

Old Testament Survey
Nahum

Introduction

- Little is known of Micah whose name means comfort. His ministry context is during the days when the Assyrian Empire is the dominate world power.
- The book of Nahum has been called “the hymn of hate” because of its vindictive nature against Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrian Empire.

Nineveh was founded by Nimrod (Gen 10:11-12) and had a long history of idolatry, pride and cruelty against its enemies.

“A pyramid of heads I reared in front of his city. Their youths and their maidens I burnt up in the flames.” –Shalmaneser II

“I cut their throats like lambs. I cut off their precious lives as one cuts a string. Like the many waters of a storm I made the contents of their gullets and entrails run down upon wide earth...their hands I cut off.”

-Sennacherib

“I pierced his chin with my keen hand dagger. Through his jaw...I passed a rope, put a dog chain upon him, and made him occupy...a kennel.”

-Ashurbanipal

“I am powerful, I am all powerful, I am a hero, I am gigantic, I am colossal, I am honored, I am magnified, I am without equal among all kings, the chosen one of Asshur, Nabu, and Marduk.” –Esarhaddon

- The oracles (prophetic word) of Micah were given to the Southern Kingdom as a word of encouragement in the face of evil. Nineveh would be judged for her sin and the Lord would have the last word against evil.

“Nineveh will be judged not because it is Judah’s enemy but because it is God’s enemy. Anyone who flaunts self in proud rebellion against God--Judah as well as Nineveh—will eventually face divine judgment.” –Heflin (NAC, Vol 20, p. 152)

Ex. Assyria, Nazi Germany, Babylon in Revelation chapter 18, USA

Old Testament Survey
Micah

Introduction

- Micah was an 8th century prophet who lived in Moreshath located ___ miles south west of Jerusalem. While Isaiah was a sophisticated older prophet whose ministry centered on the _____ of Judah, Micah was a simple country preacher whose audience was the _____ of Judah.
- The book is a collection of three primary messages preached by Micah. Each sermon is marked by the word _____ (1:2; 3:1; 6:1).
- There are three primary features that characterize the sermons of Micah:
 4. Message of _____ on the nations of Assyria and Babylon because of their pride and wickedness.
 5. Message of _____ on the nation of Judah. The Southern Kingdom was just as wicked as the Northern Kingdom and God's judgment would be sure.

The Mosaic Covenant was the standard of discipline. Faithfulness to the covenant brought blessings (Deut 28:1-14); unfaithfulness would lead to expulsion from the land (Deut 28:15-68).

6. Message of a _____ who would experience the promise of restoration with the arrival of the Messiah.

Micah 4:1-5; 5:2

- Micah is referred to in the book of Jeremiah (Jer 3:12) and quoted _____ in the New Testament (Matt 2:5-6; Matt 10:35-36).

Key Text

*With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:6-8** (NIV)*

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Old Testament Survey Habakkuk

Introduction

- Little is known concerning the personal history of the prophet Habakkuk whose name means “to embrace.” He is a well-educated and writes in both a poetic and prophetic style.
- Habakkuk is a contemporary with Jeremiah, Nahum, and Zephaniah. His ministry is during a time of international crisis and national chaos. Approximately 606 BC.
 1. The Babylonians defeated the Assyrians and assumed the role of the dominate world power. New allegiances and alliances are being formed.
 2. Judah and Jerusalem have declined spiritually and morally where greed, corruption, violence, and social injustice rule the day.
- Whereas other prophets speak to the people for God, Habakkuk is unique in that he is talking to God about the people. He is wrestling in conversation and engaging in a philosophical debate with the Creator.
 1. Question #1: “How long will the wicked go unpunished?” (1:2-4)

God responded by assuring Habakkuk that He is at work fulfilling His divine purposes (1:5). He would use the Babylonians to administer divine discipline upon His people.
 2. Question #2: “How can you use Babylon destroy your people?” (1:12-13)

What questions about the ways of God trouble you? (Prayer, salvation, revival)

“Habakkuk is a book for all faithful people of whatever era, who find themselves living ‘in the meantime’—in the time between the revelation of the promises of God and the fulfillment of those promises—in the time between their redemption, when God made His purposes clear, and the final time when that divine purpose will be realized in the earth.”

--Kenneth Barker and Waylon Bailey (NAC, Vol. 20, p. 277)

Key Thought

God gives Habakkuk three reasons for hope in troubled times: (Warren Wiersbe Outline)

- *“The just will live by faith.”* (2:2-4) – God calls for Habakkuk to keep on trusting Him despite what the current circumstances suggest.
There are those who trust themselves (the proud) and those who trust the Lord.

