

A Study of the Minor Prophets

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lesson One.....	An Introduction to the Minor Prophets
Lesson Two.....	Obadiah
Lesson Three.....	Joel

Lesson Four.....	Jonah
Lesson Five.....	Amos
Lesson Six.....	Hosea
Lesson Seven.....	Micah
Lesson Eight.....	Zephaniah
Lesson Nine.....	Nahum
Lesson Ten.....	Habakkuk
Lesson Eleven.....	Haggai
Lesson Twelve.....	Zechariah
Lesson Thirteen.....	Malachi

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson One:

An Introduction to the Minor Prophets

Introduction:

1. Hebrews 1:1-2.

a. We often appeal to this passage to affirm the authority of Christ today and how

- he is God's final spokesman.
- b. If we believe that, we must also firmly believe the first part of the verse. God did not always speak to man through His Son.
 - c. There was a time when God spoke through chosen messengers called "prophets."
2. Prophets were his mouthpieces through which God's will was communicated and His expectations were laid out for His people.

Discussion:

I. What Was A Prophet?

- A. The word "prophet" defined.
 1. One who speaks forth or openly. A proclaimer of a divine message.
 2. Literally "to boil up like a fountain."
- B. Other names for a prophet.
 1. Seer (1 Sam. 9:9).
 2. Man of God (1 Kings 17:18).
 3. Servant of God (1 Kings 18:36).
 4. Watchman (Ezek. 3:17; 33:7).

II. Who Were the Minor Prophets?

- A. This expression is not an inspired one but is one invented by Bible students in order to differentiate among all the prophets used by God.
 1. The message of the Minor Prophets was not minor at all, but generally shorter than the prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, commonly called "the Major Prophets."
 2. There are twelve minor prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.)
 3. Though their messages were shorter, they were no less powerful nor no less needed.
 4. They should not be shunned simply because they are labeled minor and not major.
 5. Many have forsaken the truths revealed within these great books and have never taken the time to study them.
 6. Such people have deprived themselves of great spiritual lessons that have applicability to New Testament disciples today.

III. What Was the Work of a Prophet?

- A. To speak for God to men (Exod. 7:1).
- B. To speak God's words (Jer. 1:7, 9; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).
- C. To contend with false prophets.
 1. God gave instructions on how to deal with false prophets (Deut. 18:20-22).

IV. The Order of the Prophets.

- A. The Canonical Order.
 1. As they appear in our Bibles (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi).
- B. The Chronological Order.
 1. Obadiah (845 BC) *
 2. Joel (830 BC) *

3. Jonah (790-750 BC) *
4. Amos (755 BC) *
5. Hosea (750-525 BC)
6. Micah (735-700 BC)
7. Zephaniah (630 – 625 BC)
8. Nahum (625 – 612 BC)
9. Habakkuk (605 BC)
10. Haggai (520 BC)
11. Zechariah (520 – 518 BC)
12. Malachi (440 BC)

IV. Why Study the Minor Prophets?

- A. They are inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. They reveal the work of God (Amos 3:7).
- C. They reveal the incomparable nature of God (Isa. 46:5, 9-10).
- D. They pointed to Christ (Lk. 24:44; Jn. 5:39).
- E. They pointed to our Salvation (1 Pet. 1:10-12; Eph. 3:10-11).
- F. They wrote for our learning (Rom. 15:4).

Conclusion:

1. As one can see, a study of the minor prophets can be very valuable.
2. They are inspired by God and their messages must not be neglected .

Questions on the Introduction:

1. Define the word prophet.
2. List four other Biblical names for a prophet.
3. How many minor prophets are in the Bible?
4. Why are they given the name minor prophets?

5. What was the work of a prophet?
6. The minor prophets appear in our Bibles in _____ order.
7. We listed six reasons why we should study the minor prophets. Can you think of some other reasons?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Two:

“Obadiah”

Introduction:

1. The author of the book of Proverbs states that God “hates” pride (Prov. 6:16-17).
2. The result of pride is destruction (Prov. 16:18).
3. The book of Obadiah is about the promised destruction of the prideful nation of Edom.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Obadiah” (vs. 1).

B. Meaning of His Name.

1. Obadiah means “servant of Jehovah” or “worshiper of Jehovah.”

C. The Commonality of the name.

1. The name “Obadiah” is found 19 times in the Old Testament (1 King 18:3-7, 16; 1 Chron. 3:21; 7:3; 8:38; 9:16, 44; 12:9; 27:19; 2 Chron. 17:7; 34:12; Ezra 8:9; Neh. 10:5; 12:25; Obad. 1:1).

D. The Prophet Obadiah.

1. Nothing is known about his history or his family.
2. All that we know about him is what we can glean from the message of the book that bears his name.
3. What we know about Obadiah.
 - a. He was a prophet of God (vs. 1).
 - b. He was an inspired writer (vs. 1).
 - c. He was bold and courageous, willing to deliver a stern message.

II. The Date of the Book.

A. Early date – 845 BC.

1. 2 Chron. 28:16-17.
2. This reference was during the reign of Ahaz of Judah (8th century BC).
3. This would have been the time when Edom and the Philistines were associated in warfare against Judah.

B. Late date – 586 BC.

1. The principal clue to the date of the book (vs. 10-14).
2. The reference is probably to the successive Babylonian attacks on Jerusalem (605-597, 586 BC).
3. Edom joined in with Babylon during Judah’s downfall (Psa. 137:7; Ezek. 35:1-15).

III. Purpose of the Book.

A. To warn the people of Edom of their coming doom (vs. 1-4).

1. God’s promise to punish Edom (Jer. 49:7-39; Ezek. 25:12-15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11-15)

B. Encourage the people of Judah to believe in God’s deliverance (vs. 17, 21).

IV. The Edomites.

A. Descendants of Esau (vs. 1, 6, 8, 9, 18, 19; Gen. 36:8-9).

B. The descendants of Esau had settled southeast of the Dead Sea.

C. Bitterness between Israel and Edom.

1. There was an ancient and bitter hatred between the Israelites and the Edomites that goes all the way back to Jacob and Esau (Gen. 27; 32-33).
2. Though Jacob and Esau resolved their differences (Gen. 33), the two nations still struggled.
3. Edom caused grief to the Israelites both in the days of Moses and in the days of King Saul (Num. 20:14-21; 1 Kings 14:47).

