

Wayne

AN OUTLINE STUDY OF THE

TWELVE MINOR PROPHETS

BY

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SUBJECT: PROPHET HOSEA

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Name Hosea means Salvation. Hosea's father was named Beerl, and he prophesied during reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and Jeroboam II, king of Israel.
- b. Word prophet means, pro (for) phet (speak) means one who speaks for another.
- c. Hosea's prophecies were delivered in kingdom of Israel, and were delivered against both Israel and Judah. He was contemporary part of the time with Isaiah, Amos, Micah and Jonah.
- d. Hosea and eleven other prophets are classified Minor Prophets, not because their writings are less useful, or possess less authority, but because their writings are less in bulk than the writings of those classified as Major prophets.

2nd. SOME OUTSTANDING SINS OF ISRAEL:

- 1. Ingratitude to God. God spoke of them tenderly as his child. Hos. 11:1. My, how it cuts to the heart to have an unthankful child.
- 2. Jehovah had also spoken of Israel as his wife. Is. 54:5. And Israel had proven untrue to God. To give Israel a concrete illustration of how unfaithful they had been to God, and how forgiving and patient he had been to them, he instructed Hosea to marry an immoral woman named Gomer, who bore him two sons and one daughter, namely, Jezreel (my people); Loruhamah (hath obtained mercy) and Lo-ammi (not my people). Names of children significant. Before Israel completely fell away Jezreel (my people); when sinning against light and not repenting, Loruhamah (hath not obtained mercy) and Lo-ammi which means (not my people) God had finally disowned them.

Gomer was an immoral woman. Hosea married her and asked her to be faithful to him, but she remained untrue, was reduced to public property and slavery and Hosea bought her back out of slavery, but she still remained unfaithful to him. God used this example of Gomer's unfaithfulness and Hosea's forgiveness and faithfulness to illustrate how Israel had proved untrue him.

- 4. Was life fair to Jesus? Ten thousand times No, and it won't be fair to you. See Matt. 10:24-25; 2 Tim. 3:12.

Illustrate how tenderness and mellowness was put in voice of Jenny Lind by a great musician and voice teacher, Hackenschmidt, who married Jenny, abused and then deserted her. It broke her heart, but she did sing more tenderly thereafter.

- 5. Paul was set forth as an example of suffering. 1 Tim. 1:16; Phil. 3:8, 10-11; 1 Cor. 4:9. Until one has been baptized in sorrow, he cannot truly sympathize with another in similar circumstances.

- 6. Aroma of Mary's ointment was not enjoyed until container had been broken.

"I walked along with pleasure,

She chatted all the way;

But left me none the wiser,

From all she had to say."

"I walked alone with sorrow,

And ne'er a word said she;

But O the things I learned from sorrow,

When sorrow walked with me."

3rd. ISRAEL EVEN REFUSED TO RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND HEART

- a. Word of God is so uplifting and penetrating, if kept in heart it will keep one from sin; but if it is thrown or put out of the heart sin will keep one from studying Word and retaining in one's heart. See Hos. 4:6 and Psa. 119:11. Instead of living right and exhorting righteousness to

SUBJECT: PROPHET AMOS

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Name Amos means "burden". He was a herdsman, and a dresser of Sycamore trees. Sycamore tree was a wild fig tree, its fruit very tough and could only be eaten by "dressing" or puncturing fruit. Only very poor ate it.
- b. Amos' home was in Tokoa located about twelve miles from Jerusalem. Though a native of Judea he prophesied against Israel, and began his prophecies at Bethel, one of Israel's places of worship.
- c. Amos' character was rugged, his speech direct, his language plain and blunt. He had none of the graces of learning, nor the courtesies that come from cultured surroundings, but he had an honest heart and courage to deliver unchanged God's message.
- d. Amos prophesied during reign of Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam II, king of Israel, possibly B.C. 741.