The **just** shall live by faith (Rom 1:17)

The just **shall live** by faith (Gal 3:11)

The just shall live by **faith** (Heb 10:38)

- *“The earth shall be filled with God’s glory.”* (2:14) – The five woes (v. 6, 9, 12, 15, and 19) declared those things that the Lord hated and would bring swift judgment upon.
These things will give way to the righteous rule of the Lord over the whole earth.
- *“The Lord is in His holy temple.”* (2:20) – Like the days of Isaiah, the Lord was and still is seated on His throne! He is still sovereign and He is still in control of His world.

The promises of God have encouraged His heart and renewed His faith. His response to God is two-fold:

1. His bold prayer for revival and restoration (3:2)
 2. His joyful praise for the faithfulness of God (3:17-19)
-

Application – Habakkuk teaches us how to deal with the tough questions of “Why?”

- Be honest about your doubts and questions
- Talk to God and express your heart
- Meditate on His Word and wait for a word from His Spirit
- Walk in faith in His revealed promise

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Old Testament Survey Zephaniah

Introduction

- Zephaniah is a common Old Testament name meaning “God’s treasure” or “God has hidden” perhaps because he was born when King Manasseh was sacrificing babies and killing the prophets of the Lord.
- Zephaniah was a prophet but also a descendant of royalty. He was the great-great grandson of King Hezekiah (1:1).

Hezekiah – Manasseh – Amon – Josiah (640-609 BC)

- His brief ministry was during the days of Josiah. Josiah commissioned the Temple to be restored after the abominations of Manasseh and Amon. While restoration was taking place, the Book of the Law was discovered (2 Kings 22-23). Josiah called for national reform and revival.

There was reform but no repentance. A shallow and superficial expression of faith prevailed. The people were religious but they were not righteous.

“They got rid of the idols in their homes but not their hearts.” –Warren Wiersbe

It is in this context that Zephaniah preaches the coming judgment of God and calls for genuine repentance.

Outline of the Book

- The coming judgment on Judah 1:1-2:3

The people had a divided allegiance between Yahweh and Baal (1:2-7a).

“*The day of the Lord*” is a recurring theme. Other than perhaps the book of Joel, no other prophet uses the term more frequently. It is a reference to the sure and swift judgment of God on disobedience (1:14-18)

The day of the Lord was a term used for pending judgment

The day of the Lord is a term used for coming judgment

Even during the eve of destruction, God would show mercy to those who repent (2:1-3), yet Judah would not cease from their wickedness.

- The coming judgment on the nations 2:4-3:7

Judgment would fall on Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Egypt, and Assyria, yet despite all that Judah witnessed, she did not believe God would judge her (3:6-7).

- The restoration of the righteous 3:8-20

The final seven verses of the book reveals God's heart of mercy (3:14-20). It is not that God has stayed His righteous wrath, but that His wrath has been fulfilled.

"Wrath is not forgotten, rather it is eliminated through the completion of judgment." –Paul House

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Rom 5:9-10 (NKJV)

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2 (NKJV)

This is the picture of the God of Israel. A covenant making Creator who abhors sin and yet makes a way whereby sin is dealt with and the sinner is redeemed. He is a righteous God who loves mercy and finds no delight in the death of the wicked.

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Haggai

Introduction

- Haggai is the second shortest book in the Old Testament (two chapters; 38 verses). Only the book of Obadiah is shorter.
- Haggai is identified as a prophet whose messages came directly from the Lord (1:1). In fact, he affirms 25 times the divine origin of his messages (word of the Lord, says the Lord).
- The book is a compilation of four messages. The sermons are simple and direct. There is a heavy use of imperative verbs suggesting the necessity and urgency of action.
- The context of the book is set during the post-exilic period. The historical background gives us insight and understanding to the messages preached.

Judah goes into Babylonian exile during the days of Nebuchadnezzar

Babylon is defeated by the Persians and Cyrus permits the Jews to return to their homeland. 50,000 Jews return led by Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the High Priest.

An altar is erected, sacrifices resumed, and the foundation of the second Temple is laid. Opposition from the Samaritans and pressure from Persia cause the work to stop. Apathy sets in and no work is done for 16 years.

God raises up Haggai to challenge the people to resume the building project followed by Zechariah who will lead them to complete the Temple (520 BC).

Outline of the Book (The four sermons of Haggai)

- The Call to Rebuild **1:2-10**

The people were more concerned with rebuilding their own houses than the House of the Lord. Their kingdom was more important than His Kingdom.

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. **Matt 6:33** (KJV)*

The people respond to the messages by returning to the work (1:12-15).