D. The Prophecy against the Edomites.

1. The extent of their destruction.
 - a. Be made small (vs. 2).
 - b. Greatly despised (vs. 2).
 - c. Be brought down (vs. 4).
 - d. Cut off (vs. 5).

- e. Destroyed/ (vs. 8).
- f. Dismayed (vs. 9).
- g. Slaughtered (vs. 9).
- h. Cut off forever (vs. 10).
- i. No survivor shall remain (vs. 18).
- 2. Fulfilled prophecy.
 - a. Edomites were also known as Idumeans (Mark 3:8).
 - (1) Idumea is the land of Edom.
 - b. The Herod's are descendants from Edom.
 - (1) The father of Herod the Great was Antipater from Idumea.
 - (2) Herod the Great sought to destroy the life of Jesus (Matt. 2:16).
 - c. After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Idumeans disappeared from history (a fulfillment of prophecy!).

V. Lessons from Obadiah.

- A. God is sovereign (vs. 1, 21).
 - 1. God is the sovereign power in life (Psa. 115:3; Isa. 46:10; Dan. 4:35; Col. 1:16-17).
- B. The danger of Pride.
 - 1. Edom was filled with pride (vs. 3-4).
 - 2. Pride condemned in the Bible (Prov. 6:16-17; 16:18; 18:12; 1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Jn. 2:15-17).
- C. God Cares about how we treat others.
 - 1. Consider how Edom had treated their brother (vs. 10-14).
 - 2. We are to treat people with goodness (Deut. 23:7; Prov. 17:5; 24:17; Matt. 5:44-48; Gal. 6:10; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Jn. 4:7-11).
 - 3. God will protect and deliver His people (vs. 17).
 - a. Psa. 34:17-19; 2 Tim. 4:17-18.
 - 4. We reap what we sow (vs. 15) (Gal. 6:7-8).

Questions on Obadiah:

1. What is the book of Obadiah about?
2. What is the meaning of the name Obadiah?
3. What are three things we know about Obadiah?
4. Obadiah was warning what nation of their coming doom?
5. The Edomites are descendants of whom?
6. What are some lessons to be learned from the book of Obadiah?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Three:

“Joel”

Introduction:

1. The “Day of the Lord” is a running theme of the book of Joel (1:15; 2:1, 31; 3:14).
 - a. The day of the Lord refers to judgment.
2. The book of Joel is about the coming judgment of God.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Joel” (vs. 1).
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Joel” means “The LORD is God” or “Jehovah is God.”
- C. The commonality of his name.
 1. The name “Joel” is found 19 times in the Old Testament (1 Sam. 8:2; 1 Chron. 4:35; 5:4, 8, 12; 6:28, 33, 36; 7:3; 11:38; 15:7, 11, 17; 23:8; 26:22; 27:20; 2 Chron. 29:12; Ezra 10:43; Neh. 11:9; Joel 1:1).
- D. The Prophet Joel.

1. He was the son of Pethuel.
 - a. This is the only time this name is found in the Old Testament.
 - b. Nothing is known about his history or his family.
 - c. Nothing about his hometown or the kings during his ministry.
2. All that we know about him is what we can glean from the message of the book that bears his name.
3. What do we know about Joel?
 - a. He was the son of Pethuel.
 - (1) This is the only time this word is used in the Old Testament.
 - b. He was a prophet of God (vs. 1).
 - c. He was an inspired writer (vs. 1; See also Acts 2:16-21: Quotation from Joel 2:28-32).

II. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. Jerusalem is referenced six times (2:32; 3:6, 16, 17, 20) and Zion seven times (2:1, 15, 23, 32; 3:16, 17, 21).
- B. Judah is referenced six times (3:1, 6, 8, 18, 19, 20).
- C. These factors indicate that Joel prophesied to the Southern Kingdom, Judah.

III. The Date of the Book.

- A. Like Obadiah, the book of Joel is very difficult to date, therefore whichever date is chosen, it must be chosen with the understanding that we cannot be absolutely certain.

B. Early date – 835-830 BC.

1. The early date would have Joel prophesying during the days when Joash ruled (835-796 BC) under the guidance of Jehoiada (2 Chron. 23 – 24).
2. Joel identifies Tyre and Sidon and all the coasts of Philistia, Egypt, and Edom as the adversaries to God's people (3:4, 19).
 - a. Egypt invaded Judah during the days of Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:25-28).
 - b. Edom fought against Judah in the reign of Jehoram (2 Kings 8:20-22)

C. Late Date – 539-536 BC.

1. Joel does not mention Babylon, Assyria, or Syria which would give support to the late date.

D. Though the date of the book is uncertain, the message of the book is timeless.

IV. Purpose of the Book.

- A. To warn the people of the coming "Day of the Lord" (1:15; 2:1, 31; 3:14).
 1. The day of the LORD refers to judgment.
 2. Those whom this judgment was being brought upon.
 - a. God's people were guilty of sin, thus the command to repent (2:12-14).
 - b. The nations that had mistreated God's people (3:4, 19).
- B. Encourage Repentance (2:12-14).

V. Lessons from Joel.

- A. There are Consequences to disobedience (Chapter 1).
 1. Joel mentions an invading army of locusts (1:4).
 - a. Some have taken this as figurative standing for an invading human army

- sent by God to punish Judah (1:6 – Persians and Babylonians; Jud. 7:12).
 - (1) The Bible often refers to invading armies as “locusts” (Jud. 7:12; Rev. 9).
- b. Others understand this as a literal swarming invasion of locusts sent by God.
 - (1) The eighth plague on the Egyptians (Exod. 10:4).
- c. Whether they were real locusts or representatives of an invading army, they were from God (2:25).
- 2. Consequences they were experiencing (1:5-20).
- 3. What is the significance of this invasion?
 - a. God gives advice when Locusts invade (2 Chron. 7:12-14).
- B. A Call to Repentance (Chapter 2).
 - 1. Purpose of repentance.
 - a. The day of the LORD is coming (vs. 2).
 - 2. The meaning of repentance (vs. 12-13a).
 - a. Involves the heart (vs. 12).
 - b. The return to God that Joel calls for involves the whole person.
 - c. Such actions are manifested through mourning, weeping, crying out to the Lord and fasting.
 - 3. What was their need for repentance? What had they done? Don't know.
- 4. Motivation for Repentance.
 - a. The nature of God. “He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.” (Exod. 34:5; Psa. 86:5, 14; 103:8; 145:8-9).
 - b. The promises of God (vs. 18-27).
 - (1) Provision (vs. 18-19, 26).
 - (2) Protection (vs. 20).
 - (3) Restoration (vs. 25).
 - (4) Salvation (vs. 32).
- C. A Promise of Judgment (Chapter 3).
 - 1. Surrounding nations had wronged God's people (vs. 4, 19).
 - 2. God promises to punish them.
 - 3. At the same time He promises to bless His people.