2nd. MORAL AND RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED:

- a. Israel was in high tide of prosperity in material things, but at a low ebb in morality and spirituality. The land was brazen in idolatry, reeking in immorality; the poor were being oppressed, and the land was stained with blood.
- b. In addition to his prophetic condemnation and judgments against Israel, he announced judgments against the following nations:
 - 1. Damascus for cruelty in war. 1:3-5
 - 2. Philistia for enslaving captives. 1:6-9
 - 3. Tyre for dealing in slave traffic. 1:9-10
 - 4. Edom for heartless mistreatment of Israel, though Edomites were related in flesh to Israelites.

Edomites guilty of Inherited Prejudices.

It is hard for any one not to have inherited some kind of prejudice. Edomites were doubtless told by forebears Jacob had beaten Esau out of his birthright inheritance. Teacher experienced this in his own family.

5. Against Ammon for fiendish cruelty in war. 1:13-15.

6. Against Moab for hatred and inhuman treatment. 2:1-3.

7. Against Judah for disloyalty to God. 2:4,5

8. Against Israel for shocking excesses and evils. He predicted overthrow of altar, and of royal house in Israel. 3:14-15; 5:4-6.
Father and son had same woman. 2:7.

3rd. RUGGEDNESS OF AMOS' CHARACTER

- a. Although of humble parentage he was not afraid to denounce the rich, poor, rulers and ruled, in their own territory.
- b. He denounced the girls and women for their shocking immoralities. The teacher remembers the time when girls blushed when they were embarrassed; now they are embarrassed if they blush.
- c. He was not deterred from his work by Amaziah the false prophet at Bethel, and ignored the suggestion by this false prophet that he go home (Judea)

4th. FAMOUS PASSAGES IN AMOS' WRITINGS:

- a. How can two walk together except they be agreed? 3:3. God's ways higher than man's ways. Is. 55:8-9; hence if man ever walks with God man will have to learn the will of God and walk in the divinely directed way.
- b. When will the Jewish law end? Question asked in 8:4-6. Answered in 8:9, ie, when the sun goes down at noon. Sun went down at noon when Christ was on the cross. Matt. 27:45. Hence law including sabbath went to cross. Col. 2:16-17.

(over)

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Naught is known about Obadiah except that disclosed in book.
- b. He did not give names of his parents. Very likely they were obscure persons.
- c. Obadiah is shortest book in Old Testament. It consists of one chapter of twenty-one verses. Some seem to think there are two distinct prophecies in book, the first including vs. 1-10, the other vs. 10-21, with a difference in style, tense, etc. Vs. 1-9 belong to destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar B.C. 586, and vs. 10-21 to the early part of the exile after the fall of Jerusalem.

2nd. PROPHECY AGAINST EDMITES:

- a. Edomites were descendants of Essau, who was a twin brother of Jacob. Jacob had through fraud or deceit obtained blessings Isaac intended for Essau; Jacob also had taken advantage of hungry Essau and enticed Essau into selling him his birthright.
- b. Inherited Prejudices. Descendants of Essau doubtless told and re-told about how Jacob had "beat" their forefather out of his birthright and his blessings. Edomites were therefore prejudiced against Israelites. It is so hard to overcome such prejudices. In my own life an uncle on my mother's side defrauded my father out of a valuable homestead site.
- c. This bitter inherited prejudice against Israelites caused Edomites to --
 1. Fail to come to help of Israelites when they were being attacked. Merozites were condemned by Jehovah for failing to come to aid of God's people. Judges 5-23. One cannot remain neutral between right and wrong. Life is built for pro's and con's.
 2. Illustrate how colored preacher threw his mind in neutral in disputes between brethren.
 3. Lord spewed lukewarm Laodiceans out of his mouth. Rev. 3:14
- d. Edomites not only refused to aid Israel when Israel was attacked, but actually joined in attacking them.
- e. Edomites on account of the topography of their country, their country was a mountainous country one hundred miles long by about twenty miles wide, and they felt they were secure from any attack. Vs. 3. But pride goeth before destruction. Prov. 16:18.

3rd. OBADIAH PROPHESED DESTRUCTION OF EDM:

- a. Vs. 8-9, which was later fulfilled.

