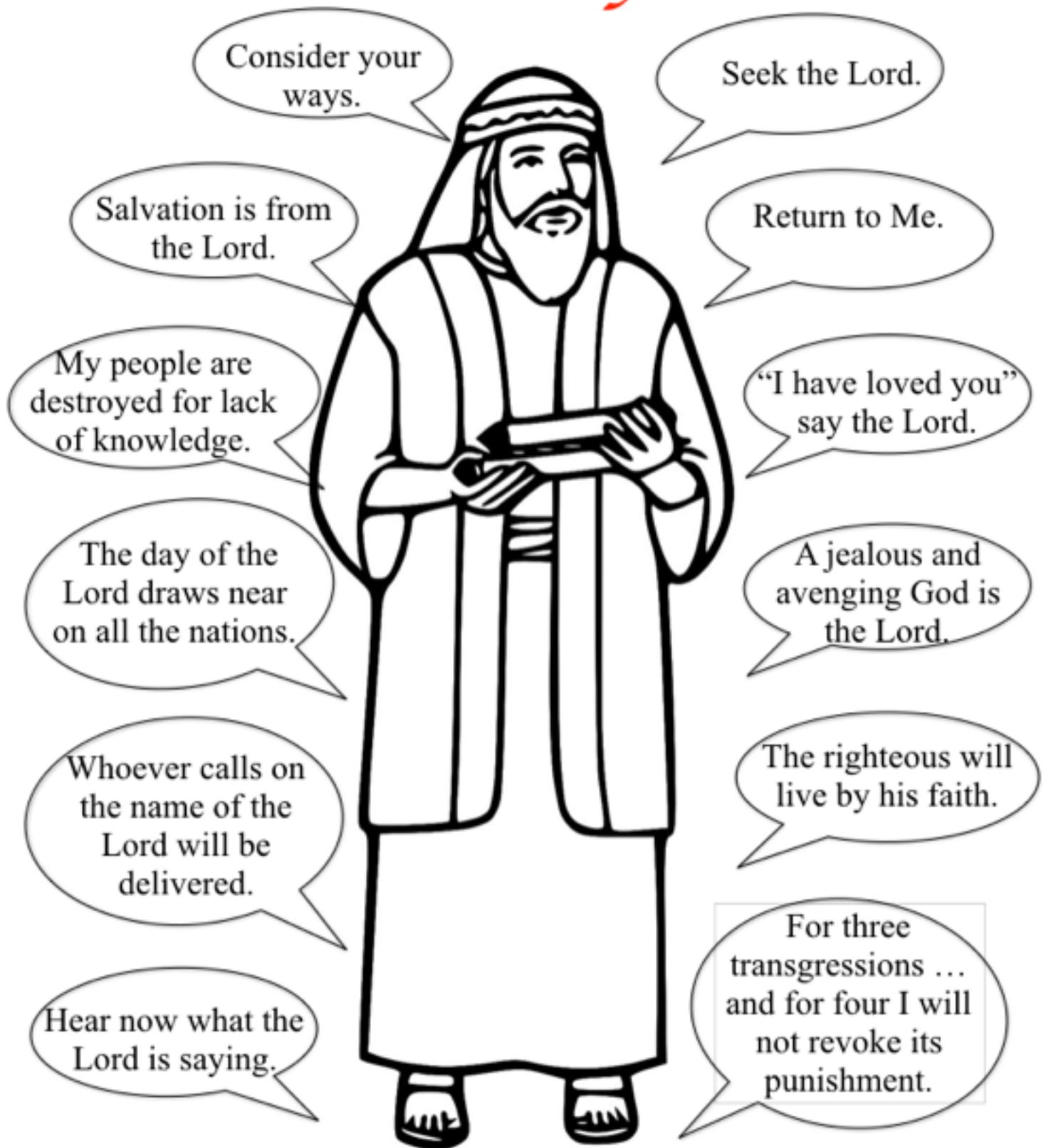


Minor Prophets



Auditorium Class
Winter 2015

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Shaking Hands with the Prophets	9
3. The Audience & Times of the Writing	17
4. Why Was The Letter Written?.....	26
5. What Was Written?.....	28
6. Key Messages & Lessons.	29
7. Messianic Prophecies.....	33
8. Writing: Style, Type & Notable Features.....	43
9. Unique Elements	48
10. Common Elements	52
11. References in NT & Key Verses	57
12. Review.....	59
Text.....	73

Introduction

Lesson 1

I. Why Study the Minor Prophets?

A. As Examples To Avoid.

1. “6 Now these things happened as examples for us, that we **should not crave evil things**, as they also craved.” “11 Now these things happened to them **as an example**, and they were **written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” 1 Cor. 10:1-11 (NASB).
2. Six OT examples are provided (vs. 5-10) showing evil practices we should avoid.
3. Our instruction provides the way God deals with this wickedness and the warnings of how to avoid.

B. We May Have Hope In Christ Jesus.

1. “4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written **for our instruction**, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have **hope**. 5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another **according to Christ Jesus**”, Rom. 15:3-6 (NASB).
2. This hope is not any hope but is the one hope we have in Christ Jesus. Interestingly, the Holy Spirit says we can read the OT to build-up and re-enforce this hope.

C. Build our faith in God’s Purpose for the OT.

1. “For **Christ is the end** (goal, NASB footnote) of the **law** for righteousness to everyone who believes”, Rom. 10:4.
2. Christ Jesus is the focal point of the OT to bring about His plan of making man right with God. Some of these books look forward to the Messianic Era.
3. “Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled**”, Luke 24:44.
4. “and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that **leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus**”, 2 Tim. 3:15.

D. It is God’s Word.

1. “The **word of the LORD** which came...”, Hos. 1:1.
2. “The **word of the LORD** that came ...”, Joel 1:1.
3. “...**Thus says the LORD**...”, Amos 1:3; “...The **Lord GOD has spoken** ...”, 3:8.

E. En-force our understanding that God rules in the kingdoms of men.

1. “...**He removes kings and establishes kings** ...”, Dan. 2:21.
2. “... **He made from one, every nation ... having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation**”, Acts 17:26.

II. Objectives.

- A. Build our faith in God's love, mercy, providence and judgment.
- B. Appreciate the instructions provided by the Minor Prophets.
- C. Answer the review questions.
- D. Satisfy the lesson plan for this study (see end of this lesson).

III. Who Are the Prophets?

A. Function.

- 1. Word Etymology = Prophet.
 - a. Middle English: from Old French *prophete*, via Latin from Greek *prophētēs* 'spokesman,' from pro 'before' + phētēs 'speaker'.
 - b. H5030; Original: נביא; Transliteration: Nabiyy'; Phonetic: naw-bee'.
 - c. Heb. nabi, from a root meaning "to bubble forth, as from a fountain," hence "to utter".
 - d. Jer. 20:9 - "*But if I say, "I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name," Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding it in, And I cannot endure it."*
- 2. Prophet = God's Spokesman.
 - a. Ex. 4:16, 7:1-2.
 - b. Only 3 prophets identify themselves as prophets, Hab. 1:1, 3:1; Hag. 1:1,3,12,2:1,10; Zech. 1:1,7.
 - c. "*the word of the Lord came...*" Hos. 1:1; Joel 1:1; Jon. 1:1; Mic. 1:1; Zeph. 1:1; Hag. 1:1; Zec. 1:1; Mal. 1:1.
 - d. Guided by the Holy Spirit, 2 Pe. 1:20,21; Eze. 13:1-7.
- 3. Instructors under the Old Covenant. Five classes: Jer. 18:18, Ezek. 7:26.
 - a. Moses: lawgiver. Neh. 8:1, 14, 9:13-14; John 1:17, 7:19.
 - b. Wisemen/elders: counsel. 2 Sam. 14:1-24, 20:16-22.
 - c. Priests: law. Lev. 10:8-11; Hos. 4:6; Ezek. 22:26; Mal. 2:7.
 - d. Prophets: word.
 - e. Psalmists: poets.
- 4. Mission.
 - a. Through teaching, warning, and encouragement, sought to bring the people of his day to faith, repentance, and obedience. Did foretell future but spoke to the people of their day about their circumstances. Think of as a "forth-teller" rather than simply a "fore-teller" as "proclaimers" rather than "predictors", 2Ki. 17:13; Neh. 9:26; Zec. 1:4.

B. Types.

- 1. Oral vs. Literary.
- 2. Major vs. Minor.
 - a. The length of book is the difference between minor and major prophets.
 - b. Each of the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel are longer than all twelve of the minor prophets put together.

- c. The “minor” prophets are **not** less important nor later than the others. Some of the minor prophets overlap in time with some of the major prophets.
3. Other Designations.
- a. Seer - 1Sa. 9:9, Isa. 30:10.
 - b. Man of God - 1Sa. 9:6; 1 Ki. 17:18,24.
 - c. Servant of God - Jos. 1:13,15; 9:24.
 - d. Messenger of God - Hag. 1:13.

C. List.

1. By Period (36+).
- a. Patriarch.
 - 1) Abraham, Isaac, Jacob: Gen. 20:7,17.
 - 2) Moses: Deut. 18:15-18, 34:10; Hos. 12:13.
 - 3) Miriam: Ex. 15:20.
 - b. Judges.
 - 4) Deborah: Jud. 4:4.
 - 5) Unnamed: Jud. 6:8.
 - 6) Sons of Prophets: 1 Sam. 10:5-13, 19:18-24.
 - 7) Samuel: Acts 3:24.
 - c. Kings.
 - 8) Nathan: 2 Sam. 12:1ff; 2 Sam. 7:1-17; 1 Ki. 1.
 - 9) Gad: 2 Sam. 14:11ff.
 - 10) Ahijah: 1 Ki. 11:29ff.
 - 11) Shemaiah: 1 Ki. 12:21-24.
 - 12) Unnamed: 1 Ki. 13.
 - 13) Jehu: 1 Ki. 16:1-7, 2 Chron. 19:1-3.
 - 14) Eliezer: 2 Chron. 20:37.
 - 15) Micaiah: 1 Ki. 22:1-36.
 - 16) Elijah: 1 Ki. 16 thru 2 Ki. 13.
 - 17) Elisha: 1 Ki. 16 thru 2 Ki. 13.
 - d. Early Assyrian (9th Century).
 - 18) Obadiah, Joel, Jonah.
 - e. Assyrian (8th Century).
 - 19) Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah.
 - f. Chaldean (7th Century).
 - 20) Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk.
 - g. Exile (6th Century).
 - 21) Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.
 - h. Post Exilic (6th and 5th Centuries).
 - 22) Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.
2. By Literary Type (16).
- a. Major (4): Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.
 - b. Minor (12): Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

IV. Study Approach.

- A. The Minor Prophets will be studied as a series of units instead of a sequential approach i.e. studying in order. Twelve units or elements have been developed that are listed under class schedule.
- B. Repetition will be utilized to understand and remember key principles, key learnings and key facts about the contents of the books. The features of this class to accomplish this are: 1) pre-reading of prophets, 2) providing class text with outlines and word markings, 3) working your lessons, 4) overhead projection of class notes and 5) many reviews.
- C. A five to ten minute review will begin each class utilizing the questions in the review section.
- D. At the end of each class, application of the material to our lives today will be presented.
- E. The students are encouraged to actively participate in class.

V. Class Schedule.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1. Dec. 6 (Sunday)	1. Introduction.
2. Dec. 9	2. Shaking Hands with the Prophets.
3. Dec. 13	2. Shaking Hands with the Prophets.
4. Dec. 16	3. The Audience & Times of the Writing.
5. Dec. 20	3. The Audience & Times of the Writing.
6. Dec. 23	4. Why Was The Letter Written?
7. Dec. 27	4. Why Was The Letter Written?
8. Dec. 30	5. What Was Written?
9. Jan. 3 (Sunday)	5. What Was Written?
10. Jan. 6	5. What Was Written?
11. Jan. 10	6. Key Messages & Lessons.
12. Jan. 13	6. Key Messages & Lessons.
Jan. 17	Gospel Meeting.
13. Jan. 20	6. Key Messages & Lessons.
14. Jan. 24	7. Messianic Prophecies.
15. Jan. 27	7. Messianic Prophecies.
16. Jan. 31	7. Messianic Prophecies.
17. Feb. 3 (Wednesday)	8. Style and Type of Writings.
18. Feb. 7	9. Common Elements.
19. Feb. 10	9. Common Elements.
20. Feb. 14	10. Unique Elements.
21. Feb. 17	11. References in NT & Key Verses.
22. Feb. 21	11. References in NT & Key Verses.
23. Feb. 24	11. References in NT & Key Verses.
24. Feb. 28	12. Review.

VI. How to Study the Minor Prophets (not unique to this study)?

- A. Understanding the **context** is critical to correctly interpreting these writings. Context begins with why the letter was written and continues down to detailed outlines and then to the text at hand.
- B. Every interpretation needs to **harmonize** with Scripture. Aiding this harmony are other prophet's writings to same people about the same problems. In addition, the historical background found in the other OT books should be considered.
- C. Seek to understand the **political, moral, social and religious conditions** at the time the prophet lived. We are reading letters written to people and nations thousands of years ago that had specific issues. An all encompassing understanding may not be possible but the more we know of their backgrounds, the better we will understand and interpret the prophet's writings.
- D. The Holy Spirit is using **men with different occupations, personalities and backgrounds** to reveal the Word of God. These men write using terms they are familiar with to illustrate their messages as guided by the Spirit. Understanding these men aids us to see the "pictures they are painting".
- E. There are **Messianic Prophecies** in these books. The best interpretation of these prophecies are those which may be explained or noted in the NT. Sometimes Messianic Prophecies can be identified when future events are mentioned that are described in absolute terms which could not be applicable to the present situations.
- F. It is **OK not to understand everything**. It is better to say "I do not know" than make an unsupported or over-extended interpretation. Glean what you can with what the Holy Spirit has revealed.

VII. Student Expectations.

- A. Every capable student is expected to spend some time outside of class in working on their Bible lessons before class, Acts 2:42, 17:11; Eph. 4:3, 6:11.
- B. Participate in class if you are willing.
- C. Complete answering the review questions.

VIII. Instructor Expectations.

- A. I will do my best to "rightly dividing the word of truth", II Tim. 2:15, KJV.
- B. Your honest and forthcoming comments will assist me in accomplishing my mandate.
- C. Sometimes I will ask students to answer questions without asking for volunteers. This is not meant to embarrass anyone but to encourage us to complete the lessons.

IX. References.

- A. The Scripture.
- B. Material obtained from Steve Fontenot which was a collection of material from Jim Swann's, Lauren Hutson, Robert Harkrider's The Minor Prophets.
- C. Minor Prophets, Spokesmen of God, Robert Harkrider, IIP, 1984.
- D. A Commentary On The Minor Prophets, Homer Hailey, Baker Book House, 1972.
- E. The Twelve Minor Prophets, George L. Robinson, Baker Book House, 1926.
- F. Minor Prophets, A Study of Micah Through Malachi, Clinton R. Gill, College Press, 1971.
- G. Bible Commentary, The Minor Prophets, Dr. Theo Laetsch, Concordia Publishing House, 1956.
- H. A Survey of Old Testament Introduction, Gleason L. Archer, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 2007.
- I. Davis Dictionary Of The Bible, Fourth Revised Edition, John D. Davis, Baker Book House, 1983.

X. Lesson Plan.

- A. Understandings: What do you want the class to know after the quarter?
 - 1. The role of the prophets in God's plan?
 - 2. How the prophets under consideration come to be classified as 'minor'.
 - 3. Principles we can use to understand the message of the prophets.
 - 4. The author, time and place of each and the reason for writing.
 - 5. The message of each book.
 - 6. Applications for today from each book.
- B. Skills: What do you want the class to be able to do after the lessons?
 - 1. Describe the role of the prophets in God's plan of dealing with man.
 - 2. Explain the classification of the various prophets.
 - 3. Be able to utilize principles which aid in understanding the message of the prophets.
 - 4. Know the chronological order of the minor prophets, the authors, time and place of writing and to whom written.
 - 5. Understand the major points and overall message of each prophet.
 - 6. Be able to show how the principles found in these messages to the Jews can be applied to situations we and/or others may face in our lives today.
- C. Attitudes: What attitudes do you want to develop as a result of the lessons?
 - 1. Gain a greater knowledge of the work and message of the minor prophets.
 - 2. Gain a greater appreciation for both the kindness and severity of God in His dealings with people of the OT.
 - 3. Be more committed to strict observance of God's commands.

Shaking Hands with the Prophets

Lesson 2

I. Introduction.

- A. The objective is to obtain information about the authors from the text and secular sources in order to gain a greater appreciation of their personal backgrounds.
- B. Using Bible Dictionaries and other sources like Strong's, fill in the **RED underlined** blanks below under each category. Some answers are provided.

II. Meaning of Names.

- A. Hosea (Num. 13:16, Matt. 1:21), = _____ or d_____.
1. Pronunciation = [hoh-zee-uh, -zey-uh] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/hosea?s=t>.
- B. Joel = J_____ is G_____.
1. Pronunciation = [joh-uh l] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/joel?s=t>.
- C. Amos = b_____ or b_____ -b_____.
1. Pronunciation = [ey-muh s] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Amos?s=t>.
- D. Obadiah = s_____ of J_____.
1. Pronunciation = [oh-buh-dahy-uh] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Obadiah?s=t>.
- E. Jonah = d_____.
1. Pronunciation = [joh-nuh] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Jonah?s=t>.
- F. Micah = w____ is like _____.
1. Pronunciation = [mahy-kuh] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Micah?s=t>.
- G. Nahum = comfort or consoler.
1. Pronunciation = [ney-huh m] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Nahum?s=t>.
- H. Habakkuk = embrace.
1. Pronunciation = [huh-bak-uh k, hab-uh-kuhk, -koo k] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Habakkuk?s=t>.
- I. Zephaniah = J_____ has t_____ or J_____ has h_____.
1. Pronunciation = [zef-uh-nahy-uh] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Zephaniah?s=t>.
- J. Haggai = festive.

1. Pronunciation = [hag-ee-ahy, hag-ahy] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Haggai?s=t>.

K. Zechariah = Jehovah remembers.

1. Pronunciation = [zek-uh-rah-yuh] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Zechariah?s=t>.

L. Malachi = ___ m_____.

1. Pronunciation = [mal-uh-kahy] <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/malachi?s=t>.

III. Family.

A. Hosea (1:1) = Son of _____ man of a well . No further history.

B. Joel (1:1) = Son of _____ vision of God . No further history.

C. Amos = No family history.

D. Obadiah = No family history.

E. Jonah (1:1) = Son of Amittai. No further history.

F. Micah = No family history.

G. Nahum = No family history.

H. Habakkuk = No family history.

I. Zephaniah (1:1) = Son of C_____, son of G_____, son of A_____,
son of H_____.

J. Haggai = No family history.

K. Zechariah (1:1, Neh. 12:4,16, Ezra 5:1) = son of B_____, son of I_____.

L. Malachi = No family history.

IV. Location.

A. Map.

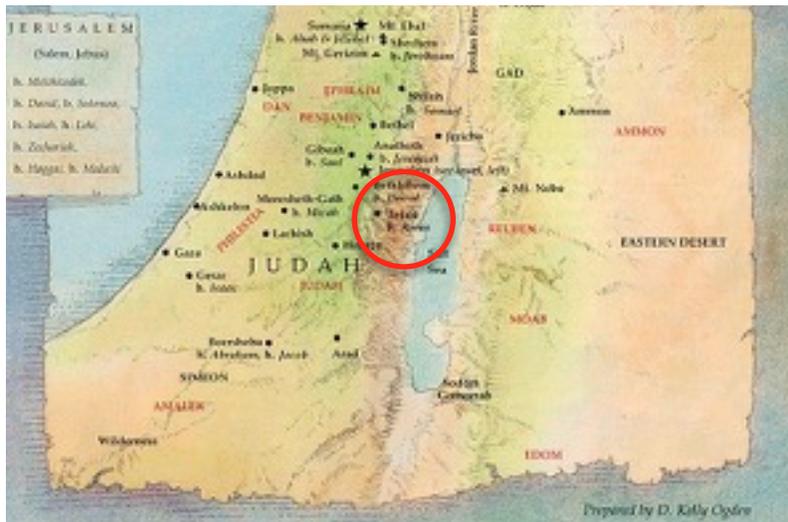


B. Hosea (7:5, 1:2) = likely a citizen of the _____ Kingdom.

C. Joel (2:1,23, 3:1, 6) = not explicitly mentioned but possibly a native of J_____.

D. Amos (1:1) = From Tekoa.

1. Map.



E. Obadiah = Location unknown.

F. Jonah (1:1, 2Ki 14:25) = From Gath-hepher.

1. Map.



- G. Micah (1:1) = Moresheth.
 1. Map.



H. Nahum = E_____. Where was this located?

I. Habakkuk = Location unknown.

J. Zephaniah = Location unknown.

K. Haggai = Location unknown.

L. Zechariah = Location unknown.

M. Malachi = Location unknown.

V. Occupation.

A. Hosea (4:5) = Prophet, 1:1 “word of the LORD which came to Hosea”.

B. Joel = Prophet, 1:1 “word of the LORD that came to Joel”.

C. Amos (1:1, 7:14, 5:8, 19) = _____ and _____ and _____ of _____ f _____.

D. Obadiah = Prophet, 1:1 “vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God”.

E. Jonah = Prophet, 1:1 “word of the LORD came to Jonah”.

F. Nahum = Prophet, 1:1 “The book of the vision of Nahum”.

G. Habakkuk = Prophet, 1:1 “The oracle which Habakkuk the **prophet** saw”.

H. Zephaniah = Prophet, 1:1 “The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah”.

I. Haggai = Prophet, 1:1 “the word of the LORD came by the **prophet** Haggai”.

J. Zechariah (Neh. 12:1, 4, 7) = Prophet, 1:1 “the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the **prophet**” and a _____.

K. Malachi = Prophet, 1:1 “The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi”.

VI. Characteristics.

A. Hosea.

1. Summary.

- a. Hosea was the prophet of sympathy, love and compassion, speaking as one with a broken heart for those near and dear to him. Hosea’s spirit was summed up in the word “loving-kindness”.
- b. Hosea the Prophet of Love.

B. Joel.

1. Summary.

- a. Joel the Prophet of Pentecost.

C. Amos.

1. Summary.

- a. In strong contrast to the spirit of Hosea, Amos is summed up in one word “justice”. From the frugal life of an out-of-doors man, accustomed to the wilds of nature and to hard, honest toil, Amos would have little sympathy for the luxurious and profligate life he would find among his northern kinsman. Someone describe Amos as “the first Great Reformer”. There was not in Amos the sympathy, warm live, and feeling of the statesman or citizen, but a cold sense of justice and right. He was an outsider, having come from Judah. He was a stern prophet of justice and righteousness.
- b. Amos has similar characteristics as John the Baptist.
- c. Amos the Prophet of Justice.

D. Obadiah.

1. Summary.
 - a. Obadiah the Censurer of Ridicule.

E. Jonah.

1. Summary.
 - a. Jonah was initially a proud, self-centered egotist, willful and fretful. However, he had the humility and disposition to change his course to God's will.

F. Micah.

1. Summary.
 - a. Micah lived close to both the people and the soil and possessed a keen sympathy for both. Micah was the prophet of the poor and downtrodden. The reader immediately detects in him the courageous and fearless spirit of the one who is indignant over the corruption and heartlessness of inhuman rulers.
 - b. Micah, the Prophet of the Poor.

G. Nahum.

1. Summary.
 - a. Nahum the Poet.

H. Habakkuk.

1. Summary.
 - a. Inferred from his psalm (Chap. 3) and from the directions to the chief musician (3:19) that he was of the tribe of Levi and one of the temple singers. Like Haggai and Zechariah, he is explicitly designated "the prophet", (1:1), which may signify that he was a man of Judah and a well-known resident of Jerusalem. Therefore, intimately acquainted with the local and political situation(1:3-4). It has been suggested by some (George L. Robinson) that "he was a philosopher, earnest and candid, and possessed of unusual originality and force, sensitive, speculative, "the suppliant" among the prophets and the preacher of theocratic optimism."
 - b. Habakkuk the Philosopher.

