minor prophet, in whose career miracles play a prominent role.
 - b. The only minor prophet whose major activity is on foreign soil.
 - c. The only minor prophet who preaches exclusively to a foreign people.
 - d. Jonah is the only Old Testament character represented as taking a trip on the Mediterranean.
 - e. Jonah is also the only minor prophet mentioned by Jesus.
 - f. The only Old Testament character likened by the Lord to himself (Matt 12:38-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32).
 - g. The book stresses the universality of God's presence more than any other minor prophet, and God's universal concern for mankind.
28. What country was Tarshish located? _____
29. How do we know that Jonah was swallowed by a Whale? _____
30. How long was Jonah in the whale? _____
31. Jonah Preached how many words? _____
32. List the four reasons why the Ninevites responded so well to Jonah’s preaching?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
33. The significance of the name 'Micah': _____
34. Fill in the blanks for the following Key Verses:
 - a. Micah 2:7 “do not my words do good to him that _____?”
 - b. Micah 4:3 “they shall beat their _____ into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they _____ any more.”
 - c. Micah 5:2 “out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from _____.”
 - d. Micah 7:18 “Who is a God like unto thee, that _____ iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.”
35. Nahum wrote about the coming destruction upon what kingdom? _____

Study In The Minor Prophets

Quiz #2

- 36. The meaning of the name 'Nahum': _____
- 37. Capernaum literally means what? _____.
- 38. What nation was going to come and judge and destroy Assyria and Ninevah? _____
- 39. Habakkuk preached about the coming destruction of Judah by what nation? _____
- 40. The significance of the name 'Habakkuk': _____
- 41. Habakkuk was a man of what kind of prayer for his people? _____
- 42. God tells Habakkuk to write the vision how (2:2)
 - a. Make it _____
 - b. Make it _____
 - c. Make it _____
 - d. Make it _____
- 43. Finish the remainder of the following Scripture in Habakkuk, “The Just _____

- 44. The meaning of the name 'Zephaniah': _____
- 45. Who wrote “Prepare to meet thy God”? _____

The Book of ZEPHANIAH

A Consuming Fire

Key Verses: Zephaniah 2:3; Deuteronomy 4:23,24

I. Introduction

- A. We love to emphasize the characteristics of the God of the Bible like: His love, longsuffering, care, patience, goodness, and so on.
- B. But we allow for little or no emphasis being allowed for the existence of any "other" unmentionable characteristics like: wrath, vengeance, holiness, judgement, damnation, and so on.
- C. We like to worship a God who loves and cares for this world (and would never send anyone to Hell), but refuse to hear of a God that one day will require sins to be paid for.
- D. It is with this "other" side of God that Zephaniah's emphasis is concentrated, because sin MUST be accounted for.

II. Introduction to the Book of Zephaniah

- A. Author: Zephaniah under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 650 B.C. (Contemporary of Jeremiah)
- C. Theme: God's judgement upon both Jews and Gentiles for their sins that God had put up with for too long with no success.
- D. The significance of the name 'Zephaniah': " _____ " or "Defended by the Lord"
- E. Zephaniah's audience: Specifically, the tribe of Judah, the Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, and Assyria; Generally, the world in the "last days".

III. Lesson - "Zephaniah: A Consuming Fire"

- A. **The Calling of Zephaniah** (1:1)
- B. **The Consuming Fire** (1:2-5) God Will Consume:
 1. Man and beast
 2. Birds and fish
 3. Idols with their worshipers
 4. The remnant of Baal still in the land
 5. The very name of the Chemarims - "idolatrous priests"
 6. The worshipers of the Chemarims (2 Kings 23:5)
 - a. Worship the host of heaven
 - b. Swear by both the Lord as well as Malcham
 7. Both those that have turned back from serving God (early death), as well those that "know not God" (2 Thes 1:6-10)
- C. **The Components of The Day of The Lord** (1:7-18) - Involves:
 1. The " _____ " of the Lord God Himself"
 2. A sacrifice, with "guests" (1:7; Rev 19:11-21)
 3. Punishment (1:8,9)
 4. A destructive explosion (1:10; Cf Zech 14:4)
 5. The end of commerce (1:11; Cf Rev 18:1-24)
 6. God bringing everything to light (1:12; Cf 1 Cor 4:5)
 7. Punishment of those that see God as neutral (1:12)
 8. Swift _____ (1:13,14; Cf 2 Pet 2:1)
 9. Mighty men weeping like babies (1:14; Rev 18:15,18)
 10. Wrath (1:15; Rev 6:15-17)
 11. Trouble and distress (1:15)
 12. Wasteness and desolation (1:15)

13. _____ and gloominess (1:15)
14. Clouds and thick darkness (1:15)
15. The _____ and alarm (1:16; Rev 8:2-9:21)
16. Overwhelming destruction (1:17,18) by fire

QUESTION: What is the **reason** for the "day of the Lord?"