4th. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a.
 1. Should all guard against inherited prejudices? Illustrate of a case of old lady living near border or boundary of South Carolina all of her life, but she was in North Carolina. A survey of both States finally determined she really lived in South Carolina. She exclaimed she would not live there because her Grandpa had told her South Carolina was a sickly place to live.
 2. Do we feel like Edom that we too are secure from temptation or being attacked by evil because we are prominent, or have money, or social prestige. Paul admonished "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall". 1 Cor. 10:12.
 3. Whatsoever a man or nation soweth, that shall they also reap. Robert Louis Stevenson declared "sooner or later we must sit down to a banquet of our consequences."
 4. We cannot afford to rejoice at the misfortune or sufferings of another.

SUBJECT: JONAH

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Son of Amittai and native of Gath-heper a town on the border of Zebulon. 2 Kgs. 14:25.
- b. He prophesied during reign of Jeroboam 11 and foretold recovery of the borders of Israel from Hamath in Syria to Dead Sea; which was accomplished by Jeroboam 11.
- c. Book of Jonah consists of four chapters with a total of forty-eight verses. Two verses are attacked by critics; 1:17 where Jonah was swallowed by fish and was in fish three days and nights; and 2:10 where it is related fish vomited up Jonah on dry land.
- d. Jonah was a real character--not a mythical character or legendary hero, as Hercules.
 1. Jesus endorsed the man and his history; Matt. 12:39-41; also mentioned in 2 Kgs. 14:25 as a prophet and Lk. 11:32.
 2. He was honest enough to write of his disobedience to God in going directly opposite where God ordered him to go.
 3. Obviously he believed God was a tribal or local God and he could get out of his presence.

2nd. NINEVAH:

- a. Capital of ancient kingdom of Assyria.
- b. Site: Eastern bank of river Tigris. 550 miles from its mouth and 250 miles north of Babylon.
- c. Jehovah informed Jonah there were more than 120,000 infants in city, 4:11; which would suggest a population of 600,000 inhabitants.
- d. It required three days journey to take city in. Jonah 2:3.
- e. Nahum prophesied its complete destruction. Chapter 2 & 3 and Zephaniah gives a poetical picture of her ruined and deserted condition. Zeph. 2:13 through 3:9.
- f. Language: A Semitic dialect, Hebrew and Chaldee.
- g. Literature: In ruins were found remains of an ancient library, written on stone tablets in cuneiform (arrow-headed, or wedge like characters).

3rd. FISH PREPARED TO SWALLOW JONAH -- Jonah 1:17:

- a. Mistranslation of word "Dag" in Hebrew, Matt 12:30, Dag appears nineteen times in Old Testament and is translated in each instance fish. A whale is not a fish, but a mammal. It follows the order of viviparous birth and suckles its young. Hebrew word for whale is Tannin.
- b. Greek word "Ketos" simply means a monster of the deep. Translators employed in English word "Whale" in error.
- c. Shark Rhinodon Typicous has throat large enough. A capacious man. -- No teeth but great plates. Whole men have been swallowed by them. One found alive after two days in Rhinodon and was put on exhibition for a shilling fee at a London museum.

4th. ANALYSIS OF JONAH'S CHARACTER:

- a. Super patriot -- Wanted Ninevah destroyed, not warned and saved.
- b. Thought he could run away from God's presence.
- c. When God sent storm to rock his boat, and sailors cast lots and lot fell on Jonah, he admitted his disobedience to God and recommended he be cast overboard, to allay storm.
- d. His prayer out of fish's belly 2:2-9. It smacks of genuineness.

SUBJECT: PROPHET MICAH

INTRODUCTION:

1st.

- a. Micah was a Moresthitte, (inhabitant of Moresbeth, a small town in Judah). He prophesied during reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and Pekah and Hoshea, kings of Israel.
- b. He was of humble parentage. Naught is mentioned about his parents.
- c. Micah's name means, (Who is like Jehovah) and seems to be an index to his character. To Micah God was everything that was right, pure, noble and strong.

