

THE WHOLE BIBLE: 66 BOOKS IN 10 WEEKS

Nahum-Malachi

INTRODUCTION TO NAHUM

God's justice means retribution for evil

- Nineveh, the arrogant city of Assyria, will be destroyed

Nahum 3:1-7

- ¹ Woe to the bloody city,
all full of lies and plunder –
no end to the prey!
- ² The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel,
galloping horse and bounding chariot!
- ³ Horsemen charging,
flashing sword and glittering spear,
hosts of slain,
heaps of corpses,
dead bodies without end –
they stumble over the bodies!
- ⁴ And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute,
graceful and of deadly charms,
who betrays nations with her whorings,
and peoples with her charms.
- ⁵ Behold, I am against you,
declares the LORD of hosts,
and will lift up your skirts over your face;
and I will make nations look at your nakedness
and kingdoms at your shame.
- ⁶ I will throw filth at you
and treat you with contempt
and make you a spectacle.
- ⁷ And all who look at you will shrink from you and say,
Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?
Where shall I seek comforters for you?

INTRODUCTION TO HABAKKUK

The prophet cries out in despair when sees suffering of Israel

- how can God be good in face of so much suffering?

Habakkuk 1:2-4 | Habakkuk's cry

- ² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?
Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?
- ³ Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
- ⁴ So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.

Habakkuk 2:2-4 | God's answer

- ² And the LORD answered me:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.
- ³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end – it will not lie.
If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.
- ⁴ Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 | Habakkuk's final response

- ¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
- ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
- ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.

INTRODUCTION TO ZEPHANIAH

The main theme is “the Day of the Lord”

- God’s judgment will be terrible | God’s grace is greater still

Zephaniah 1:14-18

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.

¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷ I will bring distress on mankind,
so that they shall walk like the blind,
because they have sinned against the LORD;
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold
shall be able to deliver them
on the day of the wrath of the LORD.

In the fire of his jealousy,
all the earth shall be consumed;
for a full and sudden end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Zephaniah 3:16-17, 19-20

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

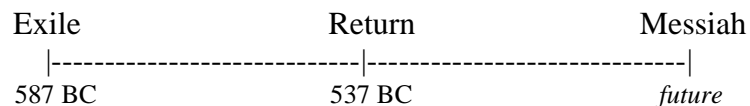
¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.
²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,”
says the LORD.

HISTORICAL SETTING FOR LAST 3 PROPHETS

- major theme of last prophets – disappointment of return from exile
- God promised not just a restoration, but a glorious renewal
- but actual reality was a pale shadow of former days



Ezra 3:12-13

¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³ so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

For God’s people, the “exile” continues, until coming of Messiah

INTRODUCTION TO HAGGAI

If God’s people have returned, why does “history” continue?

- deep feeling of spiritual malaise, complacency and disquiet
- answer is that Israel’s story is not yet finished – final chapter awaits

Haggai 2:6-9

⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: “Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, 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 shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

INTRODUCTION TO ZECHARIAH

Zechariah preaches a future restoration still to come

- one day, David's son, the Messiah, will come into Jerusalem
- Messiah's kingdom will be everlasting, and Jerusalem transformed

Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 14:20-21

²⁰ And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

INTRODUCTION TO MALACHI

Last book of Bible

- written 100 years after the return from exile
- addressed to a people under foreign oppression, hopelessness

Malachi 4:1-6

¹ For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall 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 shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.
³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴ Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

"I will send Elijah the prophet"

- look for another Elijah to announce the coming of God's Kingdom

Nahum

NOTES

God's justice means retribution for evil

- Nineveh, the arrogant city of Assyria, will be destroyed
- city of greed, lust, violence and oppression
- God is angry at injustice | grieved by death of innocent
- destruction of evil-doers is good news for God's people

Nahum 3:1-7

- ¹ Woe to the bloody city,
all full of lies and plunder –
no end to the prey!
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Where shall I seek comforters for you?