- The Call to Rejoice **2:2-9**

The elders among them reminisced about the beauty of Solomon's Temple and bemoaned the comparison. Haggai declared that another Temple would be built that would surpass even that Temple.

Haggai spoke of the Millennial Temple where the Desire of the Nations (Messianic reference to Jesus) would reside!

- The Call to Repent **2:10-14**

While they continued to rebuild the Temple their hearts needed rebuilding as well. Haggai needed to remind them that God is concerned with both the work of my hands and the condition of my heart.

Ex. Muddy hands defile everything they touch; a sinful heart defiles every song and sacrifice we offer.

- The Call to Reassurance **2:20-23**

This message is directed to Zerubbabel to stay the course and trust the promises of God. He is reminded that God had chosen him to be the signet ring (sign of authority).

Zerubbabel's name is in the genealogical record of Jesus (Matt 1:12-13).

Summary

The Book of Haggai is a book of encouragement in the face of apathy and opposition. It is a reminder to the people of God to trust the promises of God.

I am with you (1:13); Fear not (2:5); I will bless you (2:19); I have chosen you (2:23)

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Zechariah

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- Zechariah is a common Old Testament name (used nearly 30 times) meaning God Remembers. God remembers His covenant promises and the restoration of Israel is the theme of this book.

8:14-15

- Zechariah is identified as a post-exilic prophet who is a descendant of the tribe of Levi making him both a prophet and a priest. He has special interest in the city of Jerusalem (mentioned 40 times) and the rebuilding of the Temple after the Babylonian exile.

1:12-17

- Zechariah is the younger contemporary of Haggai. Both men challenge the apathy of Israel and challenge them to renew their faith and the building project. Zerubbabel is governor and Joshua is the High Priest (515 BC).
- There are 41 references or allusions to the book of Zechariah in the New Testament most of which are found in the Gospels and in Revelation.
- The book is divided into two primary sections

Visions (chapters 1-8)

Oracles (chapters 9-14) – There is strong debate among theologians concerning the authorship of this section with a change in language and literary style.

- As in all the other prophetic books repentance is a prerequisite for spiritual blessings.

1:1-6

- “Most messianic, truly apocalyptic, and eschatological of all the writings of the Old Testament.” –George L. Robinson

Messianic referring to passages that speak of the Messiah

9:9; 11:13; 12:10; 13:7; 14:4

Apocalyptic means to uncover or reveal. It is a genre of prophetic writing often conveyed through visions and highly symbolic (Revelation; Ezekiel).

Chapters 1-6 contain 8 visions that Zechariah whose theme encompasses the restoration of Israel and the defeat of her enemies.

Eschatological refers to end time events. The prophecies of Zechariah find their partial fulfillment in the days ahead, but ultimate fulfillment at the return of the Messiah.

14:1-4; 8-9

Key Text

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6 (KJV)

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Malachi

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- Malachi is a name that means *my messenger*. While some scholars consider the name to be a title it is more likely the name of the prophet who lived in the latter part of the 5th century (450-430 BC). Little is known of his history or background.
- Although Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament he is not considered to be the last Old Testament prophet. John the Baptist will have that distinction and honor.

Malachi 3:1

- The book of Malachi was written 100 years after the decree of Cyrus allowing the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem and 400 years before the birth of Jesus. This 400 year period has been called “The Silent Years.”
- Malachi follows the ministries of Haggai and Zechariah. The Temple has been rebuilt and Ezra has arrived in Jerusalem calling the nation to spiritual renewal. The messages of Malachi mirror that of Ezra giving rise to the thought that they were contemporaries.
- Spiritual indifference, violations of both the Mosaic and marriage covenants, and an absence of godly leadership prevail.

*Note: Israel cried to the Lord during her days of exile and God graciously responded and returned her to the Promised Land. Once they resettled and life had some sort of normalcy, they returned to old patterns of rebellion.

- The literary style is unique. Malachi does not use direct proclamation but a series of six rhetorical questions which follow the same basic structure:

The charge of an accusation – The prophet accuses the people of a specific sin
The challenge to the accusation – The people question the validity of the charge
The confirmation of the accusation – The prophet provides the evidence of the charge

Outline

- The question of God's love

God demonstrated His love for Israel in two ways:

1. He chose them to be His own unique people **1:2**
2. He poured out His wrath on their enemies **1:3**

- The question of God's honor

Their religion became ritualistic as they offered secondary sacrifices. What they offered to the Lord was a reflection of the true condition of their hearts.

1:6-10; 13-14

- The question of God's covenant

1. They violated the Mosaic Covenant **2:1-9**
2. They violated the marriage covenant **2:10-16**

- The question of God's faithfulness

Covenant blessings always require covenant faithfulness. God promised that if they would seek and serve Him that He would meet their needs in abundance!