2nd. ANALYSIS OF WRITINGS:

- a. It is written in an entrancing style. It is filled with poetic beauty.
- b. It sets forth one of the most sublime declarations of true religion found upon the pages of Old Testament story. Mic. 6:8. This scripture was chosen to be engraved into wall over entrance to Department of Religion in Congressional Library in Washington.
- c. He prophesied exact town of Jesus birth; namely, Bethlehem in Judea. There was another Bethlehem located in Zebulon, Josh. 19:15.
- d. He prophesied destruction of Jerusalem by Babylonians, 4:10 and not by Assyrians. Prophecy made one hundred years before Jerusalem conquered by Babylon.
- e. He prophesied destruction of northern part of Israel by Assyria and he lived long enough to see a partial fulfillment of his prophecy.

3rd. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AT TIME OF PROPHECY:

- a. Poor were being oppressed. 2:2; 3:2
- b. Judges and Priests were immoral and corrupt.
- c. Political leaders were plotting how to fleece poor, etc. Compare with such characters as Lucky Luciano, Al Capone, and noted dope importers and distributors who work out such plans at night and in darkness and execute them in daylight.

4th. RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS:

- a. Prophets were immoral and corrupt.
- b. People resented plain preaching.
- c. Immorality and dishonesty was prevalent in the land.

5th. OCCASIONS WHEN MICAH WAS QUOTED:

- a. By elders of land by so doing they saved life of Jeremiah. Jer. 26:18; Micah 3:12.
- b. Micah 5:2 was quoted in Matt 2:5-6.
- c. Micah 7:6 quoted in Matt. 10:35.

6th. PREDICTED ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM ON TOP OF MOUNTAIN:

- a. Micah 4:1-3 and when this kingdom and its principles were fully embraced, Micah predicted a warless world.

7th. TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

1. Can we have universal peace without all nations accepting the teaching of the Prince of Peace?
2. Should the kingdom of God be exalted to the top of mountains (lofty places) and above all hills? Jesus taught it should come first. Matt. 6:33.
3. Should the gospel be always proclaimed clearly but courteously to all men? Or, should it be watered down?

SUBJECT: PROPHET NAHUM

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Name Nahum means "consolation." He was an Elkoshite, namely, from Elkosh. Location of Elkosh in dispute. Some scholars think it was in Galilee and that is the opinion of your teacher. This is not important.
- b. He prophesied in or around Jerusalem, having come thither from Galilee. The language in 1:15 and 2:2 appears appropriate to one who wrote for his country-men in their native land.
- c. Style of writing: Clear and forcible; diction rhythmical and his words seem to re-echo to the sense. See 2:4; and 3:3.

2nd. ANALYSIS OF HIS WRITINGS:

- a. Nahum prophesies the utter destruction of Ninevah the Capital of the ancient kingdom of Assyria. Ninevah was then in the zenith of its power.
- b. Ninevah was a city of possibly 600,000 inhabitants, situated on the eastern bank of river Tigris, about 250 miles north of Babylon. Archaeologists uncovered in its ruins stone tablets bearing cuneiform writing, which indicated Ninevah had a library of considerable size and content.
- c. Though Ninevah was a large city, requiring about three days to encompass it, Jonah 2:3, and it had been warned to repent by Jonah some one hundred years before Nahum and Zephaniah predicted its overthrow completely, the repentance effected by Jonah's call to them to repent obviously was soon forgotten, and Ninevah was destroyed.
- d. Nahum predicts Ninevah would be destroyed by a flood. 1:8. Appears to be a special allusion to mode of Ninevah's capture by a flood in the river which broke down twenty furlongs of its walls, enabling the Medo-Babylonian army to enter the city. See Is. 8:8. - Dan. 9:26.

3rd. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a. Crowded city life---is it conducive to morality, sobriety, patience and spirituality?
- b. Can one get lost in a crowd where he may commit sin without being known to his fellowman, or one that knows him, and also escape the eye of the Lord? See Ps. 139:7-13. One cannot escape the presence of God.
- c. Should one's humble parentage deter him from being true to God in living right and reproving sin in others?
- d. Is it possible to live in sin to where one cannot repent?
- e. Nahum's fidelity to God, linked his name not only with time but eternity. Will one who truly believes in and obeys Jesus ever die? Jno 11:26.

