

THE PROPHETS

August 8, 2013 –
Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk & Zephaniah

Lakeside Institute of Theology
Ross Arnold, Summer 2013

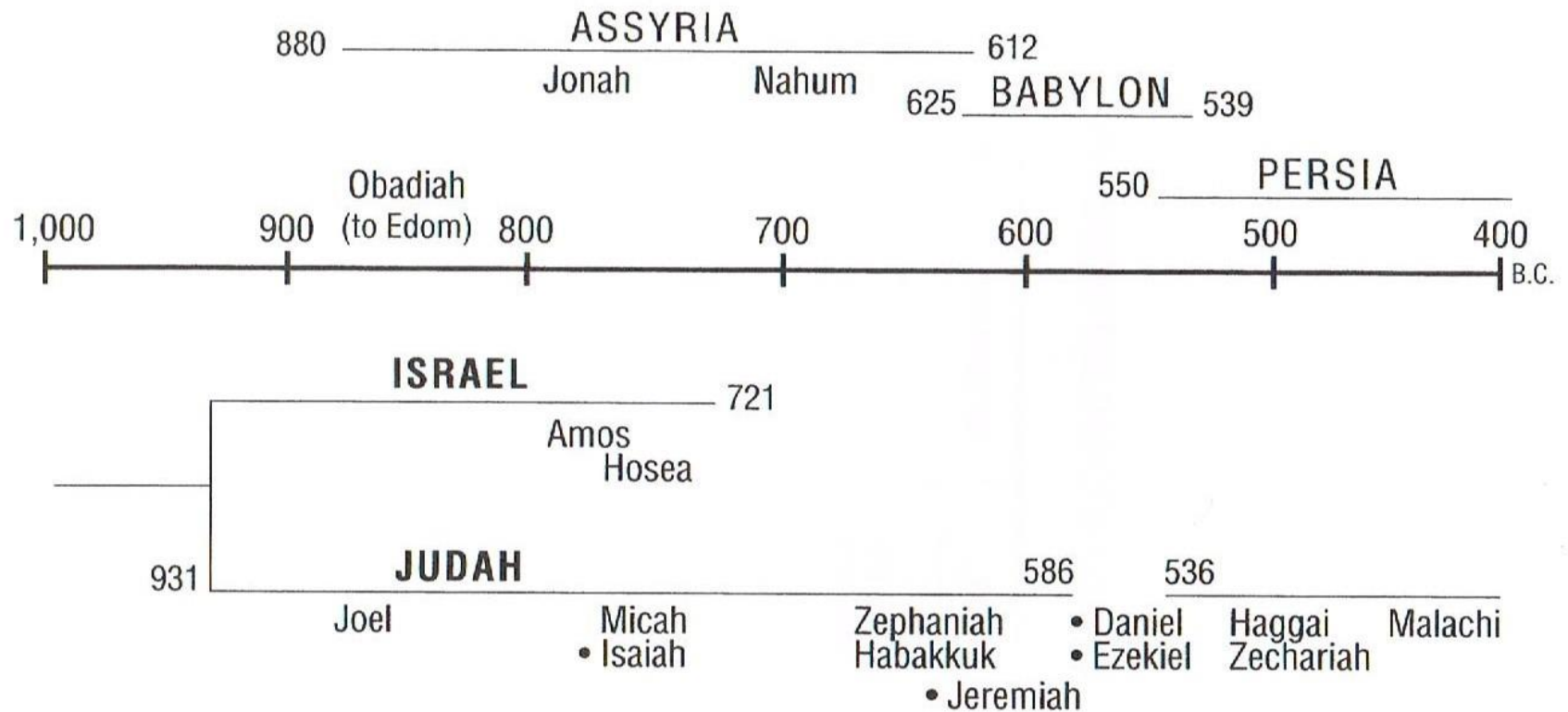
Prophets (OT4)