Questions on Joel:

1. What is the book of Joel about?
2. What is the meaning of the name Joel?
3. Joel 2:28-32 is quoted in what New Testament book?

4. To what kingdom did Joel prophesy?
5. What is the meaning of the phrase “the day of the Lord “?
6. What was the purpose of repentance?
7. What is the definition of repentance found in the book of Joel?
8. What was the motivation for repentance?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Four:

“Jonah”

Introduction:

1. Perhaps no other Old Testament prophecy is better known than the story of Jonah.
2. What attracts us to the Book of Jonah is the storyline.
3. The book is about much more than a man being swallowed by a fish and spit out on the dry land.
4. It is a book that expresses the wonderful and abundant grace and mercy of God.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Jonah” the son of Amittah. (vs. 1).
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Jonah” means “Dove.”
- C. The Prophet Jonah.
 1. Lord.
 - a. He feared Jehovah God the creator of all things (1:9).
 2. Lineage.
 - a. He was the son of Amittai.
 - (1) This is the only time this name is found in the Old Testament.
 - b. He was a Hebrew (1:9).

- (1) He was a descendant of Abraham (Gen. 14:13).
- (2) He was one of God's people.
- 3. Land.
 - a. He was from Gath Hopher (2 Kings 14:25).
 - b. This was a town located near Nazareth in Galilee.

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. Modern theologians have long acclaimed the book of Jonah as a myth, an allegory, or a parable.
- B. Unbelievers discredit the book because it reveals that which is miraculous.
 - 1. They think of the book as a fairytale.
 - 2. In doing so they simply reveal their unbelief in the power of God and the integrity of the scriptures as a whole.
- C. The Authenticity of the Book.
 - 1. The Jew's acceptance of the book.
 - a. When the New Testament opens, the Old Testament canon is complete (Lk. 24:44).
 - b. The Jews who first received the book accepted its historicity and included it without doubt as belonging to the canon of Hebrew Scriptures.
 - c. Why would they accept a story if it were based on a myth?
 - 2. Jesus verified the legitimacy of Jonah.
 - a. As a prophet (Lk. 11:29-32).
 - b. The story of Jonah.
 - (1) Jesus used the story of Jonah and the fish as a sign of His death, burial and resurrection (Matt. 12:39-40; 16:4; Lk. 11:29).
 - (2) If Jesus really died, if He was really buried, and if He was really resurrected then Jonah's story is also a reality.
 - (3) If one is false so is the other.

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. To the people of Nineveh (1:2; 3:2).
- B. The people of Israel (2 Kings. 14:23-25).
 - 1. Jonah prophesied during a time when God's people were under the reign of Jeroboam II.
 - a. The days of Jeroboam II were a time of great moral and spiritual decay for Israel (2 Kings 14:24).
 - b. Jeroboam I encouraged the people to idol worship (1 Kings 12:25-33).
 - c. God's prophecy against Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:14-16).
 - 2. The attitude of Jonah represents the attitude of the people of Israel.
 - a. Disobedience (1:1-3).
 - b. Calloused heart (1:4-6).
 - c. Unforgiving (4:1-4).
 - d. Unconcerned (4:11).

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II King of Israel (2 Kings 14:23-25).
 - 1. Jeroboam reigned around 793 – 753 B.C.
- B. Many Bible scholars choose a date around 780 BC.

V. Purpose of the Book.

- A. The purpose of this book is to express the greatness of God (Jonah 1:9).
- B. The greatness of God is seen in the book of Jonah.
 - 1. A great storm (1:4).
 - 2. A great fish (1:17).
 - 3. A great forgiveness (3:1, 10).
 - 4. A gourd (4:6)
 - 5. A worm (4:7)
 - 6. A vehement east wind (4:8).

VI. Uniqueness of the Book.

- A. The prophecy of Jonah is unique in that it is a book “about” a prophet rather than a book “by” a prophet.
- B. The value of human life (Jonah 4:11).
- C. God’s concern for mankind.
 - 1. God desires all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 - 2. God’s compassion, mercy, and readiness to forgive (Psa. 86:5, 15).
 - 3. Perhaps no other book in the Old Testament shows God’s concern for all men and their salvation and His available mercy if they repent as does the Book of Jonah.
- D. Jonah’s fear.
 - 1. Moses’ fear was a fear of failure (Exod. 3:11-4:13).
 - 2. Jonah’s fear was a fear of success (Jonah 4:1-3).
 - a. Jonah did not want the Assyrians to repent and be spared by God.
 - b. He wanted them to be punished.

V. Lessons from Joel.

- A. Jonah Running Away from God (1:1-16).
 - 1. Jehovah’s charge to go to Nineveh, and the Prophet’s disobedience (vs. 1-3).
 - a. Nineveh
 - (1) This city was approximately 500 miles northeast of Palestine.
 - (2) It was the capital of Assyria a rising world power that was feared by all because of its ruthlessness.
 - (3) Eventually this brutal nation would conquer Israel and lead Samaria captive in 722 B.C.
 - b. Tarshish.
 - (1) This city was about 2,000 miles in the opposite direction.
 - c. Why did Jonah disobey?
 - (1) Assyria was known for its cruelty (Nah. 1:1ff).
 - 2. The great wind and Jonah’s confession (vs. 4-10).
 - 3. Jonah sacrificed – cast into the sea (vs. 11-16).
- B. Jonah Running Toward God (1:17-2:10).
 - 1. The fish prepared by Jehovah (1:17).
 - 2. Jonah’s prayer from the deep (2:1-9).
 - 3. Jonah’s deliverance (2:10).
- C. Jonah Running with God (3:1-10).
 - 1. The call, response, and message to Nineveh (vs. 1-4).
 - 2. Repentance and Jehovah’s gracious change (vs. 5-10).
- D. Jonah Running Ahead of God (4:1-11).