D. The Call To Repentance (2:1-3) - Gather Together Judah

1. Seek the Lord
2. Seek righteousness (Cf Matt 6:33)
3. Seek _____ - humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
4. " _____ " that ye shall be hid in that day (2:3) – that is the way to trust the Lord!

E. The Coming Judgement Upon The Gentiles (2:4-15)

1. Involves God destroying the nations, and then ultimately turning the land and cities over to Israel for an eternal possession.
2. Judgement Upon the Philistines (2:4-7)
3. Judgement Upon Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)
4. Judgement Upon Ethiopia (2:12)
5. Judgement Upon Assyria (2:13-15)

F. The Correction At The House Of God (3:1-7) - The City of Jerusalem

1. Because of their personal sins of " _____ " (3:1,2)
 - a. Obeyed not the voice of correction
 - b. Received not correction from God (through the preaching of the prophets)
 - c. Trusted not in the name of the Lord - idolatry
 - d. Drew not near to God

NOTE: These are the responsibilities of a New Testament Christian.

2. Because of the sins of their leaders (3:3,4)
 - a. Their princes have a bark, but no bite!
 - b. Their judges are become " _____ " of the land
 - c. Their prophets are deceitful in their preaching
 - d. Their priests defile the temple of God (Cf 1 Cor 6:19)
3. Brings in the Lord Jesus Christ into the picture (3:5). This is the First Coming (Matt 26:55)

G. The Culmination of Man's History Without God (3:8)

1. The destruction of the _____
2. As well as of the entire earth.

H. The End Condition (3:9-20)

1. The world will return to one _____ (3:9)
2. Israel will return from its dispersion (3:10)
3. Israel will turn back to trusting the Lord (3:11,12)
4. Israel will be restored as God's _____ (3:14-20)
 - a. Her punishment will be removed (3:15)
 - b. _____ will be on His rightful throne (3:15)
 - c. God will _____ in His _____ (3:16,17)
 - d. The curse of Genesis 3 will be " _____ " (3:19)

IV. Conclusion

- A. **Brief Summary:** Zephaniah had the courage to speak bluntly because he knew he was proclaiming the Word of the Lord. His book begins with "*The Word of the Lord*" and ends with "*thus saith the Lord*". He knew the many gods the people worshiped or even the might of the Assyrian army could not save them. God is gracious and compassionate, but when all His warnings are ignored, judgment can be expected. God's day of judgment is frequently mentioned in the Scriptures. The prophets called it the "Day of the Lord". They referred to various events such as the fall of Jerusalem as manifestations of God's Day, each of which pointed toward the ultimate Day of the Lord.
- B. **Practical Application:** Judgment of the wicked and hope for the faithful. With a few adjustments in names and situations, this prophet of 7th century B.C. could stand in our pulpits today and deliver the same message. Zephaniah reminds us that God is offended by the moral and religious sins of His people. God's people will not escape punishment when they sin wilfully. Punishment may be painful but its purpose may be redemptive rather than punitive. The inevitability of the punishment of wickedness gives comfort in a time when it seems that evil is unbridled and victorious. A person has the freedom to disobey God but not the freedom to escape the consequences of that disobedience. Those who are faithful to God may be relatively few, but He does not forget them.

V. Preparing For the Next Book - The Book of Haggai

The Book of HAGGAI

Finish What You Start Out to Do

I. Introduction to Haggai - Festive

- A. **Author:** Haggai 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Haggai as the Prophet Haggai.
- B. **Date of Writing:** The Book of Haggai was written in approximately 520 B.C.
- C. **Purpose of Writing:** Haggai sought to challenge the people of God concerning their priorities. He called them to reverence and glorify God by building the Temple in spite of local and official opposition. Haggai called them not to be discouraged because this Temple would not be quite as richly decorated as Solomon's. He exhorted them to turn from the uncleanness of their ways and to trust in God's sovereign power. The Book of Haggai is a reminder of the problems the people of God faced at this time, how the people courageously trusted in God and how God provided for their needs.
- D. **Brief Summary:** Will the people of God reconsider their priorities, take courage, and act on the basis of God's promises? God sought to warn the people to heed His words. Not only did God warn them, but He also offered promises through His servant Haggai to motivate them to follow Him. Because the people of God reversed their priorities and failed to put God in first place in their lives, Judah was sent into Babylonian exile. In response to Daniel's prayer and in fulfilment of God's promises, God directed Cyrus the Persian king to allow the Jews in exile to go back to Jerusalem. A group of Jews returned to their land with great joy, put God first in their lives, worshiped Him and began to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem without the aid of the local people who lived in Palestine. Their courageous faith was met with opposition from the local people as well as the Persian government for approximately 15 years.
- E. **Practical Application:** The Book of Haggai draws attention to common problems most people face even today. Haggai asks us: 1) to examine our priorities to see if we are more interested in our own pleasures than doing the work of God. 2) to reject a defeatist attitude when we run into opposition or discouraging circumstances. 3) to confess our failures and seek to live pure lives before God. 4) to act courageously for God because we have the assurance that He is with us always and is in full control of our circumstances. 5) to rest secure in God's hands knowing that He will abundantly bless us as we faithfully serve Him.
- F. **Parallel with Zechariah.** Haggai's messages were preached within a fifteen week period 29 August to 18 December 520 B.C. This is determined from the dates given in Haggai.

