

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

Minor Prophets

Part 2

Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah,
Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi;
Background to NT Part 1

Introduction to Minor Prophets

- Apocryphal book Ecclesiasticus 49:10 (c. 190 BC)—“The Twelve Prophets”
- Hebrew Bible: “The Book of the Twelve Prophets”—two views:
 - Regarded as a single work (one book)
 - Regarded as twelve separate books
 - External and internal evidence for both views—bottom line is that all are canonical (part of Scripture)
- Date: ca. 845 BC to 430 BC

Historical and Theological Themes

- The Day of the Lord
 - Sin of Israel/Judah
 - Idolatry and Spiritual Adultery—Hosea, Micah, Zephaniah, Zechariah
 - Social Injustices—Hosea, Amos, Micah, Habakkuk
- Sin of Israel and Judah
- Judgment on Israel & Judah
 - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
- Restoration of Israel & Judah
 - Hos 14; Joel 3; Amos 9; Mic 4, 7; Zeph 3; Zech 12-14
- Judgment of the Nations
 - Joel 3; Amos 1-2; Obad; Jonah; Nah; Hab; Zech 1, 14

Purpose

Israel's restoration will come after the Day of the Lord, the Lord's Day of Judgment.

Nahum

- Date—between 663-650 BC
 - During the reign of King Manasseh or possibly Josiah
- Historical/Theological Themes
 - Nineveh
 - YHWH's judgment on the nations
- Purpose: YHWH would judge Nineveh for her cruel acts and immoral deeds
- Literary Structure:
 - Destruction of Nineveh Decreed (1)
 - Destruction of Nineveh Described (2)
 - Destruction of Nineveh Deserved (3)

Habakkuk

- Date—pre-Babylonian invasion
 - 626-610BC
- Historical/Theological Themes
 - The Ways of God
 - The Righteous
 - Faith
- Purpose: The righteous will live by faith as YHWH brings His judgment, awaiting their ultimate salvation
- Literary Structure
 - Habakkuk's First Complaint and Response (1:2-1:11)
 - Habakkuk's Second Complaint and Response (1:12-chpt 2)
 - Habakkuk's Petition, Praise and Promise (chpt 3)

Zephaniah

- Date: During reign of King Josiah (640-609 BC)
- Historical/Theological Themes
 - The Day of the Lord—1:7, 14; 2:2
 - Restoration of Israel—3:14-20
- Purpose: YHWH's control of all nations will be proved in the near Day of the Lord
- Literary Structure:
 - Prophecies of Judgment on Judah and the Surrounding Nations (chpt 1-2)
 - Prophecies of Future Blessing on Israel (chpt 3)

Haggai

- Date: 520BC—among the most specific dates we have
- Historical and Theological Themes
 - The Temple—decree of 538 not yet carried out
 - God Remembers His Promise of a Davidic Kingdom

Haggai

- Purpose: The challenge to rebuild the temple was presented to the leaders and people.
- Literary Structure
 - Message 1 (1:1-15)
 - Rebuke for Disobedience
 - The people obey
 - Message 2: The Promise of Restoration (2:1-9)
 - Message 3: The Call to Holiness (2:10-19)
 - Message 4: The Coming Reign of God (2:20-23)

Zechariah

- Date: Same as Haggai
- Historical and Theological Themes
 - “The Lord of Hosts”
 - Repentance
 - YHWH controls the nations
 - YHWH will restore Israel
 - The coming Shepherd/King and Priest
- Purpose: YHWH remembers Israel and will yet bring Messianic blessing

Malachi

- Date: After Haggai/Zechariah and before Ezra/Nehemiah return
- Historical and Theological Themes
 - The sins of Israel
 - The future judgment and blessing of Israel
- Purpose: Israel was called to repentance and covenant faithfulness

Malachi

- The Practicality of Malachi's Call to Repentance:
 - Corrupt priesthood
 - Transform worship
 - Correct temple abuses
 - Restore family relationships
 - Restore social justice

Background to NT Part 1

- Historical Background:
 - Second Temple Period (538 BC- 70 AD)
 - Four basic periods:
 - Persian Period (538-332 BC)
 - Hellenistic Period (332-142) (Alex the Great, Ptolemies, Seleucids)
 - Maccabean/Hasmonean Period (166-63)
 - Roman Period (63 BC onward)

Background to NT Part 1

- Five Major Crises of the Jews
 - Reestablishment: of Israelite population, of Jerusalem, of temple, of proper worship
 - Collapse of Persian Empire and Influence of Hellenism
 - Violent Persecution by Antiochus Epiphanes (168-64 BC)
 - Domination of Palestine by Rome (63 BC-70 AD)
 - Roman Destruction of Jewish States and Second Temple (66-73 AD)