SUBJECT: THE PROPHET HAGGAI

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Name Haggai means "festal" He was a prophet of the "Return" from Babylonian captivity, and it is regarded by many scholars that he prophesied in Jerusalem about 520 B.C.
- b. It appears from 2:3 that he had seen the Solomonic temple which had been destroyed 66 years before; which would have made him at least eighty years of age when he uttered the four prophecies and exhortations contained in his writings.
- c. It is thought that Haggai was with the 50,000 Israelites who returned with Zerubbabel some fifteen years earlier.
- d. The entire book of Ezra should be carefully read in connection with this study. From this study one will learn that though the returning 50,000 Israelites had full permission of Cyrus king of Persia for them to return; in fact Cyrus greatly encouraged Israelites thus to do, after building an altar and offering sacrifices, upon misrepresentation by enemies of returning Jews, Cyrus reversed himself and ordered work of rebuilding temple to cease.

2nd. HAGGAI'S FOUR PROPHECIES:

- a. All four prophecies delivered to inhabitants of Jerusalem and environs. The young prophet Zechariah whose book we shall study next Lord's day joined Haggai in reproving and admonishing Israelites to rebuild temple, etc.

1. First prophecy of Haggai, Hag. 1:1-15. In this prophecy Haggai re-proved them for: a. Building their houses first. b. Leaving God out of their plans which resulted in God withholding their material blessings. c. General indifference and unconcernedness about temple being rebuilt.
2. Second prophecy, Hag. 2:1-9. encourages the people to not feel discouraged because from material standpoint the second temple would not be as costly as Solomon's temple; God says the glory of the second temple would be greater than temple of Solomon. 2:9.
3. Prophecy (the third) 2:10-19. begins with removing their past error as to the efficacy of mere outward observance, and had the priests declare themselves as to right and wrong about certain matters before a stone was laid in building.
4. Fourth prophecy, 2:20-23 encourages Zerubbabel to courageously go forward in work, and that God would hold him up as a signet, ie, sign worn on his hand as one possessing delegated authority, in the job of rebuilding temple.

3rd. TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

- a. Who interfered with rebuilding of temple? Answer: Enemies of Jews who first offered to help them rebuild temple, their Kruschev pretense of friendship was rejected; then they made misrepresentations to Cyrus who ordered work to stop.
- b. In building or rebuilding Spiritual Temple (Church) will there be opposition within and without the church?
- c. When we build our houses first, then half-heartedly assist in building house of worship for the Lord, are we putting God's kingdom first? Mt. 6:33.
- d. Why would second temple surpass in glory the first temple as promised in 2:9? Because in its outer courts the footfalls of the Prince of Peace would some day echo.
- e. After shaking of the nations by the Lord, he promised the desire of all nations would come. 2:7-8. Is Jesus Christ the answer to the desire of all nations for Peace and Righteousness? If so, why won't all nations accept Him and His teaching?
- f. Do Christians today need to be "stirred up" by being reminded of things they are neglecting altogether or are indifferent about? Peter thought they did. 2nd. Pet. 2:13.

SUBJECT: THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. The name Zechariah means "one whom Jehovah remembers." He was the son of Barachiah, and the grandson of Iddo. He was doubtless born in Babylon and returned with Zerubbabel and others when Cyrus decreed that they thus do.
- b. He joined the aged Haggai in reproving, and encouraging rebuilding of temple. His book contains 14 chapters. He seems to have had nine visions - living pictures - object lessons, all of which were of symbolical character. Visions began with 1:7 and continue through chapter 6.

2nd. ANALYSIS OF BOOK:

- a. Introduction of writer, etc. 1:1-6
- b. Nine symbolical visions which were granted prophet and which he faithfully presented to his people promptly. Some of these visions set forth: Luke-warmness, indifference, and selfishness of the Jews; and then the judgments that shall come upon them and the nations around and about them. These visions set forth from verse 7 of first chapter, through sixth chapter and were received and delivered in following order:
 - 1. Vision of horses. 1:7-17
 - 2. Vision of Horns and Smiths. 1:18-21
 - 3. Vision of measuring line! 2:1-13
 - 4. Vision of Joshua the High Priest. 3:1-10
 - 5. Vision of candlestick and olive trees. 4:1-14
 - 6. Vision of the flying roll. 5:1-4
 - 7. Vision of the flying ephah. 5:5-10
 - 8. Vision of the four war chariots. 6:1-8
 - 9. Zechariah also saw in a vision the crowning of or Coronation of Joshua the High Priest, symbolical of "The Branch" ie, Christ. 6:9-15.