1. Jonah's anger at Nineveh's repentance (vs. 1-5).
2. The gourd vine and the worm (vs. 6-8).
3. Jehovah's rebuke and lesson of the gourd vine (9-11).

Questions on Jonah:

1. What does the book of Jonah express?
2. What are some things that we know about Jonah?
3. What New Testament character verified the legitimacy of Jonah?
4. Who were the recipients of the Book of Jonah?
5. The attitude of Jonah represents the attitude of the people of _____.
6. What is the purpose of the Book of Jonah?
7. How can the greatness of God be seen in the book of Jonah?
8. What is the difference between the fear of Moses and Jonah?
9. Can you think of some additional lessons we can learn from the book of Jonah?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Five:

“Amos”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Amos.”
2. The book of Amos is one of the longer of the minor prophets (9 chapters and 146 verses).
3. Things that may come to our mind when we think of Amos.
 - a. Unity passage (Amos. 3:3).
 - b. God’s disapproval of instrumental music in worship (Amos 5:23; 6:5).
 - c. Plumbline passage (Amos 7:7-9).
4. Israel was at a time of economic and political prosperity.
5. As a result they developed the spirit of self-sufficiency (Amos 6:1).
6. The sins of Judah and Israel were deplorable (2:4-5; 6-8; 5:5, 7, 10-11).
7. Their sins flowed from the springs started by Jeroboam I and continued by Jeroboam II (1 Kings 12:25-33; 2 Kings. 14:23-24).
8. Amos prophesies to the people of Israel warning of an impending judgment that will be brought by God.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Amos.”
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Amos” means “burden-bearer.”
- C. The Prophet Amos.
 1. Home.
 - a. He was a native of Tekoa.
 2. Profession.
 - a. He was a herdsman of sheep (1:1).
 - b. He was a tender of sycamore fruit (7:14).
 - (1) The fruit produced by these trees has been described as fig-like slightly

- sweet and watery and somewhat woody in nature.
 - (2) It was usually eaten by the poorer people.
 - c. Because of his profession, some refer to Amos as the “country prophet” or “farmer prophet.”
- 3. Obedience.
 - a. When the Lord spoke, Amos spoke to the people (Amos 3:8).
 - b. Amos was not of the “school of the prophets” who only told people what they wanted to hear. (Amos 7:14-15).

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. The phrase “Thus says the LORD” is found 45 times in this short book of 9 chapters and 146 verses.
- B. The book of Amos is quoted twice in the New Testament.
 - 1. (Amos 5:25-27; Acts 7:42-43).
 - 2. (Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:16-17).

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. The surrounding nations.
 - 1. Damascus (1:3-5).
 - 2. Gaza (1:6-8).
 - 3. Tyre (1:9-10).
 - 4. Edom (1:11-12).
 - 5. Ammon (1:13-15).
 - 6. Moab (2:1-3).
- B. Judah {Southern Kingdom} (2:4-5).
- C. Israel {Northern Kingdom} (2:6-9:15).

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. Amos prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel (2 Kings 14:23-24) and Uzziah {Azariah} king of Judah (2 Kings 15:1-2; 2 Chron. 26:1-2).
 - 1. Jeroboam II (793-753 BC).
 - 2. Uzziah (792-740 BC).
- B. Amos mentions an earthquake (1:1).
 - 1. The prophet Zechariah also speaks of this (Zech. 14:5).
 - 2. We cannot fix a date when this even occurred.
- C. The date chosen will be 755 BC.

V. Purpose of the Book.

- A. The word “transgressions” is found throughout this book (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6; 1:14; 5:12).
 - 1. The word “transgressions” means rebellion.
- B. God’s people had rebelled against Him.
 - 1. He calls them to repentance (5:4-6).
 - 2. He warns of an impending judgment (5-9).

V. Lessons from Amos.

- A. Judgement (1-2).
 - 1. The nations (1:1-2:3).

- 2. Judah (2:4-5).
- 3. Israel (2:5-16).
- B. Five Messages (3-6).
 - 1. First message (3:1-15).
 - a. The Unique relationship (vs. 1-2).
 - b. The Inevitable judgment (vs. 3-8).
 - c. Unparalleled oppression (vs. 9-10).
 - d. The Coming Catastrophe (vs.11-15).

 - 2. Second Message (4:1-13).
 - a. Economic exploitation (vs. 1-3)
 - b. Religious hypocrisy (vs.4-13).
 - 3. Third Message (5:1-17).
 - a. Description of certain judgment (vs. 1-3).
 - b. Call for individual repentance (vs. 4-6).
 - c. Accusation of legal injustice (vs. 7).
 - d. Portrayal of a Sovereign God (vs. 8-9).
 - e. Accusation of legal injustice (vs.10-13).
 - f. Call for individual repentance (vs. 14-15).
 - g. Description of certain judgment (vs. 16-17).
 - 4. Fourth Message (5:18-27).
 - a. Description of certain judgment (vs. 18-20).
 - b. Accusation of religious hypocrisy (v.s 21-22).
 - c. Call for individual repentance (vs. 23-24).
 - d. Accusation of religious hypocrisy (vs. 25-26).
 - e. Description of certain judgment (vs. 27)
 - 5. Fifth Message (6:1-14).
 - a. Their boastful complacency (vs. 1-3).
 - b. Their luxurious indulgence (vs. 4-7).
 - c. The complete devastation(vs.8-14).
- C. Five Visions (7-9).
 - 1. Locusts (7:1-3).
 - 2. Fire (7:4-6).
 - 3. Plumb Line (7:7-17).
 - 4. Summer Fruit (8:1-14).
 - 5. The Lord standing by the altar (9:1-15).