I. Zephaniah.

1. Summary.
 - a. Zephaniah the Orator.

J. Haggai.

1. Summary.
 - a. He was the first prophet of the newly established Jewish colony which returned to Jerusalem from Babylon in 536 BC. Both in his book and in Ezra 5:1, he is introduced simply as "Haggai the prophet". From Hag. 2:3 It may be = inferred that he was an old man when he prophesied, probably between seventy and eighty years of age. In any case, he seems to have been the senior of Zechariah, for Haggai, when their names occur together, is always spoken of first, Ezra 5:1, 6:14.

b. Haggai the Prophet of Temple Building.

K. Zechariah.

1. Summary.

a. Zechariah was probably Haggai's junior (Zech. 2:4, Hag. 2:3), and a man of unusual almost unparalleled, vision. Being a priest as well as a prophet (Neh. 12:16), and the head of a "father's house", his influence was very great.

b. Zechariah the Seer.

L. Malachi.

1. Summary.

a. Malachi the Lecturer.

VII. Lessons.

A. God uses all types of people with different abilities and backgrounds to accomplish His Purposes.

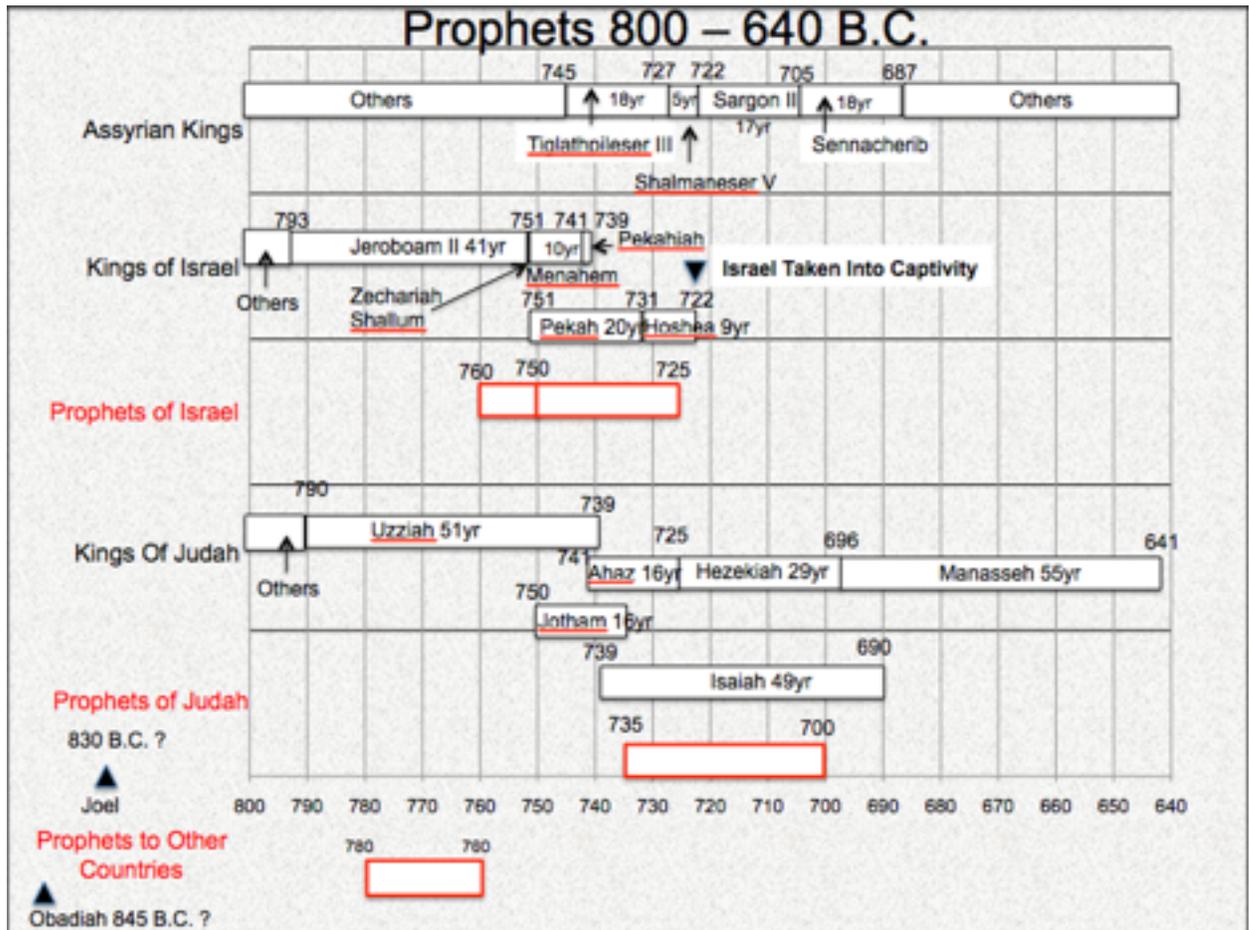
B. Even though much personal information is unknown about many of the prophets, their names are recorded in our human history for their prophetic work.

The Audience & Times of the Writing

Lesson 3

I. Introduction.

A. The objective is to understand the times when these prophets wrote to their



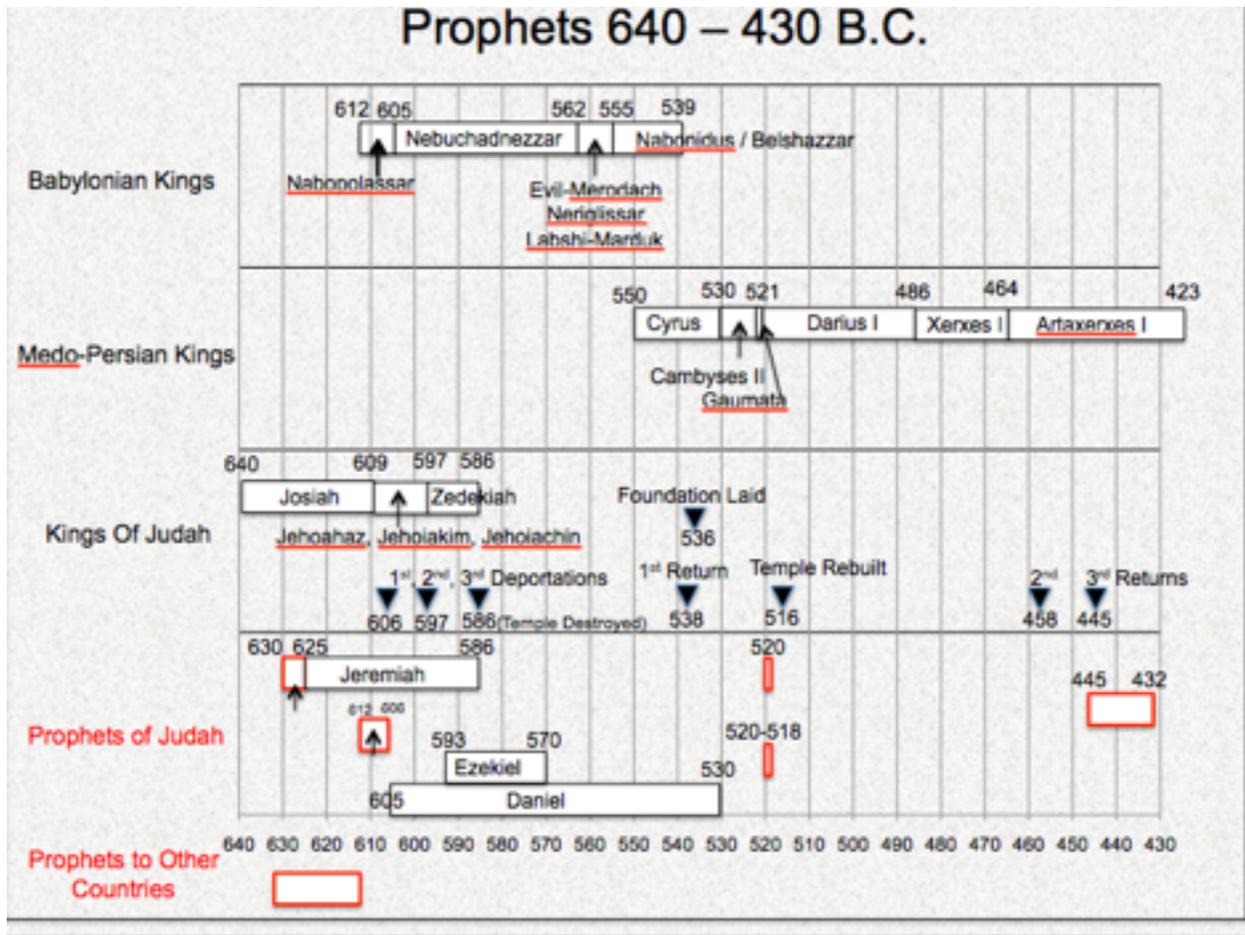
particular audience.

II. Date of the Writing.

A. Timeline.

1. Fill-in the prophet names in the 10 **RED** rectangles in the charts below. Use the following verses to identify the timeframe for each prophet. Obadiah and Joel have already been placed on timeline.
2. Hosea 1:1; Amos 1:1; Jonah 2 Ki. 14:23,25; Micah 1:1, Nahum 1:1, 2:8-10, 3:8-10; Habakkuk 1:5-6, 3:16; Zephaniah 1:1; Haggai 1:1, 2:1,10,20; Zechariah 1:1,7, 7:1,5; Malachi 1:8,10, 2:8,11, 3:7-8, Neh. 13:10-12.
3. Charts.

Prophets 640 – 430 B.C.



III. Contemporary Prophets.

A. Fill in the **RED** rectangles what prophets were contemporary with each other.

Hosea			
Joel			
Amos			
Obadiah			
Jonah			
Micah			
Nahum			
Habakkuk			
Zephaniah			
Haggai			
Zechariah			
Malachi			

IV. The Audience.

A. Identify who the audience was for each prophet.

	Primary	Secondary	Scriptures
Hosea			1:4, 7
Joel			1:2, 2:1
Amos			1:1
Obadiah			1:1
Jonah			1:2
Micah			1:1
Nahum			1:1
Habakkuk			1:6, 2:20
Zephaniah			1:1, 4
Haggai			1:1-2
Zechariah			1:1
Malachi			1:1

V. The Times of the Writing.

A. Hosea.

1. Summary.

- a. 2:13: "And I will punish her for the days of the _____. When she used to offer _____ to them".
- b. 4:2: "There is _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____. They employ _____, so that _____ follows _____".
- c. 4:6: "My people are destroyed for lack of _____".
- d. 10:1: "Israel is a _____ vine; He produces fruit for _____. The more his fruit, The more _____ he made; The richer his land, The better he made the sacred _____".

B. Joel.

1. Summary.

- a. Joel 1:4, 6-7: “4 What the gnawing _____ has left, the swarming _____ has eaten; And what the swarming _____ has left, the creeping _____ has eaten; And what the creeping _____ has left, the stripping _____ has eaten. 6 For a _____ has _____ my land, Mighty and without number; Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, And it has the fangs of a lioness. 7 It has made my vine a waste, And my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast them away; Their branches have become white.”

C. Amos.

1. Summary.

- a. 2 Ki. 14:25, 28: “He (*Jereboam II*) restored the _____ of Israel from the entrance of _____ as far as the Sea of the _____ ... 28 ... he fought and how he recovered for Israel, _____ and _____, which had belonged to Judah ...”.
- b. 2:12: “12 “But you made the Nazirites drink _____, And you commanded the prophets saying, ‘You shall not _____!’”.
- c. 4:1-3: “4:1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the _____, who crush the _____ ...”.
- d. 5:10-12: “10 They hate him who _____ in the gate, And they abhor him who speaks with _____. 11 Therefore, because you impose heavy rent on the _____ ... 12 For I know your transgressions are _____ and your sins are _____, You who distress the _____ and accept bribes, And turn aside the _____ in the gate”.

D. Obadiah.

1. Summary.

- a. The hatred Edom held for their blood brothers, Israel, goes back to the time when their father Esau was born, Gen. 25:22-34.
- b. The Edomites dwelt in Mt. Seir at the south end of the Dead Sea. This territory is also referred to as Idumea. They constantly showed indignation against Israel, even refusing simple passage through their land when Israel first came from Egyptian captivity, Num. 20:14-21.
- c. The pride of Edom and the perpetual hatred for God’s people brought the wrath of the Lord against this land. Even in later years Edom stood ready to rejoice over every setback endured by Israel and Judah, never helping but always gloating.
- d. Mal. 1:2-3: “ 2 ... declares the LORD ... 3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a _____, and appointed his inheritance for the _____ of the wilderness.”

E. Jonah.

1. Summary.

- a. Jonah lived, as we know, during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of North Israel, who reigned from about 790 to 750 B.C. Jeroboam found the kingdom weak for the reason that ever since the time of Jehu, his great-

grandfather, the people had been forced to pay continual tribute to Assyria. Under Jeroboam, however, the people began to revive their former strength. He captured Hamath and Damascus and restored to Israel all the territory stretching southward from Hamath to the Dead Sea, as Jonah had predicted, 2 Ki. 14:25. Jeroboam, indeed, was the most powerful of all the monarchs that ever sat upon the throne of Samaria, and the kingdom's future was most hopeful. In Assyria, on the contrary, the prevailing conditions were just the opposite everything was most discouraging, Assyria was losing ground. In other words, Israel was in the ascendancy, Assyria was on the decline.

F. Micah.

1. Summary.

- a. Micah 2:1-2: "2:1 Woe to those who scheme _____, Who work out _____ on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, For it is in the power of their hands. 2 They covet _____ and then seize them..."
- b. 3:1-3: "And I said, "Hear now, _____ of Jacob And _____ of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know _____? 2 "You who hate _____ and love _____".
- c. 6:11-12: "Can I justify _____ scales And a bag of deceptive weights? 12 "For the rich men of the city are full of _____, Her residents speak _____, And their tongue is _____ in their mouth".
- d. 7:2-3: "2 The _____ person has perished from the land, And there is no _____ person among men. All of them lie in wait for _____; Each of them hunts the other with a net. 3 Concerning evil, both hands do it well. The prince asks, also the judge, for a _____, ...".
- e. 2Ch. 28:1-4: " Ahaz ... did not do right in the sight of the LORD ... he also made molten images for the Baals. ..., he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom, and burned his sons in fire".
- f. Isa. 36:1: " ...in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them".

G. Nahum.

1. Summary.

- a. Isa. 10:12, 18: "12 ... when the _____ has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will say, "I will _____ the fruit of the _____ heart of the king of _____ and the pomp of his _____." 18 And He will _____ the glory of his forest and of his fruitful garden ..."
- b. Frederic Farrar (*The Minor Prophets* pp. 147,148) writes about the violence and inhumanity of the Assyrians: "Judged from the vaunting inscriptions of her kings, no power more useless, more savage, more terrible, ever cast its gigantic shadow on the page of history as it passed

on the way to ruin. The kings of Assyria tormented the miserable world. They exult to record how 'space failed for corpses' ; how unsparing a destroyer is their goddess Ishtar; how they flung away the bodies of the soldiers like so much clay; how they made pyramids of human heads; how they burned cities; how they filled populous lands with death and devastation; how they reddened broad deserts with carnage of warriors; how they scattered whole countries with the corpses of their defenders as with chaff; how they impaled 'heaps of men' on stakes, and strewed the mountains and choked rivers with dead bones; how they cut off the hands of kings and nailed them to walls, and left their bodies to rot with bears and dogs on the entrance gates of cities; how they employed nations of captives in making brick in fetters; how they cut down warriors like weeds, or smote them like wild beasts in the forests, and covered pillars with flayed skins of rival monarchs.”

c. Assyrian Rulers.

- a. Tiglath-pileser III, 745-727 B.C.. This monarch began a program of world conquest. He invaded the West and deported some of the inhabitants of northern Israel, removing them to an area north of Nineveh.
- b. Shalmaneser V, 727-722 B.C. Shalmaneser began the siege of Samaria, 722 B.C. but died before the city fell.
- c. Sargon II, 722-705 B.C. This king completed the siege of Samaria, 721 B.C., which had been begun by Shalmaneser. He was murdered 705 B.C.
- d. Sennacherib, 705-681 B.C. Sennacherib boasted on his monuments that he had shut up Hezekiah in Jerusalem “as a bird in a cage”. He was murdered by two of his sons in 681 B.C., who were then driven out by a younger son, Esarhaddon, who became king.
- e. Esarhaddon, 681-668 B.C.
- f. Ashurbanipal, 668-625 B.C. His campaign in Egypt resulted in the fall of No-amon (Nah. 3:8). Much booty was carried away by him into Assyria. According to the records this king was very cruel.
- g. Assur-etil-ilani, 625-620 B.C.
- h. Sin-shar-ishkeen (Esarhaddon II), 620-612 B.C. When Nineveh was being besieged by the Medes and Chaldeans, Esarhaddon II gathered his wives and children and wealth into the palace and set fire to it. He perished in the fire.

H. Habakkuk.

1. Summary.

- a. Hab. 1:5-6: “5 “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days-- You would not believe if you were told. 6 “For behold, I am raising up the _____, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs”.
- b. 2 Chron. 36:14, 17-19: “ 14 Furthermore, all the officials of the _____ and the _____ were very _____ following all the abominations of the nations; and they _____ the house of the LORD

which He had sanctified in Jerusalem. 17 Therefore He brought up against them the king of the _____ who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no _____ on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave them all into his hand. 18 And all the _____ of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he _____ them all to _____. 19 Then they _____ the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its fortified buildings with fire, and destroyed all its valuable articles”.

- c. 2 Ki. 23:31-32: “31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem ... 32 And he did _____ in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his _____ had done”.

I. Zephaniah.

1. Summary.

- a. Zeph. 1:4-6: “So I will stretch out My hand against _____ And against all the inhabitants of _____. And I will cut off the remnant of _____ from this place, And the names of the idolatrous priests along with the priests. 5 “And those who bow down on the housetops to the host of heaven, And those who bow down and swear to the _____ and yet swear by _____, 6 And those who have _____ from following the LORD, And those who have not sought the LORD or inquired of Him”.
- b. 1:12-13, 18: “13 Moreover, their wealth will become _____, And their houses _____; Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit them, And plant vineyards but not drink their wine. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD’S wrath; And all the earth will be _____...”.
- c. 2 Chron. 33:1-3, 20-25: “Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king... 2 And he did _____ in the sight of the LORD according to the _____ of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel. 3 For he _____ the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also _____ altars for the _____ and made _____, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them”.
- d. 2 Ki. 23:23-26: “ 23 But in the eighteenth year of King _____, this Passover was observed to the LORD in Jerusalem. 24 Moreover, Josiah _____ the mediums and the spiritists and the teraphim and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem... 25 ¶ And before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his _____ and with all his _____ and with all his _____, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him. 26 However, the LORD _____ from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the _____ with which _____ had provoked Him”.

J. Haggai.

1. Summary.

- a. Ezra 5:1-2: "When the prophets, _____ the prophet and _____ the son of Iddo, _____ to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, ... 2 then Zerubbabel ... began to _____ the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and the _____ of God were with them _____ them."
- b. 6:14: "And the elders of the Jews were successful in _____ through the prophesying of _____ the prophet and _____ the son of Iddo. And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel..."

K. Zechariah.

1. Summary.

- a. See setting for Haggai.

L. Malachi.

1. Summary.

- a. Mal. 2:11 "Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the _____ of the LORD which He loves, and has _____ the daughter of a foreign god."
- b. Neh. 13:23,28: "In those days I also saw that the Jews had _____ women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 28 Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high _____ ..."
- c. Mal. 3:7-8: "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My _____, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are _____! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' _____".
- d. Neh. 13:10-12: "I also discovered that the _____ of the Levites had not been _____ them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own _____. 11 So I reprimanded the officials and said, "Why is the house of God _____?" Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts. 12 All Judah then brought the _____ of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses."

VI. Lessons.

- A. God provided for Israel in so many ways; yet, the people became evil even with the work of the prophets. A warning to us to stay faithful and work at it.
- B. God loves all nations. Three prophets out of the 12 prophesied to other countries other than Israel.

C. God is concerned about the sinners even though He knows the majority would not repent. This lesson is born out by God sending Hosea and Amos to the Northern Kingdom before their complete destruction.

Why Was The Letter Written?

Lesson 4

I. Introduction.

- A. The objective is to understand why the letter was written. By fulfilling this goal, the main message of each letter should be known.
- B. Key verses have been selected that identify why the book was written. Read the verses and fill-in the words in the blank **red underlined** parts of the lesson .

II. Why Was the Letter Written.

A. Hosea.

1. Inform Israel that the Lord was bringing an _____ to the _____ (1:4; 13:9, 16) due to their _____ and offer a final call of _____ to avoid _____ (6:1; 12:6; 14:1).

B. Joel.

1. Alert Judah that the _____ of the Lord is _____ (j _____; 1:15; 2:1-3, 11) and plead with them to “_____ to Me with all your _____” (2:12-13) . If they do so, God will _____ them (2:18-20).

C. Amos.

1. _____ to the _____ of the _____ that the Nation will go into _____ (3:1, 13-15; 4:1-2, 10-12; 5:1-3, 27; 6:14; 7:8-9, 17, 8:2-3, 8-10).

D. Obadiah.

1. Announce _____ on _____ because _____ and ill will done to _____ (J _____; 1:4, 6, 10).

E. Jonah.

1. Go tell _____ that _____ from God is coming for their _____ (1:2; 3:2, 4, 8-10).

F. Micah.

1. _____ to _____ to God's _____ against Judah and Samaria for their r _____ (1:2-6, 3:8,12; 4:10; 6:1-2).

G. Nahum.

1. _____ to _____ its coming d _____ (1:1, 3, 14; 2:6-10; 3:7).

H. Habakkuk.

1. _____ j _____ on Judah by _____ because of their i _____ (1:3, 5-6).

I. Zephaniah.

1. Announce _____ of the _____ is _____ for _____, 1:1-7.
2. Repent, 2:3.

J. Haggai.

1. _____ the Returned Exiles to _____ the _____ (1:2, 8, 12, 14-15).

K. Zechariah.

1. A call to _____ (1:3-6) and inform the exiles of the future glory and deliverance of Zion through the work of the Messiah.

L. Malachi.

1. Reprove the Returned Exiles for 1) their _____ in _____ (1:11-12; 2:2,5) and 2) _____ (2:11-12, 14, 16). And urging _____ (3:7).

III. Lessons.

- A. The over-riding message throughout the Minor Prophets is to repent for the iniquities committed. This call is just as pertinent today as in the times these letters were written. We should not delude ourselves that this call is not applicable to us in the Messianic Age.
- B. Jehovah will judge the entire world, believer and non-believer for the transgressions committed.
- C. Even though we sin and God's judgment will be come upon us, God still loves us and appeals for us to listen to the prophets' messages.

What Was Written?

Lesson 5

I. Introduction.

- A. The objective is to understand the contents of these letters by examining the detailed outlines.

II. Detailed Outlines.

- A. Please look over the text provided. The outlines have been added to the text with some blanks. Please fill in the blanks. These are noted as blanks that are underlined in **RED** _____.
- B. Our plans are to work on the first 6 books for 1 class and the remaining 6 books for the second class.

III. Lessons.

- A. The Lord is all knowing of the actions and attitudes of covenant people and heathen.
- B. Even though so many judgments are pronounced by the prophets of the Lord, God loves the mankind and continually offers a call to repentance.
- C. Jehovah will hold every man and woman accountable for the iniquities committed against His Laws.
- D. The compassionate Lord communicates frankly and lovingly towards all people through the delivered Word.

Key Messages & Lessons.

Lesson 6

I. Introduction.

- A. The objective is to understand the key messages presented by the prophets and make application to our lives today.

II. The Prophet's Communiques.

A. Hosea.

1. Summary.

- a. God is love. The Lord is pictured as both a loving husband to his bride and a loving father to his child. In one, He tries to save a fallen wife; in the other, He tries to restore a wayward son. God loves Israel and is trying to save them through the prophet's message and already announced doom by the Prophet Amos.
- b. Any nation without the knowledge of God is doomed because it is left without any firm moral standards or spiritual hope. Hosea 4:6; Eph. 4:17-19.
- c. Outward form of worship is not of itself sufficient to please God. He is concerned not only with what we do but why we do it. Hos. 5:6, 6:6; 1 Cor. 11:20-30.
- d. Wealth of itself is not evil. But when the rich are lifted up with pride so that they forget the source of their wealth, then their riches become a curse to them. Hos. 13:6; Deut. 8:11-14, 32:15; Luke 12:15-21.
- e. God's way is the only right way and we walk, or fall, according to the manner we obey. Hos. 14:9; 2 John 9; Jer. 10:23.