Reference	Year of Darius	Month	Day	Equivalent Date, BC
Hag. 1:1	second	sixth	1st	29 Aug. 520
Hag. 1:15			24th	21 Sept. 520
Hag. 2:1		seventh	21st	17 Oct. 520
Zec. 1:1		eighth	-----	-----
Hag. 2:10,20		ninth	24th	18 Dec. 520
Zec. 1:7		eleventh	24th	15 Feb. 519
Zec. 7:1	fourth	ninth	4th	7 Dec. 518

G. Historical Setting

1. First Return of the Jews after the 70 Year Babylonian Captivity.
 - a. The first return from Babylonian exile was under _____ in 538 B.C. when Cyrus was King (539-530) (Ezra 1--6)
 - b. Return of Haggai: This was probably when Haggai returned to Jerusalem
 - c. Temple Rebuilt (this is the SECOND Temple): Haggai and Zechariah prophesy and the Temple was completed under Darius I (521-486)

Study In The Minor Prophets

The Book of HAGGAI

- 1) Levitical sacrifices were reinstated on an altar built for burnt offerings (Ezra 3:1-6)
 - 2) The foundation for the temple was laid in the second year of the return (536 B.C.; cf. Ezra 3:8-13; 5:16)
 - 3) Samaritan and Persian resistance ended the rebuilding of the temple _____ (until 520 B.C.; cf. Ezra 4:4-5)
 - 4) Haggai and Zechariah prophesy from 520-518 B.C. encouraging the nation to rebuild the temple
 - 5) The Temple was completed in 515 B.C. (Ezra 5--6)
2. The Second Return: The second return from Babylonian exile was under _____ in 457 B.C. while Artaxerxes I Longimanus was King (Ezra 7--10)
- a. Ezra 7:1 affirms that Ezra arrived in Jerusalem during the reign of Artaxerxes the king of Persia
 - b. Ezra 7:8 affirms that Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king (Artaxerxes)
 - c. Nehemiah 8:2 identifies Ezra as Nehemiah's contemporary
3. The Third Return: The third return from Babylonian exile was under _____ in 445/444 B.C. also while Artaxerxes I Longimanus was king (Neh 1--13).
- a. Nehemiah's first arrival in Jerusalem was probably in 444 B.C.
 - b. Nehemiah 1:2 and 2:1 affirm that the events of Nehemiah occurred in the twentieth year of king Artaxerxes
 - c. Nehemiah arrived the first time in Jerusalem twelve-thirteen years after Ezra arrived

II. Study Outline of Haggai

A. First Message - Get Back to Work (Ch. 1)

1. Rebukes Judah and its leaders
2. It's time to finish the Temple – _____
 - a. The people had moved back to Judah and even into Jerusalem
 - b. They had built their own homes and had settled in
 - c. They had started to build the Temple, but had quit due to pressures
 - d. So, for 16 years, the Temple was laying waste and was a mockery to God, while their own homes shone with polish!
 - e. The people had wrong priorities – _____ is a priority, not your home, or your family, or your health even!
 - f. Without the Temple, these people were no better than the heathen – only self-centred!
3. Consider Your Ways (1:5-11)
 - a. Look at the fruit of your “own ways”
 - 1) You have less and less for all your efforts
 - 2) Look at all the problems
 - b. All because you have _____ finishing God's house
 - c. A Proper Priority List
 - 1) _____ – the Promised Land
 - 2) Build the _____ first.
 - 3) Then build the _____.
 - 4) THEN, build and finish your homes!
4. Humble Agreement (1:12-15) – rare!
 - a. All the remnant were stirred up for good
 - b. It took 24 days of preaching to convince them