(An explanation of each vision can be viewed on the Lafayette Church of Christ youtube channel on the Wednesday night service)

Questions on Amos:

1. What attitude had the people in the book of Amos developed? Discuss the danger of developing this attitude.
2. What is the meaning of the name Amos?
3. What are some things that we know about Amos?
4. What New Testament book quotes from the Book of Amos?
5. Who were the recipients of the Book of Amos?
6. List the six surrounding nations that Amos addressed.
7. What had God's people done against Him?
8. What are the five visions in the book of Amos?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Six:

“Hosea”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Hosea.”
2. Hosea, like Amos is one of the longer books of the minor prophets (14 chapters; 197 verses).
3. Hosea prophesied for 35 years.
4. Hosea is contemporary with Isaiah.
5. Condition of the people in the days of Hosea.
 - a. The people were without knowledge (5:4) and as a result, they were ignorant of God and His laws (8:12).
 - b. They were a nation in decay (Hosea 4:1-3).
(They were guilty of swearing, breaking faith, murder, stealing, committing adultery, deceit, lying, drunkenness, dishonesty in business, and other crimes equally abominable before Jehovah.)
6. God was going to bring Israel to an end (Hosea 1:4).
7. The key to understanding this book is the analogy between Hosea’s experience with Gomer and the Lord’s experience with Israel.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Hosea.”
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Hosea” means “Salvation” or “Deliverance.”
- C. The Prophet Hosea.
 1. His Lineage.
 - a. He was the son of Beerli (vs. 1).
 - b. Found only twice in the Old Testament (Hosea 1:1; Gen. 26:34 – refers to Esau’s Hittite father-in-law).
- D. It is possible that he could have been a prophet of the Northern Kingdom.

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. The Lord spoke by Hosea (1:1- 2).
 1. The phrase “The LORD said” is found 5 times in the book (1:2, 4; 2:13, 16, 21).
 2. The phrase “God said” is found 3 times in the book (1:6, 9; 11:11).
 3. The phrase “the word of the LORD” is found 2 times in the book (1:1; 4:1).
- B. The book of Hosea is referenced in the New Testament.

1. Hosea 1:10; 2:23 (Rom. 9:25).
2. Hosea 6:6 (Matt. 9:13; 12:7)
3. Hosea 12:7 (Matt. 2:15).
4. Hosea 10:8 (Lk. 23:30).

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. The people of God (Hosea 5:5).
 1. Israel (44 times).
 2. Ehpraim (37 times).
 - a. Manasseh and Ephraim were sons born to Joseph while in the land of Egypt (Gen. 41:51-52).
 3. Judah (15 times).

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. Kings of Judah (1:1).
 1. Uzziah {Azariah} king of Judah (2 Kings 15:1-2; 2 Chron. 26:1-2).
 - a. Uzziah's reign (792-740 BC).
 2. Jotham (2 Kings 15:32).
 3. Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1-2).
 4. Hezekiah. (2 Kings 20:1).
- B. Kings of Israel (1:1).
 1. Jeroboam II the son of Joash (2 Kings 14:23-24).
 2. Jeroboam's reign (793-753 BC).
- C. If Hosea was present during the reign of all these kings it would have been a time of about 80 years of service.
 1. This would date the book around 750-725 BC.
 2. This was just a few years before the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into Assyrian captivity in 722 BC.
- D. The date chosen will be 750 – 725 BC.

V. Purpose of the Book.

- A. Key words.
 1. A key word is "harlotry" (*ze.nu.nim*) which means adultery, fornication, or prostitution (1:2; 2:4; 3:3; 4:10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18; 5:3, 4; 9:1).
 - a. This word is found 16 times in the book of Hosea.
 - b. It is used to describe Israel's sin before God.
 2. Lovingkindness is a keyword (2:19; 4:1; 6:4; 10:12; 12:6).
- B. The main purpose of this book is to show God's unconditional love for undeserving sinners.

VI. Theme of the Book.

- A. Hosea 14:9

V. An Examination of the Book.

- A. Unfaithfulness (Ch. 1-3).
- B. Lack of Knowledge (Ch. 4-6:3).
- C. Lack of Mercy (Ch. 6:4-8:14).
- D. Consequences of Sin (Ch. 9:1-11:11).
- E. Lack of Faithfulness (Ch. 11:12-14:9).

Questions on Hosea:

1. Hosea is contemporary with what other prophet?
2. What is the meaning of the name Hosea?
3. Who does Gomer represent in the book?
4. What is the significance of the meaning of the name Hosea in relation to the message of the book?
5. What New Testament books quote from the Book of Hosea?
6. What three groups of people does Hosea address?
7. What are the keywords in the Book of Hosea?
8. What are your thoughts on the theme of the book?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Seven:

“Micah”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Micah.”
2. The book of Micah is longer than some of the books of the minor prophets but not as long as Amos and Zechariah (7 chapters; 105 verses).
3. The book of Micah is perhaps best remembered because of the prophecies about the birthplace of Christ (5:2 – Matt. 2:6) and the beginning place of the church (4:1-2; Acts).
4. Historical Background of the book (2 Kings 15:32-20:21; 2 Chronicles 27-32).

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Micah.”
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Micah” means “Who is like Jehovah.”
- C. The Prophet Micah.
 1. Lineage.
 - a. Nothing is known about his family or occupation.
 2. Home.
 - a. He is from Moresheth-gath which was a small village some twenty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem (1:1, 14; Jer. 26:18).
 3. Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah.

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. The Lord spoke by Micah (1:1).
 1. Micah spoke by the Spirit of the LORD (3:8).
 2. The phrase “the LORD said” is found 5 times in the book (2:3; 3:5; 4:6; 5:10; 6:1).
 3. The phrase “The LORD has spoken” is found 1 time in the book (4:4).
 4. The phrase “the LORD’s voice” is found 1 time in the book (6:9).
- B. The book of Micah is referenced in the New Testament.
 1. Micah 5:2 (Matt. 2:5; Jn. 7:42).
 2. Micah 7:6 (Matt. 10:35; Lk. 12:53).
 3. Micah is quoted once in the OT (3:12 – Jer. 26:18) (Jeremiah 626 – 586 BC).
 4. Both Micah and Isaiah make the same prophecy about the coming kingdom (Micah 4:1-2; Isa. 2:2-3).

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. The message was mainly to Judah and Samaria (Micah 1:1; 5-6).
- B. The message is also for Israel (Micah 3:8).