B. Joel.

1. Summary.

- a. "The day of the Lord is great and very terrible (KJV)!" Those who live in sinful rebellion to God should tremble at the judgment coming against the wicked. Joel 2:11; Heb. 10:26-31; 2 Cor. 5:11; Mark 9:43-48.
- b. The Lord is "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness." The Lord wishes none to perish. These two characteristics of the Lord are not contradictory. God is merciful to all who will receive His lovingkindness, but He will render just and severe judgment to those who refuse to obey Him. Joel 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rom. 2:4-11, 11:22.

C. Amos.

1. Summary.

- a. God is the sole and righteous Governor of the world, judging the people righteously, and punishing them when they rebel. A message of certain

and terrible doom is presented for iniquities does by certain nations. "For three transgressions...and for four."

- b. The person who believes one can worship God in whatever way he pleases and be accepted is ignoring the lessons of Amos. Amos 5:21-24; Matt. 15:5-9.
- c. Prosperity often leads to a false sense of security. Amos 6:1-6; Luke 12:15-21; 1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19; Deut. 8:11-17.

D. Obadiah.

1. Summary.

- a. Pride goes before the fall. Pride blinds one to his own mistakes and causes envy of others' good fortune. Obadiah 1:3; Prov. 16:18, 29:23.
- b. Improper attitudes toward your brother will bring destruction. Obadiah 1:10; James 3:14-15; Phil. 2:2-4; 1 John 3:14-16, 4:20-21; Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 5:44-48.

E. Jonah.

1. Summary.

- a. Man cannot flee from the presence of the Lord. Jonah 1:3; Jer. 23:23-24; Ps. 139:1-12; Heb. 4:13.
- b. God's message must be preached even though it may seem undesirable to the messenger. Jonah 1:2, 3:1-2; Ezek. 33:7-9; 2 Tim. 4:2-4.
- c. The book shows God's love for the heathen Gentiles and is a stern rebuke to the narrow exclusiveness of the Jews.

F. Micah.

1. Summary.

- a. Micah appeals to listen to the Lord's indictment for their sins and state their punishment will come. Micah 1:2, 6:1-2, 7:4b.
- b. Because one claims the Lord is with him does not make it so! These were the spiritual leaders of God's covenant people and they thought that God would surely not leave them, but he did. Likewise, God will reject any and all today who ignore His word. Micah 3:11-12; Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:21-23; 1 John 4:1.
- c. Some preachers think that preaching in "love" should never be negative, therefore they never reprove, rebuke, not speak a distinctive message. But God's word is intended to work "good" whether it be in the form of chastening to bring about repentance or in the form of exhortation to encourage joyfulness. Micah 2:6-7; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; 2 Cor. 7:9; 2 Cor. 2:15-17.

G. Nahum.

1. Summary.

- a. The Lord is a jealous and avenging God. Nah. 1:2-3, Rom. 11:22; Heb. 10:26-31.
- b. God rules over all nations of the earth. Nah. 2:8-10; Acts 17:26, 30.

H. Habakkuk.

1. Summary.

- a. "The righteous shall live by faith". Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38-39.
- b. "LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him." Hab. 2:20; Acts 17:24-28; Zech. 2:13; Heb. 12:25.
- c. "The Lord God is my strength!" Hab. 3:19; Heb. 13:5-6; Rom. 8:31.

I. Zephaniah.

1. Summary.

- a. None will escape the terrible judgment of the day of the Lord's wrath, except the faithful remnant. They will be vindicated and restored in victory. Zeph. 1:2-3, 3:12-15.
- b. Zephaniah described some who claimed a dual loyalty to both the Lord and to Milcom. When religious leaders today try to appease men of all religions (Judaism, Islamism, Buddhism, etc.), they show unbelief in the distinct Lordship of Jesus Christ. Zeph. 1:5; John 14:6, 8:24, John 12:48.
- c. When the Lord comes in final judgment, the things of this world in which men have put their trust shall not deliver evildoers. Zeph. 1:18; Matt. 16:26; 1 John 2:15-17.
- d. Men should seek the Lord. He is not far removed from us unless we put up the barriers by indifference and sin. The key to finding Him is humility. When men humble their own will to submit to God's will, the joy of finding the Lord will then be realized. Zeph. 2:3; Acts 17:27; Isa. 59:1-2; Matt. 5:5-6.

J. Haggai.

1. Summary.

- a. Those who put their trust in material possession and are not rich toward God will eventually learn how poor they really are. Hag. 1:2-6; Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:16-21.
- b. Put first things first! When we allow other things than the Lord's to take priority, we never find contentment in life nor real happiness. Hag. 2:15-19; Matt. 6:33.

K. Zechariah.

1. Summary.

- a. Because of the frailty of flesh men live and die, but God's word will endure forever. Whether men accept or reject God's word will not alter its effectiveness. Whatever God purposes to do, He will bring it to pass. Therefore we must guard against neglecting to obey even though God may delay His judgment. Zech. 1:5-6; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Heb. 2:1-4.
- b. Too often men rely solely on human wisdom and strength to determine what they can or cannot do. When doing the Lord's work, we must recognize that God is our source of strength, and He can enable us "to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think". He can take what may seem "small" in our eyes and multiply it many times over. Zech. 4:6-10; Eph. 3:20; 2 Cor. 9:8-11.
- c. God expects His people to listen to His word and do good. If we stop listening and obeying, our hearts may be dull and the Word of God may no longer impact our lives. Zech. 7:8-14.

L. Malachi.

1. Summary.

- a. God demands respect, honor and right attitudes in worship service. Mal. 1:6-10; John 4:24; Luke 6:46; Matt. 15:7-9.
- b. God can be robbed in tithes and offerings. Mal. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; 1 Cor. 16:2.
- c. Teachers of God's Word are held accountable for speaking and teaching truth. Mal. 2:6-10; Acts 20:20-21, 25-27; 2 Tim. 2:14-18.

Messianic Prophecies

Lesson 7

I. Introduction.

- A. The objectives are to 1) identify when Messianic Prophecy is present in the Minor Prophets, 2) utilize the New Testament to interpret the prophecy when cited and 3) understand the main messages of these prophecies.
- B. Ten out of 12 prophets contain Messianic Prophecies. Prophets without Messianic Passages are: Nahum and Habakkuk.
 - 1. There are 22 sections with Messianic Passages: Hosea(1), Joel(2), Amos(1), Obadiah(1), Jonah(1), Micah (3), Zephaniah(1), Haggai(2) and Zechariah(9) and Malachi(1).
- C. Sometimes Messianic Prophecies in the Minor Prophets are difficult to identify especially when not quoted in NT. Keys to identify are as follows: 1. universal and absolute statements are made that are difficult to physically fulfill by the Jewish nation. 2. Fulfillment of the prophecies do not fit with their history as we know it. 3. Includes statements of salvation and redemption for the Gentiles.

II. Zion.

- A. Zion is referred several times in the Minor Prophets. An understanding of this term will assist greatly in interpreting Scripture when this term is used.
- B. Definition = **It is the dwelling place of God among His redeemed people where they find security and peace.**
- C. History.
 - 1. David came against the Jebusites in Jerusalem and captured the stronghold of **Zion** that is the city of David. **Zion** was a prominent hill in the city, 2 Sam. 5:6-7.
 - 2. David brought the Ark of the Covenant to **Zion**, to city of David, 2 Sam. 6:12.
 - 3. Solomon moved the Ark of the Covenant from **Zion** to the temple, which was built on Mount Moriah, 1 Ki. 8:1, 2 Chron. 3:1-2.
 - 4. The name **Zion** was extended to include the **temple**, Ps. 20:2, 74:2-3.
 - 5. **Zion** is often used for the whole of **Jerusalem**, 2 Ki. 19:21,31, Ps. 48:1-2.
- D. Meaning determined from context.
 - 1. Zion in Psalms.
 - d. 2:6 -- Messianic – installed my King upon Zion
 - e. 9:11 – Lord dwells in.
 - f. 9:14 – rejoice in thy salvation.
 - g. 14:7 – salvation come out of Zion.

- h. 50:2 – Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty
 - i. 102:16 – Lord has built up Zion.
 - j. 132:13 – Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for His habitation.
2. Zion in Isaiah.
- a. 1:8 daughter of Zion is left like a shelter, remnant.
 - b. 1:27 – Zion will be redeemed with justice = repentant ones.
 - c. 2:3 – Law will go forth from Zion, = Jerusalem, Messianic Gospel being preached at Jerusalem at first.
 - d. 4:4 – Messianic – Lord washed the filth of the daughters of Zion
 - e. 8:18 -- LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.
 - f. 10:24 – O My people who dwell in Zion
 - g. 14:32 -- LORD has founded Zion, And the afflicted of His people will seek refuge in it.
 - h. 28:16 -- I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone; He who believes in it will not be disturbed.
 - i. 31:9 -- LORD, whose fire is in Zion.
 - j. 33:5 -- He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.
 - k. 52:8 -- LORD restores Zion.
 - l. 59:20 -- And a Redeemer will come to Zion
3. Zion in Minor Prophets.
- a. Joel 3:16 — The LORD roars from Zion ...But the LORD is a refuge for His people.
 - b. Joel 3:17 — I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more.
 - c. Mic. 4:10 — Daughter of Zion ... There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.
 - d. Zech. 8:3: I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth.

E. Multiple Meanings – Depending on context.

1. Literal physical meaning = mountain (mount) where the temple was built upon, Ps. 20:2, 74:2-3.
2. Extended literal physical meaning = Jerusalem, II Ki. 19:21,31, Ps. 48:1-2.
3. Spiritual meaning to the Jews = It became a symbol of an impregnable stronghold against its enemies and the dwelling place of God among His people.
4. However, due to the iniquities of the Jews, the temple was destroyed and the Lord had to restore a new Zion.
5. Spiritual meaning today and used in many places in Isaiah and other writings from the prophets. This new Zion still has the same spiritual meaning but now it has been established with justice and righteousness (Isa. 33:5) made possible by the sacrifice of the Messiah. **Zion = It is the dwelling place of God among His redeemed people where they find security and peace.**
6. This definition is confirmed in Heb. 12:22-24 in how the word is used. Note we have come to Mount Zion (past tense), we are part of church (universal) – all made possible through the shedding of blood of Jesus Christ.

F. Usage in Minor Prophets

1. 31x = Joel (7x: 2:1,15,23,32,3:16,17,3:21) + Amos(2x: 1:2,6:1) + Obadiah(2x: 1:17,21) + Micah(9x: 1:13,3:10,12,4:2,7,8,10,11,13) + Zephaniah(3x: 1:14,16,18) + Zechariah(8x: 1:14,17,2:7,10,8:2,3,9:9,13).
2. Joel 3:16: And the **LORD roars from Zion** And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the **LORD is a refuge for His people** And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.
3. Joel 3:17: Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, **Dwelling in Zion** My holy mountain. So **Jerusalem will be holy**, And strangers will pass through it no more.
4. Mic. 4:10: “Writhe and labor to give birth, Daughter of **Zion**, Like a woman in childbirth, For now you will go out of the city, Dwell in the field, And go to Babylon. There **you will be rescued**; There the **LORD will redeem you** From the hand of your enemies.
5. Zech. 8:3: “Thus says the LORD, ‘I will return to **Zion and will dwell** in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.’

III. Prophecies.

A. Hosea .

1. **God would lure Israel back to Himself (2:14-23).**

B. Joel.

1. **Future promise of prophecy, judgment and salvation (2:28-32).**
 - a. Peter quotes from Joel in Acts 2:16-21. He answers the question of “What does this mean?” after the Apostles were baptized by the Holy Spirit and were speaking in foreign languages.
 - b. Part 1: Pour forth of My Spirit (vs. 17-18).
 - 9) Miraculous prophesying about the identity and mission of JC.
 - 10)Recipients: Jewish men/women & God’s bondslaves.
 - a) Elizabeth (Lk. 1:41-45); Zacharias (Lk. 1:5-17); JB (Lk. 1:15); Mary (Lk. 1:39-55); Simeon (Lk. 2:25-32); Anna (Lk. 2:36-38); Joseph (Matt. 2:12-14,19).
 - b) Wisemen (Matt. 2:11-12).
 - c) Apostles & Prophets.
 - c. Part 2: Judgment on Jewish nation (vs. 19-20).
 - 1) Figurative language symbolizing God’s judgment on nations.
 - 2) Other examples: Babylon, Isa. 13:10; Edom, Isa. 34:4; Jerusalem, Jer. 4:23-28; Egypt, Ezek. 32:7-8; Israel, Amos 8:9.
 - 3) JC proclamation, Matt. 24:15, 29-30, 34.
 - d. Part 3: Offer of salvation (vs. 21).
 - 1) “Calls on the name of the Lord” involves more than words alone (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:21). The conversion of Saul illustrates that full obedience is required from believing to a penitent heart to baptism, Acts 22:16.
 - 2) Requires an obedient faith, Rom. 10:13.
 - e. Mount Zion will provide a place of safety and protection for all those who call on the name of the Lord.

2. **Judah shall dwell forever (3:18-21).**

- a. "In that day" is used by the prophets to refer to the Messianic Period.
- b. A figurative picture is drawn of God's people receiving blessings and where their enemies have been defeated.
- c. Judah refers to God's people under the new covenant (Heb. 8:8-12) where forgiveness of sin is made possible by the sacrifice of the Messiah.

C. Amos.

1. **Promises Of A Bright Future — the Messianic hope** (9:11-15).
 - a. Again, "In that day" is used by the prophets to refer to the Messianic Period. This is re-enforced by what is said about David and these passages being quoted and applied in NT.
 - b. Fallen booth [tabernacle, ASV, KJV, NKJV] of David. Means the lineage, descendants, or family of David. David's family ceased occupying the throne over God's people when Zedekiah was overthrown and in particular, the lineage through Coniah would never reign any more in Judah, Jer. 22:24-30. This shows God would fulfill His promise to David through Christ and His Kingdom would be a spiritual one.
 - c. Vs. 12 in conjunction with Acts 15:16-18 provides a reason for the restoration — that all peoples may be a part of the kingdom and enjoy all the blessings and salvation provided.

D. Obadiah.

1. **Exaltation of Israel & Mt. Zion, A Place of Refuge and Judgment** (1:17-21).
 - a. Though literally the nation of Israel was preserved for a time, the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises was to be realized in Jesus Christ, the one who come from the house of Jacob (Num. 24:15-24; Heb. 12:22-24; Matt. 21:5; Luke 1:31-33).
 - b. In contrast to the judgment on Edom and all the heathen nations (vs. 15-16), Mount Zion will provide safety for its citizens who are holy, set apart for God's purposes.

E. Jonah.

1. **Jonah was in the great fish 3 days and 3 nights** (1:17).
 - a. God kept Jonah in the belly of the fish to correspond to the same time JC would be in the grave. JC used this historical event to confront the skeptical Pharisees who asked for a sign when already so many signs have been given and they did not believe, Matt. 12:38-41, 16:4; Luke 11:29-32.

F. Micah.

1. **A remnant shall be saved** (2:12-13).
 - a. This short prophecy may have a dual fulfillment. The first fulfillment being the return of the exiles from Babylon to the promised land. The second one where the Messiah is the breaker breaking down the barrier of sin which separates His People from the Lord. However, this interpretation has a degree of uncertainty in its meaning. The key learning is a repeated message throughout Scripture that God will save the remnant, the faithful.
2. **Mountain of the Lord established in the last days** (4:1-8).

- a. The announcement of Jerusalem's destruction and the plowing of Zion as a field (3:12) is followed by a glorious Messianic promise which is also found in Isa. 2:2-4.
 - b. Last days or later days. This term is a common expression used by the prophets to refer to the time of the Messiah (Dan. 2:28, 44; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:16-17; Heb. 1:1-2). It points to the last days of the Jewish Nation when the Messianic Kingdom would be established.
 - c. Mountain of the Lord. God's "rule" or "mountain" will be established above all kingdoms of men. The extent, duration, and time of establishment of God's kingdom is more fully developed in Dan. 2:31-45, 7:13-14. See vs. 7-8 and note the following words: reign, dominion, kingdom.
 - d. For All. Citizenship would not be limited to only to the physical seed of Israel but "many nations" (Gentiles) would also respond to God's rule.
 - e. A Spiritual Kingdom. People come to the kingdom to learn "*His ways*", "*walk in His paths*" and to hear "*the word of the Lord*" (vs. 2). He will judge and render decisions then its citizens will enjoy peace. This peace is not between man and man but between man and God (vs. 3-5). John 18:36.
 - f. The Remnant (vs. 6-8). "In that day" God will gather the remnant of Israel (2:12, 5:3; Rom. 11:5) into His Kingdom. The former ("first", KJV) dominion will be reinstated, which refers to the reign of Christ who is of the lineage of David (Amos 9:11-12; Acts 2:29-20; Luke 1:32-33).
3. **The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem and shall rule with strength** (5:2-15).
- a. Ruler from Bethlehem. Who could have guessed 700 years in advance that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem? No man could have guessed this. Micah, however, was inspired by the Spirit (3:8; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). This is quoted in Matt. 2:5-6 as being fulfilled (see also John 7:42). Note that was planned long before this prophecy.
 - b. Woman in Labor. This may refer to Mary giving birth to Jesus. Another more-likely interpretation is the woman giving birth is a figurative representation of the New Zion being formed as used by Isaiah in 66:4-8.
 - c. Govern in Strength & Delivery from Their Enemies vs. 4-6.
 - d. Remnant vs. 7-9. The new spiritual Israel, the remnant of Jacob, will possess two exceptional qualities: (1) They will be in the midst of many nations as dew, exercising a refreshing spiritual and moral influence as does the morning dew and the welcome showers in a parched world. (2) They will be among nations and their enemies would be cut off. In this promise, God gives to His people a tremendous hope and promise of victory as they face the thrusts of immediate destruction and future captivity.
 - e. Judgment vs. 10-15. Lord will "cut off" iniquities within the new spiritual kingdom and render judgment against the wicked.

G. Nahum - None.

H. Habakkuk - None.

I. Zephaniah.

1. **After judgment, salvation for the remnant** (3:8-20).
 - a. A Purified People to Worship Jehovah, vs. 8-10. This section is Messianic due to 1) the time references of "In that day" (vs. 11, 16), 2) a

gathering of all nations and 3) absolute blessings being received. The exhortation to “wait” upon the Lord is an appeal to faithfully serve Him with the confidence that God will accomplish His purposes and strengthen those who turn to Him. The prophet describes a purified people who worship with united hearts. This seems to be a glimpse of the purity and unity which characterizes the New Testament Church (Eph. 5:25-27).

- b. **Rejoice — the Lord Has Removed Your Judgments**, vs. 11-15. “In that day”, the people of the Lord shall “not be put to shame.” That which had brought the shame upon them will be abolished. Sins would be blotted out. As a result, the people of God would rejoice for the forgiveness. This is an indirect reference to the remission of sins provided by the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ.
- c. **Do Not Be Afraid — the Lord is in Your Midst**, vs. 16-20. The reference to Jerusalem must be referring to the new Spiritual Jerusalem (Zion) to correspond to the context of these Scriptures. Encouragement will be given in that day to know the Lord is in your midst providing protection from their enemies and sustaining them.

J. Haggai.

1. **The temple’s future glory** (2:6-9).

- a. The temple built by Zerubbabel was not as grand as Solomon’s temple, vs. 3-4. Even so, the Lord provides encouragement to the people and says He is with the people. Then, He says that gifts would be provided from other nations. Gifts were received from Cyrus (Ezra 1:7-11, 3:7); Darius (Ezra 6:9-13); Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:12-26); as well as other Gentiles (Isa. 60:5,11). Verse 9 may look forward to the Messianic Era and be a reference to the temple built any Christ, the church (Eph. 2:21-22; Heb. 12:26-29). Verse 6 is quoted in Heb. 12:26 and is used in Hebrews to show how God would establish His Kingdom and it would NOT be shaken.

2. **The Messianic Hope is preserved in Zerubbabel** (2:23).

- a. 2:23: The Lord now bestows a signet honor on Zerubbabel. “In that day”, the day when these heathen kingdoms and their thrones will have been brought down. This time would be in the Messianic Era where Lord’s Spiritual Kingdom would overcome all opposition, all kingdoms, Dan. 2:44. The honor bestowed on Zerubbabel was not realized in him as a person, but in his office and lineage. Matthew confirms the fulfillment of this promise as he points out that Jesus is the heir to the throne of David through Coniah and Zerubbabel (1:12, 16).

K. Zechariah.

1. **The Trial And Acquittal Of The High Priest, Joshua** (3:1-10).

- a. 3:1-5: In the fourth vision Zechariah sees the high priest, Joshua, standing before the angel of the Lord and being accused by Satan. Joshua is representative of the the entire priesthood and through them the whole nation. The filthy clothes are symbolic of the sins of the people, and Satan could accuse him of being unfit for service before the Lord (Isa. 64:6). But when Joshua is give a change of clean garments, it symbolized that God had “taken your iniquity away”. This vision ends with the promise that God “in that day” will send His servant “the Branch” (Isa. 4:2, 11:1-10; Jer. 23:5, 33:15; Zech. 6:12-13). The ultimate fulfillment of what God had just

promised Joshua would be realized in the Messiah, the full and complete High Priest.

2. **High priest crowned to symbolize the coronation of the Messiah**, (6:9-15).
 - a. The Branch. Under the law the high priest had not worn a crown, but a turban (3:5). As the high priest was crowned, this symbolized the coronation of the Messiah (Branch, 3:8; Isa. 4:2, 11:1-10; Jer. 23:5, 33:15) who would serve both as priest and king.
 - b. Five Declarations. **1. “He will branch out from where He is”**. He would grow up “as a root out of a dry ground” (Isa. 53:2, Amos 9:11). He would grow up from among His own people in His own land. **2. “He will build the temple of the LORD”**. The hands of Zerubbabel had laid the foundation of the material temple and his hands would complete it (4:9). The Branch would build the spiritual temple of the Lord. This temple is the church of the Lord, made of “living stones” (1 Pet. 2:5), “a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph. 2:21), “whose house we are” (Heb. 3:6). **3. “He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne”**. He will be laden with honor, majesty and power. This would fulfill the promise made to David that one of his descendants would sit on his throne (2 Sam. 7:11-14; Isa. 9:6-7). **4. “He will be a priest on His throne”**. The Branch would occupy both the kingly and priestly offices over God’s people. In the historical Melchizedek, these had been combined, for he was “king of Salem [peace]” and “priest of God Most High” (Gen. 14:18). The Lord had sworn through David that the Messiah would be “a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek” (Ps. 110:4). **5. “He will be counsel of peace will be between the two offices”**. As priest and king he shall be able to provide perfect peace for His people (Isa. 9:6-7; Eph. 2:14,17). As priest He provides forgiveness with the perfect sacrifice, and as king He gives counsel with the perfect law.
3. **Coming of the Messiah** (9:9-17).
 - a. King’s Entrance on a Donkey vs. 9. Daughters of Zion (or Jerusalem) are to rejoice at the coming of the Messiah. His reign would be just and salvation would be provided. His humble entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey would signaled an important difference between the character of His kingship from others who come in pomp and royalty. This entrance is recorded in all four gospels (Matt. 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:13-19).
 - b. Cut off ... vs. 10. The Messiah will lead no armed revolt but He shall speak peace (cf. Eph. 2:17). Implements of war (“chariot, horse, bow”) would be “cut off”. The extent of His reign would be world-wide (“from sea to sea”). His dominion shall be to the ends of the earth (Ps. 72:8; Micah 7:12; Eph. 1:20-23).
 - c. Blood of My Covenant vs. 11-15. God had confirmed by blood His covenant with Israel (Ex. 24:8), and he would keep His promises made to them. Fulfillment of this covenant in this Messianic text may refer to the Abraham Covenant (Gen. 12:3) where all families would be being blessed through the death of Christ. His blood was shed to ratify the covenant where sins would be forgiven. The rest of the verses paint a picture of victory over their enemies (sin) and receiving blessings.