B. Second Message – The Glory of God's House (Ch. 2:1-9)

1. One month later
2. Compare this house with _____ Temple
 - a. This one looks nothing like the first Temple
 - b. This one looks disappointing
3. But, be encouraged!
 - a. God says “_____!”
 - 1) THAT is what really matters
 - 2) Get to doing God’s will, and God is with you because you are actually with God again! You are just finally going in HIS direction!
 - b. God says, “I am just keeping my covenant promises”
 - c. God’s spirit is here!
 - d. So, Fear Not!
4. Look _____, not back (2:6-9)
 - a. Don’t only look back and imagine what you have lost
 - b. But look ahead, and expect the God who accomplished so much in the past, to do the same if not greater in the future!
 - c. A great _____ is coming
 - 1) I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land
 - 2) And I will shake all nations
 - d. The _____ will come to this very HOUSE! “*the desire of all nations shall come*”
 - e. God will FILL “THIS” House with His glory (2:7)
 - f. God doesn’t need anything of ours to make the house stunning – he already owns all the silver and gold
 - g. This SECOND temple will actually be more glorious than the first
 - h. It is through _____ new temple that God will bring PEACE! How?
 - 1) The Messiah will come to THIS Temple (Mal 4)
 - 2) He will accomplish peace – evidently a reference to HIM being the sacrifice that brings peace between God and men
 - 3) This will be the only Temple before the Millennium. Herod will come along and add to it and build it up into the Temple that Jesus walks into in John 2:18-21
 - 4) The Temple built by the Jews during the tribulation will not be accepted, and will be destroyed by God!
 - 5) There will be a THIRD Temple built, during the Millennium!

C. Third Message – God’s Comfort in Rebuilding the Temple (Ch. 2:10-19)

1. Ask the priests about holiness and uncleanness
2. Because, without the Temple being finished, what the people were offering to God by way of worship was _____!
3. And so their efforts were _____
 - a. You expected 20 measures of wheat, you only got 10
 - b. You expected 50 vessels of grape juice, but only got 20
 - c. God smote them with blasting and with mildew and with hail
 - d. Yet they turned not back to God by all the troubles. It takes troubles AND preaching!
4. But NOW, consider and observe how that their efforts would be blessed! Consider from this day and onward
5. If only they started sowing their seed again (whatever is left in the barn). “From this day will I bless you”

- D. **Fourth Message – God’s Promise to Zerubbabel** (Ch. 2:20-23) God makes five promises to Zerubbabel!
1. I will shake the heavens and the earth
 2. I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms
 3. I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen
 4. I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother
 5. I will make thee *as a signet* (ring with a seal on it): for I have chosen thee!
 - a. A Resurrection promise to Zerubbabel – he will live again in the Millennium, just like king David!
 - b. Zerubbabel is a type of the coming Messiah who will RULE Jerusalem and Judah in the future

The Book of ZECHARIAH

The Lord Remembers

Key Verse: Zechariah 4:6b

I. Introduction to the Book of Zechariah

- A. Author: Zechariah under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 550-520 B.C. (Contemporary of Haggai, Malachi, Ezra [see Ezra 4:23-5:2], and Nehemiah)
- C. Theme: Israel's immediate, as well as future restoration as a nation in fulfilment of the covenants made by God with Abraham.
- D. The significance of the name 'Zechariah': " _____ "
- E. Zechariah's audience: The Jews _____.
- F. One note: This prophecy is actually LARGER than the Book of _____!
- G. Principles of Biblical Interpretation:
 1. The Bible is self-interpreting (Isa 28:10) Compare Scripture with Scripture
 2. Everything is to be taken literally unless the passage tells you otherwise (ex: Gal 4:22-26)
 3. Unfulfilled prophesies WILL be fulfilled, but in God's time

II. Lesson - "Zechariah The Lord Remembers"**A. The Call to _____ (1:2-6)**

1. You have returned to the Promised Land, now return to _____
2. Demonstrates:
 - a. Why God acts the way that He does (1:3; James 4:8; Mal 3:7 & Rev 20:11),
 - b. The problem of following people (1:4)
 - c. And the importance of the word of God (1:5,6).

B. The Cause For The Dispersion/Captivity (1:7-6:15)

1. Eight _____ that God gave to Zechariah concerning the sins of the land that had originally caused the captivity.
 - a. A Man riding a Red Horse (1:7-17)
 - 1) The myrtle trees (a kind of evergreen tree) - Planted by God at the restoration of Israel (Isa 41:10-20) as a nation.
 - 2) Going "to and fro" - Reconnaissance (see Job 1:7; 2:2)
 - 3) The whole earth being "at rest" - heathen in a false peace (see 1:15) while God's people suffer.
 - 4) The Angel of the Lord – Pre-incarnate Jesus Christ (see Ex 3:1-6)
 - b. Four Horns, and Four Carpenters (1:18-21)
 - 1) Four _____, or kingdoms that "scattered" Israel: (see Dan 8:5-9; 7:23,24; Rev 13:1-f; Cf Dan 2)

