

Introduction to the Minor Prophets – Pt 2

- In December, we studied Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Nahum, Amos and Micah. This month, we will finish our study on the Minor Prophets. Chronologically, we skipped Hosea, which is written after Amos, but before Micah. In preparation for our study, please review the following summary quote and then fill in the information below.
- *The Minor Prophets from Obadiah to Malachi cover a four-hundred-year span of history moving through the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Empires. Three were prophets to the northern kingdom (Jonah, Amos, Hosea), six were prophets to the southern kingdom (Obadiah, Joel, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk), and three were postexilic prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi). Although all the minor prophets are named, very little is known about most of them. Before the time of Christ these twelve books were joined together to make one scroll known collectively as “The Twelve.” Their combined length (sixty-seven chapters) is about equal to that of Isaiah.* - Talk Thru the Bible, Wilkinson & Boa
- Using the Introduction to each book, fill in the following information:
 - o **Hosea**
 - Audience: _____ Date Written: _____
 - Theme: _____
 - o **Zephaniah**
 - Audience: _____ Date Written: _____
 - Theme: _____
 - o **Habakkuk**
 - Audience: _____ Date Written: _____
 - Theme: _____
 - o **Haggai**
 - Audience: _____ Date Written: _____
 - Theme: _____
 - o **Zechariah**
 - Audience: _____ Date Written: _____
 - Theme: _____
 - o **Malachi**
 - Audience: _____ Date Written: _____
 - Theme: _____

Monday, January 1

Introduction to Hosea

Author: Hosea, a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Date: Hosea prophesied from ~755-720 BC.

Theme of the Book: God's Loyal Love (chesed)

Outline of the Book

- I. Adulterous Wife and Faithful Husband (1-3)
- II. Adulterous Israel and Faithful Lord (4-14)

Key Passages:

Hosea 1-3 *Gomer restored to Hosea*

Hosea 11-14 *Israel restored to God*

Hosea 4:6 *Israel rejected as a priest; they forgot the Law*

Hosea 6:6 *Loyalty vs. sacrifice; knowledge of God vs. burnt offerings*

Hosea 11:1 *Out of Egypt God called His Son whom He loved*

Summary Statement: "Hosea depicts Israel's unfaithfulness with a number of images from family and nature. Israel is like: a promiscuous wife, an indifferent mother, an illegitimate child, an ungrateful son, a stubborn heifer, a silly dove, a luxurious vine, and grapes in the wilderness. Yet Israel's unfaithfulness and obstinacy are not enough to exhaust God's redeeming love that outstrips the human capacity to comprehend." – *ESV Study Bible, Crossway, 2008*

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:7 – "For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,"

- ***Task(s) for Today:***

- Read the verse to familiarize yourself with it
- Realize the importance of why we are memorizing this verse

Tuesday, January 2

Hosea 1-2

- What object lesson is God trying to teach Israel through Hosea's life circumstances?
 - o If God desired to use your life circumstances as an object for someone else, how would you prepare yourself to be ready for that?

- What do you learn about God from this chapter that gives you a greater love and appreciation for Him?

- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:7 – “For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,”
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Write out the verse

Wednesday, January 3

Hosea 3-4

- What is the theme of this book? How can you see that theme in the passage that you just read?
- How does this passage teach us God's view of our sin? How can you use this knowledge to help you 'put off' sin and 'put on' righteousness?

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:7 - "For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,"

- ***Task(s) for Today:***

- o Memorize the verse

Thursday, January 4

Hosea 5-6

- List the sins committed by the people in this chapter.

- Why did they sin? Why do you think they thought it would benefit them?

- What sins do you typically struggle with? Why do you commit them?
How can you avoid these sins in the future?

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:7 - "For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,"

- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o From memory, text/e-mail/write out the verse to a friend/relative

Friday, January 5

Hosea 7-8

- Write down Hosea 8:14. Take some time to meditate on this verse and consider what God is saying, why He said it, and what the ramifications from this verse would be.

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:7 – “For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,”

- ***Task(s) for Today:***

- o From memory, say the verse out loud to a friend/relative

Saturday, January 6

Hosea 9-10

- What was God's plan for the nation of Israel? In today's reading, how do we see that they have ignored God's plan for their nation?
- What are two characteristics of God that really stand out to you from this passage? What makes these attributes stand out?

Sunday, January 7

Review Day

Catch up on any readings, study questions, or memorization that you may have missed.

Monday, January 8

Hosea 11-12

- Use the **“Introduction to Hosea”** page at the front of the reading plan to answer the following questions:
 - What is the theme of the book?
 - When you look at the outline for this book, which section is today's chapter in?
 - How does what you learn today communicate the theme of the book and how does it fit into the outline section? Write out some specific examples.

- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:8 – “being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - Read the verse to familiarize yourself with it
 - Realize the importance of why we are memorizing this verse

Tuesday, January 9

Hosea 13-14

- After reading today's chapters, answer the following questions:
 - o How would you summarize the events of Hosea?
 - o What is the theme of this book and how was that theme communicated?
 - o What did you learn about the sinfulness of man from this book?
 - o What did you learn about the character of God from this book?
- Write out one verse from today's reading. Spend some time praying through this verse as a way to meditate on the truth it communicates.
- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:8 – "being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Write out the verse

Wednesday, January 10

Introduction to Zephaniah

Author: Zephaniah, the great, great grandson of King Hezekiah, and a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah

Date Written: Between 640-609 BC, during the reign of King Josiah.

Theme of the Book: Future Global Judgment

Outline of the Book:

- I. Prophecies of Judgment (1-2)
(On Judah and the Surrounding Nations)
- II. Prophecies of Future Blessing (3)
(On Israel)

Key Passage:

Zephaniah 1:14-18 The Day of the Lord is near

Summary Statement: The prophet Zephaniah cries out against the people of Judah to repent before they are punished like Israel was. The nation will undergo reform at the instruction of the righteous king Josiah, but it is a short-lived change and the people will quickly fall back into sin. Zephaniah warns that continued idolatry would lead to judgment by God, but insists that repentance is always an option (Zeph 2:3).

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:8 – “being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

- ***Task(s) for Today:***

- Memorize the verse

Zephaniah 1-2

- What is the theme of Zephaniah? How is that theme reflected in these two chapters?
- Upon whom will the Lord's judgment fall? Specifically (reread 1:4); generally (reread 1:6).
- There is a stark contrast between the humble and the proud in this book (Reread 2:1-3 vs. 2:10-11). Those who humbly confess that they are sinners and confess their specific sins receive God's mercy. Those who remain proud receive God's judgment. Ask yourself: Is there any sin I need to confess to the Lord and others?
- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:8 – "being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o From memory, text/e-mail/write out the verse to a friend/relative

Zephaniah 3

- Who is it that will take refuge in the LORD? In other words, who is it that will be saved (cf. 3:12)? Does this verse characterize you? Why or why not?
- How is it that the LORD will remove His judgments against Jerusalem (3:15)? In other words, how does God no longer not count your sin against you?
- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:8 – “being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o From memory, say the verse out loud to a friend/relative

Saturday, January 13

Introduction to Habakkuk

Author: Habakkuk, a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah

Date Written: Habakkuk prophesied ~615-605 BC, before the fall of Judah.

Theme of the Book: Faith and Doubt in the Face of Judah's Exile

Outline of the Book:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| I. Habakkuk's Perplexities | (1-2) |
| II. Habakkuk's Prayer/Praise | (3) |

Key Passage:

Habakkuk 2:4 – "The righteous shall live by faith"

Summary Statement: Habakkuk is the record of the prophet's dialogue with God over His punishment of sin. At first, Habakkuk is shocked that God was not punishing Judah for their sin. God answers that He will judge them by means of the Chaldeans (Babylonians). Habakkuk is then confused on how God could use such an evil people to punish Judah. Ultimately, Habakkuk learns that God is sovereign over all things and can reward the righteous and punish the wicked in whatever way He sees fit. Habakkuk learns that God is worthy to be praised and trusted simply because He is God over all.

Sunday, January 14

Review Day

Catch up on any readings, study questions, or memorization that you may have missed.

- What is the theme of Habakkuk? How is that theme reflected in these two chapters?
- What does the righteous live by (2:4)? Who are the righteous contrasted with? Which person characterizes your life?
- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:9 - "But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;"
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Read the verse to familiarize yourself with it
 - o Realize the importance of why we are memorizing this verse

Habakkuk 3

- This chapter marks a turning point in Habakkuk's thinking. God is about to judge Judah for her disobedience, and instead of complaining what does Habakkuk do in the following verses?
 - Verse 2:

 - Verses 16-19:

- Is this how you respond to the Lord's discipline in your life? (For further reading on responding to the Lord's discipline see Hebrews 12:4-14.)

- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:9 - "But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;"
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Write out the verse

Wednesday, January 17

Introduction to Haggai

Author: Haggai, a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah

Date Written: 520 BC, during the reign of Persian King Darius I.

Theme of the Book: Call to Restart the Rebuilding of the Temple

Outline of the Book:

I.	Rebuke for Disobedience	(1:1-11)
II.	Rebuilding the Temple	(1:12-15)
III.	Return of God's Glory	(2:1-9)
IV.	Religious Questions	(2:10-19)
V.	Reign of God	(2:20-23)

Key Passages

Haggai 1 God calls people to construction

Haggai 2:20-23 Messiah's future reign prefigured; millennium prophesied

Summary Statement: The book of Haggai tells the story of the Jews recently returned to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon. It records how they had grown complacent in the rebuilding of the temple and had instead pursued their own well-being. It describes how God sent His prophet Haggai to rebuke them and exhort them back to work. It explains how the people repented and returned to work and were blessed because of it. But ultimately, it tells how God is worthy. He is worthy to labor for and He is worthy to be worshiped. God deserved the maximum service and worship that the Jewish remnant could put forth, and He deserves it still today.