Habakkuk

The prophet cries out in despair when sees the sufferings of Israel

- similar to Job | and Psalm 73 – “I saw the prosperity of the wicked”
- entire book is an exchange between prophet and God | not to people
- wrestling w/ question: how God be good in face of so much suffering?
- and how God use corrupt nations as his instruments to punish Israel?

Habakkuk 1:2-4 | Habakkuk's cry of despair

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and you will not hear?
Or cry to you “Violence!”
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- ³ Why do you make me see iniquity,
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If it seems slow, wait for it;
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- ⁴ Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

God's timing may seem slow, but he never fails to keep promises

- our response must be to trust God
- “the righteous shall live by faith” | not by sight

Habakkuk 3:17-19 | Habakkuk's final response of faith

- ¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
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Zephaniah

The main theme is “the Day of the Lord”

- God’s judgment will be terrible | God’s grace is greater still

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¹⁷ I will bring distress on mankind,
so that they shall walk like the blind,
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their blood shall be poured out like dust,
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¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold
shall be able to deliver them
on the day of the wrath of the LORD.

In the fire of his jealousy,
all the earth shall be consumed;
for a full and sudden end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

God’s judgment will be terrible

- even the mighty will cry aloud in fear and distress
- nothing can protect us from devastation – not gold or silver
- imagery of siege – v. 16 | in ancient world, nothing more terrifying

But God will rescue his people:

Zephaniah 3:16-17, 19-20

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,”
says the LORD.

God’s people are called to sing praises to God

- but here, it is God who sings over his people
- imagery like a mother singing over her child – tender love

And God will gather the outcast and lame into his city

- there will be a great reversal | cosmic upheaval
- proud and mighty will be cast down | humble and lowly lifted up

HISTORICAL SETTING FOR LAST 3 PROPHETS

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Exile	Return	Messiah
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587 BC	537 BC	<i>future</i>

Ezra 3:12-13

¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³ so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

For God’s people, the “exile” continues until coming of Messiah

- people are still oppressed and subjugated by foreign powers
- the problem of sin and unfaithfulness continues
- Temple is a shoddy replacement of original
- no righteous Davidic king reigning with justice and peace

Haggai

Addressed to returned exiles

- people have returned, yet “history” continues
- deep feeling of spiritual malaise, complacency and disquiet
- Haggai preaches perseverance and hopeful patience

Haggai 2:6-9

⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: “Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, 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 shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

The glory of the Temple will be greater than with Solomon

- Israel’s story has not ended yet | the final chapter awaits

Zechariah

Returned exiles are facing deep discouragement and suffering

- Zechariah – a still future restoration is awaiting God’s people

Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The Messiah will come, not in battle armament, but in lowliness

- “humble and mounted on a donkey” – not a war horse
- God’s people won’t need traditional weapons of war to protect
- but Messiah will establish a world-wide kingdom of lasting peace

Zechariah 14:20-21

²⁰ And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, “Holy to the LORD.” And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

Entire city of God will be like the Holy of Holies

- “holy to the Lord” was inscribed on plate of priest turban (Ex. 28:36)
- even everyday bowls will be like consecrated vessels in Temple
- “trader” – merchants who sully and defile Temple grounds
- translation – God’s presence will be everywhere | back in Eden

Malachi

Last book of Bible

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Malachi 4:1-6

¹ For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

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God will vindicate his people

- foreign oppressors will be crushed | in Jesus' time, Romans
- “sun rise w/ healing” – fullness of restoration

v. 4 – remember the law of Moses

- bookends the Old Testament | Torah to Malachi
- written over 1,000 years, by dozens of writers – unified narrative
- miracle that shows God is ultimate author

“I will send Elijah the prophet”

- look for another Elijah to announce the coming of the Kingdom
- the forerunner of Messiah – fulfilled in John the Baptist
- ultimate healing of Kingdom of God is reconciliation