<i>What Zechariah saw</i>	<i>What Nebuchadnezzar saw</i>
a) Egypt	Babylon
b) Assyria	Media and Persia
c) Babylon	Greece
d) Media and Persia	Rome
 - 2) Notice how they overlap! Six kingdoms are revealed!
 - 3) Four _____ come and put everything back in place (see Jer 1:10; Mark 6:3; the book of Judges)

- c. A Man with a measuring line (2:1-13)
- 1) Measures the future city of Jerusalem (see Rev 21:15-17)
 - 2) Predicts that Jerusalem will prosper
 - 3) Pinpoints the reason for the prosperity (2:5): God will be "the glory in the midst of her"
- PRINCIPLE: No longer does Jerusalem boast of its own glory, but of the glory that lies within her (Haggai 2:3). The same applies to the person who becomes a Christian.
- 4) Predicts that many nations shall turn to the Lord "in that day" which is _____
 - 5) Calls for the return of all Israel (2:6-9)
- d. Joshua, Satan, and the _____ (3:1-10)
- 1) Zerubbabel was the political leader (an uncrowned heir)
 - 2) Joshua here was the spiritual leader
 - 3) The correcting of a failed priesthood
 - a) On the outside, Joshua was high priest
 - b) But to God, Joshua was a sinner coming out of the captivity into a defunct priesthood.
 - c) NOTE: The change of garments (Isa 64:6, Gen 3:7,21), the whereabouts of Satan, and the work of Satan.
 - d) DOCTRINALLY: Joshua represented Israel being cleansed and restored " _____ " (3:9)
 - 4) The crowning of a frail servant
 - a) Reward conditional upon obedience
 - b) Authority requires responsibility
 - c) PRINCIPLE: You don't get crowned unless you go by the Book (2 Tim 2:5).
 - 5) The coming of the final Saviour - the BRANCH Isa 11:1; Jer 23:2; 33:15; Zech 6:12
 - a) Called " _____ " (see Phil 2:7)
 - b) Called " _____ " (see Matt 21:42)
- e. The golden candlestick and the two olive trees (4:1-14)
- 1) The golden candlestick represents the _____ with its seven branches (Rev 4:5), as the only "light" in the Temple, and the only source of power for the Christian (4:6).
 - 2) The two olive trees/branches are the two _____ in the tribulation (note 4:14; Cf Rev 11:1-4).
- f. The _____ (5:1-4; see Jer 36:2)
- 1) The curse (the Law). It took life, it did not give it.
 - a) The "Law" of the Bible will KILL you (Rom 7:8-11), but the grace that is found in the Jesus of the Bible will SAVE you (Gal 3:13).
 - b) DOCTRINALLY: This refers to the book of Malachi which is directed at "robbers of God", and false Jews.
 - 2) Seems to match the seven-sealed Book of Rev 5:1-8:1
- g. The flying Ephah (5:5-11)
- 1) A large flying _____
 - 2) A _____ (which is wickedness) sits inside the container sealed by a heavy lead cover
 - 3) Two female winged creatures take the container to Shinar in Babylon (Rev 17:5), thereby collecting the reason for the turning away of Israel from God and their captivity and then shipping it back to where it came from. Begins the revival of spiritual Babylon.

- 4) PRINCIPLE: God is interested in "containing" sin right now. We may not be able to get rid of the wicked sins of this world, but we can at least contain them (Cf Josh 10)
- h. Four _____ (6:1-8)
- 1) These are ridden by the four beasts that stand before the Lord in Rev 4:6-8 & 6:1-8
 - 2) Their purpose is to carry out the destruction of those kingdoms that oppressed the Jews (6:8), possibly the "four carpenters" in the second vision.
2. The Coming Messiah (6:9-15)
- a. Pictured through the man Joshua (which means "Jesus") (see Ezek 28 where the devil is pictured through the "prince of Tyrus")
 - b. Called "the BRANCH" again (see Zech 3:8 and comments)
 - c. Even though the Jews were rebuilding the Temple in 520 B.C., there was coming a "man" that would really build the final Temple (John 2:18-22; 1 Cor 6:19)
- C. **What God Saw** (Chapters 7 - 14)
1. They had Ritual, But Without Reality (7:1-14)
 - a. Rebuked concerning their fastings, and celebrations (Cf Christmas), and for overlooking the word of God.
 - b. Reminded of their sin that forced them into captivity (7:8-14)
 2. The Restoration of Jerusalem (8:1-9:8)
 - a. The return of the Lord to Jerusalem (8:1-3)
 - b. The return of safety (8:4,5)
 - c. The return of the dispersed Jews (8:6-8)
 - d. Remembering the first temple, and its destruction (8:9,10)
 - e. The fulfilment of 2 Chron 7:14 (8:11-15)

