

Nahum

The Book of Nahum:
Nineveh Destroyed

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I. The History Behind Nahum

- A. ABOUT 120 years had passed since Jonah led a revival in Nineveh, Assyria's capital.
- B. During that time, ISRAEL was exiled by the Assyrians in 722 BC.
- C. God showed MERCY to Israel by allowing them to be scattered by a less cruel king.

II. The Destruction of Nineveh is Decreed (Nahum 1).

- A. Nahum was not asking for repentance but declaring divine JUDGMENT on Assyria.
- B. Nahum, whose name means "COMFORT," comforted and consoled Judah.

III. The Destruction of Nineveh is Described (Nahum 2).

- A. Nahum said the CONQUERORS of Nineveh would treat them as they treated others.
- B. Nahum announced that Nineveh would be defeated by FLOOD, fire, and sword.

IV. The Destruction of Nineveh is Deserved (Nahum 3).

- A. Nahum stated the reasons for their annihilation: They were arrogant, wicked idolaters.
- B. Nahum assured the people of Judah that Assyria's end was INEVITABLE.

Habakkuk

The Book of
Faith Tested

Habakkuk: The Book of Faith Tested

I. Faith Questioning: Habakkuk's Burden (Habakkuk 1)

A. Habakkuk's first question: HOW LONG will wickedness last? (Why aren't you doing something, God?)

B. God's answer:

1. I am doing something you would not BELIEVE.

2. I am raising up the CHALDEANS to judge my people.

C. Habakkuk thought about the character of God.

1. God is everlasting and HOLY.

DEFINITION OF FAITH - HBOs

HEAR the Word

Romans 10:17

BELIEVE the Word

Romans 4:20

OBEY the Word

Hebrews 11:8

Without SEEING

Hebrews 11:1

2. God has appointed the Chaldeans to CORRECT Judah.
 3. God's eyes are too PURE to look on wickedness.
- D. Habakkuk's second question: WHY would God use the Chaldeans to judge when they are worse than those being judged? (Why are You doing that?)

Habakkuk: The Book of Faith Tested

II. Faith Listening: Habakkuk's Vision (Habakkuk 2)

A. Habakkuk: I will watch and WAIT for God to speak.

B. God's answer:

1. The righteous will live by his FAITH.
2. The proud one is never SATISFIED.
3. The Lord is in His temple; be SILENT before him.
4. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the GLORY of the Lord.

Habakkuk: The Book of Faith Tested

III. Faith Responding: Habakkuk's Prayer (Habakkuk 3)

- A. A Prayer of Petition: Lord, in Your wrath, be MERCIFUL.
- B. Pray of Praise: He remembered God's past works to SAVE.
- C. Prayer of Faith:
 - 1. I will trust God regardless of my CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. The Lord will be my STRENGTH.
3. He will make my feet like hind's feet...steady and SURE.

Zephaniah

The Book of
Judah Warned

Zephaniah: Book of Judah Warned

I. Introduction to the Book of Zephaniah

- A. Under evil Manasseh and Amon, Judah sank into idol worship and depravity.
- B. Amon's son Josiah was put on the throne at the age of eight.
- C. It was during this time that God called Zephaniah to speak His words.
- D. Zephaniah was of royal blood and a man of authority.

Zephaniah: Book of Judah Warned

II. Look Within: Future Judgment for Judah (Zephaniah 1:1-2:3)

A. God will remove all things (physical life).

1. He will remove MAN first.
2. He will remove the BEASTS.
3. He will remove the BIRDS.
4. He will remove the FISH.

B. God will cut off the spiritual adulterers (spiritual life).

1. He will cut off the IDOL worshipers.
2. He will punish those who practice ASTROLOGY.
3. He will cut off the DOUBLE minded.
4. He will cut off those who USED to worship God but do not any longer.
5. He will cut off those who worship SELF.

C. God will punish their sin (specific sins).

1. He will punish those who look to the WORLD.

2. He will punish those who are idol worshipers or those who STEAL.

3. He will punish those who are VIOLENT.

4. He will punish those who are DECEITFUL.

5. He will punish those who are STAGNANT in spirit.

D. The Day of the Lord will be wrath.

1. There will be TROUBLE and distress.
2. There will be destruction and DESOLATION.
3. There will be DARKNESS and gloom.
4. There will be trumpet and BATTLE cry.
5. The world will be devoured in the fire of His JEALOUSY.

E. God exhorted Judah to repent.

1. He told them to SEEK the Lord.
2. He told them to seek RIGHTEOUSNESS.
3. He told them to seek HUMILITY.
4. If they did, they might be HIDDEN in the day of the Lord's anger.

Zephaniah: Book of Judah Warned

III. Look Around: Future Judgment for the
Nations (Zephaniah 2:4-3:8)

A. God will judge:

1. PHILISTIA (West)
2. MOAB (East)
3. ETHIOPIA (South)
4. ASSYRIA (North)

B. God will surely judge Jerusalem.

1. They were REBELLIOUS.
2. They did not TRUST God.
3. They did not draw near to GOD.

Zephaniah: Book of Judah Warned

IV. Look Beyond: Future Blessings for Jews
(Judah) and Gentiles (Nations)
(Zephaniah 3:9-20)

A. There will be blessings for the Gentiles.

1. All of them will have PURIFIED lips.
2. All of them may call on the NAME of the Lord.
3. They will serve God SHOULDER to shoulder.