- Verse of the Week:

James 1:9 - "But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;"

- Task(s) for Today:

- Memorize the verse

Thursday, January 18

Haggai 1-2

- What was the disobedience of the people? What had they done instead of what they were supposed to do (cf. 1:4)? Take a few moments to consider how you might be serving yourself instead of the Lord.

- Reread 2:11-17. Here Yahweh declares the consequences of the people's sin while also declaring that He desires obedience rather than sacrifice. What sins of thought, attitude, and action should you confess now?

- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:9 - "But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;"

- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o From memory, text/e-mail/write out the verse to a friend/relative

Friday, January 19

Introduction to Zechariah

Author: Zechariah, a priest and prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He prophesied alongside Haggai (Ezra 5:1; 6:14).

Date Written: Between 520-470 BC, during the reign of Persian Kings Darius I and Xerxes.

Theme of the Book: Israel's Comfort and Glory (Preparation for the Messiah)

Outline of the Book:

I.	The Call to Repentance	(1:1-6)
II.	The 8 Visions of Zechariah	(1:7-6)
III.	The 4 Messages of Zechariah	(7-8)
IV.	The 2 Burdens of Zechariah	(9-14)

Key Passages:

Zechariah 4:6 by God's might and Spirit, not by man

Zechariah 12:10 Israel's mourning over the pierced Messiah

Zechariah 14:9-11 The reign of Christ

Summary Statement: The book of Zechariah records the prophecies of that prophet, calling the people to repentance with the focus on God's mercy and favor for them. Zechariah can be difficult to understand on the surface as it abounds with visions and prophecies. God's grace shines through, however, with multiple reminders that God will be a comforter and a protector to His people.

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:9 - "But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;"

- ***Task(s) for Today:***

- o From memory, say the verse out loud to a friend/relative

Saturday, January 20

Zechariah 1-2

- Why is God angry with the fathers of Israel?
- How is God's affection for Jerusalem on display in these passages? Write a verse below the supports your argument.
- How has this passage caused you to have a heart of thankfulness to the Lord?

Sunday, January 21

Review Day

Catch up on any readings, study questions, or memorization that you may have missed.

Monday, January 22

Zechariah 3-5

- What promise did the Lord make to Joshua (Israel) in 3:7? Who is the “Branch” that is referenced in verse 8?

- Who do the two olive trees in chapter 4 represent? Why do you think olive trees were chosen for this vision?

- What is the curse that is going out in chapter 5? Who is it against? Why?

- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:10 – “and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”

- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - Read the verse to familiarize yourself with it
 - Realize the importance of why we are memorizing this verse

- Who will build the temple of the Lord? Then, and also in the millennial kingdom.

- Is God concerned more with outward actions and deeds or the heart? Why?

- Is God done with the nation of Israel? Why or why not? Use a verse from chapter 8 to support your answer.

- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:10 – “and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Write out the verse

Zechariah 9-11

- Re-read Zechariah 9:9-10. You see the coming Christ described in these two verses. Do these verses describe the same return? Why or why not?
- How is God's power on display in this passage?
- What is the theme of this book? How can you see that theme in the passage that you just read?
- ***Verse of the Week:***
- ***James 1:10*** – “and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Memorize the verse

Zechariah 12-14

- What are some of the consequences of sin that you see in these three chapters?

- When will the events in chapter 14 take place? How should this affect the way you live your day-to-day life?

- Write down 3 observations from these passages:
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- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:10 – “and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”

- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - From memory, text/e-mail/write out the verse to a friend/relative

Friday, January 26

Introduction to Malachi

Author: Malachi, a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah

Date Written: Likely between 458-424 BC, during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (between Nehemiah 12 & 13)

Theme of the Book: Call for Repentance; Waiting for the Messiah

Outline of the Book:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|------------|
| I. | God's Pronouncements against Israel | (1-3:15) |
| II. | God's Promise to Israel | (3:16-4:6) |

Key Passages:

Malachi 1:6-14 – The imperfect sacrifice

Malachi 2:15-16 – “I hate divorce”

Malachi 3:8-10 – Will a man rob God?