APPLICATION: In light of the future glory, put your hand to the work, Christian (8:9,13; see 1 Cor 15:58 & Gal 6:9)

 - f. The return of practical righteousness (8:16,17)
 - g. The return of joy in place of sorrow at fasts (8:18)
 - h. The return of the Gentiles to seeking the God of the Jews (8:19-23)
 - i. The removal of the enemies of Jerusalem (9:1-8)
 3. The Rejection of Messiah (9:9-11:17) - The First Advent
 - a. Behold thy _____ (9:9-17)
 - 1) FIRST ADVENT PROPHECY: in 9:9 fulfilled in Matt 21:5.
 - b. Behold thy _____ (10:1-4)
 - 1) There plenty of "shepherds", but no real Shepherd
 - 2) The "flock" had become mixed with goats (Matt 25:31-33)
 - c. Behold thy _____ (10:5-12)
 - 1) Future blood redemption (10:8)
 - 2) Future reply of Exodus miracles (10:9-12)
 - d. Behold the coming _____ (yet future: 70 AD; 11:1-14) This is because of their future rejection of the Messiah
 - 1) The burning of Lebanon (as it does even today)
 - 2) The spoiling of the flock by money-seeking shepherds

Study In The Minor Prophets

The Book of ZECHARIAH

- 3) The destruction of the land by the Gentiles (11:6; see the "times of the Gentiles", Luke 21:24)
 - 4) The two staves: Beauty and Bands (11:7-14)
 - a) Beauty - the covenant God had made concerning the Promised Land and how that they would never be removed
 1. FIRST ADVENT PROPHECIES: in 11:12,13 fulfilled in Matt 26:14-16, and Matt 27:3-10.
 - b) Bands - the relationship between the tribes
 - e. Behold the foolish and _____ (11:15-17). This is none other than the _____.
4. The Repentance of Israel (12:1-14:21) - The Second Advent. Notice all the references to " _____ " in these chapters.
- a. The battle of Jerusalem and Armageddon (12:1-14)
 - 1) The Lord shall fight for Israel (12:1-7)
 - 2) It will be like David against Goliath (12:8)
 - 3) The outpouring of the spirit of GRACE so that the Jews will be able to handle the situation (12:10)
 - a) FIRST ADVENT PROPHECY: in 12:10 fulfilled in John 19:37.
 - 4) There will be great losses (12:11-14)
 - b. The "fountain" of Christ's blood opened to Israel (13:1)
 - c. The Day of the Lord (13:2-14:21)
 - 1) The end or " _____ " of prophets and prophecies (13:2-5; see 1 Cor 13:8)
 - a) FIRST ADVENT PROPHECY: in 13:6 fulfilled John 20:27
 - 2) The end of the Tribulation period (13:7-9)
 - a) FIRST ADVENT PROPHECY: in 13:7 fulfilled Matt 26:31
 - 3) The end of the Gentile-run world.
 - a) NOTE: It is _____ who gathers all the nations against Jerusalem to battle (14:1-3)
 - 4) Purpose of the Day of the Lord
 - a) To cause Israel to turn back to Him
 1. PRINCIPLE: God will go to almost any length to get people to turn back to Him.
 - b) To bring swift judgement upon this wicked world
 - c) So that He can come and save His people and fight for them as He did in the days of Joshua
 - 5) The splitting of the Mount of Olives (14:4,5)
 - d. The Millennium
 - 1) The conditions at the beginning of the Millennium (14:6-11)
 - 2) More on the battle of Armageddon (14:12-15)
 - 3) Handling the Gentiles during the Millennium (14:16-21)

III. Preparing For The Book of Malachi

The Book of MALACHI

When God Doesn't Bless

I. Introduction

- A. We are coming to an end of a dispensation in the Scriptures, and here in Malachi we find that the excitement of the return from the exile and of the construction of the Temple and city walls under Ezra and Nehemiah had long since faded away, and there was nothing but hard, consistent work that lay ahead for the Jews.
- B. In Malachi we find a group of people that want their freedom, but without the responsibilities that come with it. The Jews of Malachi become the Pharisees of Jesus' day.

