

Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

Session 33: The Minor Prophets (Part 4)

Remember Acts 17:11

The Twelve Minor Prophets:

Prophet	Ministry	Date of Book	Chr. Order
Hosea	Israel	c. 715 BC	3
Joel	Judah (Return)	9 th or 5 th Cent. BC	(?)
Amos	Israel	c. 750 BC	2
Obadiah	Judah (Edom)	c. 845BC (590 BC)	8
Jonah	Israel (Assyria)	c. 780 BC	1
Micah	Judah	c. 700 BC	4
Nahum	Judah (Assyria)	c. 650 BC	5
Habakkuk	Judah	c. 610 BC	7
Zephaniah	Judah	c. 625 BC	6

Haggai	Return	c. 520 BC	9
Zechariah	Return	c. 518 BC	10
Malachi	Return	c. 450-420 BC	11

The Prophet Micah:

“Who is Like GOD”

- Prophet to Judah (Jerusalem & Samaria)
 - o From Moresheth-Gath (Tell Goded)
 - o Prophetic Ministry from c. 737-696BC
 - Expulsion of Israel & Assyrian Harassment of Judah
 - Reigns of Kings Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah
 - Contemporary of Isaiah, Amos, & Hosea
 - o Prophecy of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Outline:

Charges Against the Leaders of Israel	Ch. 1-2
The Persecution of the Poor	3-4:7
The Restoration of Israel	4:8-5
Greed Destroying the Land & the People	6-7:7
Prayer for Mercy	7:8-20

The Restoration of Israel (Cont.):

- 5:1 is the Last Verse of Ch. 4 in the Jewish Rendering
 - o A King of Israel (or Judah) Will be Struck Down
- A New King Shall Come from Bethlehem (5:2)
 - o Home of David (Small but Important/Faithful)
 - Inferred: From David's Line
 - o King Promised from Ancient Times
 - o King Who Originates from Prehistory
- God will Gather the People Back to the Land
- The Messiah will Act in Perfect Accordance to God's Will

(Transition in v. 5-9)

- The Messiah will be Israel's Peace in Times of Hostility (Assyria)
 - o Promise?
 - o Person (Future Event)?
 - o Early Foreshadowing of the Trinity?
 - o Prophetic Foreshadowing of the Antichrist
- Usually Linked with the Assyrian Harassment of Judah
 - o 7 Shepherds (Kings) & 8 Commanders will Rise
 - o Will Conquer & Subjugate Assyria & Babylon
- The Exiles Will Scatter the Jews Across the World
 - o Yet will Prosper (v. 8 "Lion among beasts...")

(Transition v. 10-15)

- V. 10 In that day ("Day of the Lord")
 - o Pride of the Nations will be Humbled
 - o Witchcraft (Lust for Supernatural Power) will be Destroyed
 - o All Idols will be Cast Down
 - o God will Have His Revenge Against the Rebellious Nations

Greed Destroying the Land & the People (6-7:7):

- Conversation Between God & Micah (Israel)
- God Recounts His Mercies of the Past (Ref. Exodus)
- Defines the Duty of a Believer (6:8)
- All Israel is Corrupted by Evil
 - o Wealth More Valuable than Human Life
 - o The Land Has Become Defiled
 - o The Prophet Cries to God, Confident in a Future Deliverance
 - o A Desolation is Approaching

Greed Destroying the Land & the People (Cont.):

- Micah Laments Before God (C.F. Psalms)
 - o There Are No Good Remaining in Israel
 - o All Ties of Kindred Love Are Broken
 - o Micah Still Proclaims His Hope in God

Prayer for Mercy (7:8-20):

- Traditionally Interpreted as a Poem from the Perspective of Jerusalem
 - o Though Defeated Her Trust is in God
 - o The Enemy (Babylon/Nineveh) Gloats Now But will be Judged Themselves
- The Coming Hope (v. 14-20)
 - o Israel Will Be Gathered Again & Blessed
 - o The Sinful Nations will be Punished
 - Identified with the Curse of the Serpent
 - o Sin Will be Defeated

The Prophet Nahum:

“Counselor” or “Comforter”

- In Ministry c. 663-612 BC
- From the Town of Alqosh (Lost Location)
 - o Possibly Rebuilt as Capernaum (Galilee)
 - “City of Nahum”
 - o Prophecies Focused on the Downfall of Assyria

Outline:

The Coming Judgement of God	Ch. 1
The Downfall of Nineveh	2
The Downfall of Assyria	3

The Coming Judgement of God (Ch. 1):

- Incomplete Acrostic Poem (Ex. Psalm 119)
- Vision of God Physically Coming in Judgement
 - o “The Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished” (1:3. Ref. Ex. 34:6-7)
- Fall of Assyria (Not Directly Mentioned)
 - o Quoted by Isaiah 10:14 to Describe Babylon
- A Blessing to the Remnant of Israel (1:8-9;14)
 - o Quoted by Isaiah 52:7 (1:15)
 - o Those Who Attack Judah Will Be Destroyed

