

Session Eight: The Minor Prophets

Northern Kingdom

- Jonah
- Hosea
- Amos
- Nahum

Southern Kingdom

- Joel
- Micah
- Zephaniah
- Habakkuk
- Obadiah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

Hosea

- Longest book of Prophecy in the Northern Kingdom
- Northern kingdom was in a season of prosperity and abundance.
- They had moved into blatant idolatry and sin.
- God's message is clear – He can not condone sin and ultimately, He will use the Assyrians to bring final judgment against them.
- Gomer and Hosea as an example of God's love even though disobedience and “adultery”.
- Hosea 4:6 – my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Joel

- The land is devastated.
- Joel's word to the people 1:14
- Key verse 2:12
- Peter Quotes on the Day of Pentecost.
 - 2:15-21
 - 2:28-32

Amos

- He was a layman who had a strong message regarding the people of God neglecting social justice.
- They had religious formalism but not ministry to the poor, orphan, or widow.
- The leadership and a total disregard for human rights.
- James 2:15-16

- Amos 5: 21-24
- Isaiah 58:6-8

Obadiah

Shortest book in the Old Testament (21 Verses).

- Focuses on the destruction of Edom.
- Edom:
 - Treacherous
 - Robbed Judah
 - Extremely violent
 - Sought to destroy Jerusalem.
 - Sought to displace Israel from the land.
- Obadiah prophetic words were all fulfilled against Edom.
- VS 15 – as you have done, it will be done unto you. (Galatians 6:7)

Jonah

- Was a reluctant prophet- fled from obeying God – did not want Ninevah to be spared.
- The fish story – authenticated by Jesus and also an OT reference to the resurrection.
- Jonah's prayer within the fish.
- Jonah's preaching – 40 days until judgment.
- The miracle of Ninevah's repentance.
- Jonah's displeasure.
- God's response: Chapter 4:11 – God's compassion.

Micah

- Micah saw the evil, wickedness and sin of Israel and Judah.
- Micah saw the Assyrian army becoming strong and threatening.
- God would bring judgment on the wickedness and oppression of the poor.
- Sexual sin, bribes, ignoring the law of Moses, were covered by "religious rituals".
- Their hypocrisy was not fooling the Lord.
- Key verse: Chapter 6:7-8.
- Key prophetic verse: Chapter 5:2

Nahum

- 100 years after Jonah.
- God's majesty (God is awesome)
 - God will not leave the guilty unpunished 1:3.
 - You cannot win – your plans will fail, 1:9.
 - Chapter 1:15 – quoted by Paul in Romans 10:15
- Ninevah will be destroyed.
 - Declared

- Described
- Deserved
- Reason why Ninevah was destroyed – pagan, idolatry, vicious, blood thirsty, violent, etc.

Habakkuk

- What Habakkuk was – Chapter 1:2-4?
- What Habakkuk did – Chapter 2:1?
- What God said – Chapter 2:2-4?
- God's Promise – Chapter 2:14
- Well known verse: Chapter 2:20
- Ultimate trust in God – Chapter 3:17-19

NOTE

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| • Obadiah | Edom |
| • Nahum | Assyria |
| • Habakkuk | Babylon |

Zephaniah

- Chapters 1 and 2 are declaring the coming wrath of God against Jerusalem/Judah
- Chapters 2 and half of chapter 3 are God's wrath upon the surrounding nations.
- Chapter 3 (last part) is healing and restoration as well as the conversion of the gentile nations.
- The book ends with the restoration of God's covenant people.
- Key Verse: 1:18 – gold nor silver will be able to deliver one from God's wrath.
- Key Verse: 3:1-4 – the wickedness of Jerusalem and the nations detailed.
- Key Verse: 3:19-20 – God will restore your fortunes before your eyes.

Haggai

- He prophesied after the exile and spoke to those who had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.
- The people had gone lethargic and not touched the temple rebuild for 16 years.
- Haggai admonished them to be about the Lord's work, not just cater to their own needs and desires.
- Key Verse: 2:7-9 – Haggai gives powerful encouragement.

Zechariah

- Also prophesied after the exile during the time the temple was being rebuilt.
- He has numerous images (four horseman, four horns, four smiths, four chariots).
- A measuring line.
- A woman in an ephah.
- A flying scroll.

- A golden lampstand.
- Key Verse: 9:9 – Kings comes riding on a donkey (Palm Sunday)
- Key Verse: 11: 17 – the worthless shepherd – image of the antichrist.
- Key Verse: 12: 10 – they will look on me, whom they have pierced.
- Chapters 12, 13 and 14 are describing the 2nd coming of Christ to deliver Israel.

Malachi

- This is the last prophet in the OT, next and final prophet is John the Baptist. (400 year silence)
- The final message of God to His disobedient people.
- Key Verse: 2:7-8 – chastising the priests.
- Key Verse: 2:16 – God hates divorce.
- Key Verse: 3:10 – the blessings of honoring God with the tithe.
- Key Verse: 4: 5-6 – Elijah the prophet and restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children.