- d. Salvation vs. 16-17. Salvation will come from the Lord “in that day” and they will shine like the glittering jewels of a crown. The Israelites were physically preserved from extinction so that through Abraham’s seed God could spiritually bless all families of the earth with forgiveness and salvation. This prophecy is ultimately fulfilled during the glorious reign of the Messiah over His Kingdom (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:26-29).
4. **The Lord shall redeem His people (10:1-12).**
- a. The Lord would whistle for His people, calling them away from far countries such as Egypt and Assyria. While this literally came to pass when Israel and Judah returned from captivity, the prophecy is also fulfilled in the Messianic age wherein God’s people have been called from all countries. The “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16) is now made up of both Jews as well as Gentiles who believe in Christ (Gal. 3:26-29, 4:26,28) Gentiles can be God’s people although once they were not His (Rom. 9:24-26). Also Jews who were cast off (Hosea 1:6-11) can again become God’s people through faith (Hosea 2:21-23, 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rom. 11:23-26). Through spiritual birth rather than natural (John 3:3-5), God’s people shall increase until “no room can be found for them”.
5. **Allegories which illustrate the future of physical Israel (11:1-17).**
- a. Ruin of the Jewish Nation vs. 1-3. The references to various trees (cedars, cypress, glorious trees, oaks) are used figuratively of the various pillars of the Jewish Nation. These trees would be destroyed and the glory of the nation would be ruined. Since Zechariah was written after the exiles returned from Babylonian captivity, this picture is prophecy of the destruction of the covenanted Jewish Nation by Rome in 70 A.D.
- b. Condemnation of the Shepherds vs. 4-6. The “flock doomed to slaughter” are the people oppressed by rulers who bought and sold them like sheep. This symbolized the condition of physical Israel by the time of Jesus Christ. Wicked rulers were in control who had no pity on the flock but thought foremost of their own position and prosperity. Although they appeared to be religious they proved their hypocrisy toward God by their rejection of His Son. Even as they showed no pity, God would have no pity on them.
- c. Two Staffs vs. 7-14. Zechariah responded to the Lord’s instruction to “feed the flock” (vs. 4), and he use two staffs in carrying out the task. One staff he called “Favor” and the other he called “Union”. Then the three shepherds (perhaps representing king, prophets and priests) were annihilated in one month. Zechariah broke the staff called “Favor” which signified that the covenant with the flock (Jewish Nation) was broken. This occurred “on that day” in the Messianic Era. It was during this time that the Jewish Nation rejected Messiah. This allegory was prophetic of the treatment that Jesus would receive by the quotation of it in Matt. 27:9-10. Judas covenanted with the chief priests to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, Matt. 26:15. Zechariah breaks the second staff, “Union” which symbolically indicated the dissolution of the brotherhood of Judah and Israel. When the Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah they brought upon themselves the curse of being rejected by God. Jeremiah prophesied that Judah would be like an earthen bottle with was shattered so that it could never be made whole again (Jer. 19:1,10,11, 18:6-10). When the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans, the religious system of Judaism crumbled; the tribal identities were lost; animal sacrifices ceased; and the

nation has been in remnants ever since (Deut. 28:15, 37, 45-48; 1 Ki. 9:4-9).

- d. Raise Up A Shepherd vs. 15-17. Zechariah is now instructed to play the role of a foolish shepherd who fails to properly care for the sheep. Following the crucifixion of Christ, the nation of the Jews had no leader who really cared for their welfare: their prophets had been cut off from inspired revelation; the priests were no longer ordained by God; and the Herods were powerless puppets of Rome.
6. **“In that day” Spiritual Jerusalem shall be delivered** (12:1-9).
 - a. “In that day” occurs six times (vs. 3,4,6,8(2x),9) in this section. It refers to the Messianic Era. So the interpretation of this text must accord with the time frame. So the Jerusalem is the new Spiritual Jerusalem or Zion. This section shows that the Spiritual Jerusalem being assaulted; however, the Lord will defend it (vs. 8) and deliver His people from their enemies.
7. **“In that day” the Spirit of Grace and a fountain for salvation will be available** (12:10-13:6).
 - a. “In that day” occurs four times (12:11,13:1,2,4) in this section. Again, it is Messianic especially where there is a reference to Christ’s crucifixion (“*look on Me whom they have pierced*”) as quoted in John 19:37. Verses 10-14 describe great mourning for the Messiah being put to death. This sacrifice would be necessary for a fountain of salvation from sin being opened up and available (13:1). The remaining verses describe how Lord will remove idolatry and false prophets from His presence.
8. **“In that day” the people of God will be refined and purified by persecution** (13:7-14:21).
 - a. The Shepherd is Smitten vs. 7-9. The shepherd is smitten and two-thirds of the flock are given up to death. Jesus quoted this and applied it to the scattering of His disciples (Matt. 26:31-32; Mark 14:27). This is another proof that “in that day” is taking about an era of time beginning with the coming of Christ and this phrase occurs eight times in this section (14:1,4,6,8,9,13,20,21). After the death and resurrection of Christ, the disciples were greatly persecuted and the number of disciples was greatly reduced in the first century (Matt. 24:9-13, 21-22). However, those who remained were refined “as silver is refined” and tested “as gold is tested” (1 Pet. 1:6-7, 4:12-16).
 - b. Vs. 1-2. Spiritual Jerusalem will be tested by the nations which will come against it.
 - c. Vs. 3-5. The Lord will fight for His people. These passages are clearly figurative illustrating this message.
 - d. Vs. 6-8: That day will be a time of gloominess when the sky is neither full of light nor darkness. “Living waters will flow out of Jerusalem” symbolizing salvation which would flow even in a time of heaviness and distress.
 - e. The Lord As King vs. 9-15. The Lord will reign as “King over all the earth” (Rev. 17:14). He will be the only one who reigns and His name will be magnified universally as the Lord of all. Jerusalem will be safely inhabited because the Lord will be her protector (Zech. 2:5,11). A plague will fall on those who have sought to destroy Jerusalem. The enemy nations which have warred against spiritual Jerusalem shall suffer defeat and destruction.
 - f. Worship the King vs. 16-21. Conversions to Christ will take place from among those that are left, and these shall come up to worship God. But

those who refuse to worship shall not receive the spiritual blessings (“rain”) available to the faithful. “In that day” everything will be holy to the Lord. Everything that pertains to the kingdom of God shall be devoted to the Lord, and that which is unclean (Canaanite) shall not be found in the house of the Lord (Eph. 5:26-27).

L. Malachi.

1. **Day of the Lord (judgment) is coming (2:17-3:7).**

- a. “Send My messenger” is a reference to John the Baptist as explained by JC in Matt. 11:10,14. The other gospel writers also refer to this prophecy, Mark 1:2, Luke 1:76, 7:26.
- b. In verses 2-4, JC mission to die for the sins of mankind is pictured as a refiner who purifies gold and silver from their impurities. These impurities are our sins. Through His sacrifice, Christians will be made righteousness and pleasing to the Lord.
- c. Verses 5-6 are a statement of judgment against the unrighteous and a statement of salvation for the believers.

IV. Lessons.

- A. Even though these prophets wrote to peoples long ago, these Messianic Prophecies both the number and extent shows God’s love for the salvation of mankind.
- B. These prophecies show God’s plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.
- C. Throughout these prophecies, we see the repeated emphasis on the remnant, those faithful who serve Him diligently.
- D. These prophecies shows God’s providence in working through the persons and events of their day with a future fulfillment through the Messiah.
- E. Throughout these prophecies, we see the promise of the New Zion which we are a part of today. We are His Children and He provides us protection ad safety.
- F. Even though the prophets main audience were the Jews, we see God’s salvation extended to the Gentiles.
- G. The Messianic Prophecies contained in the Minor Prophets provide us objective evidence of who Jesus is by their fulfillment in the NT.

Writing: Style, Type & Notable Features

Lesson 8

I. Introduction.

- A. The objective is to identify the style and other notable features in these writings to better and more clearly understand their messages.
- B. As you study the following material, please fill-in the red underlined or red boxes parts of the lesson.

II. Poetic vs. Prose.

- A. Most of the Minor Prophets are written in poetic language.
1. Data.

Book	Poetic	Prose	Mixed	Comments
Hosea			X	
Joel	X			
Amos	X			
Obadiah	X			
Jonah		X		Chap. 2 Poetic
Micah	X			
Nahum	X			
Habakkuk	X			
Zephaniah	X			
Haggai		X		
Zechariah			X	Chap. 1-8 Prose; 9-11:4 Poetic; 11:5-14 Prose
Malachi		X		

2. Examples:
 - a. Prose (or narrative) - Hos. 1:8-9.

⁸When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. ⁹And ^hthe LORD said, "Name him ⁱLo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not ^{is}your God."

- b. Poetic (or rhythmic structure) - Hos. 1:10.
3. Poetry = Literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm (Oxford Dictionary).

4. Keys to interpretation of poetic writings: 1) recognize that poetry may attempt to draw pictures thru words to convey ideas, 2) the poetry may be written in parallel statements and 3) if so, identify the type of parallelism (synonymous, constructive or opposite) can be helpful.

B. Hosea.

1. Summary.

- a. A real-life analogy is employed to communicate several messages.
- b. Analogy = a comparison between two things, typically for the purpose of explanation or clarification (apple dictionary).
- c. The comparisons:
 - 3) Hosea (husband) / Gomer (wife) vs. Lord (husband) / _____ (wife) (1:2, 2:2, 13).
 - 4) Gomer Unfaithful vs. Israel _____ (1:2, 2:2, 3:2).
 - 5) Gomer's Harlotry vs. Israel's I _____ (1:2, 2:8, 13).
 - 6) Hosea's Love for Gomer vs. _____ love for Israel (3:1).
- d. Messages: 1) Illustrate the degree of Israel's unfaithfulness through Gomer. 2) Show the love of God in seeking unfaithful Israel.
- e. In verse 1:2, the Lord commands Hosea: "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry". Would God tell a righteous man to marry a prostitute? It is probably Gomer was chaste at the time of the marriage and became a prostitute later (3:1). Wife of harlotry could either be a future condition and/or the propensity for her to become a harlot based on family background or societal influence.

C. Joel.

1. Summary.

- a. A simile or metaphor is used to compare an actual locust plague to a figurative human army.
- b. Simile = a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid (Apple).
- c. Are locusts figurative or physical? Answer = physical.
 - 7) Statements suggesting locusts are figurative and army is physical.
 - a) Nation invaded my land, 1:6.
 - b) My great army, 2:25.
 - c) Remove the northern army, 2:20.
 - d) There is a great and mighty people, 2:2.
 - 8) Statements suggesting locusts are physical and army is figurative.
 - a) Very specific on 4 types of locusts.
 - b) A detailed description of the locusts use multiple "likes" in 2:3-7. This indicates a simile being used.
 - c) Climb into houses and enter through widows, 2:9.
 - d) The judgment affects only food supply and not killing people or the destruction of homes.
 - 9) Other considerations:
 - a) Nation can be used figuratively of a swarm of locusts, Joel 1:6. See Strong's and Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicons.
 - b) Palestine has had several locust invasions through history and locust come from the north.

- d. Message: emphasize the widespread destruction of locusts like a ruthless, physical army.

D. Amos.

1. Summary.

- e. Emphasize justice and j_____ .
 - 1) Justice: 5:7, 15, 24, 6:12.
 - 2) J_____ : " For three transgressions of ... and for four I will not revoke its punishment", 8x.
- f. Nature illustrations.
 - 1) Pleiades and Orion, 5:8.
 - 2) Shepherd, 3:12.
 - 3) Plow them with oxen, 6:12.
 - 4) Basket of summer fruit, 8:2.
 - 5) _____, 9:9.
 - 6) _____, 4:2.

E. Obadiah.

1. Summary.

- a. Contrast is made between Mt. Zion and Mt. Seir and the emphasis on mountains - 11x (vs. 3(2x), 4(2x), 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 21(2x)).

F. Jonah.

1. Summary.

- a. The Book of Jonah differs from all other Minor Prophets in that it is written as a historical, autobiographical narrative.

G. Micah.

1. Summary.

- a. A concern for injustice done to the _____, 2:1-3, 8-9, 3:1-3, 11, 6:10-12, 7:2-3.

H. Nahum.

1. Summary.

- a. The most poetic book of the Minor Prophets and one of the finest in all the Old Testament according to scholars.

I. Habakkuk.

1. Summary.

- a. God's message to Judah is conveyed through a conversation between God and Habakkuk. This is known as a colloquy [kol-uh-kwee] ("a literary work written as a dialogue or conversation" *Webster's New World Dictionary*, 1982).
- b. See text for the four part conversation.

J. Zephaniah.

1. Summary.

- a. Go to text of Zephaniah and note the following 3 markings: day of the Lord, "I will" and a description of what the Lord will do.

K. Haggai.

1. Summary.

- a. Go to text and note the markings of “thus says the Lord” or equivalent statements, 28x.

L. Zechariah.

1. Summary.

- a. Zechariah has several outstanding characteristics that make it unique among writings of the minor prophets. It is the longest and most obscure of all the Minor Prophets and is the most difficult of any of the Old Testament books to interpret.
- b. The style of the book compares with Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelation in being highly symbolic in style.
- c. Zechariah is highly Messianic like Isaiah.

M. Malachi.

1. Summary.

- a. In Malachi, a new style of address known as the didactic-dialectic method of speaking is utilized. In this type of teaching, an assertion or charge is made, an objection is raised by the hearers and a refutation to the objection is presented by the speaker. See table below.

No.	Verses	Lord's Charge	People's Objection	Lord's Refutation
1	1:2-3	I loved you.	How hast Thou loved us?	Loved Jacob, hated Esau.
2	1:6-7	Where is My honor		
3	1:6-7	Priest despise my name		Presenting defiled food.
4	1:6-7		How have we defiled Thee?	
5	2:11,14	Judah profaned the sanctuary & married daughter of a foreign god	For what reason?	Lord has witness against you and wife of your youth, your companion, your wife by covenant.
6	2:16-17		How have we wearied Him?	By saying everyone one who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord.
7	3:7-8	Turned aside from My statues, Return to Me.	How shall we return?	
8	3:7-8	You are robbing Me.		In tithes and offerings.
9	3:13-15	Your words are arrogant against Me.	What have we spoken against Thee?	

- b. Another characteristic of Malachi (which reminds us of Haggai) is his appeal to the Lord as the source of his message. See markings in text. “Says the Lord” or its equivalent appears 26x.

III. Lessons.

- A. God communicates thru His written Word. He uses different styles and approaches to clearly and vividly relay His message. So it important to recognize these styles to better understand His revelations and His will for us.

Unique Elements

Lesson 9

I. Introduction.

- A. The objective is to recall unique elements in the Minor Prophets which have been discussed throughout this study.
- B. Circle the correct answer for the following 25 questions.

II. 25 Questions.

1. Which of the Minor Prophets is most Messianic?
 - A. Micah.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Zechariah.
2. Which book is written as a colloquy?
 - A. Habakkuk.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Jonah.
 - D. Zechariah.
3. Which prophet's name occurs most often in Old Testament?
 - A. Joel.
 - B. Obadiah.
 - C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Zechariah.
4. Which prophet had 3 occupations?
 - A. Micah.
 - B. Zephaniah.
 - C. Amos.
 - D. Zechariah.
5. Which 2 Minor Prophets do not contain Messianic Prophecies?
 - A. Malachi, Habakkuk.
 - B. Jonah, Habakkuk.
 - C. Nahum, Habakkuk.
 - D. Obadiah, Nahum.
6. Which of the Minor Prophets is the only book mainly written from an autobiography narrative?
 - A. Hosea.

- B. Jonah.
 - C. Habakkuk.
 - D. Haggai.
7. Which Minor Prophet is the “Branch” mentioned?
- A. Micah.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Zechariah.
 - D. Zephaniah.
8. Which is the shortest book of the Minor Prophets?
- A. Joel.
 - B. Obadiah.
 - C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Obadiah.
9. Which is the longest in length of the Minor Prophets?
- A. Hosea.
 - B. Zechariah.
 - C. Amos.
 - D. Micah.
10. Jesus name is derived from what Minor Prophet’s name?
- A. Micah.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Zechariah.
11. Which Prophets is from a royal family based on what has been revealed?
- A. Zephaniah.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Joel.
 - D. Zechariah.
12. Which prophet was the only priest based on what has been revealed?
- A. Micah.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Zechariah.
13. Which prophet was the most successful in completing his mission?
- A. Haggai.
 - B. Jonah.
 - C. Zechariah.
 - D. Malachi.
14. Which Prophet’s message involved a natural judgment vs. judgment from a human army or nation?
- A. Habakkuk.
 - B. Hosea.

- C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Joel.
15. Which Prophet did God use in a real-life human analogy?
- A. Jonah.
 - B. Habakkuk.
 - C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Hosea.
16. Which of the Minor Prophets uses a type of teaching known as didactic-dialectic?
- A. Micah.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Malachi.
 - D. Amos.
17. Which of the Minor Prophets preached a message of judgment that did not happen?
- A. Jonah.
 - B. Joel.
 - C. Habakkuk.
 - D. Micah.
18. Which of the Minor Prophets has more statements about the injustices done to the poor?
- A. Micah.
 - B. Hosea.
 - C. Amos.
 - D. Zephaniah.
19. Which of the Minor Prophets has more statements like “thus says the Lord”?
- A. Nahum.
 - B. Amos.
 - C. Haggai.
 - D. Zephaniah.
20. Which of the Minor Prophets is most difficult to understand?
- A. Hosea.
 - B. Micah.
 - C. Zephaniah.
 - D. Zechariah.
21. Which of the Minor Prophets has most judgment against nations?
- A. Micah.
 - B. Amos.
 - C. Habakkuk.
 - D. Nahum.
22. Which of the Minor Prophets was written to address the people’s irreverence in worship?

- A. Micah.
- B. Hosea.
- C. Amos.
- D. Malachi.

23. Which of the Minor Prophets has the most detailed timing markers?

- A. Haggai.
- B. Zechariah.
- C. Amos.
- D. Micah.

24. Which of the Minor Prophets does the Lord become involved with the family?

- A. Jonah.
- B. Hosea.
- C. Zephaniah.
- D. Zechariah.

25. Which of the Minor Prophets is the day of the Lord described “sun and moon grow dark”?

- A. Micah.
- B. Hosea.
- C. Joel.
- D. Zechariah.

Common Elements

Lesson 10

I. Introduction.

- A. The objective is to examine common themes, principles and admonitions among the Minor Prophets.
- B. First, fill in the underlined blanks from the verses listed and then, fill in the general admonition.

II. Principles / Admonitions / Themes.

- A. The Minor Prophets urge the people to _____ to the Lord / R _____ (30x/8MP).
1. Hosea (10x): 6:1 "Come, let us _____ to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us. Others: 3:5; 5:4,15; 8:13; 9:3; 11:5; 12:6; 14:1,2.
 2. Joel (4x): 2:12,13 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "_____ to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping, and mourning;13 And rend your heart and not your garments. "Now _____ to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, And relenting of evil. Others: 3:4,7.
 3. Zechariah (6x): 1:3 "_____ to Me," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I may _____ to you," says the LORD of hosts. Others: 1:3,16; 8:3; 9:12.
 4. Malachi (3x): 3:7 _____ to Me, and I will _____ to you," says the LORD of hosts. Others: 1:4.
- B. The Lord pronounces the _____ of the _____ (31x/5 MP) / j _____ (7x/5 MP).
1. Hosea (3x): 5:1 Hear this, O priests! Give heed, O house of Israel! Listen, O house of the king! For the j _____ applies to you, For you have been a snare at Mizpah, And a net spread out on Tabor. Others: 5:11; 10:4.
 2. Joel (6x): 2:11 And the LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The _____ of the _____ is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it? Others: Joe 1:15; 2:1,31; 3:2,14.
 3. Amos (2x): 2:18 Alas, you who are longing for the _____ of the _____, For what purpose will the _____ of the _____ be to you? It will be darkness and not light. Others:Am 5:20.
 4. Obadiah (1x): 1:15 "For the _____ of the _____ draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head."
 5. Jonah: 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and _____ for their wickedness has come up before Me."

6. Micah: 1:3 For behold, the _____
from His place. He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.
7. Nahum: 1:8 But with an overflowing flood _____
of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.
8. Habakkuk: 1:6 “For behold, _____
up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people _____
To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.
9. Zephaniah (20x(14 day only)): 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be
able to deliver them On the _____
of the _____
wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will
make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the
earth. Others: Zep 1:7,8,9,10,1,15,16,18,4; 2:2,3; 3:8,11,16.
10. Haggai: 2:22 ‘And _____ of kingdoms and destroy the
power of the kingdoms of the nations; and _____ the chariots and
their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the
sword of another.’
11. Malachi (2x): 3:5 “Then I will draw near to you for _____; and I will be
a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers... Others:
4:5.

C. _____ the Lord (26x/6 MP).

1. Hosea (5x): 3:5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and _____ the LORD
their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and
to His goodness in the last days. Others: 2:7; 5:6,15; 10:12.
2. Amos (4x): 5:4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, “ _____ Me that
you may live. Others: 5:6,14; 8:12.
3. Zephaniah (3x): 2:3 _____ the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have
carried out His ordinances; _____ righteousness, _____ humility. Perhaps you
will be hidden In the day of the LORD’S anger.
4. Zechariah (4x): 8:21 ‘And the inhabitants of one will go to another saying,
“Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to _____ the LORD
of hosts; I will also go.” 22 ‘So many peoples and mighty nations will come to
_____ the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.’
Others: 7:2; 11:16.
5. Malachi (2x): 2:7 “For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and
men should _____ instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the
LORD of hosts. Others: 3:1.

D. The Prophets expose the people’s _____ (19x/5 MP)/ _____ (10x/3 MP)/
_____ (4x/ 3 MP)/ _____ (12x/6 MP) / _____ (10x/
1MP).

1. Hosea (25x): 4:7-8 The more they multiplied, the more they _____ against
Me; I will change their glory into shame. 8 They feed on the _____ of My people,
And direct their desire toward their _____. Others: 5:5; 7:1; 8:13; 9:7,9;
10:9; 12:8,11; 13:12; 14:1,2; 8:11; 10:8; 12:8; 13:2,12, 10:9; 7:2,3; 9:15;
10:13,15.
2. Joel (1x): 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the
wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their _____ is great.

3. Amos (10x): 5:12 For I know your _____ are many and your _____ are great, You who distress the righteous and accept bribes, And turn aside the poor in the gate. Others:.
4. Obadiah: 1:10 Because of _____ to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever..
5. Jonah (1x): 1:2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and cry against it, for their _____ has come up before Me.”
6. Micah (8x): 6:10 “Is there yet a man in the _____ house, Along with treasures of _____, And a short measure that is cursed? Others: 2:1; 7:18; 1:13; 3:8; 6:7;7:9.
7. Nahum: 1:11 From you has gone forth One who plotted _____ against the LORD, A _____ counselor.
8. Habakkuk (3x): 1:3 Why dost Thou make me see _____, And cause me to look on _____? Yes, _____ and _____ are before me; _____ exists and _____ arises. Others: 1:13.
9. Zephaniah (1x): 1:17 And I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have _____ against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung.
10. Zechariah (5x): Others: 3:4,9; 10:2;13:1; 5:8.
11. Malachi (2x): 3:15 ‘So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of _____ built up, but they also test God and escape.’” Others: 2:6.

E. Even though judgment is pronounced on the nation, The Lord offers _____ (7x/4 MP) / _____ (11x/5 MP) / _____ (5x/2 MP).

1. Hosea (6x): 6:1 “Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will _____ us; He has wounded us, but He will _____ us. Others: 13:10; 14:3; 5:13; 7:1; 14:4;.
2. Joel: 2:32“And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be _____; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who _____, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.
3. Jonah (1x): 2:9 But I will sacrifice to Thee With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. _____ is from the LORD.”
4. Micah (1x): 7:7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my _____. My God will hear me.
5. Habakkuk (5x): 3:18 Thou didst go forth for the _____ of Thy people, For the _____ of Thine anointed. Thou didst strike the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah. Others: 3:8,13; 1:2.
6. Zephaniah (1x): 3:19 “Behold, I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will _____ the lame And gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth.
7. Zechariah (7x): 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with _____, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Others: 8:7,13; 9:16; 10:6; 12:7; 11:16.