II. Review of Previous Lessons

- A. Hosea - Israel's _____ towards God!
- B. Amos - When The Lord _____ From Zion
- C. Jonah - It's Hard To Love Your _____
- D. Joel - The _____ Of The Lord Is At Hand
- E. Obadiah - _____ Goeth Before Destruction
- F. Micah - Gloom Before _____
- G. Nahum - Righteous _____
- H. Habakkuk - Run _____, Run!
- I. Zephaniah - A _____ Fire
- J. Haggai - _____ What You Start Out To Do
- K. Zechariah - The _____ Remembers

III. Introduction to the Book of Malachi

- A. Author: Malachi under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 400 B.C. (Long after Haggai, Zechariah, and Ezra have finished their ministries).
- C. Theme: To rebuke the Jews for their fake outward religion.
- D. The significance of the name 'Malachi': " _____ "
- E. Malachi's audience: The Jews that returned from the captivity.

IV. Lesson - "Malachi - When God Doesn't Bless"**A. Reviewing God's Commitment To Israel (1:1-5)**

1. God not only says that He loved Israel, but that He has proved it, is proving it, and will prove it yet.
2. The example of Edom is given, which God says that He is finished with and will not allow it to be rebuilt.
3. The fact that Israel has returned, and is being rebuilt is a great proof, but, as well shall see, God has some greater plans for Israel yet.
 - a. But the Jews have a problem with the fact that all the blessings promised to them by all the previous prophets are just not coming to pass, and they feel "cheated".
 - b. NOTE: A _____ indicates someone who is backslidden from following the Lord with the right motives.

B. Reasons For God Withholding Blessings (1:6-3:15)

1. NOTE: When God doesn't bless, there usually is a reason. It may be because of sin, and then again, you may be looking for the wrong kind of blessing (namely "monetary").
2. Shoddy Sacrifices (1:6-14)
 - a. God demands honour. Just like any parent!
 - b. God requires pure _____. Always has, always will!
 - 1) Israel was offering polluted bread, and blind, lame, and sick animals for sacrifice.

- 2) God challenges them to offer those things to their human governor and see if he will be happy and accept them, because God sure won't (1:8,9).
 - c. God rebukes their reason for serving in the Temple: only for the _____ (1:10), and reveals that even the Gentiles will do a better job of worshiping God than the Jews (pointing to the future Church age).
 - d. God shows that they were serving Him only out of convenience (1:13-14)
 - e. PRINCIPLE: Too many Christians only serve God out of convenience, and do His will only for the blessings. However, when the blessings stop, so do Christians (yet see Job)!
3. Polluted _____ (2:1-10)
 - a. If you think that you have it bad now, just wait (2:1-4)
 - b. The priesthood started off right (2:5-7)
 - c. But now you have become dangerous (2:8-10). Because of your influence upon the people.
 4. Marred _____ (2:11-16)
 - a. Rejected a relationship of holiness and purity for religions of pleasure (2:11) (note the "god-child")
 - b. Produced a facade in their "relationship" with God.
 - c. Involved the divorcement of their Godly wives, which God said that He hated (2:14-16).
 5. Corrupt Comparisons (2:17-3:6)
 - a. Always looking at everyone else, and not on their own heart's condition.
 - 1) The Jews figured that since evil doers were making out all right, and that they were not, then those old-time prophets must have been totally "off-base" and that it was all right in God's eyes to be wicked.
 - 2) PRINCIPLE: It is always easy to compare ourselves with each other, and find seeming injustices. But God says to try instead and compare yourself with Christ.
 - b. God responds that His time is not restricted to our time, and that His ways are not our ways (3:1-6).
 - 1) God promises a future " _____ " - John the Baptist (Matt 10:11; Mark 1:2) who would come before the Lord comes to His temple (3:1).
 - 2) God promises to come _____, and purify the entire sacrificial system - in the person of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10) at both Advents.
 - c. God calls for the Jews to return to Him (3:7), but they don't feel that they need to return. They still don't feel like they are doing anything wrong!
 6. Tiny _____ (3:7-12)
 - a. Robbers are not all in jail today, they sit quietly in our Baptist Churches as we shall see.
 - b. Israel has intentionally "robbed" God, and brought a very serious curse upon themselves (3:8,9).
 - c. God offers to prove His promises, if they would step out by faith and obey (3:10-12).
 - d. Some truths about the tithe:
 - 1) Tenth of your gross income
 - 2) Indicates wise stewardship
 - 3) Taught before the Law was given
 - 4) Heaven will bless the obedience in giving of tithes
 - 5) Tithing expresses gratitude, worship and obedience
 - e. NOTE: Those "windows of heaven" are the same as referred to in Noah's flood (Gen 7:11). Those are some serious windows!

7) PRINCIPLE: Money really is the LEAST of God's blessings!