3rd. ZECHARIAH PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST:

- a. Christ atoning death. 3:8-9 and 13:1-2.
- b. Christ as builder of God's House. 6:12.
- c. Universal reign as King and Priest on his throne 6:13; 9:10
- d. Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. 9:9 quoted in Mt. 21:5; Jno. 12:15
- e. Betrayal for 30 pieces of silver. 11:12, quoted in Mt. 27:9-10.
- f. Christ Deity foretold. 12:8; Jno. 14:8-10 emphasize this prophecy and its fulfillment.
- g. His hands to be pierced. 12:10, quoted in Jno. 19:37.
- h. He would be a smitten shepherd. 13:7, quoted Mt. 26:31, and Mk. 14:27 and his sheep would be scattered.

4th. SUMMARY OF ZECHARIAH'S WORK:

- a. His visions and prophecies not only strengthened and encouraged builders of temple, but they infused hope and faith in people to the coming of their Messiah, whose Deity and Atoning Death would save them from their sins.

5th.

TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

- 1. Unity of Prophets evidences a Master Mind or Spirit directed their writings, namely the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Do modern Political, Economic, Military or Religious Seers agree?
- 3. Minute details in Zechariah's prophecies as to how Jesus would enter Jerusalem, price betrayer would receive and what this blood money would be used for, viz: purchase of Potter Field; disciple deserting Shepherd when he was smitten, is evidence prime facia of Inspiration.
- 4. Can the indissoluble chain of fulfilled prophecies be refuted by Atheists, Agnostics, Infidels or Free Thinkers?

IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS BETWEEN MALACHI AND MATTHEW

B. C.
~~332~~

- Alexander visits Jerusalem and plants Jews in Alexandria.
- 324 Alexander dies, his kingdom divided.
- 306 Dominions of Alexander divided into four kingdoms as foretold by Daniel.
- 285 Septuagint Version of scriptures began at Alexandria. (Translation of Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek by about 72 translators)
- 203 Antiochus the Great obtains Palestine.
- 200 Sect of Sadducees founded.
- 170 Antiochus Ephiphanes takes Jerusalem and profanes temple and slew 40,000 persons.
- 167 Antiochus persecutes Jews.
- 165 Judas Maccabaeus purifies temple and institutes a feast of dedication.
- 161 Judas Maccabaeus slain and succeeded by his brother Jonathan.
- 135 Sect of Pharisees founded.
- 110 Sect of Essenes founded.
- 47 Antipater appointed procurator of Judae, made his son Herod Governor of Galilee.
- 40 Herod is appointed king of Judae.
- 37 Herod takes Jerusalem and reigns for 34 years.
- 17 Herod began to rebuild and enlarge temple.
- 4 Jesus is born in Bethlehem Judae.

There were fourteen books designated as "Apocrypha" ie, "concealed" which came into existence. These books are: Two books of Esdras or Ezra; Tobit, Judith, additions to Esther, the Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, or Jesus the son of Sirach, Baruch, Song of the Three Children, History of Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, Prayer of Manasseh, and the two books of Maccabees.

Style of writing of Apocryphal books indicate they were part of Jewish-Greek literature of Alexandria. These books are uninspired, none of them were ever quoted by Jesus and his inspired Apostles. However, first and second Maccabees have some historic value in regard to the Jewish heroic struggle for liberty.

175-135 B. C.

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Name Habakkuk means "embrace." He does not name his parents and they are therefore unknown.
- b. Prophesied during reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim, kings of Judah.
- c. Writings consists of three short chapters; in the first he envisions invasion of Judah by Chaldeans; in second he foretells doom of Chaldeans; and in third chapter we find a magnificent ode or psalm which is beautiful in thought and majesty of diction.