3:6-12

The Old Testament ends with the word curse (4:6) while the final book of the New Testament declares, "There shall be no more curse (Rev 22:3)."

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1:6-10; 13-14

- The question of God's _____

1. They violated the _____ Covenant **2:1-9**
2. They violated the _____ covenant **2:10-16**

- The question of God's _____

Covenant blessings always require covenant faithfulness. God promised that if they would seek and serve Him that He would meet their needs in abundance!

3:6-12

The Old Testament ends with the word curse (4:6) while the final book of the New Testament declares, "There shall be no more curse (Rev 22:3)."

Old Testament Survey
Final Quiz

1. How many days did it take God to create the world? 4 5 6 7
2. What was Adam and Eve told not to eat?
 - a. Apple
 - b. The tree of lie
 - c. The tree of knowledge
 - d. Doughnuts
3. What was the first Messianic prophecy found in the Bible?
 - a. The Messiah would crush the head of the serpent
 - b. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
 - c. The Messiah would rule and reign over all the world
 - d. The Messiah would do many miracles
4. How did God purpose to destroy man from the face of the earth?
 - a. Consuming fire
 - b. 10 plagues
 - c. World-wide flood
 - d. Meteorite
5. Who did God choose to be the father of the Hebrew nation?
 - a. Noah
 - b. Abraham
 - c. Joseph
 - d. Moses
6. How many sons did Jacob have that would form the nation of Israel?
 - a. 2
 - b. 10
 - c. 12
 - d. 13
 - e. 70
7. Who did God use to bring deliverance to Israel from Egyptian bondage?
 - a. Moses
 - b. Joshua
 - c. Samuel
 - d. Saul
8. What was the name of the mountain where Israel received the Law?
 - a. Mt. Nebo
 - b. Mt. Sinai
 - c. Mt. Hermon
 - d. Mt. Calvary
9. How many years did Israel wander in the wilderness? 1 15 30 40
10. Which city did Israel conquer first when they entered the Promised Land?

- a. Jerusalem b. Jericho c. Samaria d. Shiloh

11. The period where much of Israel did *that which was right in their own eyes*.

- a. The Judges b. Monarchy c. Divided Kingdom

12. Who was the first king of the newly formed nation of Israel?

- a. Saul b. Paul c. David d. Solomon

13. Which of these did David NOT defeat in battle?

- a. The Jebusites b. Goliath c. The Philistines d. Saul

14. What structure did Solomon build?

- a. The Tabernacle b. The Temple c. The Ark d. The Wall

15. When the Kingdom divided which was NOT a name for the Northern Kingdom?

- a. Israel b. Samaria c. Judah d. Ephraim

16. Which foreign power did God use to carry the Southern Kingdom into exile?

- a. Babylonians b. Assyrians c. Persians d. Egyptians

17. How many years did Jeremiah say Israel would remain in exile? 20 40 70 120

18. Who would God use to rebuild the nation of Israel once they returned home?

- a. Zerubbabel b. Ezra c. Nehemiah d. Darius e. Haggai

19. The song book of the Hebrews was known as what Old Testament book?

- a. Job b. Psalms c. Ecclesiastes d. Song of Solomon

20. The last 12 books in our English Bible is known as what?

- a. Major Prophets b. Minor Prophets c. End Time Prophets

Old Testament Survey

The Old Testament in the New Testament

Introduction

- There are 7,957 verses in the New Testament. Of these verses there are 855 direct or partial quotations found in the New Testament.

"O.T. Quotations Found in the N.T." Blue Letter Bible. Web. 5 Oct, 2016. <<https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/pnt/pnt08.cfm>>.

- When indirect references (allusions) and stories of the patriarchs and prophets are added to these quotations then over 1/3rd of the New Testament has the Old Testament in it.
- The Books of Matthew, Romans, Hebrews and Revelation contain the most references.
- The New Testament writers considered the Old Testament as authoritative. They referred to the Old Testament as Scripture (used 48 times) and used the phrase "It is written" over 70 times.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. **2 Tim 3:16** (NIV)*

- Jesus quoted from 24 different Old Testament books.
- Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, Obadiah, Nahum and Zephaniah are not quoted or referred to in the New Testament.

Preaching from the Old Testament

Jesus	Luke 24:25-27
Stephen	Acts 7
Paul	Acts 13:15-23
Hebrews	Heb 11

"The Old Testament declared, "The Messiah is coming." The Gospels announced, "The Messiah has come." The New Testament Epistles proclaim, "The Messiah is coming again!"

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