7. Self Service (3:13-15)

- a. Only wanted to serve God for personal profit!
- b. The wicked get everything that they want and prosper, while we "suffer".
- c. In other words, Why Do The Wicked Prosper? (Ps 73) Because God is _____
(2 Pet 3:9)

C. Restoration Will Still Come To Pass (3:16-4:6)

- 1. Because of a faithful _____ (3:16)
- 2. Because God keeps His promises: (3:16)
 - a. About Israel being purified
 - b. About the wicked being finally completely removed
 - c. About the coming of the Sun of righteousness
 - 1) N.T. Christians look for the Morning Star (1st Advent, Rev 22:16) which shows up just before the dawn where the Sun arises upon a new "day" (2nd Advent)
- 3. Because the Law and the Prophets will all yet be _____ (4:4-6; Cf Matt 5:17; Matt 17)
 - a. Moses will yet come (as one of the two witnesses)
 - b. Elijah also will come (as the OTHER of the two witnesses)
 - 1) First as John the Baptist (Matt 17:11-13)
 - 2) Then as one of the "two witnesses" in Rev 11
 - c. NOTE: See how the Old Testament ends: " _____ " (4:6).
 - 1) Quite a contrast with how it began "In the beginning God..." (Gen 1:1).
 - 2) The same goes for the end of Genesis, "in a coffin..." (Gen 50:26).
 - 3) Man's system sure does have a way with ending up negative doesn't it?!
 - d. PRINCIPLE: When God doesn't bless, you are supposed to still remember the Book (4:4), and look for the coming of Jesus Christ (4:5).
- 4. Post Script: The next 400 years are _____. There will be no other prophets until John the Baptist shows up at the Jordan river calling all Israel to repentance.

Preparing For the Final Exam

Study of The Minor Prophets - A Review

A. Hosea - Israel's Unfaithful Love towards God!

1. Asked to marry a _____, then an _____
2. With the purpose of _____
3. The judgement - back to _____ (9:3-13:8)
4. The final _____ of Israel (13:9-14:9)

B. Amos - When The Lord _____ From Zion

C. Jonah - It's Hard To Love Your _____

D. Joel - The _____ Of The Lord Is At Hand

1. The Condition of Judah (1:1-20) Never been so _____
2. The Call To Sound The Alarm: The Day of the LORD is "At 1) Hand" (2:1-11)
3. The Call To Repentance (2:12-27) Sure cure for judgement!
4. The Culmination: The Pouring Out of the Spirit (2:28-32)

E. Obadiah - _____ Goeth Before Destruction

1. The Rebuke (vss 2-4) - You Have a Problem with _____
2. The Retribution (vss 5-16), or The Divine "Pay-Back"
3. The Restoration (vss 17-21) Of _____

F. Micah - Gloom Before _____

1. The Current Leadership Problems (1:1-3:12)
2. The Coming Rulers (4:1-5:15) - The Christ, & anti-christ
3. Israel's Future Confidence (7:7-20)

G. Nahum - Righteous _____

1. The Burden of Nineveh (Nahum 1:1)
2. The Balanced Character of God (1:2-8)
3. The Belief of Nineveh (1:9-11)
4. The Breaking of the Yoke of Nineveh Off of Judah (1:12-15)
5. The Coming Battle Against Nineveh (2:1-13)
6. The Blame for Nineveh's Doom (3:1-4)
7. The Final Burying of Nineveh (3:5-18)

H. Habakkuk - Run _____, Run!

1. Habakkuk's Request For Answers (1:1-4)
2. The Lord's Reply (1:5-11)
3. Habakkuk's Reasoning (1:12-17)
4. Habakkuk's Resolve (2:1)

5. The Lord's Revelation - The Just Shall Live By His Faith
6. The Lord Recites Five Woes Upon Babylon (2:5-20)
7. Habakkuk Reviews God's Marvellous Works In The Past (3:1-16)
8. Habakkuk Resolves To Rejoice In The Lord (3:17-19)

I. Zephaniah - A _____ Fire

1. The Calling of Zephaniah (1:1)
2. The Consuming Fire (1:2-5) God Will Consume:
3. The Components Of The Day Of The Lord (1:7-18)
4. The Call To Repentance (2:1-3) - Gather Together Judah
5. The Coming Judgement Upon The Gentiles (2:4-15)
6. The Correction At The House Of God (3:1-7)
7. The Culmination Of Man's History Without God (3:8)
8. The End Condition (3:9-20)

J. Haggai - _____ What You Start Out To Do

K. Zechariah - The _____ Remembers

1. The Call to Repentance (1:2-6)
2. The Cause For The Dispersion (1:7-6:15) - The 8 Visions
3. The Coming Messiah (6:9-15)
4. Ritual, But Without Reality (7:1-14)
5. The Restoration of Jerusalem (8:1-9:8)
6. The Rejection of Messiah (9:9-11:17) - The First Advent
7. The Repentance of Israel (12:1-14:21) - The Second Advent

L. Malachi - When God Doesn't _____