2nd. ANALYSIS OF BOOK AND SOME REFLECTIONS:

- a. Inhabitants of Judah had observed the ten tribes of Israel over-run by Assyrians and their property destroyed, and Israelites carried away into captivity across the desert from whence they never returned, but intermarried with Assyrians, embraced their idolatrous worship and lost their tribal identity.
- b. Did Judah profit from observation of what happened to the ten tribes? No.
- c. Vs. 1:5 quoted by Apostle Paul in synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia. Acts 13:41, as being fulfilled by Jews who rejected Christ and his gospel.
- d. Vs. 2:4 is quoted by Paul in Rom. 1:17 and Rom. 5:1-2. Did Habakkuk intimate and Paul suggest that this faith was merely an intellectual conviction about the truthfulness of certain truths, without obedience to God? No. Such interpretations would contradict teaching in Gal. 5:6 where faith works through love; and James taught faith is dead without works. Jas. 2:26.

Martin Luther as an Augustinian monk made a pilgrimage to Rome and while climbing up the "sacred stairs" on his knees, which he was told was a holy act and would greatly contribute to his spiritual welfare, the words of Hab. 2:4 that the righteous shall live by faith flashed through his mind. Luther then swung to other extreme and took position man is saved by faith alone. Did Luther make a serious mistake? Yes. His teaching in this connection has colored the teaching of many denominations
- e. Vs. 3:19, or concluding verse of Habakkuk's writings, are very significant. Prophet suggests Jehovah will make his feet like hinds feet; and he will walk upon high places.

We are told by naturalists that no animal has such perfect correlation of its front and rear feet as the deer; that the male deer or the hart is surefooted, but more wonderful is the female or the hind in surefootedness, which while leading its young into lofty hidden fastnesses, never stumbles and falls to depths below.
- f. Was Habakkuk right in concluding the Lord would guide his feet upward and surely until he would reach the mountain top of safety and security?
- g. Should we today conclude that God will save impenitent persons in their sins though a righteous man pray for them? Habakkuk prayed for salvation of his sinful people, but it did not prevent them from being destroyed and taken into captivity by Chaldeans.

3rd. TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

1. Should righteous men and women pray for salvation of impenitent persons in their sins?
2. Is it difficult to profit from the mistakes of others?
3. Can consequences of sin be ignored?
4. Does the fact that a number of persons participating in or practicing the same things lessen the guilt of the individual? No. In Prov. 11:21 we read: "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not go unpunished". Paul taught same in 2 Cor. 5:10.

Because judgment on Judah was delayed, would God forget their wickedness? No. Their day of doom was certain. See Hab. 2:3. God is long-suffering, not wishing any should perish. 2 Pet. 3:8-9.

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Malachi whose name means "Messenger" or "My Messenger" is the author of the last book in the Old Testament.
- b. Exact date of his prophecies not certain, but it is obvious he prophesied about 100 years after Haggai and Zechariah, and Religion and Morals, were in a fearful state when he prophesied.

2nd. RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS MALACHI REBUKED:

- a. Priests despised name of Jehovah. 1:6.
- b. Offered Jehovah polluted bread upon altar; and blind, lame and sick animals. 1:8.
- c. Held in contempt table of Jehovah. 1:7.
- d. Priests corrupted God's law and turned many aside in the way. 2:8.
- e. Men dealt treacherously with their wives, and put wives away without reason or right. 2:14-16.
- f. Land was filled with sorcerers, adulterers, false swearers, poor, widows and orphans, and advantage taken of strangers. 3:5-6.
- g. Appeared to have lost the moral standard of right and wrong. 2:17.
- h. Robbers of God in withholding the tithes. 3:8-10.

3rd. JEHOVAH'S PROMISES OF REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS:

- a. Rejection of offerings and offerers. 1:10.
- b. Sinful Priests would be punished. 2:1-4.
- c. Promise of "Refiner" and "Purifier" would come and rid the people of corrupt Priests. 3:1-6.
- d. Promise of Elijah (John the Baptist) to precede Christ to prepare the Saviour's way, etc. 4:5-6; Mt. 11:11-15; Mk. 9:11-13; Lk. 1:17.