B. There will be blessings for the Jews.

1. They will feel no SHAME.
2. They will never again be HAUGHTY.
3. They will take REFUGE in the Lord.

C. There will be blessings from God.

1. The LORD will be in their midst.

2. He will EXALT over them with joy.

3. He will be QUIET in His love for them.

4. He will REJOICE over them with shouts of joy.

Haggai

The Book of
Temple Finished

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

- I. Haggai's First Message: False Priorities
(Haggai 1:1-15)

- A. The remnant was reprimanded for its MISPLACED priorities (Haggai 1:1-6).
- B. Haggai gave the remnant God's REMEDY for quitting (Haggai 1:7-8).
 1. Consider your WAYS!
 2. Get back to work and FINISH the temple.

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

II. Haggai's Second Message: False Comparison (Haggai 2:1-9)

- A. God talked to those who remembered the former temple and were COMPARING it (Haggai 2:1-3).
- B. Haggai encouraged the remnant by prophesying that CHRIST would occupy the temple they were completing (Haggai 2:4-9).

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

III. Haggai's Third Message: False Assumption (Haggai 2:10-19)

- A. A question regarding DEFILEMENT vs. HOLINESS was asked of the priests (Haggai 2:10-13).
- B. Haggai confronted the “resting” remnant with its uncleanness and explained that its SUFFERING was because of it (Haggai 2:14-19).

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

IV. Haggai's Fourth Message: False Fear (Haggai 2:20-23)

A. There would be PUNISHMENT for their enemies (Haggai 2:20-22).

God would:

1. SHAKE the heavens and the earth.
2. DESTROY weapons and armies.
3. OVERTHROW thrones and kingdoms.
4. Israel would be VICTORIOUS.

B. There would be PROTECTION for God's children (Haggai 2:23).

Zechariah

Book of Future Built

Zechariah: Book of Future Built

I. Zechariah's Eight Visions

A. The first five visions were of COMFORT for Jerusalem.

1. The horsemen and myrtles meant that God would REBUILD Zion and the people.
2. The four horns and craftsmen meant that Judah's oppressors would be JUDGED.
3. The man and the measuring line meant that God would be the WALL of Jerusalem.

4. The cleansing of Joshua, the high priest, pointed to the future RESTORATION of Israel.
5. The golden lampstand represented God's EMPOWERING of Zerubbabel, the governor.

B. The last three visions were of JUDGMENT.

1. The flying scroll meant that individual sins would be JUDGED.
2. The woman in the basket represented the nation's sins being REMOVED.
3. The four chariots represented God's JUDGMENT descending on the nations.

The crowning of Joshua foretold the coming of the Branch, who would reign as the High Priest and the King!

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

II. Zechariah's Four Messages

- A. The first message was a rebuke of empty RITUALISM.
- B. The second message was a reminder of past DISOBEDIENCE.
- C. The third message was one of RESTORATION and consolation of Judah (Israel).
- D. The final message was of the return of JOY and hope to the kingdom.

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

III. Zechariah's Two Burdens

A. The first burden was the FIRST Advent of Christ.

1. Jerusalem would be spared and PRESERVED for her king's arrival (Alexander the Great).
2. Israel would SUCCEED against Greece (the Maccabees).
3. Israel would REJECT her Shepherd-King and be led astray by false shepherds.
4. The people would be SCATTERED.

- B. The second burden was the SECOND Advent of Christ.
1. All of the nations of earth will attack Jerusalem, but her Messiah will PROTECT and deliver her.
 2. The Messiah will come in power to RULE and judge the whole earth from Jerusalem.

Malachi

The Book of Final
Message Given

Malachi: The Book of Final Message Given

- I. Problems of the Priests: God's Accusations
(Malachi 1:1-2:9)

A. God said, “I have loved you,” but they asked, “HOW?”

1. The evidence: I CHOSE you.

B. God said, “You are despising my NAME,” but they asked “HOW?”

1. The evidence:

a. You bring blind, lame, sick SACRIFICES.

b. You say how TIRESOME it is to make sacrifices.

c. You bring what was taken by ROBBERY.

d. You don't keep your VOWS (your word).

2. The consequence: I will send a CURSE
upon you.

C. God said, “You have corrupted the COVENANT of Levi.”

1. The evidence: You have turned aside from the way and caused many to STUMBLE.
2. The consequence: I have made you DESPISED before all people.

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

II. Problems of the People (Malachi 2:10-3:8)

A. God said, “You have broken the CONVENANT of our fathers.”

1. The evidence:

a. You deal treacherously with your BROTHER.

b. You deal treacherously with the LORD.

c. You deal treacherously with your WIFE.

Three covenants the people have broken:

- 1) Covenant of Levi
- 2) Covenant of the fathers at Mount Sinai
- 3) Covenant of marriage

B. God said, “You are ROBBING Me,” but they asked, “HOW?”

1. The evidence: You rob God in TITHES and offerings.

Haggai: The Book of Temple Finished

III. Promises of the Lord (Malachi 3:1-4:6)

- A. God said, “I will send My MESSENGER to clear the way before Me” (John the Baptist).
- B. God said, “The messenger of the COVENANT will come” (Jesus).
1. He is coming to PURIFY Israel.
 2. He is coming to JUDGE Israel.
 3. God said, “RETURN to Me and I will return to you,” but they asked, “HOW?”