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. Kings of Judah (1:1).
 - 1. Jotham (2 Kings 15:32-38; 750 – 735 BC).
 - 2. Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1-17:41 735 – 715 BC).
 - 3. Hezekiah. (2 Kings 18:1-20:21 715 – 686 BC).
- B. The Northern kingdom of Israel was taken into Assyrian captivity in 722 BC (2 Kings 17:22-23).
- C. Samaria was taken into captivity in 710 BC (2 Kings 18:1, 10).
 - 1. Micah prophesied before the fall of Samaria (Micah 1:1, 5-6).
- D. The date chosen will be 735 – 700 BC.

V. Theme of the Book

- A. God will send judgment because of Judah's sin.
- B. The call to "hearken" or "hear" begins in three chapters (1, 3, 6).

VI. Purpose of the Book.

- A. Amos spoke of injustice.
- B. Hosea emphasized love.
- C. Micah combined both (6:8)
 - 1. The Injustice of the people
 - a. Moral corruption (2:1-2, 8-9; 3:1-2; 6:10-12).
 - b. Idolatry (1:7; 5:12-15; 6:16).
 - c. Form only religion (6:6-8).
 - d. False Prophets (3:5-7; 6:16).
 - e. Covetous priests (3:11).
 - 2. The Love of God (The love of God can be seen through His promises).
 - a. Restoration (2:12-13).
 - b. Coming Kingdom (4:1-2).
 - c. Promised Messiah (5:2).
 - d. Forgiveness (7:18-20).

VII. Uniqueness of the Book.

- A. The people heeded the message (2 Kings 18:1-8; 19:6-7, 35; 2 Chron. 28:22-24; 29:1-3; 30:6; 31:21; 32:22).

Questions on Micah:

1. Micah is contemporary with what other prophet?
2. What is the meaning of the name Micah?
3. Where was the home of Micah?
4. Micah spoke by the _____.
5. Who were the recipients of the Book of Micah?
6. What two elements does Micah emphasize in the book?
7. How do chapters 1, 3, and 6 begin?
8. What is unique about the book of Micah?

Lesson Eight:

“Zephaniah”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Zephaniah.”
2. The book of Zephaniah is one of the shorter books among the minor prophets (3 chapters; 53 verses).
3. The historical background of Zephaniah (2 Kings 21-23; 2 Chron. 33-35).
 - a. Hezekiah was succeeded by his son Manasseh.
 - b. Manasseh was a very wicked ruler.
 - c. He sought to undo all the good his father had done.
 - d. Ammon succeeded Manasseh who followed in the steps of his father.
 - e. Josiah was the last good king to reign over Judah.
 - f. Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk prophesied during his reign.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Zephaniah.”
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Zephaniah” means “Jehovah hides” or “Jehovah treasures.”
- C. The Prophet Zephaniah.
 1. Lineage.
 - a. The opening verse traces his ancestry through four generations (cushi – Gedaliah – Amariah – Hizkiah – Hezekiah), which would make him the great great-grandson of Hezekiah who was the good king of Judah during the days of Isaiah and Micah.
 2. Home.
 - a. His mention of Jerusalem as “this place” and his knowledge of what was taking place in the city indicates that Jerusalem was his home (1:4; 3:1-4).
 3. Micah was a contemporary of Jeremiah.

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. The Lord spoke by Zephaniah (1:1).
 1. The phrase “says the LORD” is found 6 times in the book (1:2, 3, 10, 2:9; 3:8, 20).
 2. The phrase “the word of the LORD” is found 1 time in the book (2:5).

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. The message was directed to Judah (1:2-18) and the Nations (2:4-15)

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. Josiah King of Judah (1:1).
 1. Josiah (2 Kings 22:1 – 640 – 609 BC).
 2. Josiah’s reforms occurred in his 18th year, around 622 BC (2 Kings 22:3; 2 Chron. 34:8).
 3. Zephaniah’s denunciation of Judah seems to indicate that his preaching was before this.
 4. Ninevah the capital of Assyria fell to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 612 BC. Zephaniah’s prophecy predates this (2:13).
 5. Most scholars place his work within the years of 630 – 625 BC.

6. This would make him contemporary with Jeremiah who began his work in 26 BC (Jer. 1:2).

V. Theme of the Book

A. The approaching doom which will occur at the “day of the Lord.” (1:7-8, 14, 16, 18; 2:2-3).

VI. Purpose of the Book.

A. To encourage repentance (2:1-3)

B. To promise Salvation to the Remnant (3:8-20).

Questions on Zephaniah:

1. Zephaniah is contemporary with what other prophet?
2. What is the meaning of the name Zephaniah?
3. Zephaniah was the great-great-grandson of what king??
4. How can we prove the authenticity of the Book of Zephaniah?
5. Who were the recipients of the Book of Zephaniah?
6. What is the purpose of the Book of Zephaniah?
7. What are your thoughts on the theme of the book? How can we apply the theme of the book to us today?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Nine:

“Nahum”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet "Nahum."
2. The book of Nahum is one of the shorter books among the minor prophets (3 chapters; 47 verses).
3. The historical background of Nahum (Isa. 10:5-19).
 - a. An understanding of how God used Assyria to punish sinful Israel and of Assyria's arrogant attitude can be seen in Isaiah 10:5-19 and chapters 36 and 37.
 - b. Though Assyria was a mighty powerful nation, they would be punished by God because of their sinful and rebellious attitude.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as "Nahum."
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name Nahum means "consolation" or "Comfort."
- C. The Prophet Nahum.
 1. Home.
 - a. Elkosh (1:1).
 - b. Possibly Capernaum.

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. "Thus says the LORD" found 3 times (1:12; 2:13; 3:5).
- B. "The LORD has given command" (1:14).

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. Nineveh (1:1; 2:8; 3:7, 18).
- B. Judah (1:15).
- C. Nations (3:5).

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. Nineveh, the capital of Assyria fell in **612 BC**. Nahum's prophecy predates this event (2:8-13).
- B. The earliest date could be after the fall of "No Ammon" (3:8-9). (**663 BC**)
 1. Also known as ancient Thebes Egypt (Jeremiah 46:25-26).
 2. Thebes was about 400 miles from the Mediterranean Sea situated along the Nile River.