4th. CONCLUSION:

- a. All "Minor" and "Major" prophets spoke for God. All their reproofs, exhortations and warnings, etc., were inspired and necessary. 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

5th. TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

- a. Nature of the work of refining metals.
- b. Did John the Baptist come in the spirit and power of Elijah? Yes. Lk. 1:17.
- c. Can one rob God today? 1 Cor. 16:1-2. Explain difference between robbing and stealing.
- d. Since the Jews reject Christ and New Testament, how long has that race been without a bona fide revelation and inspired prophet? Answer: Since Malachi or approximately 2300 years.
- e. Can one continue in sin so long that he will be unable to differentiate between right and wrong.

BIBLIOGRAPHY USED IN STUDY OF MINOR PROPHETS.

The Bible

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SUBJECT: THE PROPHET ZEPHANIAH

1st. INTRODUCTION:

- a. Zephaniah whose name means "Jehovah has hidden" prophesied in the days of Josiah king of Judah between 639 and 609 B.C.
- b. Unlike some of the other prophets, who did not name their parents, Zephaniah traced his lineage back to his great-great grandfather. He may have done so to distinguish him from another Zephaniah the son of Masseciah who was taken captive when Jerusalem was conquered and slain at Riblah, Jer. 52:24-27; 2 Kings 25:18-21. The teacher cannot say exactly why the Holy Spirit guided the prophet Zephaniah to supply this information with respect to his family tree.

2nd. ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK:

- a. Consists of three chapters of fifty-three verses. In those short verses he announces Jehovah's displeasure with and punishment of following nations:
 1. Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia and Ninevah - 1:8-15. He also pronounced punishment of the cities of the Philistines. 2:4-7.
 2. He also joined other prophets in predicting complete destruction of the great (large) city of Ninevah. 2:12-15.
 3. And he did not pass by Jerusalem and Judah in his denunciation of their indifference and sins. 3:1-7.

3rd. SOCIAL CONDITIONS EXISTING IN JERUSALEM:

- a. Polluted. 3:1; namely, immoral, poor oppressed, needy ignored. 1:9.
- b. Clothed in foreign apparel. 1:8. Discuss this as one of the topics of lesson.

4th. RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS EXISTING IN JERUSALEM:

- a. Priests profane sanctuary, prophets "light and treacherous"; Jehovah no longer revered and trusted. W, what fearful religious conditions.
- b. Priest, Prophet and People trusted in appearances and relied on the fact that Jerusalem was a great city and God had caused temple to be built there. Jeremiah reproved Israelites for relying on the material building. Jer. 7:4. Turn and read.

5th. TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

1. Foreign apparel. 1:8. It is all right to adopt styles of Italy, Paris and Rome, provided the apparel worn is modest. 1 Tim. 2:9.
 - a. Wives used to ask their husbands to zip up their dress in back, now they only ask them to powder their back. Times have changed, and styles of clothing too.
 - b. Church should never swap its wearing apparel, namely, scriptural worship, legitimate work, faithfulness to the Lord.
2. After chastisement of Israel Jehovah promises his people a "pure language, to serve him with one consent."

Many Christians today use the language of Ashdod. Mixed language and unscriptural phrases. New Testament uses three terms in describing Lord's supper; namely, Lord's supper. 1 Cor. 11:20; Communion, 1 Cor. 10:16, and Breaking bread. Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7. Now we hear such terms as "Sacrament" which means a vow, and "Eucharist," which means thanksgiving. Peter exhorts, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." 1 Pet. 4:11.
3. Should Christians today call Bible things by Bible names? Words are signs of ideas, improper words will convey wrong ideas.
4. Restoration and Security to penitent Israelites returning from their captivity. 3:14-20.

(Meaning of some obscure words in book)

- "Chemarim" ie, priests of idols, very young and who had not reached state of puberty, and who wore black garments.
"Maktesh" ie, mortar.
"Ashjelon" one of five leading cities of Philistines. Josh. 13:3.
"Cherethites" Same as "Cherethim", another name for Philistines.