F. The _____ of the Lord is highlighted in the Minor Prophets (37x/9 MP).

1. Hosea (1x): 4:1 Listen to the _____ of the LORD, O sons of Israel. Others: 1:1.
 2. Joel (2x): 2:11 And the LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His _____. Others: 1:1.
 3. Amos (6x): 3:1 Hear this _____; 4:1 Hear this _____; 5:1 Hear this _____; 7:16 hear the _____ of the LORD. Others: 7:10; 8:12.
 4. Jonah (4x): 3:3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the _____ of the LORD Others: 1:1; 3:1,6.
 5. Micah (2x): 4:2 ... For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the _____ of the LORD from Jerusalem. Others: 1:1.
 6. Zephaniah (2x): 2:5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, The nation of the Cherethites! The _____ of the LORD is against you. Others: 1:1.
 7. Haggai (5x): 2:20 Then the _____ of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month saying, Others: 1:1,3; 2:1,10.
 8. Zechariah (13x): 4:6 Then he answered and said to me, "This is the _____ of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. Others: 1:1,7; 4:8; 6:9; 7:1,4,8; 8:1,18; 9:1; 11:11; 12:1.
 9. Malachi (1x): 1:1 The oracle of the _____ of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.
- G. The prophets urge the people to _____ and _____ the Word of God (19x/8 MP).
1. Hosea (1x): 5:1 _____ this, O priests! Give _____, O house of Israel! _____, O house of the king!
 2. Joel (1x): 1:2 _____ this, O elders, And _____, all inhabitants of the land.
 3. Amos (6x): 3:13 "_____ and testify against the house of Jacob," Declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts. Others: 3:1; 4:1; 5:1; 7:16; 8:4;.
 4. Jonah (1x): 2:2 and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; Thou didst _____ my voice.
 5. Micah (6x): 3:9 Now _____ this, heads of the house of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel, Who abhor justice And twist everything that is straight. Others: 1:2; 3:1; 6:1,9; 7:7;.
 6. Habakkuk (1x): 1:2 How long, O LORD, will I call for help, And Thou wilt not _____? I cry out to Thee, "Violence!" Yet Thou dost not save.
 7. Zechariah (1x): 7:12 "And they made their hearts like flint so that they could not _____ the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.
- H. Several attributes of the Lord is exalted. Read the passages and fill in the blanks.
1. Hosea:
 - a) D _____ : 1:7 "But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God,
 2. Joel:
 - a) _____ : 2:13 And rend your heart and not your garments. "Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate.

- b) S _____ : 2:27 “Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
And that I am the LORD your God And there is no other;
3. Amos:
- a) _____ One: 4:2 The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness, “Behold, the
days are coming upon ...
- b) _____ : 5:15 Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate!
Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious
- c) O _____ : 9:8 “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful
kingdom,
4. Jonah:
- a) G _____ : 4:2 Thou art a gracious and compassionate God,
5. Micah:
- a) _____ : 7:7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will
wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.
6. Nahum:
- a) J _____ : 1:2 A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;
7. Habakkuk:
- a) S _____ : 1:12 Art Thou not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my
Holy One? Hab 3:3 God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from
Mount Paran. [Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is
full of His praise.
- b) _____ : 3:18 Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of
my salvation.
8. Zephaniah:
- a) O _____ : 3:17 “The LORD your God is in your midst,s:.
9. Malachi:
- a) _____ : 1:9 “But now will you not entreat God’s favor, that He may
be gracious to us?
- b) _____ : 2:10 “Do we not all have one father? Has not one God
created us?

References in NT & Key Verses

Lesson 11

I. Introduction.

A. The objective is to note key verses in the Minor Prophets that have not been studied yet in the Messianic Prophecies, Key Messages & Learnings and other lessons of this study.

II. Key Verses.

A. Hosea.

1. Summary.

- a. 6:6 "For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." Matt. 9:13, 12:7.
- b. 11:8 "How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart is turned over within Me, All My compassions are kindled."
- c. 14:9 "Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, And the righteous will walk in them, But transgressors will stumble in them."

B. Amos.

1. Summary.

- a. 5:14-15 "Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said! 15 Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."
- b. 5:21-24 "I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 "Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings. 23 "Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. 24 "But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

C. Micah.

1. Summary.

- a. 3:12 "Therefore, on account of you, Zion will be plowed as a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, And the mountain of the temple will become high places of a forest." Jer. 26:18-19.
- b. 6:8 " He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?"

- c. 7:6 “For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man’s enemies are the men of his own household.” Matt. 10:21, 35; Luke 12:53.

D. Nahum.

1. Summary.

- a. 1:3 “The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.”
- b. 1:7 “The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him”.

E. Habakkuk.

1. Summary.

- a. 1:5 “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days-- You would not believe if you were told.” Acts 13:41.
- b. 2:4 “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.” Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38.

F. Haggai.

1. Summary.

- a. 2:6 “For thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.’” Heb. 12:26.

Review

100 Questions

Lesson 12

Lesson 1: Introduction

1. What are 5 reasons to study the Minor Prophets?
2. What is the Hebrew root meaning of the word “prophet”?
3. What is a prophet according to Biblical usage? Provide Scripture.
4. What is the mission of the prophets?
5. What are the 2 types of prophets?
6. What is the reason these prophets are called “Minor”?
7. What are other words used for the prophets?
8. How many prophets are there in the Old Testament?

9. Name the Minor Prophets.

Lesson 2: Shaking Hands with the Prophets.

10. What does each of the prophet names mean?

11. Which prophet was the great grandson of King Hezekiah?

12. Which prophet was from a priestly family?

13. Which prophet was likely a citizen of the Northern Kingdom?

14. Which prophet was from the Southern Kingdom but prophesied to the Northern Kingdom?

15. Which prophet was a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs?

16. Which prophet was also a priest?

Lesson 3: The Audience & Times of the Writing.

17. What 2 prophets primarily prophesied to the Northern Kingdom? What is the date range for their writings?

18. What prophet was contemporary with Isaiah and prophesied primarily to Judah from 735-700 B.C?

19. What prophet prophesied during the reign of Josiah?

20. What prophet prophesied after Josiah but before the invasion of the Babylonians?

21. What 2 prophets urged the returned exiles to finish building the temple?

22. What prophet prophesied during the 445 to 432 B.C., the latest of all the minor prophets?

23. What 3 prophets prophesied to other nations other than Israel and Judah? Who was their audience?

24. What 3 prophets were contemporary with Isaiah?

25. What 3 prophets were contemporary with Jeremiah?

26. What were moral, religious and political/physical conditions of Israel during the times of Amos and Hosea writing?

27. What was the situation during the times of Joel?

28. What were moral, religious and political/physical conditions of Judah during the times of Micah's writing?

29. What were the moral conditions at the writing of Habakkuk and what was the Lord going to do about it?

30. What were the moral conditions at the writing of Zephaniah?

31. What was the situation when Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to the returned exiles?

32. What was the moral conditions at the writing of Malachi?

Lesson 4: Why Was The Letter Written?

33. Why was Hosea written?

34. Why was Joel written?

35. Why was Amos written?

36. Why was Obadiah written?

37. Why was Jonah written?

38. Why was Micah written?

39. Why was Nahum written?

40. Why was Habakkuk written?

41. Why was Zephaniah written?

42. Why was Haggai written?

43. Why was Zechariah written?

44. Why was Malachi written?

Lesson 6: Key Messages & Lessons.

45. What are 5 lessons learned from Hosea?

46. What are lessons learned from Joel?

47. What are 3 lessons learned from Amos?

48. What are lessons learned from Obadiah?

49. What are 3 lessons learned from Jonah?

50. What are 3 lessons learned from Micah?

51. What are lessons learned from Nahum?

52. What are lessons learned from Habakkuk?

53. What are 4 lessons learned from Zephaniah?

54. What are lessons learned from Haggai?

55. What are lessons learned from Zechariah?

58. What are lessons learned from Malachi?

Lesson 7: Messianic Prophecies.

59. What is Zion?

60. Are we in Zion today?

61. What did Zion denote and connote to the Jews in OT?

62. Which Minor Prophets contain Messianic Prophecies?

63. How many sections of Messianic Prophecies are there in the Minor Prophets?

64. What notable Messianic Prophecy is found in Joel? Where is it quoted in the NT?

65. Is there another Messianic Prophecy in Joel? What is it and where is it found?

66. What time phrase is found in the Minor Prophets to refer to the Messianic Period?

67. How do you know the Prophecy in Amos 9:11-15 is Messianic? Provide 3 reasons.

68. What Messianic Prophecy is found in Obadiah?

69. What did Jesus Christ say about Jonah and how did He apply it to himself?

70. What 3 Messianic Prophecies are found in Micah?
71. How do you know the prophecy in Zephaniah 3:8-20 is Messianic?
72. What 2 Messianic Prophecies are found in Haggai?
73. How many Messianic Sections are there in Zechariah?
74. Who is the branch in Zechariah 3:12? Where else in Scripture is the branch referred to?
75. What 2 offices will the Branch occupy according to Zech. 6:9-15? Could this be done under the Old Covenant? What is the implication relative to the Covenant?
76. What eventful Messianic Prophecy is found in Zech. 9:9-17?
77. Who is My Messenger in Malachi in 3:1? How do you know?

Lesson 8: Writing: Style, Type & Notable Features.

78. What type of logical writing technique is used in Hosea? What is the specific comparison and what is the key messages?

79. What type of logical writing technique is used in Joel? What is the specific comparison and what is the key messages?

80. What type of writing is Jonah?

81. What type of writing is Habakkuk?

82. What are the characteristics of Zechariah?

83. What writing style is utilized in Malachi?

Lesson 9: Unique Elements.

84. Which of the Minor Prophets has the most judgment against nations?

85. Which of the Minor Prophets was written to address the people's irreverence in worship?

86. Which of the Minor Prophets has the most detailed timing markers?

87. Which of the Minor Prophets does the Lord become involved with the family?

88. Which of the Minor Prophets is the day of the Lord described "sun and moon grow dark"?

89. Which 2 Minor Prophets has more statements like "thus says the Lord"?

Lesson 10: Common Elements.

90. List 7 common admonitions / principles found in the Minor Prophets.

- 1.
- 2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

91. List some attributes of the Lord that are mentioned in the Minor Prophets.

Lesson 11: References in NT & Key Verses.

92. How did Jesus Christ use Hos. 6:6 in Matt. 9:13 and 12:7?

93. Fill in the blank from this key passage in Amos. “But let _____ roll down like waters And _____ like an ever-flowing stream.”

94. Which Minor Prophet did Jeremiah refer to and what verse in that Minor Prophet?

95. In Micah, what does he say about what the Lord requires?

96. The Lord talks about how family members may rise against those who believe the gospel. Where does he quote from in the Minor Prophets?

97. Please fill in the blank from Nahum. The LORD is _____, A _____ in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take _____ in Him”.

98. Where is last line of Hab. 2:4 found in the NT and how is it applied?

99. How is Hab. 1:5 applied by JC in Acts 13:41?

100. What was the most important learning you learned from the study on the Minor Prophets?

Hosea_text

harlot, harlotry = 21x

love, loves, loved = 19x

I. Israel's unfaithfulness is symbolized by Hosea's **unfaithful** wife (1:1-3:5).

A. Hosea married Gomer and three children are given **prophetic** names (1:1-9).

1:1 The word of the LORD which came to Hosea the son of Beeri, 🕒 during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and 🕒 during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of **harlotry**, and have children of **harlotry**; for the land commits flagrant **harlotry**, forsaking the LORD."

3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

4 And the LORD said to him, "Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

5 "And it will come about on that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

6 Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I should ever forgive them.

7 "But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses, or horsemen."

8 When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son.

9 And the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God."

B. Though cast off, a return to God is prophesied (1:10-2:1).

10 Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered; And it will come about that, in the place Where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God."

11 And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, And they will appoint for themselves one leader, And they will go up from the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel.

2:1 Say to your brothers, "Ammi," and to your sisters, "Ruhamah."

C. Israel's **idolatry** had estranged her from God (2:2-13).

2 “Contend with your mother, contend, For she is not my wife, and I am not her husband; And let her put away her harlotry from her face, And her adultery from between her breasts,

3 Lest I strip her naked And expose her as on the day when she was born. I will also make her like a wilderness, Make her like desert land, And slay her with thirst.

4 “Also, I will have no compassion on her children, Because they are children of harlotry.

5 “For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’

6 “Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns, And I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths.

7 “And she will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; And she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my first husband, For it was better for me then than now!’

8 “For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the oil, And lavished on her silver and gold, Which they used for Baal.

9 “Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time And My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax Given to cover her nakedness.

10 “And then I will uncover her lewdness In the sight of her lovers, And no one will rescue her out of My hand.

11 “I will also put an end to all her gaiety, Her feasts, her new moons, her sabbaths, And all her festal assemblies.

12 “And I will destroy her vines and fig trees, Of which she said, ‘These are my wages Which my lovers have given me.’ And I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field will devour them.

13 “And I will punish her for the days of the Baals When she used to offer sacrifices to them And adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me,” declares the LORD.

D. God would lure Israel back to Himself (2:14-23).

14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness, And speak kindly to her.

15 “Then I will give her her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

16 “And it will come about in that day,” declares the LORD, “That you will call Me Ishi And will no longer call Me Baali.

17 “For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more.

18 “In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky, And the creeping things of the ground. And I will

abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety.

19 “And I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion,

20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.

21 “And it will come about in that day that I will respond,” declares the LORD. I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth,

22 And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine, and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel.

23 “And I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they will say, ‘Thou art my God!’”

E. Hosea is commanded to buy Gomer back to himself (3:1-5).

3:1 Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, **love** a woman who is **loved** by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the LORD **loves** the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and **love** raisin cakes.”

2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley.

3 Then I said to her, “You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the **harlot**, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you.”

4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or household idols.

5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

II. The Lord’s **controversy** with Israel (4:1-6:11).

A. There is no truth, mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land (4:1-19).

4:1 Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land.

2 There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.

3 Therefore the land mourns, And everyone who lives in it languishes Along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky; And also the fish of the sea disappear.

4 Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

5 So you will stumble by day, And the prophet also will stumble with you by night; And I will destroy your mother.

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

7 The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

8 They feed on the sin of My people, And direct their desire toward their iniquity.

9 And it will be, like people, like priest; So I will punish them for their ways, And repay them for their deeds.

10 And they will eat, but not have enough; They will play the harlot, but not increase, Because they have stopped giving heed to the LORD.

11 Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the understanding.

12 My people consult their wooden idol, and their diviner's wand informs them; For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, And they have played the harlot, departing from their God.

13 They offer sacrifices on the tops of the mountains And burn incense on the hills, Under oak, poplar, and terebinth, Because their shade is pleasant. Therefore your daughters play the harlot, And your brides commit adultery.

14 I will not punish your daughters when they play the harlot Or your brides when they commit adultery, For the men themselves go apart with harlots And offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes; So the people without understanding are ruined.

15 Though you, Israel, play the harlot, Do not let Judah become guilty; Also do not go to Gilgal, Or go up to Beth-aven, And take the oath: "As the LORD lives!"

16 Since Israel is stubborn Like a stubborn heifer, Can the LORD now pasture them Like a lamb in a large field?

17 Ephraim is joined to idols; Let him alone.

18 Their liquor gone, They play the harlot continually; Their rulers dearly love shame.

19 The wind wraps them in its wings, And they will be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

B. Pride and hypocrisy testify they are fit for destruction (5:1-15).

5:1 Hear this, O priests! Give heed, O house of Israel! Listen, O house of the king! For the judgment applies to you, For you have been a snare at Mizpah, And a net spread out on Tabor.

2 And the revolvers have gone deep in depravity, But I will chastise all of them.

3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me; For now, O Ephraim, you have played the harlot, Israel has defiled itself.

4 Their deeds will not allow them To return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, And they do not know the LORD.

5 Moreover, the pride of Israel testifies against him, And Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also has stumbled with them.

6 They will go with their flocks and herds To seek the LORD, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn from them.

7 They have dealt treacherously against the LORD, For they have borne illegitimate children. Now the new moon will devour them with their land.

8 Blow the horn in Gibeah, The trumpet in Ramah. Sound an alarm at Beth-aven: "Behind you, Benjamin!"

9 Ephraim will become a desolation in the day of rebuke; Among the tribes of Israel I declare what is sure.

10 The princes of Judah have become like those who move a boundary; On them I will pour out My wrath like water.

11 Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, Because he was determined to follow man's command.

12 Therefore I am like a moth to Ephraim, And like rottenness to the house of Judah.

13 When Ephraim saw his sickness, And Judah his wound, Then Ephraim went to Assyria And sent to King Jareb. But he is unable to heal you, Or to cure you of your wound.

14 For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, And like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear to pieces and go away, I will carry away, and there will be none to deliver.

15 I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

C. Israel's goodness is as a morning cloud that vanishes quickly (6:1-11).

6:1 "Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.

2 "He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day That we may live before Him.

3 "So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth."

4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud, And like the dew which goes away early.

5 Therefore I have hewn them in pieces by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And the judgments on you are like the light that goes forth.

6 For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

7 But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; There they have dealt treacherously against Me.

8 Gilead is a city of wrongdoers, Tracked with bloody footprints.

9 And as raiders wait for a man, So a band of priests murder on the way to Shechem; Surely they have committed crime.

10 In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's harlotry is there, Israel has defiled itself.

11 Also, O Judah, there is a harvest appointed for you, When I restore the fortunes of My people.

III. Israel's corrupt political condition (7:1-8:14).

A. The king is made glad by their wickedness (7:1-7).

7:1 When I would heal Israel, The iniquity of Ephraim is uncovered, And the evil deeds of Samaria, For they deal falsely; The thief enters in, Bandits raid outside,

2 And they do not consider in their hearts That I remember all their wickedness. Now their deeds are all around them; They are before My face.

3 With their wickedness they make the king glad, And the princes with their lies.

4 They are all adulterers Like an oven heated by the baker, Who ceases to stir up the fire From the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.

5 On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers,

6 For their hearts are like an oven As they approach their plotting; Their anger smolders all night, In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.

7 All of them are hot like an oven, And they consume their rulers; All their kings have fallen. None of them calls on Me.

B. Israel turned to Egypt and Assyria instead of to God (7:8-16).

8 Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned.

9 Strangers devour his strength, Yet he does not know it; Gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know it.

10 Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, Yet they have neither returned to the LORD their God, Nor have they sought Him, for all this.

11 So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense; They call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.

12 When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly.

13 Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me.

14 And they do not cry to Me from their heart When they wail on their beds; For the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves, They turn away from Me.

15 Although I trained and strengthened their arms, Yet they devise evil against Me.

16 They turn, but not upward, They are like a deceitful bow; Their princes will fall by the sword Because of the insolence of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.

C. Israel has sown to the wind and must reap the **whirlwind** (8:1-14).

8:1 Put the trumpet to your lips! Like an eagle the enemy comes against the house of the LORD, Because they have transgressed My covenant, And rebelled against My law.

2 They cry out to Me, “My God, we of Israel know Thee!”

3 Israel has rejected the good; The enemy will pursue him.

4 They have set up kings, but not by Me; They have appointed princes, but I did not know it. With their silver and gold they have made idols for themselves, That they might be cut off.

5 He has rejected your calf, O Samaria, saying, “My anger burns against them!” How long will they be incapable of innocence?

6 For from Israel is even this! A craftsman made it, so it is not God; Surely the calf of Samaria will be broken to pieces.

7 For they sow the wind, And they reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; It yields no grain. Should it yield, strangers would swallow it up.

8 Israel is swallowed up; They are now among the nations Like a vessel in which no one delights.

9 For they have gone up to Assyria, Like a wild donkey all alone; Ephraim has hired **lovers**.

10 Even though they hire allies among the nations, Now I will gather them up; And they will begin to diminish Because of the burden of the king of princes.

11 Since Ephraim has multiplied altars for sin, They have become altars of sinning for him.

12 Though I wrote for him ten thousand precepts of My law, They are regarded as a strange thing.

13 As for My sacrificial gifts, They sacrifice the flesh and eat it, But the LORD has taken no delight in them. Now He will remember their iniquity, And punish them for their sins; They will return to Egypt.

14 For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; And Judah has multiplied fortified cities, But I will send a fire on its cities that it may consume its palatial dwellings.

IV. Israel's apostasy shall be rewarded with destruction and **exile** (9:1-13:16).

A. Israel forsook God and would be taken from the Lord's Land (9:1-17).

9:1 Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have played the **harlot**, forsaking your God. You have **loved harlots'** earnings on every threshing floor.

2 Threshing floor and wine press will not feed them, And the new wine will fail them.

3 They will not remain in the LORD'S land, But Ephraim will return to Egypt, And in Assyria they will eat unclean food.

4 They will not pour out libations of wine to the LORD, Their sacrifices will not please Him. Their bread will be like mourners' bread; All who eat of it will be defiled, For their bread will be for themselves alone; It will not enter the house of the LORD.

5 What will you do on the day of the appointed festival And on the day of the feast of the LORD?

6 For behold, they will go because of destruction; Egypt will gather them up, Memphis will bury them. Weeds will take over their treasures of silver; Thorns will be in their tents.

7 The days of punishment have come, The days of retribution have come; Let Israel know this! The prophet is a fool, The inspired man is demented, Because of the grossness of your iniquity, And because your hostility is so great.

8 Ephraim was a watchman with my God, a prophet; Yet the snare of a bird catcher is in all his ways, And there is only hostility in the house of his God.

9 They have gone deep in depravity As in the days of Gibeah; He will remember their iniquity, He will punish their sins.

10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first season. But they came to Baal-peor and devoted themselves to shame, And they became as detestable as that which they loved.

11 As for Ephraim, their glory will fly away like a bird-- No birth, no pregnancy, and no conception!

12 Though they bring up their children, Yet I will bereave them until not a man is left. Yes, woe to them indeed when I depart from them!

13 Ephraim, as I have seen, Is planted in a pleasant meadow like Tyre; But Ephraim will bring out his children for slaughter.

14 Give them, O LORD--what wilt Thou give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

15 All their evil is at Gilgal; Indeed, I came to hate them there! Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of My house! I will love them no more; All their princes are rebels.

16 Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up, They will bear no fruit. Even though they bear children, I will slay the precious ones of their womb.

17 My God will cast them away Because they have not listened to Him; And they will be wanderers among the nations.

B. Assyria will be the instrument of God's judgment (10:1-15).

10:1 Israel is a luxuriant vine; He produces fruit for himself. The more his fruit, The more altars he made; The richer his land, The better he made the sacred pillars.

2 Their heart is faithless; Now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars And destroy their sacred pillars.

3 Surely now they will say, “We have no king, For we do not revere the LORD. As for the king, what can he do for us?”

4 They speak mere words, With worthless oaths they make covenants; And judgment sprouts like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

5 The inhabitants of Samaria will fear For the calf of Beth-aven. Indeed, its people will mourn for it, And its idolatrous priests will cry out over it, Over its glory, since it has departed from it.

6 The thing itself will be carried to Assyria As tribute to King Jareb; Ephraim will be seized with shame, And Israel will be ashamed of its own counsel.

7 Samaria will be cut off with her king, Like a stick on the surface of the water.

8 Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; Thorn and thistle will grow on their altars, Then they will say to the mountains, “Cover us!” And to the hills, “Fall on us!”

9 From the days of Gibeah you have sinned, O Israel; There they stand! Will not the battle against the sons of iniquity overtake them in Gibeah?

10 When it is My desire, I will chastise them; And the peoples will be gathered against them When they are bound for their double guilt.

11 And Ephraim is a trained heifer that **loves** to thresh, But I will come over her fair neck with a yoke; I will harness Ephraim, Judah will plow, Jacob will harrow for himself.

12 Sow with a view to righteousness, Reap in accordance with kindness; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes to rain righteousness on you.

13 You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice, You have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your way, in your numerous warriors,

14 Therefore, a tumult will arise among your people, And all your fortresses will be destroyed, As Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle, When mothers were dashed in pieces with their children.

15 Thus it will be done to you at Bethel because of your great wickedness. At dawn the king of Israel will be completely cut off.