V. Theme of the Book

- A. The Downfall of Nineveh (1:1, 2:8, 13; 3:5).
- B. Complete Destruction (1:8-15; 2:13; 3:14-19).

VI. Purpose of the Book.

- A. To Comfort Judah (1:2-7).
- B. To Encourage Faithfulness (1:15; 2:1).
- C. To Promise Restoration (2:2).

Questions on Nahum:

1. What is the meaning of the name Nahum and how does that relate to the purpose of the book?

2. How can we prove the authenticity of the Book of Nahum?

3. What nation was God against in the Book of Nahum?
4. What proof is there in the Book of Nahum that Nineveh would suffer complete destruction?
5. What promise did the Lord make to His people?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Ten:

“Habakkuk”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Habakkuk.”
2. The book of Habakkuk is one of the shorter books among the minor prophets

(3 chapters; 56 verses).

3. The historical background of Habakkuk (2 Chron. 36:11-21; Jer. 6:9-30).
4. The spiritual condition at the time was one of wickedness, injustice and disregard for God.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as "Habakkuk."
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name "Habakkuk" means "embrace."
- C. The Prophet Habakkuk.
 1. He identifies himself as "the prophet" (1:1) on "Shiginoth."
 - a. This place is unknown.
 2. Nothing is known about his lineage or home.

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. This book is a response from the Lord (2:2).
- B. It was identified as a speech from the Lord (3:1).
- C. Referenced in the New Testament (2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. The message of this book is unique in that it is a conversation between Habakkuk and the Lord.
 1. Habakkuk asks, "How long" Will God allow this to continue (1:2-4)?
 2. The Lord responds to Habakkuk's question (1:6).
 3. This causes the prophet to question the justice of God.
 - a. How could the Lord punish Judah by using a more wicked nation (1:3)?
 - b. The answer to that question should give consolation to the people who were facing a long period of exile.
- C. God speaks of the punishment of Judah and Babylon.

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. The book does not mention a reigning king at the time.
- B. There is mention of the "Chaldeans." (1:6).
 1. The "Chaldeans" were the people of Babylon (Ezra 5:12; Isa. 47:1; Jer. 21:1-5).
 2. Zedekiah was the king when Nebuchadnezzar led them away captive (Jer. 32:1-5).
 3. The reign of Zedekiah – (597-586 BC).
 - a. There were three carryingsaways of Judah (605, 597, 586 BC).
 4. The reign of Babylon (605 – 535 BC).
 5. Nineveh, the capital of Assyria fell in **612 BC**.
 6. Habakkuk's prophecy predates the invasion of the Chaldeans into Judea (1:5-6; 2:3; 3:16; **605-535 BC**).
- C. The most probable date (**612-606 BC**).

V. Theme of the Book

- A. To foretell the punishment of Judah and the Chaldeans (1:5-11; 2:5-20).

VI. Purpose of the Book.

- A. To encourage the just to live by faith (2:4).
- B. To encourage faith in the power of God (2:20).
- C. To encourage trust in God (1:1-4, 12-2:1; 3:17-19)

Questions on Habakkuk:

1. What was the spiritual condition of people in the days of Habakkuk?
2. What is the meaning of the name Habakkuk?
3. What New Testament books reference the Book of Habakkuk?
4. The Book of Habakkuk is a conversation between who?
5. The Book of Habakkuk foretells the punishment of what two nations?
6. The Lord told Habakkuk that the righteous would live by _____?
7. What is the meaning of Habakkuk 2:20?
8. What is the conclusion of Habakkuk in chapter 3:17-19 and what application can we make today?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Eleven:

“Haggai”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Haggai.”
2. The book of Haggai is one of the shorter books among the minor prophets (2 chapters; 38 verses).
3. The last three of the minor prophets prophesy following the return of God's people from captivity.

4. As the book of Haggai opens, the year is 522 BC (1:1 – Darius 522-486 BC).
5. God's people returned 16 years earlier (538) during the reign of Cyrus (559-530).
6. God's people were instructed to build the Lord's house (Ezra 1:2-3).
7. God used Haggai and Zechariah to stir up the people to finish their task of rebuilding the Lord's house (Ezra 5:1; Hag. 1:1-4).

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Haggai.”
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Haggai means “Festival” or “Joyous one.”
- C. His Home.
 1. Nothing is known of his lineage or home.
- D. He was among those Jews who returned from Babylonian captivity (**536 BC**) (Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14-15).

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. The word of the LORD came from Haggai (1:1, 3; 2:1, 10, 20).
- B. Haggai was the LORD’s messenger (1:13).
- C. The phrase “Says the LORD” is found 19 times in the book.

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. The message was directed to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, Joshua the high priest and the remnant (1:1, 12).

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. The book opens with Josiah as King of Judah (1:1) and the second year of Darius (1:1).
 1. The Reign of Darius (522-486 BC).
- B. The Date chosen (520 BC).
- C. This Book covers a period of four months (1:1; 2:1; 2:10, 20).

V. Theme of the Book.

- A. The theme of the book is to “Build the Temple” (1:2-11).

VI. Purpose of the Book.

- A. To encourage the people to consider their ways (1:4, 7; 2:15, 18).
- B. To encourage obedience (1:12; Ezra 6:14-15).
- C. To let the people know that God was with them (1:13; 2:4, 20-23).

Questions on Haggai:

1. What is the meaning of the name Haggai?
2. Haggai was the Lords _____.
3. Who were the recipients of the Book of Haggai?
4. What is the theme of the Book of Haggai?
5. What is the significance of the phrase “consider your ways”?

6. What was the condition of the Lord's house and the condition of people's houses? What application can be made today?

7. How did the people of God respond to the command of the Lord?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Twelve:

“Zechariah”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Zechariah.”
2. The book of Zechariah is the longest of the minor prophets (14 chapters and 211 verses).
3. It is also a very challenging book for it has much apocalyptic language like Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelation.
4. Zechariah like Haggai was called to stir the people to rebuild the temple (Ezra 5:1).

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Zechariah.”