1. Introduction – the Place of the Prophets
2. Major Prophets and Isaiah
3. Jeremiah and Lamentations
4. Ezekiel and Daniel
5. Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets) – Hosea, Joel and Amos
6. Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah
7. Post-Exilic Prophets – Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi
8. The Message of the Prophets; Final Exam

+The 12 Books of the Minor Prophets+

- **Hosea** – Israel condemned, but God’s love remains and He will redeem.
- **Joel** – Prediction of foreign invasion as God’s judgment.
- **Amos** – Eight declarations of judgment against Israel.
- **Obadiah** – Prophecy of the destruction of Edom.
- **Jonah** – Reluctant prophet leads Nineveh to repent.
- **Micah** – Prediction of destruction and messianic restoration.
- **Nahum** – Prophecy of destruction of Nineveh.
- **Habakkuk** – God is questioned and then praised for the approaching judgment against Judah.
- **Zephaniah** – Prediction of judgment and tremendous blessing.
- **Haggai** – Call to rebuild the Temple.
- **Zechariah** – Messianic prophecy calling for completion of the Temple.
- **Malachi** – God continues to love, despite Israel’s lethargy in following God in the completed Temple and Jerusalem.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH



• - Major Prophet

The Book of Obadiah

- Author: Prophet Obadiah
- Date: c. 586 BC - 585 BC
- Theme: Prophecy of the destruction of Edom.
- Purpose: Pronouncing judgment against the Edomites for opposing Jerusalem.
- Outline:
 - *Predicting Judgment on Edom (vv.1-9)
 - *Reasons for Judgment (vv.10-14)
 - *Results of Judgment on Edom (vv.15-18)
 - *Possession of Edom by Israel (vv.19-21)



Book of Obadiah

The vision of Obadiah.

This is what the Sovereign Lord says about Edom—
We have heard a message from the Lord: An envoy
was sent to the nations to say, “Rise, let us go against
her for battle”—² “See, I will make you small among the
nations; you will be utterly despised.

³ The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who
live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on
the heights, you who say to yourself, ‘Who can bring me
down to the ground?’

⁴ Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest
among the stars, from there I will bring you down,”
declares the Lord.

Obadiah 1-4

“In that day,” declares the Lord, “will I not destroy the wise men of Edom, those of understanding in the mountains of Esau? ...

¹⁰ Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.

¹¹ On the day you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them.

¹² You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble.

¹³ You should not march through the gates of my people in the day of their disaster, nor gloat over them in their calamity in the day of their disaster, nor seize their wealth in the day of their disaster.

¹⁴ You should not wait at the crossroads to cut down their fugitives, nor hand over their survivors in the day of their trouble.

Obadiah 8-14

“The day of the Lord is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head. ¹⁶ Just as you drank on my holy hill, so all the nations will drink continually; they will drink and drink and be as if they had never been. ¹⁷ But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and Jacob will possess his inheritance. ¹⁸ Jacob will be a fire and Joseph a flame; Esau will be stubble, and they will set him on fire and destroy him. There will be no survivors from Esau.” The Lord has spoken.

¹⁹ People from the Negev will occupy the mountains of Esau, and people from the foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead. ²⁰ This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan will possess the land as far as Zarephath; the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev. ²¹ Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord’s.

Obadiah 15-21

The Book of Jonah

- Author: Prophet Jonah, son of Amittai
- Date: c. 793 BC - 753 BC
- Theme: A reluctant prophet leads Nineveh, the capitol of Assyria, to repent.
- Purpose: To show God loves all peoples, even the pagan nation of Assyria.
- Outline:
 - *1st Commission of Jonah (1-2)
 - “I won’t go!” (*Go Fish*) (1)
 - “I will go.” (2)
 - *2nd Commission of Jonah (3-4)
 - “I’m here.” (3)
 - “I shouldn’t have come.” (4)



The Egyptian Kingdom
(before 671 B.C.)

- Assyrian Empire – 824 B.C.
- Assyrian Empire – 671 B.C.