C. Israel had been unfaithful in spite of God's **love** and care (11:1-12).

11:1 When Israel was a youth I **loved** him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

2 The more they called them, The more they went from them; They kept sacrificing to the Baals And burning incense to idols.

3 Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms; But they did not know that I healed them.

4 I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of **love**, And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; And I bent down and fed them.

5 They will not return to the land of Egypt; But Assyria--he will be their king, Because they refused to return to Me.

6 And the sword will whirl against their cities, And will demolish their gate bars
And consume them because of their counsels.

7 So My people are bent on turning from Me. Though they call them to the One
on high, None at all exalts Him.

8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? How
can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart is turned
over within Me, All My compassions are kindled.

9 I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am
God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath.

10 They will walk after the LORD, He will roar like a lion; Indeed He will roar,
And His sons will come trembling from the west.

11 They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, And like doves from the land
of Assyria; And I will settle them in their houses, declares the LORD.

12 Ephraim surrounds Me with lies, And the house of Israel with deceit; Judah is
also unruly against God, Even against the Holy One who is faithful.

D. Israel and Judah both should be as diligent as their Father **Jacob** (12:1-14).

12:1 Ephraim feeds on wind, And pursues the east wind continually; He
multiplies lies and violence. Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria, And oil
is carried to Egypt.

2 The LORD also has a dispute with Judah, And will punish Jacob according to
his ways; He will repay him according to his deeds.

3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel, And in his maturity he
contended with God.

4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor.
He found Him at Bethel, And there He spoke with us,

5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts; The LORD is His name.

6 Therefore, return to your God, Observe kindness and justice, And wait for
your God continually.

7 A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, He **loves** to oppress.

8 And Ephraim said, "Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself;
In all my labors they will find in me No iniquity, which would be sin."

9 But I have been the LORD your God since the land of Egypt; I will make you
live in tents again, As in the days of the appointed festival.

10 I have also spoken to the prophets, And I gave numerous visions; And
through the prophets I gave parables.

11 Is there iniquity in Gilead? Surely they are worthless. In Gilgal they sacrifice
bulls, Yes, their altars are like the stone heaps Beside the furrows of the field.

12 Now Jacob fled to the land of Aram, And Israel worked for a wife, And for a
wife he kept sheep.

13 But by a prophet the LORD brought Israel from Egypt, And by a prophet he
was kept.

14 Ephraim has provoked to bitter anger; So his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him, And bring back his reproach to him.

E. Israel brought itself to destruction by rebellion against God (13:1-16).

13:1 When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling. He exalted himself in Israel, But through Baal he did wrong and died.

2 And now they sin more and more, And make for themselves molten images, Idols skillfully made from their silver, All of them the work of craftsmen. They say of them, "Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!"

3 Therefore, they will be like the morning cloud, And like dew which soon disappears, Like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor, And like smoke from a chimney.

4 Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me.

5 I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought.

6 As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore, they forgot Me.

7 So I will be like a lion to them; Like a leopard I will lie in wait by the wayside.

8 I will encounter them like a bear robbed of her cubs, And I will tear open their chests; There I will also devour them like a lioness, As a wild beast would tear them.

9 It is your destruction, O Israel, That you are against Me, against your help.

10 Where now is your king That he may save you in all your cities, And your judges of whom you requested, "Give me a king and princes"?

11 I gave you a king in My anger, And took him away in My wrath.

12 The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; His sin is stored up.

13 The pains of childbirth come upon him; He is not a wise son, For it is not the time that he should delay at the opening of the womb.

14 Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? O Death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion will be hidden from My sight.

15 Though he flourishes among the reeds, An east wind will come, The wind of the LORD coming up from the wilderness; And his fountain will become dry, And his spring will be dried up; It will plunder his treasury of every precious article.

16 Samaria will be held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword, Their little ones will be dashed in pieces, And their pregnant women will be ripped open.

V. A final appeal for repentance and restoration (14:1-9).

14:1 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

2 Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity, And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips.

3 “Assyria will not save us, We will not ride on horses; Nor will we say again,
‘Our god,’ To the work of our hands; For in Thee the orphan finds mercy.”

4 I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned
away from them.

5 I will be like the dew to Israel; He will blossom like the lily, And he will take
root like the cedars of Lebanon.

6 His shoots will sprout, And his beauty will be like the olive tree, And his
fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.

7 Those who live in his shadow Will again raise grain, And they will blossom like
the vine. His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

8 O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look
after you. I am like a luxuriant cypress; From Me comes your fruit.

9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; Whoever is discerning, let
him know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, And the righteous will walk
in them, But transgressors will stumble in them.

Joel_text

wail, mourning = 3x

day of the Lord = 5x, cosmic catastrophes in connection with the day of the Lord

chronological words and phrases, near = 9x

I. Sound the alarm the plague of **locusts** is coming (1:1-2:17).

A. Everyone will talk about this scourge for years to come (1:1-4).

1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, O elders, And listen, all inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this happened **in your days** Or **in your fathers' days**?

3 Tell your sons about it, And let your sons tell their sons, And their sons the **next generation**.

4 What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten.

B. Both necessities and luxuries will be taken away (1:5-14).

5 Awake, drunkards, and weep; And **wail**, all you wine drinkers, On account of the sweet wine That is cut off from your mouth.

6 🕒 For a nation has invaded my land, Mighty and without number; Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, And it has the fangs of a lioness.

7 It has made my vine a waste, And my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast them away; Their branches have become white.

8 **Wail** like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the bridegroom of her youth.

9 The grain offering and the libation are cut off From the house of the LORD. The priests mourn, The ministers of the LORD.

10 The field is ruined, The land mourns, For the grain is ruined, The new wine dries up, Fresh oil fails.

11 Be ashamed, O farmers, **Wail**, O vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field is destroyed.

12 The vine dries up, And the fig tree fails; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up From the sons of men.

C. Day of the **Lord** is at hand (1:13-20).

13 🕒 Gird yourselves with sackcloth, And lament, O priests; **Wail**, O ministers of the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God, For the grain offering and the libation Are withheld from the house of your God.

14 Consecrate a fast, Proclaim a solemn assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land To the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

16 Has not food been cut off before our eyes, Gladness and joy from the house of our God?

17 The seeds shrivel under their clods; The storehouses are desolate, The barns are torn down, For the grain is dried up.

18 How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly Because there is no pasture for them; Even the flocks of sheep suffer.

19 To Thee, O LORD, I cry; For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, And the flame has burned up all the trees of the field.

20 Even the beasts of the field pant for Thee; For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

D. Sound the alarm and let everyone tremble (2:1-11).

2:1 Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near,

2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations.

3 A fire consumes before them, And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them.

4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run.

5 With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle.

6 Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale.

7 They run like mighty men; They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths.

8 They do not crowd each other; They march everyone in his path. When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks.

9 They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief.

10 Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness.

11 And the LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?

E. Hear this urgent call to repentance (2:12-17).

12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping, and mourning;

13 And rend your heart and not your garments. “Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, And relenting of evil.

14 Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him, Even a grain offering and a libation For the LORD your God?

15 Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly,

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her bridal chamber.

17 🕯️ Let the priests, the LORD’S ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, “Spare Thy people, O LORD, And do not make Thine inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’”

II. Blessing will follow true repentance (2:18-2:32).

A. The Lord is jealous for His people (2:18-27).

18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And will have pity on His people.

19 And the LORD will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine, and oil, And you will be satisfied in full with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations.

20 “But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things.”

21 Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things.

22 Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.

23 So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before.

24 And the threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.

25 “Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

26 “And you shall have plenty to eat and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame.

27 “Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.

B. Future promise of prophecy, judgment and salvation (2:28-32).

28 “And it will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

29 “And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

30 “And I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire, and columns of smoke.

31 “The sun will be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

32 “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

III. Judgment will come on the enemies of God’s people (3:1-21).

A. Severe persecution will be rewarded with severe judgment (3:1-8).

3:1 “For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

2  I will gather all the nations, And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.

3 “They have also cast lots for My people, Traded a boy for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine that they may drink.

4 “Moreover, what are you to Me, O Tyre, Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you rendering Me a recompense? But if you do recompense Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your recompense on your head.

5 “Since you have taken My silver and My gold, brought My precious treasures to your temples,

6 and sold the sons of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their territory,

7 behold, I am going to arouse them from the place where you have sold them, and return your recompense on your head.

8 “Also I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation,” for the LORD has spoken.

B. Tell the nations to prepare for war (3:9-17).

9 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, "I am a mighty man."

11 Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there. Bring down, O LORD, Thy mighty ones.

12 Let the nations be aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.

13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the **day of the LORD** is near in the valley of decision.

15 **The sun and moon grow dark,** And **the stars lose their brightness.**

16 And the LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the **heavens and the earth tremble.** But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

17 Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more.

C. **Judah shall dwell forever** (3:18-21).

18 And it will come about in that day That the mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD, To water the valley of Shittim.

19 Egypt will become a waste, And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, In whose land they have shed innocent blood.

20 But Judah will be inhabited forever, And Jerusalem for all generations.

21 And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged, For the LORD dwells in Zion.

Amos_text

1. Judgment Against Nations: 8x
2. Hear this word: 3x
3. woe: 1x

I. Judgment against both heathen and covenant nations (1:1-2:16).

A. Punishment promised for the nations bordering Judah and Israel (1:1-2:3).

1:1 The words of Amos, who was among the shepherders from Tekoa, which he envisioned in visions concerning Israel  in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and  in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2 And he said, “The LORD roars from Zion, And from Jerusalem He utters His voice; And the shepherds’ pasture grounds mourn, And the summit of Carmel dries up.”

1. **Damascus** (1:3-5).

3 Thus says the LORD, “*For three transgressions of Damascus and for four I will not revoke its punishment.* Because they threshed Gilead with implements of sharp iron.

4 “So I will send fire upon the house of Hazael, And it will consume the citadels of Ben-hadad.

5 “I will also break the gate bar of Damascus, And cut off the inhabitant from the valley of Aven, And him who holds the scepter, from Beth-eden; So the people of Aram will go exiled to Kir,” Says the LORD.

2. **Gaza** (1:6-8).

6 Thus says the LORD, “*For three transgressions of Gaza and for four I will not revoke its punishment.* Because they deported an entire population To deliver it up to Edom.

7 “So I will send fire upon the wall of Gaza, And it will consume her citadels.

8 “I will also cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, And him who holds the scepter, from Ashkelon; I will even unleash My power upon Ekron, And the remnant of the Philistines will perish,” Says the Lord GOD.

3. **Tyre** (1:9-10).

9 Thus says the LORD, “*For three transgressions of Tyre and for four I will not revoke its punishment.* Because they delivered up an entire population to Edom And did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

10 “So I will send fire upon the wall of Tyre, And it will consume her citadels.”

4. **Edom** (1:11-12).

11 Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions of Edom and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because he pursued his brother with the sword, While he stifled his compassion; His anger also tore continually, And he maintained his fury forever.

12 “So I will send fire upon Teman, And it will consume the citadels of Bozrah.”

5. **Ammon** (1:13-15).

13 Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead In order to enlarge their borders.

14 “So I will kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah, And it will consume her citadels Amid war cries on the day of battle And a storm on the day of tempest.

15 “Their king will go into exile, He and his princes together,” says the LORD.

6. **Moab** (2:1-3).

2:1 Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions of Moab and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

2 “So I will send fire upon Moab, And it will consume the citadels of Kerioth; And Moab will die amid tumult, With war cries and the sound of a trumpet.

3 “I will also cut off the judge from her midst, And slay all her princes with him,” says the LORD.

B. **Punishment promised for God’s covenant people** (2:4-16).

1. **Judah** (2:4-5).

4 Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions of Judah and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they rejected the law of the LORD And have not kept His statutes; Their lies also have led them astray, Those after which their fathers walked.

5 “So I will send fire upon Judah, And it will consume the citadels of Jerusalem.”

2. **Israel** (2:6-16).

6 Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions of Israel and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they sell the righteous for money And the needy for a pair of sandals.

7 “These who pant after the very dust of the earth on the head of the helpless Also turn aside the way of the humble; And a man and his father resort to the same girl In order to profane My holy name.

8 “And on garments taken as pledges they stretch out beside every altar, And in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined.

9 “Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, Though his height was like the height of cedars And he was strong as the oaks; I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.

10 “And it was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt, And I led you in the wilderness forty years That you might take possession of the land of the Amorite.

11 “Then I raised up some of your sons to be prophets And some of your young men to be Nazirites. Is this not so, O sons of Israel?” declares the LORD.

12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine, And you commanded the prophets saying, ‘You shall not prophesy!’

13 “Behold, I am weighted down beneath you As a wagon is weighted down when filled with sheaves.

14 “Flight will perish from the swift, And the stalwart will not strengthen his power, Nor the mighty man save his life.

15 “He who grasps the bow will not stand his ground, The swift of foot will not escape, Nor will he who rides the horse save his life.

16 “Even the bravest among the warriors will flee naked in that day,” declares the LORD.

II. Israel’s crimes and her condemnation (3:1-6:14).

A. Condemnation of the wealthy ruling classes for civil and religious iniquities (3:1-4:5).

3:1 **Hear this word** which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt,

2 “You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; Therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

3 Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?

4 Does a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Does a young lion growl from his den unless he has captured something?

5 Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when there is no bait in it? Does a trap spring up from the earth when it captures nothing at all?

6 If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?

7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

9 Proclaim on the citadels in Ashdod and on the citadels in the land of Egypt and say, “Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria and see the great tumults within her and the oppressions in her midst.

10 “But they do not know how to do what is right,” declares the LORD, “these who hoard up violence and devastation in their citadels.”

11 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “An enemy, even one surrounding the land, Will pull down your strength from you And your citadels will be looted.”

12 Thus says the LORD, “Just as the shepherd snatches from the lion’s mouth a couple of legs or a piece of an ear, So will the sons of Israel dwelling in Samaria be snatched away-- With the corner of a bed and the cover of a couch!

13 “Hear and testify against the house of Jacob,” Declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts.

14 “For on the day that I punish Israel’s transgressions, I will also punish the altars of Bethel; The horns of the altar will be cut off, And they will fall to the ground.

15 “I will also smite the winter house together with the summer house; The houses of ivory will also perish And the great houses will come to an end,” Declares the LORD.

4:1 **Hear this word**, you cows of Bashan who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, “Bring now, that we may drink!”

2 The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness, “Behold, the days are coming upon you When they will take you away with meat hooks, And the last of you with fish hooks.

3 “You will go out through breaches in the walls, Each one straight before her, And you will be cast to Harmon,” declares the LORD.

4 “Enter Bethel and transgress; In Gilgal multiply transgression! Bring your sacrifices every morning, Your tithes every three days.

5 “Offer a thank offering also from that which is leavened, And proclaim freewill offerings, make them known. For so you love to do, you sons of Israel,” Declares the Lord GOD.

B. Unheeded chastisements . “Prepare to meet thy God” (4:6-13).

6 “But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities And lack of bread in all your places, Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

7 “And furthermore, I withheld the rain from you While there were still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city And on another city I would not send rain; One part would be rained on, While the part not rained on would dry up.

8 “So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, But would not be satisfied; Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

9 “I smote you with scorching wind and mildew; And the caterpillar was devouring Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

10 “I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, And I made the stench of

your camp rise up in your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

11 “I overthrew you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, And you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze; Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.

12 “Therefore, thus I will do to you, O Israel; Because I shall do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel.”

13 For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind And declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness And treads on the high places of the earth, The LORD God of hosts is His name.

C. Overthrow of the kingdom of the ten tribes (5:1-6:14).

1. Lamentations, denunciations, exhortations, and threats (5:1-17).

5:1 **Hear this word** which I take up for you as a dirge, O house of Israel.

2 She has fallen, she will not rise again-- The virgin Israel. She lies neglected on her land; There is none to raise her up.

3 For thus says the Lord GOD, “The city which goes forth a thousand strong Will have a hundred left, And the one which goes forth a hundred strong Will have ten left to the house of Israel.”

4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, “Seek Me that you may live.

5 “But do not resort to Bethel, And do not come to Gilgal, Nor cross over to Beersheba; For Gilgal will certainly go into captivity, And Bethel will come to trouble.

6 “Seek the LORD that you may live, Lest He break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, And it consume with none to quench it for Bethel,

7 For those who turn justice into wormwood And cast righteousness down to the earth.”

8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion And changes deep darkness into morning, Who also darkens day into night, Who calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the surface of the earth, The LORD is His name.

9 It is He who flashes forth with destruction upon the strong, So that destruction comes upon the fortress.

10 They hate him who reproves in the gate, And they abhor him who speaks with integrity.

11 Therefore, because you impose heavy rent on the poor And exact a tribute of grain from them, Though you have built houses of well-hewn stone, Yet you will not live in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, yet you will not drink their wine.

12 For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great, You who distress the righteous and accept bribes, And turn aside the poor in the gate.

13 Therefore, at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said!

15 Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

16 Therefore, thus says the LORD God of hosts, the Lord, “There is wailing in all the plazas, And in all the streets they say, ‘Alas! Alas!’ They also call the farmer to mourning And professional mourners to lamentation.

17 “And in all the vineyards there is wailing, Because I shall pass through the midst of you,” says the LORD.

2. First woe — terrors of the day of the Lord (5:18-27).

18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light;

19 As when a man flees from a lion, And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall, And a snake bites him.

20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

21 “I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 “Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.

23 “Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.

24 “But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

25 “Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel?

26 “You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves.

27 “Therefore, I will make you go into exile beyond Damascus,” says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.

3. Second woe — upon the careless heads of the nation (6:1-14).

6:1 **Woe** to those who are at ease in Zion, And to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria, The distinguished men of the foremost of nations, To whom the house of Israel comes.

2 Go over to Calneh and look, And go from there to Hamath the great, Then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are they better than these kingdoms, Or is their territory greater than yours?

3 Do you put off the day of calamity, And would you bring near the seat of violence?

4 Those who recline on beds of ivory And sprawl on their couches, And eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall,

5 Who improvise to the sound of the harp, And like David have composed songs for themselves,

6 Who drink wine from sacrificial bowls While they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, Yet they have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.

7 Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles, And the sprawlers' banqueting will pass away.

8 The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, the LORD God of hosts has declared: "I loathe the arrogance of Jacob, And I detest his citadels; Therefore, I will deliver up the city and all it contains."

9 And it will be, if ten men are left in one house, they will die.

10 Then one's uncle, or his undertaker, will lift him up to carry out his bones from the house, and he will say to the one who is in the innermost part of the house, "Is anyone else with you?" And that one will say, "No one." Then he will answer, "Keep quiet. For the name of the LORD is not to be mentioned."

11 For behold, the LORD is going to command that the great house be smashed to pieces and the small house to fragments.

12 Do horses run on rocks? Or does one plow them with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into poison, And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,

13 You who rejoice in Lo-debar, And say, "Have we not by our own strength taken Karnaim for ourselves?"

14 "For behold, I am going to raise up a nation against you, O house of Israel," declares the LORD God of hosts, "And they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath To the brook of the Arabah."

III. Five Visions Present The Cause Of God's Judgment (7:1-9:10).

A. The Vision Of The **Locusts** (7:1-3).

7:1 Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, He was forming a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop was after the king's mowing.

2 And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said, "Lord GOD, please pardon! How can Jacob stand, For he is small?"

3 The LORD changed His mind about this. "It shall not be," said the LORD.

B. The Vision Of The Devouring **Fire** (7:4-6).

4 Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, the Lord GOD was calling to contend with them by fire, and it consumed the great deep and began to consume the farm land.

5 Then I said, "Lord GOD, please stop! How can Jacob stand, for he is small?"

6 The LORD changed His mind about this. "This too shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

C. The Vision Of the **Plumb Line** (7:7-9).

7 Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall, with a plumb line in His hand.

8 And the LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.

9 “The high places of Isaac will be desolated And the sanctuaries of Israel laid waste. Then shall I rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

D. An Interlude: The Priest Tries To Silence Amos (7:10-17).

10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent word to Jeroboam, king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is unable to endure all his words.

11 “For thus Amos says, ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’”

12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Go, you seer, flee away to the land of Judah, and there eat bread and there do your prophesying!

13 “But no longer prophesy at Bethel, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence.”

14 Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs.

15 “But the LORD took me from following the flock and the LORD said to me, ‘Go prophesy to My people Israel.’

16 “And now hear the word of the LORD: you are saying, ‘You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you speak against the house of Isaac.’

17 “Therefore, thus says the LORD, ‘Your wife will become a harlot in the city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, your land will be parceled up by a measuring line, and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Moreover, Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’”

E. The Vision Of The Basket Of Summer Fruit (8:1-14).

8:1 Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, there was a basket of summer fruit.

2 And He said, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me, “The end has come for My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.

3 “The songs of the palace will turn to wailing in that day,” declares the Lord GOD. “Many will be the corpses; in every place they will cast them forth in silence.”

4 Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land,

5 saying, “When will the new moon be over, So that we may sell grain, And the sabbath, that we may open the wheat market, To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger, And to cheat with dishonest scales,

6 So as to buy the helpless for money And the needy for a pair of sandals, And that we may sell the refuse of the wheat?”

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob, “Indeed, I will never forget any of their deeds.

8 “Because of this will not the land quake And everyone who dwells in it mourn? Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile, And it will be tossed about, And subside like the Nile of Egypt.

9 “And it will come about in that day,” declares the Lord GOD, “That I shall make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight.

10 “Then I shall turn your festivals into mourning And all your songs into lamentation; And I will bring sackcloth on everyone’s loins And baldness on every head. And I will make it like a time of mourning for an only son, And the end of it will be like a bitter day.

11 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

12 “And people will stagger from sea to sea, And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find it.

13 “In that day the beautiful virgins And the young men will faint from thirst.

14 “As for those who swear by the guilt of Samaria, Who say, ‘As your god lives, O Dan,’ And, ‘As the way of Beersheba lives,’ They will fall and not rise again.”

F. The Vision Of The Smitten Sanctuary (9:1-10).

9:1 I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said, “Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake, And break them on the heads of them all! Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword; They will not have a fugitive who will flee, Or a refugee who will escape.

2 “Though they dig into Sheol, From there shall My hand take them; And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down.

3 “And though they hide on the summit of Carmel, I will search them out and take them from there; And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea, From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them.

4 “And though they go into captivity before their enemies, From there I will command the sword that it slay them, And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good.”

5 And the Lord GOD of hosts, The One who touches the land so that it melts, And all those who dwell in it mourn, And all of it rises up like the Nile And subsides like the Nile of Egypt;

6 The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens, And has founded His vaulted dome over the earth, He who calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the face of the earth, The LORD is His name.

7 “Are you not as the sons of Ethiopia to Me, O sons of Israel?” declares the LORD. “Have I not brought up Israel from the land of Egypt, And the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?”

8 “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, And I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,” Declares the LORD.

9 “For behold, I am commanding, And I will shake the house of Israel among all nations As grain is shaken in a sieve, But not a kernel will fall to the ground.

10 “All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, Those who say, ‘The calamity will not overtake or confront us.’”

IV. Promises Of A Bright Future — the **Messianic** hope (9:11-15).

11 “In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old;

12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom And all the nations who are called by My name, “Declares the LORD who does this.

13 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine, And all the hills will be dissolved.

14 “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them, They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 “I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.

Obadiah text

“on the day,” “the day,” “in the day” = 12x

phrases of certainty = 8x

I. **Edom Will Be Totally Destroyed (1:1-9).**

1:1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom-- We have heard a report from the LORD, And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, “Arise and let us go against her for battle”--

2 “Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised.

3 “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’

4 “Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” declares the LORD.

5 “If thieves came to you, If robbers by night-- O how you will be ruined!-- Would they not steal only until they had enough? If grape gatherers came to you, Would they not leave some gleanings?

6 “O how Esau will be ransacked, And his hidden treasures searched out!

7 “All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border, And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you. They who eat your bread Will set an ambush for you. (There is no understanding in him.)

8 “Will I not on that day,” declares the LORD, “Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau?

9 “Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman, In order that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

II. The Reason For God’s Judgment Upon **Edom (1:10-16).**

10 🕒 “Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever.

11 “On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem-- You too were as one of them.

12 “Do not gloat over your brother’s day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast In the day of their distress.