B. Meaning of his name.

1. The name “Zechariah” means “Whom the Lord Remembers.”

C. What we know about Zechariah.

1. Home – Jerusalem (Ezra 5:1).
2. Lineage (1:1).
 - a. The son of Berechiah.
 - b. The grandson of Iddo (Neh. 12:4; Ezra 5:1; 6:14).
3. Contemporary with Haggai (Ezra 5:1).

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

A. The word of the LORD came by Zechariah (1:1; 4:6, 8; 7:1, 4, 8; 8:1).

B. “Thus says the LORD of hosts” (1:3, 14, 6:12; 7:9; 8:1).

C. Referenced in the NT.

1. Zech. 9:9 – Matt. 21:5
2. Zech. 11:12-13 – Matt. 26:14-16
3. Zech. 12:10 – Jn. 19:37
4. Zech. 13:7 – Matt. 26:31

III. The Recipients of the Book.

A. The Jews in Judah & Jerusalem (Ezra 5:1).

IV. The Date of the Book.

A. Two dates are given in the book.

1. The second year of Darius (1:1).
2. The fourth year of Darius (7:1)
3. The Reign of Darius (522-486 BC)

B. The Date chosen (520 – 518 BC).

V. Theme of the Book

A. “The LORD will again choose Jerusalem” (2:12; 8:15).

1. Jerusalem was the home of God's people.
2. God wanted them to know that He was going to restore them to their home and bless them.

VI. Purpose of the Book.

A. To encourage repentance (1:2-6).

B. To describe the kind of life the LORD expected of them (7:1-8:21).

C. To encourage hope (9:12).

D. To emphasize the restoration of the people and protection of God (10:1-12).

VI. Uniqueness of the Book.

A. The book contains eight visions.

1. Vision of Horses (1:7-17).
2. Vision of Horns (1:18-21).
3. Vision of the Measuring line (2:1-5).
4. Vision of the High Priest (3:1-10).
5. Vision of the Lampstand & Olive Trees (4:1-14).
6. Vision of the Flying Scroll (5:1-4).
7. Vision of the woman in a Basket (5:5-11).
8. Vision of the Four Chariots (6:1-8).

(An explanation of each vision can be viewed on the Lafayette Church of Christ youtube channel on the Wednesday night service , November 30, 2022)

B. The book contains several Messianic prophecies.

1. The BRANCH of David (3:8; 6:12; Isa. 4:2; 11:1; Jer. 23:5; 33:15-16; Rev. 5:5; 22:16).
2. Entering Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9 – Matt. 21:5).

3. Betrayal price (Zech. 11:12-13 – Matt. 26:14-16).
4. Looking upon Jesus as He was pierced (Zech. 12:10 – Jn. 19:37).
5. The sheep being scattered (Zech. 13:7 – Matt. 26:31).

Questions on Zechariah:

1. What is the meaning of the name Zechariah and what is the significance of the meaning of his name in relation to the book?
2. Zechariah was a contemporary with what other prophet?
3. What New Testament books quote from the Book of Zechariah?
4. Who were the recipients of the Book of Zechariah?
5. What is the meaning of the theme of the book?
6. What did God command the people to do in 1:2-6?
7. What is the message of God in 10:1-12?

A Study of the Minor Prophets

Lesson Thirteen:

“Malachi”

Introduction:

1. In our study of the Minor Prophets, we come to the prophet “Malachi” who is the final one in our journey.
2. Almost 100 years have passed since God's people have returned to Jerusalem.
3. The first five verses of chapter one serve as an introduction to the book.
4. The Lord had expressed His love to Israel and Judah.
5. Instead of reciprocating that love, God's people abused His love.
6. Malachi writes to the people identifying their sins and urges them to repent and be faithful.

Discussion:

I. The Author.

- A. The author is identified as “Malachi.”
- B. Meaning of his name.
 1. The name “Malachi” means “My Messenger.”

2. Nothing is known of his home or lineage.

II. The Authenticity of the Book.

- A. The word of the LORD came by Malachi (1:1).
- B. "Says the LORD" (26x's – 1:2, 4, 6, 8, 9 – 11, 13 – 14, 2:2, 4, 8, 16; 3:1, 5, 7, 10, 11 – 13, 17; 4:1, 3)
- C. Referenced in the New Testament.
 - 1. Mal. 1:2-3 – Rom. 9:13
 - 2. Mal. 3:1 – Matt. 11:10; Mk. 1:2; Lk. 7:27
 - 3. Mal. 4:5-6 – Matt. 17:10-13; Lk. 1:17).

III. The Recipients of the Book.

- A. The message was directed to Israel & Judah (1:2; 2:11; 3:6).

IV. The Date of the Book.

- A. The exact date is not known.
- B. Malachi is a contemporary of Nehemiah.
 - 1. Nehemiah (**445 – 432 BC**).
 - 2. Rebuilding of the walls (Neh. 2:1, 11; 4:6; 6:15).
 - 3. The Jews had married foreign wives (Neh. 13:23-24; Mal. 2:10-12).
- C. Based on the current conditions, the Date chosen is (**445 – 432 BC**).

V. Theme of the Book

- A. Israel was guilty of many sins.
 - 1. Polluted offerings (1:6-14).
 - 2. Corrupt Priesthood (2:1-9).
 - 3. Spiritual adultery (2:10-12).
 - 4. Infidelity (2:13-16).
 - 5. Failure to recognize the difference between good and evil (2:17).
 - 6. Improper Tithing (3:8-12).
 - 7. Complaints from the People (3:13-16).
- B. Malachi urges the people to be faithful to the Lord (4:4; 3:14; 2:7-8)

VI. Purpose of the Book.

- A. That Israel may Learn discernment (3:18).
 - 1. God's people had lost sight of the difference between right and wrong.
 - 2. As a result, God's people were guilty of many sins.
 - 2. Malachi writes urging the people to learn discernment.

V. Uniqueness of the Book.

- A. Prophecy of John the Baptist (3:1; 4:5-6; Lk. 1:17;7:27; Matt. 17:12).

Questions on Malachi:

1. What is the meaning of the name Malachi?
2. What New Testament books quote from the Book of Malachi?
3. Malachi was a contemporary with what other prophet?
4. Who were the recipients of the Book of Malachi?

5. What did Malachi urge the people to do?
6. Discuss the meaning of Malachi 3:18.
7. What New Testament character does Malachi prophesy about?

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