

Old Testament Overview

Nahum – Malachi

(Pr 3:9-10)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the O.T. Overview
 - a. We have looked at Genesis – Micah.
3. Let us continue with the second set of minor prophets.
 - a. Remember these books and prophets are not minor in anything but size.

I. Nahum

A. History

1. Named after the prophet Nahum.
2. He lived in a town called Elkosh.
3. Nahum's name means comfort.
 - a. Nahum's message to Judah was comforting.
 - i. Right after fall of Israel.
 - b. Nahum's message to Assyria ie Nineveh was not.
4. Assyria was wicked, brutal, cruel, prideful, and idolatrous.

B. Outline

1. (1) God, the Supreme, Righteous and angry Judge
2. (2) Judgment on Nineveh described
3. (3) Judgment on Nineveh justified

C. Lessons Learned

1. God can't stand cruelty
 - i. **Na 3:1-2** "Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs. 2 The noise of a whip And the noise of rattling wheels, Of galloping horses, Of clattering chariots!"¹
 - ii. **Jn 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
 - iii. **I Th 4:9** "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another"
 - iv. **I Jn 4:11** "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

II. Habakkuk

A. History

1. Named after the prophet Habakkuk.
2. Habakkuk's name means "one who embraces."
3. He lived about a century after the fall of Israel.
4. Habakkuk's main purpose was to explain the reason for the coming Babylonian captivity.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

Old Testament Overview

B. Outline

1. (1-2) Habakkuk's Perplexity.
 - a. Question: Why is wickedness tolerated in Judah? – 1:2-4
 - b. Answer: The Babylonians will bring punishment – 1:5-11
 - c. Question: Why allow wicked Babylon to act? – 1:12-17
 - d. Answer: The Babylonians will fall as well – 2:2-20
2. (3) Habakkuk's prayer of praise for God's greatness.

C. Lessons Learned

1. Even though the message is gloom and doom Habakkuk still praises God.
 - i. **Hk 3:17-18** "Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."
 - ii. **Ps 7:17** "I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High."
 - iii. **Ps 9:2** "I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."

III. Zephaniah

A. History

1. Named after the prophet Zephaniah.
2. Zephaniah was a descendant of King Hezekiah.
3. Zephaniah's name means "the Lord hides."
4. Zephaniah's preaching was to prepare the people for restoration.
 - i. King Josiah would help restore Judah.
 - ii. King Manasseh & Amon were wicked and thus the people needed to be prepared for when Josiah would come.

B. Outline

1. (1) Judgment on Judah
2. (2) Judgment on Gentile nations
 - i. Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, Assyria
3. (3:1-7) Judgment on Jerusalem and the other nations
4. (3:8-20) Future restoration & blessings

C. Lessons Learned

1. Meekness or humility is vital to righteousness
 - i. **Zp 2:3** "Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger."
 - ii. **Ps 25:9** "The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way."
 - iii. **Ps 147:6** "The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground."
 - iv. **Ja 4:10** "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

Old Testament Overview

IV. Haggai

A. History

1. Named after the prophet Haggai.
2. Haggai means "My Feast."
3. Haggai is the first recorded prophet to preach after Babylonian exile.
4. He addressed himself to the returning exiles and their leaders, Joshua & Zerubbabel.
 - i. He must have been a returning exile himself.
5. Haggai preached for a four month period in 520 B.C.
6. Haggai's book is presented in four oracles.

B. Outline

1. (1) Admonition to commence the Temple construction
2. (2:1-9) Assurance that their courageous efforts are needed
3. (2:10-19) Their past defiled condition can be cleansed
4. (2:20-23) Their leader, Zerubbabel, is endorsed by God

C. Lessons Learned

1. We are blessed when we give priority to God's work
 - i. **Hg 2:1-9** "In the seventh month, on the twenty-first of the 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? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing? 4 Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts. 5 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!' 6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. 8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts. 9 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts.'""
 - ii. **Mt 6:33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
 - a. See **Mt 6:25-32**
 - iii. **Pr 3:9-10** "Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

Old Testament Overview

V. Zechariah

A. History

1. Named after the prophet Zechariah.
2. There are 28 Zechariah's in the O.T.
 - i. Name means "the Lord Remembers."
3. He was a contemporary of Haggai, [Er 5:1](#).
4. Zechariah was a descended of priests, [Ne 12:4](#).
5. He began preaching two months after Haggai's first prophecy.
 - i. Preach long after Haggai though.
6. Zechariah's job was to get the exiles to work on the Temple and the rest of the city of Jerusalem.

B. Outline

1. (1:1-6) Admonition to repent
2. (1:7-6:15) 8 visions & the crowning of Joshua
3. (7) Futility of manmade fasting
4. (8) Jerusalem restored
5. (9-14) What the future holds
 - i. God's use of Alexander to punish – 9:2-8
 - ii. The coming Christ – 9:9-10
 - iii. The fall of Greece – 9:11-17
 - iv. God's care for Judah – 10
 - v. A variety of shepherds – 11
 - vi. God's care for Jerusalem – 12-13
 - vii. The day of the Lord – 14

C. Lessons Learned

1. God the Father knows all things.
2. Look at all that was predicted around 520 B.C.
 - i. Zechariah is 2nd only to Isaiah in prophesies about Jesus
 - ii. Jesus the Branch & Stone – 3:8-9
 - iii. Jesus building the church – 6:12-13
 - iv. Jesus' humanity – 13:7
 - v. His priesthood – 6:13
 - vi. Jesus' kingship & triumphal entry in to Jerusalem – 9:9-10
 - vii. His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver – 11:12-13
 - viii. His crucifixion – 12:10
 - ix. His atonement for sin – 13:1

Old Testament Overview

VI. Malachi

A. History

1. Named after the prophet Malachi.
2. Name means "My Messenger."
3. Started preaching about 100yrs after the return from exile.
 - i. About 430 B.C.
4. Although many before Malachi had gotten the people to have a spiritual renewal they had found themselves now in a lazy and indifferent slump towards the Law of Moses.
 - i. Malachi uses a question/answer technique to convict and revive the people.
 - ii. He uses some 23 questions.

B. Outline

1. (1:1-5) The love of God for His people
2. (1:6-3:18) The people's unfaithfulness
3. (4) God's judgment

C. Lessons Learned

1. We must have zeal in our worship.
 - i. We cannot be mechanical in our worship.
 - ii. We must be spiritual in our worship
 - a. **Jn 4:24** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
 - b. **Is 57:15** "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."
 - iii. We are empty without zeal.
 - a. **Mt 15:8-9** "'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"
2. We must give our best to God.
 - i. **Ma 1:6-14** "'A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' 7 "You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. 9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. 10 "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you

Old Testament Overview

would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,” Says the LORD of hosts, “Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. 11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts. 12 “But you profane it, In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.’ 13 You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it,” Says the LORD of hosts. “And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” Says the LORD. 14 “But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King,” Says the LORD of hosts, “And My name is to be feared among the nations.”

CONCLUSION

1. With all of these prophets their main objective was to get people to do what was right and to let them know that if they didn't what the consequences were.
2. Question: Are you doing what is right in sight of God?
 - a. Are you following His commandments and obeying His Word.
3. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**