13 “Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster. Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity In the day of their disaster. And do not loot their wealth In the day of their disaster.

14 “And do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives; And do not imprison their survivors In the day of their distress.

15 “For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.

16 “Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow, And become as if they had never existed.

III. Exaltation of Israel & **Mt. Zion**, A Place of Refuge and Judgment (1:17-21).

17 “But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.

18 “Then the house of Jacob will be a fire And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau,” **For the LORD has spoken.**

19 Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain; Also, they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin will possess Gilead.

20 And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel, Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Will possess the cities of the Negev.

21 The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD’S.

I. Running from God - Jonah's disobedience (1:1-17).

A. Jonah's Call And Flight To Tarshish (1:1-3).

1:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,
2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

B. The Storm Caused By The Lord (1:4-10).

4 And the LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.

5 Then the sailors became afraid, and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down, and fallen sound asleep.

6 So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish."

7 And each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

8 Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

9 And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

10 Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

C. Jonah Is Cast Into The Sea (1:11-17).

11 So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"--for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.

12 And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you."

13 However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them.

14 Then they called on the LORD and said, “We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for Thou, O LORD, hast done as Thou hast pleased.”

15 So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

16 Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

II. Running to God - Jonah's prayer (2:1-10).

A. A Prayer Of Confession And Repentance (2:1-9).

2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,
2 and he said, “I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; Thou didst hear my voice.

3 “For Thou hadst cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Thy breakers and billows passed over me.

4 “So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Thy sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Thy holy temple.’

5 “Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.

6 “I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But Thou hast brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

7 “While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer came to Thee, Into Thy holy temple.

8 “Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,

9 But I will sacrifice to Thee With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD.”

B. Jonah Is Delivered To Dry Ground (2:10).

10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

III. Running with God - Jonah's preaching (3:1-10)

A. Jonah Is Commissioned A Second Time To Go Preach (3:1-4).

3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”

3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days’ walk.

4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

B. The People Repent And God Spares **Nineveh** (3:5-9).

5 Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes.

7 And he issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.

8 "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.

9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent, and withdraw His burning anger so that we shall not perish?"

C. God Saw Their Works (3:10).

10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

IV. Running ahead of God - Jonah's complaints (4:1-11).

A. Jonah Explains The Reason He Fled To Tarshish (4:1-5).

4:1 But it greatly displeased Jonah, and he became angry.

2 And he prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore, in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that Thou art a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life."

4 And the LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

5 Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.

B. Lord Uses A Gourd, A Worm, And A Wind To Teach Jonah (4:6-11).

6 So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

7 But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant and it withered.

8 And it came about when the sun came up that God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

9 Then God said to Jonah, “Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.”

10 Then the LORD said, “You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work, and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

11 “And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”

Micah_text

I. "Hear O Peoples": God will bring judgment upon both **Samaria** and **Judah** (1:1-2:13).

A. Lord witnesses against the house of Israel (1:1-7).

1:1 The word of the LORD which came to Micah of Moresheth  in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

2 Hear, O peoples, all of you; Listen, O earth and all it contains, And let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple.

3 For behold, the LORD is coming forth from His place. He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.

4 The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will be split, Like wax before the fire, Like water poured down a steep place.

5 All this is for the rebellion of Jacob And for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the rebellion of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? What is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?

6 For I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the open country, Planting places for a vineyard. I will pour her stones down into the valley, And will lay bare her foundations.

7 All of her idols will be smashed, All of her earnings will be burned with fire, And all of her images I will make desolate, For she collected them from a harlot's earnings, And to the earnings of a harlot they will return.

B. **Micah** laments over the destruction of Judah (1:8-16).

8 Because of this I must lament and wail, I must go barefoot and naked; I must make a lament like the jackals And a mourning like the ostriches.

9 For her wound is incurable, For it has come to Judah; It has reached the gate of my people, Even to Jerusalem.

10 Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all. At Beth-le-aphrah roll yourself in the dust.

11 Go on your way, inhabitant of Shaphir, in shameful nakedness. The inhabitant of Zaanan does not escape. The lamentation of Beth-ezel: "He will take from you its support."

12 For the inhabitant of Maroth Becomes weak waiting for good, Because a calamity has come down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem.

13 Harness the chariot to the team of horses, O inhabitant of Lachish-- She was the beginning of sin To the daughter of Zion-- Because in you were found The rebellious acts of Israel.

14 Therefore, you will give parting gifts On behalf of Moresheth-gath; The houses of Achzib will become a deception To the kings of Israel.

15 Moreover, I will bring on you The one who takes possession, O inhabitant of Mareshah. The glory of Israel will enter Adullam.

16 Make yourself bald and cut off your hair, Because of the children of your delight; Extend your baldness like the eagle, For they will go from you into exile.

C. Punishment is justified in view of their attitudes (2:1-11).

2:1 Woe to those who scheme iniquity, Who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, For it is in the power of their hands.

2 They covet fields and then seize them, And houses, and take them away. They rob a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.

3 Therefore, thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am planning against this family a calamity From which you cannot remove your necks; And you will not walk haughtily, For it will be an evil time.

4 "On that day they will take up against you a taunt And utter a bitter lamentation and say, 'We are completely destroyed! He exchanges the portion of my people; How He removes it from me! To the apostate He apportions our fields.'

5 "Therefore, you will have no one stretching a measuring line For you by lot in the assembly of the LORD.

6 'Do not speak out,' so they speak out. But if they do not speak out concerning these things, Reproaches will not be turned back.

7 "Is it being said, O house of Jacob: 'Is the Spirit of the LORD impatient? Are these His doings?' Do not My words do good To the one walking uprightly?

8 "Recently My people have arisen as an enemy-- You strip the robe off the garment, From unsuspecting passers-by, From those returned from war.

9 "The women of My people you evict, Each one from her pleasant house. From her children you take My splendor forever.

10 "Arise and go, For this is no place of rest Because of the uncleanness that brings on destruction, A painful destruction.

11 "If a man walking after wind and falsehood Had told lies and said, 'I will speak out to you concerning wine and liquor,' He would be spokesman to this people.

D. A **remnant** shall be saved (2:12-13).

12 "I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men.

13 "The breaker goes up before them; They break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, And the LORD at their head."

II. Leaders stand guilty for bringing the nation to ruin (3:1-12).

A. Civil rulers should know better but they hate **good** and love **evil** (3:1-4).

3:1 And I said, "Hear now, heads of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice?"

2 “You who hate good and love evil, Who tear off their skin from them And their flesh from their bones,

3 And who eat the flesh of my people, Strip off their skin from them, Break their bones, And chop them up as for the pot And as meat in a kettle.”

4 Then they will cry out to the LORD, But He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time, Because they have practiced evil deeds.

B. Spiritual leaders also made God’s people err (3:5-12).

5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets Who lead my people astray; When they have something to bite with their teeth, They cry, “Peace,” But against him who puts nothing in their mouths, They declare holy war.

6 Therefore it will be night for you--without vision, And darkness for you--without divination. The sun will go down on the prophets, And the day will become dark over them.

7 The seers will be ashamed And the diviners will be embarrassed. Indeed, they will all cover their mouths Because there is no answer from God.

8 On the other hand I am filled with power-- With the Spirit of the LORD-- And with justice and courage To make known to Jacob his rebellious act, Even to Israel his sin.

9 Now hear this, heads of the house of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel, Who abhor justice And twist everything that is straight,

10 Who build Zion with bloodshed And Jerusalem with violent injustice.

11 Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, Her priests instruct for a price, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD saying, “Is not the LORD in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us.”

12 Therefore, on account of you, Zion will be plowed as a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, And the mountain of the temple will become high places of a forest.

III. Future exaltation of Zion and the Messianic hope (4:1-5:15).

A. Mountain of the Lord established in the last days (4:1-8).

4:1 And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it.

2 And many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.

4 And each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

5 Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

6 “In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will assemble the lame, And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted.

7 “I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.

8 “And as for you, tower of the flock, Hill of the daughter of Zion, To you it will come-- Even the former dominion will come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.

B. Distress and captivity before restoration (4:9-5:1).

9 “Now, why do you cry out loudly? Is there no king among you, Or has your counselor perished, That agony has gripped you like a woman in childbirth?

10 “Writhe and labor to give birth, Daughter of Zion, Like a woman in childbirth, For now you will go out of the city, Dwell in the field, And go to Babylon. There you will be rescued; There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.

11 “And now many nations have been assembled against you Who say, ‘Let her be polluted, And let our eyes gloat over Zion.’

12 “But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, And they do not understand His purpose; For He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

13 “Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion, For your horn I will make iron And your hoofs I will make bronze, That you may pulverize many peoples, That you may devote to the LORD their unjust gain And their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

5:1 “Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; They have laid siege against us; With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.

C. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem and shall rule with strength (5:2-15).

2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

3 Therefore, He will give them up until the time When she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren Will return to the sons of Israel.

4 And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth.

5 And this One will be our peace. When the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.

6 And they will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, The land of Nimrod at its entrances; And He will deliver us from the Assyrian When he attacks our land And when he tramples our territory.

7 Then the remnant of Jacob Will be among many peoples Like dew from the LORD, Like showers on vegetation Which do not wait for man Or delay for the sons of men.

8 And the remnant of Jacob Will be among the nations, Among many peoples Like a lion among the beasts of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Which, if he passes through, Tramples down and tears, And there is none to rescue.

9 Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries, And all your enemies will be cut off.

10 “And it will be in that day,” declares the LORD, “That I will cut off your horses from among you And destroy your chariots.

11 “I will also cut off the cities of your land And tear down all your fortifications.

12 “I will cut off sorceries from your hand, And you will have fortunetellers no more.

13 “I will cut off your carved images And your sacred pillars from among you, So that you will no longer bow down To the work of your hands.

14 “I will root out your Asherim from among you And destroy your cities.

15 “And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath On the nations which have not obeyed.”

IV. Lord's controversy with His people (6:1-7:17).

A. The Lord witnesses against the house of Israel (6:1-5).

6:1 Hear now what the LORD is saying, “Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice.

2 “Listen, you mountains, to the indictment of the LORD, And you enduring foundations of the earth, Because the LORD has a case against His people; Even with Israel He will dispute.

3 “My people, what have I done to you, And how have I wearied you? Answer Me.

4 “Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt And ransomed you from the house of slavery, And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 “My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled And what Balaam son of Beor answered him, And from Shittim to Gilgal, In order that you might know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

B. What does God require? (6:6-8).

6 With what shall I come to the LORD And bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves?

7 Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my first-born for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

C. Their wickedness proved God's punishment is justified (6:9-16).

9 The voice of the LORD will call to the city-- And it is sound wisdom to fear Thy name: "Hear, O tribe. Who has appointed its time?"

10 "Is there yet a man in the wicked house, Along with treasures of wickedness, And a short measure that is cursed?"

11 "Can I justify wicked scales And a bag of deceptive weights?"

12 "For the rich men of the city are full of violence, Her residents speak lies, And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth."

13 "So also I will make you sick, striking you down, Desolating you because of your sins."

14 "You will eat, but you will not be satisfied, And your vileness will be in your midst. You will try to remove for safekeeping, But you will not preserve anything, And what you do preserve I will give to the sword."

15 "You will sow but you will not reap. You will tread the olive but will not anoint yourself with oil; And the grapes, but you will not drink wine."

16 "The statutes of Omri And all the works of the house of Ahab are observed; And in their devices you walk. Therefore, I will give you up for destruction And your inhabitants for derision, And you will bear the reproach of My people."

D. Penitential prayer (7:1-17).

7:1 Woe is me! For I am Like the fruit pickers and the grape gatherers. There is not a cluster of grapes to eat, Or a first-ripe fig which I crave.

2 The godly person has perished from the land, And there is no upright person among men. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net.

3 Concerning evil, both hands do it well. The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe, And a great man speaks the desire of his soul; So they weave it together.

4 The best of them is like a briar, The most upright like a thorn hedge. The day when you post a watchman, Your punishment will come. Then their confusion will occur.

5 Do not trust in a neighbor; Do not have confidence in a friend. From her who lies in your bosom Guard your lips.

6 For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

8 Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me.

9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me out to the light, And I will see His righteousness.

10 Then my enemy will see, And shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look on her; At that time she will be trampled down, Like mire of the streets.

11 It will be a day for building your walls. On that day will your boundary be extended.

12 It will be a day when they will come to you From Assyria and the cities of Egypt, From Egypt even to the Euphrates, Even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.

13 And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants, On account of the fruit of their deeds.

14 Shepherd Thy people with Thy scepter, The flock of Thy possession Which dwells by itself in the woodland, In the midst of a fruitful field. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead As in the days of old.

15 "As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles."

16 Nations will see and be ashamed Of all their might. They will put their hand on their mouth, Their ears will be deaf.

17 They will lick the dust like a serpent, Like reptiles of the earth. They will come trembling out of their fortresses; To the LORD our God they will come in dread, And they will be afraid before Thee.

E. A final doxology of **praise** to the Lord (7:18-20).

18 Who is a God like Thee, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, Thou wilt cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

20 Thou wilt give truth to Jacob And unchanging love to Abraham, Which Thou didst swear to our forefathers From the days of old.

Nahum_text

God's wrath & vengeance = 11 x

complete end = 7x

I. Nineveh's Impending Doom Decreed By The Lord (1:1-15).

A. The Goodness and Severity Of God (1:1-8).

1:1 🗣️ The oracle of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

2 A jealous and **avenging** God is the LORD; The LORD is **avenging** and **wrathful**. The LORD takes **vengeance** on His adversaries, And He reserves **wrath** for His enemies.

3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; The blossoms of Lebanon wither.

5 Mountains quake because of Him, And the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it.

6 Who can stand before His **indignation**? Who can endure the burning of His **anger**? His **wrath** is poured out like fire, And the rocks are broken up by Him.

7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

8 But with an overflowing flood He will make a **complete end** of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.

B. The Complete Overthrow Of Nineveh Is Decreed (1:9-15).

9 Whatever you devise against the LORD, He will make a **complete end** of it. Distress will not rise up twice.

10 Like tangled thorns, And like those who are drunken with their drink, They are consumed As **stubble completely withered**.

11 From you has gone forth One who plotted evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor.

12 Thus says the LORD, "Though they are at full strength and likewise many, Even so, **they will be cut off and pass away**. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no longer.

13 "So now, I will break his yoke bar from upon you, And I will tear off your shackles."

14 The LORD has issued a command concerning you: "**Your name will no longer be perpetuated**. I will cut off idol and image From the house of your gods. **I will prepare your grave**, For you are contemptible."

15 Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; Pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; **He is cut off completely**.

II. Details Of Nineveh's Downfall (2:1-13).

A. Warning Of War Against The City (2:1-7).

2:1 The one who scatters has come up against you. Man the fortress, watch the road; Strengthen your back, summon all your strength.

2 For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though devastators have devastated them And destroyed their vine branches.

3 The shields of his mighty men are colored red, The warriors are dressed in scarlet, The chariots are enveloped in flashing steel When he is prepared to march, And the cypress spears are brandished.

4 The chariots race madly in the streets, They rush wildly in the squares, Their appearance is like torches, They dash to and fro like lightning flashes.

5 He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their march, They hurry to her wall, And the mantelet is set up.

6 The gates of the rivers are opened, And the palace is dissolved.

7 And it is fixed: She is stripped, she is carried away, And her handmaids are moaning like the sound of doves, Beating on their breasts.

B. The People Flee While The City Is Ransacked (2:8-13).

8 🤖 Though Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days, Now they are fleeing; "Stop, stop," But no one turns back.

9 Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold! For there is no limit to the treasure-- Wealth from every kind of desirable object.

10 She is emptied! Yes, she is desolate and waste! Hearts are melting and knees knocking! Also anguish is in the whole body, And all their faces are grown pale!

11 Where is the den of the lions And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion, lioness, and lion's cub prowled, With nothing to disturb them?

12 The lion tore enough for his cubs, Killed enough for his lionesses, And filled his lairs with prey And his dens with torn flesh.

13 "Behold, I am **against you**," declares the LORD of hosts. **"I will burn up** her chariots in smoke, a sword will devour your young lions, I will cut off your prey from the land, and no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard."

III. Nineveh's Sins Deserved This Inevitable Fate (3:1-19).

A. Woe To The Bloody City (3:1-7).

3:1 Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies and pillage; Her prey never departs.

2 The noise of the whip, The noise of the rattling of the wheel, Galloping horses, And bounding chariots!

3 Horsemen charging, Swords flashing, spears gleaming, Many slain, a mass of corpses, And countless dead bodies-- They stumble over the dead bodies!

4 All because of the many harlotries of the harlot, The charming one, the mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations by her harlotries And families by her sorceries.

5 “Behold, **I am against you**,” declares the LORD of hosts; “And I will lift up your skirts over your face, And show to the nations your nakedness And to the kingdoms your disgrace.

6 “I will throw filth on you And make you vile, And set you up as a spectacle.

7 “And it will come about that all who see you Will shrink from you and say, ‘Nineveh is devastated! Who will grieve for her?’ Where will I seek comforters for you?”

B. The Fate Of **No-Amon** Is To Be The Fate Of Nineveh (3:8-19).

8 🕒 Are you better than No-amon, Which was situated by the waters of the Nile, With water surrounding her, Whose rampart was the sea, Whose wall consisted of the sea?

9 Ethiopia was her might, And Egypt too, without limits. Put and Lubim were among her helpers.

10 Yet she became an exile, She went into captivity; Also her small children were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound with fetters.

11 You too will become drunk, You will be hidden. You too will search for a refuge from the enemy.

12 All your fortifications are fig trees with ripe fruit-- When shaken, they fall into the eater’s mouth.

13 Behold, your people are women in your midst! The gates of your land are opened wide to your enemies; Fire consumes your gate bars.

14 Draw for yourself water for the siege! Strengthen your fortifications! Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Take hold of the brick mold!

15 There fire will consume you, The sword will cut you down; It will consume you as the locust does. Multiply yourself like the creeping locust, Multiply yourself like the swarming locust.

16 You have increased your traders more than the stars of heaven-- The creeping locust strips and flies away.

17 Your guardsmen are like the swarming locust. Your marshals are like hordes of grasshoppers Settling in the stone walls on a cold day. The sun rises and they flee, And the place where they are is not known.

18 Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria; Your nobles are lying down. Your people are scattered on the mountains, And there is no one to regather them.

19 There is no relief for your breakdown, Your wound is incurable. All who hear about you Will clap their hands over you, For on whom has not your evil passed continually?

Habakkuk_text

woe = 5x

I. God's judgment upon Judah through the **Chaldeans** (1:1-2:3).

A. Habakkuk's first complaint: How can the Lord justify His indifference in the presence of wickedness? (1:1-4).

1:1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

2 How long, O LORD, will I call for help, And Thou wilt not hear? I cry out to Thee, "Violence!" Yet Thou dost not save.

3 Why dost Thou make me see iniquity, And cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises.

4 Therefore, the law is ignored And justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore, justice comes out perverted.

B. Lord's reply: He is not indifferent; He will raise up the **Chaldeans** to execute His **judgment** (1:5-11).

5 🕒 "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days-- You would not believe if you were told.

6 "For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.

7 "They are dreaded and feared. Their justice and authority originate with themselves.

8 "Their horses are swifter than leopards And keener than wolves in the evening. Their horsemen come galloping, Their horsemen come from afar; They fly like an eagle swooping down to devour.

9 "All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces moves forward. They collect captives like sand.

10 "They mock at kings, And rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress, And heap up rubble to capture it.

11 "Then they will sweep through like the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god."

C. Habakkuk's second complaint: How can a holy God employ an impure and godless agent? (1:12-17).

12 Art Thou not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. Thou, O LORD, hast appointed them to judge; And Thou, O Rock, hast established them to correct.

13 Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil, And Thou canst not look on wickedness with favor. Why dost Thou look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why art Thou silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

14 Why hast Thou made men like the fish of the sea, Like creeping things without a ruler over them?

15 The Chaldeans bring all of them up with a hook, Drag them away with their net, And gather them together in their fishing net. Therefore, they rejoice and are glad.

16 Therefore, they offer a sacrifice to their net. And burn incense to their fishing net; Because through these things their catch is large, And their food is plentiful.

17 Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing?

D. Lord's reply: The judgment is sure, but not immediate (2:1-3).

2:1 I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when I am reproved.

2 Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.

3 "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

II. God's judgment upon the Chaldeans (2:4-20).

4 "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

5 "Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, So that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all nations And collects to himself all peoples.

6 "Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, Even mockery and insinuations against him, And say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his-- For how long-- And makes himself rich with loans?'

7 "Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them.

8 "Because you have looted many nations, All the remainder of the peoples will loot you-- Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants.

9 "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house To put his nest on high To be delivered from the hand of calamity!

10 "You have devised a shameful thing for your house By cutting off many peoples; So you are sinning against yourself.

11 "Surely the stone will cry out from the wall, And the rafter will answer it from the framework.

12 "Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed And founds a town with violence!

13 "Is it not indeed from the LORD of hosts That peoples toil for fire, And nations grow weary for nothing?

14 “For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

15 “Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, Who mix in your venom even to make them drunk So as to look on their nakedness!

16 “You will be filled with disgrace rather than honor. Now you yourself drink and expose your own nakedness. The cup in the LORD’S right hand will come around to you, And utter disgrace will come upon your glory.

17 “For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, And the devastation of its beasts by which you terrified them, Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants.

18 “What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, Or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork When he fashions speechless idols.

19 “Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, ‘Awake!’ To a dumb stone, ‘Arise!’ And that is your teacher? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, And there is no breath at all inside it.

20 “But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.”

III. Habakkuk’s prayer for compassion in the midst of judgment (3:1-19).

3:1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

2 LORD, I have heard the report about Thee and I fear. O LORD, revive Thy work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

3 God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His praise.

4 His radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays flashing from His hand, And there is the hiding of His power.

5 Before Him goes pestilence, And plague comes after Him.

6 He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations. Yes, the perpetual mountains were shattered, The ancient hills collapsed. His ways are everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan under distress, The tent curtains of the land of Midian were trembling.

8 Did the LORD rage against the rivers, Or was Thine anger against the rivers, Or was Thy wrath against the sea, That Thou didst ride on Thy horses, On Thy chariots of salvation?

9 Thy bow was made bare, The rods of chastisement were sworn. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw Thee and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.

11 Sun and moon stood in their places; They went away at the light of Thine arrows, At the radiance of Thy gleaming spear.

12 In indignation Thou didst march through the earth; In anger Thou didst trample the nations.

13 Thou didst go forth for the salvation of Thy people, For the salvation of Thine anointed. Thou didst strike the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

14 Thou didst pierce with his own spears The head of his throngs. They stormed in to scatter us; Their exultation was like those Who devour the oppressed in secret.

15 Thou didst tread on the sea with Thy horses, On the surge of many waters.

16 🕒 I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise who will invade us.

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls,

18 Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

19 The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

Zephaniah_text

"day" phrases = 20x

"I will" phrases = 11x

[[describe the day]] = 22x

remnant = 3x

I. Judgment upon the whole world — **Judah** in particular (1:1-18).

A. A world judgment (1:1-6).

1:1 The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah,  in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah,

2 “[I will] completely remove all things From the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

3 “[I will] remove man and beast; [I will] remove the birds of the sky And the fish of the sea, And the ruins along with the wicked; And [I will] cut off man from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

4 “So [I will] stretch out My hand against Judah And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And [I will] cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, And the names of the idolatrous priests along with the priests.

5 “And those who bow down on the housetops to the host of heaven, And those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom,

6 And those who have turned back from following the LORD, And those who have not sought the LORD or inquired of Him.”

B. Judgment on sinners of every rank (1:7-13).

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD [[is near]], For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests.

8 “Then it will come about on the day of the LORD’S sacrifice, That [I will] [[punish the princes]], the king’s sons, And all who clothe themselves with foreign garments.

9 “And [I will] [[punish]] on that day all who leap on the temple threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit.

10 “And on that day,” declares the LORD, “There will be the [[sound of a cry]] from the Fish Gate, A wail from the Second Quarter, And a loud crash from the hills.

11 “Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar, For all the people of Canaan will be silenced; All who weigh out silver will be cut off.

12 “And it will come about at that time That [I will] search Jerusalem with lamps, And [I will] punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good or evil!’