Summary Statement: Malachi's word confronts a people skeptical of the promise and therefore indifferent in their commitment to live in the light of those promises and to worship and serve the Lord with all their hearts. The book may serve as a catechism for times of doubt and disappointment, when the professing people of God are tempted to break faith with their covenant God. The prophet's ministry is to light the lamp of faith in a disheartened people by reminding them of God's electing love (1:2) and to set forth the continuing obligations of the covenant to those who truly know God (3:16-18). – *The Reformation Study Bible, Ligonier, 2005.*

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:10 – “and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”

- ***Task(s) for Today:***

- o From memory, say the verse out loud to a friend/relative

Malachi 1

- The priests were sinning in offering the worst they had to the Lord. Read verse 14 again and explain why God is worthy of our best offerings.
- How can this sin of not giving the Lord your best show up in your life and what will you do so that it doesn't anymore?

Sunday, January 28

Review Day

Catch up on any readings, study questions, or memorization that you may have missed.

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- What did God expect of the priests as the spiritual leaders of Israel (v. 7)? What did they actually do (v. 8)? How did God respond to them (v. 9)?
- In verses 13-17, what sin were the men committing that caused the Lord to not regard their offering nor accept it with favor (v. 13)? How does this apply to marriages in our day.
- **Verse of the Week:**
James 1:11 - "For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away."
- **Task(s) for Today:**
 - o Read the verse to familiarize yourself with it
 - o Realize the importance of why we are memorizing this verse

Malachi 3

- Who is the “messenger” in verse 1? For whom would he clear the way? What do we learn about this coming One in verses 2 and 3?

- Verse 8 says that the people were sinning in robbing God by not bringing their tithes and offerings. Got told them that if they were to bring it, He would bless them abundantly and cause the “devourer” (locusts) to cease from eating their crops. Their blessing would be known by the whole world (v. 12). What does this tell you about God’s character towards His repentant people? Also, briefly explain why it is not always the case that obedient believers will prosper materially.

- ***Verse of the Week:***

James 1:10 – “and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Write out the verse

Malachi 4

- Verse 2 says that fearing God's name is the underlying factor which will determine how the wicked and the righteous will be treated. What does it mean to fear His name or to fear God?
- How has this chapter caused you to have a heart of thankfulness to the Lord?
- ***Verse of the Week:***
James 1:10 – “and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away.”
- ***Task(s) for Today:***
 - o Memorize the verse

February Reading Schedule

- 1 Introduction to 1 John
- 2 1 John 1
- 3 1 John 2
- 4 Catch up on missed reading
- 5 1 John 3
- 6 1 John 4
- 7 1 John 5
- 8 Introduction to 2 John
- 9 2 John
- 10 Introduction to 3 John
- 11 Catch up on missed reading
- 12 3 John
- 13 Introduction to Jude
- 14 Jude
- 15 Introduction to Revelation
- 16 Revelation 1-2
- 17 Revelation 3-4
- 18 Catch up on missed reading
- 19 Revelation 5-6
- 20 Revelation 7-8
- 21 Revelation 9-10
- 22 Revelation 11-12
- 23 Revelation 13-14
- 24 Revelation 15-16
- 25 Catch up on missed reading
- 26 Revelation 17-18
- 27 Revelation 19-20
- 28 Revelation 21
- 29 Revelation 22

Church Prayer Page

HEALTH

The following people have health issues. Pray that through their trial they will bring glory to the Lord and be a blessing as they submit themselves to understand His will. Pray for the Lord’s healing power and their continued sanctification in the circumstance.

Cynde Barrett	Shelley Hillyard	Maureen Personius
Sue Boydston	Katherine Jackson	Judy Reed
Emily Brabon	Mike Johnston	Anna Rhone
Crystal Dix	Bette Lyon	Darryl Shelton
Elaine Flory	Ken McEntire	Wei Tan Shore
Sandy Foute	Mitchell Miller	
Amy Gomez	Jean Pendrich	

MILITARY

Roxy Alexander – Coast Guard	Luke Lanham – Navy
Brooks Alexander – Air Force	George Medina - Army
McKenna Baker – Air Force	Leighton Moncada - Army
Brandon Barnett – Marine Corps	Jon Morse – Air Force
Jonathan Beauford – Air Force	Amara Mwesigwa – Air Force
Andrew Boudreau – Navy	David Pearson – Army
Nico Bourgeois - Army	Tyler Ramos – Army National Guard
Cameron Caudle – Army	Christopher Ryan – Marine Corps
Chris Cordes (Hannah Marquez’ brother) – Army	Stephanie Ryan – Navy
Glenn Darrow – Army	Wendy Schrank – Army
Luke Day – Navy	Jason Smith – Navy
Austin Grimes – Navy	Tom Speers - Navy
Andrew Hann – Marine Corps	Dan Szilagyi – Navy
Lizzy Klynman – Coast Guard	David Weathers – Air Force
William Knight - Army	
Don Koomar – Marine Corps	
Michael Koomar – Army	