13 “Moreover, their wealth will become plunder, And their houses desolate; Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit them, And plant vineyards but not drink their wine.”

C. The imminence and terrible nature of the judgment (1:14-18).

14 Near is the great day of the LORD, [[Near and coming very quickly]]; [[Listen]], the day of the LORD! In it the [[warrior cries out]] bitterly.

15 A [[day of wrath]] is that day, [[A day of trouble and distress]], A day of [[destruction and desolation]], A day of [[darkness and gloom]], A day of [[clouds and thick darkness]],

16 A day of trumpet and [[battle cry], Against the fortified cities]] And the high corner towers.

17 And [[I will]] bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the [[LORD’S wrath]]; And [[all the earth will be devoured]] In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

II. Exhortation to repentance and perseverance (2:1 - 3:8).

A. Call to repentance (2:1-3).

2:1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather, O nation without shame,
2 Before the decree takes effect-- The day passes like the chaff-- Before the [[burning anger of the LORD]]; comes upon you, Before the day of the [[LORD’S anger]]; comes upon you.

3 Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the [[LORD’S anger]].

B. God will judge the nations near and far (2:4-15).

1. Judgment upon the nations near (2:4-11).

a. Philistia (2:4-7).

4 For Gaza will be abandoned, And Ashkelon a desolation; Ashdod will be driven out at noon, And Ekron will be uprooted.

5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, The nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; And I will destroy you, So that there will be no inhabitant.

6 So the seacoast will be pastures, With caves for shepherds and folds for flocks.

7 And the coast will be For the remnant of the house of Judah, They will pasture on it. In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down at evening; For the LORD their God will care for them And restore their fortune.

b. Moab and Ammon (2:8-10).

8 “I have heard the taunting of Moab And the revilings of the sons of Ammon, With which they have taunted My people And become arrogant against their territory.

9 “Therefore, as I live,” declares the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, “Surely Moab will be like Sodom, And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah-- A place possessed by nettles and salt pits, And a perpetual desolation. The **remnant** of My people will plunder them, And the remainder of My nation will inherit them.”

10 This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts.

c. All the gods of the earth (2:11).

11 The LORD will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

2. Judgment upon powerful nations afar (2:12-15).

a. Ethiopia (2:12).

12 “You also, O Ethiopians, will be slain by My sword.”

b. Assyria and Nineveh (2:13-15).

13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north And destroy Assyria, And He will make Nineveh a desolation, Parched like the wilderness.

14 And flocks will lie down in her midst, All beasts which range in herds; Both the pelican and the hedgehog Will lodge in the tops of her pillars; Birds will sing in the window, Desolation will be on the threshold; For He has laid bare the cedar work.

15 This is the exultant city Which dwells securely, Who says in her heart, “I am, and there is no one besides me.” How she has become a desolation, A resting place for beasts! Everyone who passes by her will hiss And wave his hand in contempt.

C. God will not spare **Judah** (3:1-7).

3:1 Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, The tyrannical city!

2 She heeded no voice; She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the LORD; She did not draw near to her God.

3 Her princes within her are roaring lions, Her judges are wolves at evening; They leave nothing for the morning.

4 Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men; Her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the law.

5 The LORD is righteous within her; He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail. But the unjust knows no shame.

6 “I have cut off nations; Their corner towers are in ruins. I have made their streets desolate, With no one passing by; Their cities are laid waste, Without a man, without an inhabitant.

7 “I said, ‘Surely you will revere Me, Accept instruction.’ So her dwelling will not be cut off According to all that I have appointed concerning her. But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds.

III. After judgment, salvation for the remnant (3:8-20).

8 “Therefore, wait for Me,” declares the LORD, “For the day when I rise up to the prey. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

9 “For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

10 “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings.

11 “In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain.

12 “But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD.

13 “The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue Be found in their mouths; For they shall feed and lie down With no one to make them tremble.”

14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more.

16 In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: “Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp.

17 “The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

18 “I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts-- They came from you, O Zion; The reproach of exile is a burden on them.

19 “Behold, I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save the lame And gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth.

20 “At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” Says the LORD.

Haggai_text

thus says the Lord = 28x

I. First message: The time for **rebuilding** the **Temple** is long overdue (1:1-15).

A. **Consider** your ways of selfishness and spiritual indifference (1:1-11).

1:1 🕒 In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest saying,

2 “**Thus says the LORD** of hosts, ‘This people says, “The time has not come, even the time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt.”’”

3 Then **the word of the LORD came** by Haggai the prophet saying,

4 “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?”

5 Now therefore, **thus says the LORD of hosts**, “Consider your ways!

6 “You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.”

7 **Thus says the LORD of hosts**, “Consider your ways!

8 “Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified,” **says the LORD**.

9 “You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?” **declares the LORD of hosts**, “Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.

10 “Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew, and the earth has withheld its produce.

11 “And I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands.”

B. **The people respond by going to work on the temple** (1:12-15)

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the **voice of the LORD their God** and the words of Haggai the prophet, **as the LORD their God** had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the LORD.

13 Then Haggai, the **messenger of the LORD**, **spoke by the commission of the LORD** to the people saying, “‘I am with you,’ **declares the LORD**.”

14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high

priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,
15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king.

II. The Second message: consolation to those who remembered the glory of Solomon's Temple (2:1-9).

A. The Lord will be with the builders of the Temple (2:1-5).

2:1 🕒 On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet saying,

2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying,

3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?

4 'But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts.

5 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

B. The temple's future glory (2:6-9).

6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.

7 'And I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations; and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.

9 'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and in this place I shall give peace,' declares the LORD of hosts."

III. Third message — completion of the temple a guarantee of physical blessings (2:10-19)

A. Two questions demonstrate Israel's need to be cleansed (2:10-14).

10 🕒 On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet saying,

11 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Ask now the priests for a ruling:

12 'If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?'
"And the priests answered and said, "No."

13 Then Haggai said, “If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?” And the priests answered and said, “It will become unclean.”

14 Then Haggai answered and said, “So is this people. And so is this nation before Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.

B. Lethargy had corrupted their activity, Zeal For The Lord’s Ways Would Restore Prosperity (2:15-19).

15 ‘But now, do consider from this day onward: before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the LORD,

16 from that time when one came to a grain heap of twenty measures, there would be only ten; and when one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there would be only twenty.

17 ‘I smote you and every work of your hands with blasting wind, mildew, and hail; yet you did not come back to Me,’ declares the LORD.

18 ‘Do consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month; from the day when the temple of the LORD was founded, consider:

19 ‘Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree, it has not borne fruit. Yet from this day on I will bless you.’”

IV. Fourth message: the Lord renews the promise of salvation (2:20-23).

A. The overthrow of the nations is promised (2:20-22).

20 Then the word of the LORD came a  second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month saying,

21 “Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah saying, ‘I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.

22 ‘And I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.’

B. The Messianic Hope is preserved in Zerubbabel (2:23).

23 ‘On that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,’” declares the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah_text

in that day = 20x

I. Visions, and messages of exhortation, consolation, and encouragement (1:1-8:23).

A. Call to **repentance** (1:1-6).

1:1 🕒 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo saying,

2 “The LORD was very angry with your fathers.

3 “Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Return to Me,” declares the LORD of hosts, “that I may return to you,” says the LORD of hosts.

4 “Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Return now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.”’ But they did not listen or give heed to Me,” declares the LORD.

5 “Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

6 “But did not My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, overtake your fathers? Then they repented and said, ‘As the LORD of hosts purposed to do to us in accordance with our ways and our deeds, so He has dealt with us.’””

B. Eight Visions And Their Interpretation (1:7-6:8).

1. The Rider And Horsemen Among The **Myrtle Trees** (1:7-17).

7 🕒 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, as follows:

8 I saw at night, and behold, a man was riding on a red horse, and he was standing among the myrtle trees which were in the ravine, with red, sorrel, and white horses behind him.

9 Then I said, “My lord, what are these?” And the angel who was speaking with me said to me, “I will show you what these are.”

10 And the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered and said, “These are those whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.”

11 So they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, “We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is peaceful and quiet.”

12 Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, “O LORD of hosts, how long wilt Thou have no compassion for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which Thou hast been indignant these seventy years?”

13 And the LORD answered the angel who was speaking with me with gracious words, comforting words.

14 So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.

15 "But I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster."

16 'Therefore, thus says the LORD, "I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it," declares the LORD of hosts, "and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem."

17 "Again, proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "My cities will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem."'"

2. The Four **Horns** And The Four **Carpenters** (1:18-21).

18 Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, there were four horns.

19 So I said to the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these?" And he answered me, "These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

20 Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.

21 And I said, "What are these coming to do?" And he said, "These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man lifts up his head; but these craftsmen have come to terrify them, to throw down the horns of the nations who have lifted up their horns against the land of Judah in order to scatter it."

3. The Man With The **Measuring Line** (2:1-13).

2:1 Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a man with a measuring line in his hand.

2 So I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see how wide it is and how long it is."

3 And behold, the angel who was speaking with me was going out, and another angel was coming out to meet him,

4 and said to him, "Run, speak to that young man, saying, 'Jerusalem will be inhabited without walls, because of the multitude of men and cattle within it.

5 'For I,' declares the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.'"

6 "Ho there! Flee from the land of the north," declares the LORD, "for I have dispersed you as the four winds of the heavens," declares the LORD.

7 "Ho, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon."

8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, "After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.

9 "For behold, I will wave My hand over them, so that they will be plunder for their slaves. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me.

10 "Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD.

11 “And many nations will join themselves to the LORD **in that day** and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

12 “And the LORD will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

13 “Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is aroused from His holy habitation.”

4. The Trial And Acquittal Of The **High Priest, Joshua** (3:1-10).

3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

2 And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”

3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel.

4 And he spoke and said to those who were standing before him saying, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” Again he said to him, “See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.”

5 Then I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments, while the angel of the LORD was standing by.

6 And the angel of the LORD admonished Joshua saying,

7 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘If you will walk in My ways, and if you will perform My service, then you will also govern My house and also have charge of My courts, and I will grant you free access among these who are standing here.

8 ‘Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you--indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch.

9 ‘For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; on one stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

10 **‘In that day,**’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree.’”

5. The Golden **Candlestick** And Two **Olive Trees** (4:1-14).

4:1 Then the angel who was speaking with me returned, and roused me as a man who is awakened from his sleep.

2 And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it;

3 also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side.”

4 Then I answered and said to the angel who was speaking with me saying, “What are these, my lord?”

5 So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.”

6 Then he answered and said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.

7 ‘What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!””

8 Also the word of the LORD came to me saying,

9 “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

10 “For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel--these are the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth.”

11 Then I answered and said to him, “What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?”

12 And I answered the second time and said to him, “What are the two olive branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden oil from themselves?”

13 So he answered me saying, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.”

14 Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.”

6. The **Flying Roll** (5:1-4).

5:1 Then I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, there was a flying scroll.

2 And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I answered, “I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.”

3 Then he said to me, “This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears will be purged away according to the writing on the other side.

4 “I will make it go forth,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and consume it with its timber and stones.”

7. The **Woman In The Ephah** (5:5-11).

5 Then the angel who was speaking with me went out, and said to me, “Lift up now your eyes, and see what this is, going forth.”

6 And I said, "What is it?" And he said, "This is the ephah going forth." Again he said, "This is their appearance in all the land

7 (and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah."

8 Then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he threw her down into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead weight on its opening.

9 Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens.

10 And I said to the angel who was speaking with me, "Where are they taking the ephah?"

11 Then he said to me, "To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal."

8. The four chariots and horses of various colors (6:1-8).

6:1 Now I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming forth from between the two mountains; and the mountains were bronze mountains.

2 With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, 3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot strong dappled horses.

4 Then I spoke and said to the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?"

5 And the angel answered and said to me, "These are the four spirits of heaven, going forth after standing before the Lord of all the earth,

6 with one of which the black horses are going forth to the north country; and the white ones go forth after them, while the dappled ones go forth to the south country.

7 "When the strong ones went out, they were eager to go to patrol the earth." And He said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth.

8 Then He cried out to me and spoke to me saying, "See, those who are going to the land of the north have appeased My wrath in the land of the north."

C. High priest crowned to symbolize the coronation of the Messiah (6:9-15).

9 The word of the LORD also came to me saying,

10 "Take an offering from the exiles, from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah; and you go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, where they have arrived from Babylon.

11 "And take silver and gold, make an ornate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

12 “Then say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts,’ Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD.

13 “Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.”

14 “Now the crown will become a reminder in the temple of the LORD to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

15 “And those who are far off will come and build the temple of the LORD.” Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And it will take place, if you completely obey the LORD your God.

II. The Lords answers their questions about continuing to mourn the fall of Jerusalem (7:1-8:23).

7:1 🕒 Then it came about in the fourth year of King Darius, that the word of the LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Chislev.

2 Now the town of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regemmelech and their men to seek the favor of the LORD,

3 speaking to the priests who belong to the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets saying, “Shall I weep in the fifth month and abstain, as I have done these many years?”

4 Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me saying,

5 “Say to all the people of the land and to the priests, ‘🕒 When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months these seventy years, was it actually for Me that you fasted?”

6 ‘And when you eat and drink, do you not eat for yourselves and do you not drink for yourselves?’

7 ‘Are not these the words which the LORD proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and prosperous with its cities around it, and the Negev and the foothills were inhabited?’”

8 Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah saying,

9 “Thus has the LORD of hosts said, ‘Dispense true justice, and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;

10 and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’

11 “But they refused to pay attention, and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing.

12 “And they made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

13 “And it came about that just as He called and they would not listen, so they called and I would not listen,” says the LORD of hosts;

14 “but I scattered them with a storm wind among all the nations whom they have not known. Thus the land is desolated behind them, so that no one went back and forth, for they made the pleasant land desolate.”

8:1 Then the word of the LORD of hosts came saying,

2 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.’

3 “Thus says the LORD, ‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.’

4 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age.

5 ‘And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.’

6 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?’ declares the LORD of hosts.

7 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west;

8 and I will bring them back, and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem, and they will be My people and I will be their God in truth and righteousness.’

9 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Let your hands be strong, you who are listening in these days to these words from the mouth of the prophets, those who spoke in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, to the end that the temple might be built.

10 ‘For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for animal; and for him who went out or came in there was no peace because of his enemies, and I set all men one against another.

11 ‘But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ declares the LORD of hosts.

12 ‘For there will be peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce, and the heavens will give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things.

13 ‘And it will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.’

14 “For thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘and I have not relented,

15 so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear!

16 ‘These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates.

17 'Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the LORD."

18 Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me saying,

19 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'The fast of the fourth, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth months will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah; so love truth and peace.'

20 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities.

21 'And the inhabitants of one will go to another saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go."

22 'So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.'

23 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"

III. Future of Israel and the people of the Lord (9:1-14:21).

A. Judgment and destruction of the heathen enemies of Israel (9:1-8).

9:1 The burden of the word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach, with Damascus as its resting place (for the eyes of men, especially of all the tribes of Israel, are toward the LORD),

2 And Hamath also, which borders on it; Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise.

3 For Tyre built herself a fortress And piled up silver like dust, And gold like the mire of the streets.

4 Behold, the Lord will dispossess her And cast her wealth into the sea; And she will be consumed with fire.

5 Ashkelon will see it and be afraid. Gaza too will writhe in great pain; Also Ekron, for her expectation has been confounded. Moreover, the king will perish from Gaza, And Ashkelon will not be inhabited.

6 And a mongrel race will dwell in Ashdod, And I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

7 And I will remove their blood from their mouth, And their detestable things from between their teeth. Then they also will be a remnant for our God, And be like a clan in Judah, And Ekron like a Jebusite.

8 But I will camp around My house because of an army, Because of him who passes by and returns; And no oppressor will pass over them anymore, For now I have seen with My eyes.

B. Coming of the **Messiah** (9:9-17).

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with

salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

11 As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

12 Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; This very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you.

13 For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim. And I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece; And I will make you like a warrior's sword.

14 Then the LORD will appear over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning; And the Lord GOD will blow the trumpet, And will march in the storm winds of the south.

15 The LORD of hosts will defend them. And they will devour, and trample on the sling stones; And they will drink, and be boisterous as with wine; And they will be filled like a sacrificial basin, Drenched like the corners of the altar.

16 And the LORD their God will save them **in that day** As the flock of His people; For they are as the stones of a crown, Sparkling in His land.

17 For what comeliness and beauty will be theirs! Grain will make the young men flourish, and new wine the virgins.

C. The Lord shall redeem His people (10:1-12).

10:1 Ask rain from the LORD at the time of the spring rain-- The LORD who makes the storm clouds; And He will give them showers of rain, vegetation in the field to each man.

2 For the teraphim speak iniquity, And the diviners see lying visions, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep, They are afflicted, because there is no shepherd.

3 "My anger is kindled against the shepherds, And I will punish the male goats; For the LORD of hosts has visited His flock, the house of Judah, And will make them like His majestic horse in battle.

4 "From them will come the cornerstone, From them the tent peg, From them the bow of battle, From them every ruler, all of them together.

5 "And they will be as mighty men, Treading down the enemy in the mire of the streets in battle; And they will fight, for the LORD will be with them; And the riders on horses will be put to shame.

6 "And I shall strengthen the house of Judah, And I shall save the house of Joseph, And I shall bring them back, Because I have had compassion on them; And they will be as though I had not rejected them, For I am the LORD their God, and I will answer them.

7 “And Ephraim will be like a mighty man, And their heart will be glad as if from wine; Indeed, their children will see it and be glad, Their heart will rejoice in the LORD.

8 “I will whistle for them to gather them together, For I have redeemed them; And they will be as numerous as they were before.

9 “When I scatter them among the peoples, They will remember Me in far countries, And they with their children will live and come back.

10 “I will bring them back from the land of Egypt, And gather them from Assyria; And I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, Until no room can be found for them.

11 “And He will pass through the sea of distress, And strike the waves in the sea, So that all the depths of the Nile will dry up; And the pride of Assyria will be brought down, And the scepter of Egypt will depart.

12 “And I shall strengthen them in the LORD, And in His name they will walk,” declares the LORD.

D. Allegories which illustrate the future of physical Israel (11:1-17).

11:1 Open your doors, O Lebanon, That a fire may feed on your cedars.

2 Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, Because the glorious trees have been destroyed; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, For the impenetrable forest has come down.

3 There is a sound of the shepherds’ wail, For their glory is ruined; There is a sound of the young lions’ roar, For the pride of the Jordan is ruined.

4 Thus says the LORD my God, “Pasture the flock doomed to slaughter.

5 “Those who buy them slay them and go unpunished, and each of those who sell them says, ‘Blessed be the LORD, for I have become rich!’ And their own shepherds have no pity on them.

6 “For I shall no longer have pity on the inhabitants of the land,” declares the LORD; “but behold, I shall cause the men to fall, each into another’s power and into the power of his king; and they will strike the land, and I shall not deliver them from their power.”

7 So I pastured the flock doomed to slaughter, hence the afflicted of the flock. And I took for myself two staffs: the one I called Favor, and the other I called Union; so I pastured the flock.

8 Then I annihilated the three shepherds in one month, for my soul was impatient with them, and their soul also was weary of me.

9 Then I said, “I will not pasture you. What is to die, let it die, and what is to be annihilated, let it be annihilated; and let those who are left eat one another’s flesh.”

10 And I took my staff, Favor, and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples.

11 So it was broken **on that day**, and thus the afflicted of the flock who were watching me realized that it was the word of the LORD.

12 And I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages.

13 Then the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them.” So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

14 Then I cut my second staff, Union, in pieces, to break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

15 And the LORD said to me, “Take again for yourself the equipment of a foolish shepherd.

16 “For behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs.

17 “Woe to the worthless shepherd Who leaves the flock! A sword will be on his arm And on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered, And his right eye will be blind.”

E. “In that day” Spiritual **Jerusalem** shall be delivered (12:1-9).

12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him,

2 “Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

3 “And it will come about **in that day** that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

4 “**In that day**,” declares the LORD, “I will strike every horse with bewilderment, and his rider with madness. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

5 “Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

6 “**In that day** I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

7 “The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah.

8 “**In that day** the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them **in that day** will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD before them.

9 “And it will come about **in that day** that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

F. “In that day” the Spirit of Grace and a fountain for salvation will be available (12:10-13:6).

10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.

11 “In that day” there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

12 “And the land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;

13 the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves;

14 all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

13:1 “In that day” a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

2 “And it will come about in that day,” declares the LORD of hosts, “that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

3 “And it will come about that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, for you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD’; and his father and mother who gave birth to him will pierce him through when he prophesies.

4 “Also it will come about in that day that the prophets will each be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in order to deceive;

5 but he will say, ‘I am not a prophet; I am a tiller of the ground, for a man sold me as a slave in my youth.’

6 “And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will say, ‘Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’

G. “In that day” the people of God will be refined and purified by persecution (13:7-14:21).

7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate,” Declares the LORD of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

8 “And it will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it.

9 “And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.

2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

5 And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

6 And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

8 And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

10 All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin’s Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s wine presses.

11 And people will live in it, and there will be no more curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

12 Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.

13 And it will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another’s hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another.

14 And Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance.

15 So also like this plague, will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey, and all the cattle that will be in those camps.

16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

17 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

18 And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

19 This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

20 In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "HOLY TO THE LORD." And the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will be like the bowls before the altar.

21 And every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.

Malachi_text

says the LORD = 26x

I. The Lord's denunciation of unfaithfulness (1:1-2:16).

A. God affirms His **love** for Israel (1:1-5).

1:1 The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

2 "I have loved you," **says the LORD**. But you say, "How hast Thou loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" **declares the LORD**. "Yet I have loved Jacob; 3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation, and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."

4 Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus **says the LORD** of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever."

5 And your eyes will see this and you will say, "The LORD be magnified beyond the border of Israel!"

B. **Priests** are reprovved for their failure in their responsibility (1:6-14).

6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?" **says the LORD** of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Thy name?'

7 "You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, 'How have we defiled Thee?' In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is to be despised.'

8 "But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it 🙄 to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" **says the LORD** of hosts.

9 "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" **says the LORD** of hosts.

10 "🙄 Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," **says the LORD** of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you.

11 "For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," **says the LORD** of hosts.

12 "But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.'

13 "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," **says the LORD** of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery, and what is lame

or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" **says the LORD.**

14 "But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock, and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," **says the LORD of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations."**

C. Curse pronounced upon the **priests** (2:1-9).

2:1 "And now, this commandment is for you, O priests.

2 "If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," **says the LORD of hosts, "then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart.**

3 "Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it.

4 "Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi," **says the LORD of hosts.**

5 "My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me, and stood in awe of My name.

6 "True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity.

7 "For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

8 "But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; 🕒 (Neh. 13:29) you have corrupted the covenant of Levi," **says the LORD of hosts.**

9 "So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways, but are showing partiality in the instruction.

D. God hates **divorce** and people rebuked for **intermarriage** with foreign women (2:10-16).

10 "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?

11 "Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves, and has 🕒 (Neh. 13:23,28) married the daughter of a foreign god.

12 "As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts.

13 "And this is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

14 “Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

15 “But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

16 “For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

II. Condemnation of religious indifference (2:17-4:6).

A. Day of the **Lord (judgment)** is coming (2:17-3:7).

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

3:1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.

2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.

3 “And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien, and do not fear Me,” says the LORD of hosts.

6 “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

7 “From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. “But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

B. They robbed God by withholding **tithes** (3:8-12).

8 “Will a man rob God? 🕒 (Neh. 13:10-12) Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed Thee?’ In tithes and offerings.

9 “You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!

10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” **says the LORD** of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

11 “Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” **says the LORD** of hosts.

12 “And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” **says the LORD** of hosts.

C. They had spoken arrogant words against the Lord (3:13-4:3).

13 “Your words have been arrogant against Me,” **says the LORD**. “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against Thee?’

14 “You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?

15 ‘So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up, but they also test God and escape.’”

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

17 “And they will be Mine,” **says the LORD** of hosts, “on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.”

18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” **says the LORD** of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

2 “But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

3 “And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing,” **says the LORD** of hosts.

D. Closing admonitions & the promise of sending **Elijah** (4:4-6).

4 “Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

5 “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

6 “And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.”