Kingdom of Urartu
(before 712 B.C.)

Phrygian Kingdom

Greek City States

Cimmerians

Scythians

Libyans

Judah

Persian Gulf

Black Sea

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Red Sea

Lyrians

Paeonians

Thracians

Macedon

Thasos

Greek Colonies

Byzantium (Greek)

Chalcedon (Greek)

Astacus (Greek)

Cyzicus

Abydos

Tieum (Greek)

Sinope (Greek)

Thapezus (Greek)

Ancyra

Gordium

Lydian Kingdom

Sardis

Miletus

Celaenae

Phaselis (Greek)

Rhodes

Crete

Corinth

Athens

Sparta

Cyrene (Greek)

Cyprus

Salamis

Paphos

Karkar

Arvad

Harmath

Tarsus

Marqash

Samal

Carchemish

Arpad

Haran

Til Barsip

Gozan

Nisibis

Nineveh

Calah

Ashur

Musasir

Tushpa

Dur Sharrukim

Arbela

Arrapakha

Ecbatana

Tadmor

Anatho

Damascus

Byblos

Sidon

Tyre

Samaria

Eltekeh

Ashkelon

Jerusalem

Sela

Sais

Tanis

Bubastis

Memphis

On

Heracleopolis

Akhetaton

Siut

Abydos

Thebes

Jeb

Sinai Peninsula

Taurus R.

Tigris R.

Nile River

Book of Jonah

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

³ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

⁴ Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶ The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?” Jonah 1:1-8

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” ¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him. Jonah 1:9-16

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. ^{2:1} From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. ² He said:

“In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³ You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴ I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ ⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶ To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit.

⁷ “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

⁸ “Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. ⁹ But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”

¹⁰ And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 1:17-2:10

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³ Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴ But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

¹⁰ But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

The Book of Micah

- Author: Prophet Micah, of Moresheth
- Date: c. 750 BC - 687 BC
- Theme: Prediction of destruction and eventual messianic restoration.
- Purpose: To make clear that a righteous God will judge, but He also will have mercy.
- Outline:
 - *Prediction of Judgment (1-3)
 - *Prediction of Restoration (4-5)
 - *Plea for Repentance (6-7)

Book of Micah

The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—the vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

² Hear, you peoples, all of you, listen, earth and all who live in it, that the Sovereign Lord may bear witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

³ Look! The Lord is coming from his dwelling place; he comes down and treads on the heights of the earth. ⁴ The mountains melt beneath him and the valleys split apart, like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a slope. ⁵ All this is because of Jacob's transgression, because of the sins of the people of Israel. What is Jacob's transgression? Is it not Samaria? What is Judah's high place? Is it not Jerusalem?

⁶ "Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of rubble, a place for planting vineyards. I will pour her stones into the valley and lay bare her foundations. ⁷ All her idols will be broken to pieces; all her temple gifts will be burned with fire; I will destroy all her images. ...

⁸ Because of this I will weep and wail; I will go about barefoot and naked. I will howl like a jackal and moan like an owl. ⁹ For Samaria's plague is incurable; it has spread to Judah. It has reached the very gate of my people, even to Jerusalem itself.

Micah 1:1-9

Therefore, the Lord says:

“I am planning disaster against this people, from which you cannot save yourselves. You will no longer walk proudly, for it will be a time of calamity. ⁴ In that day people will ridicule you; they will taunt you with this mournful song: ‘We are utterly ruined; my people’s possession is divided up. He takes it from me! He assigns our fields to traitors.’” ⁵ Therefore you will have no one in the assembly of the Lord to divide the land by lot.

⁶ “Do not prophesy,” their prophets say. “Do not prophesy about these things; disgrace will not overtake us.” ⁷ You descendants of Jacob, should it be said, “Does the Lord become impatient? Does he do such things?”

“Do not my words do good to the one whose ways are upright?”

Micah 2:3-7

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

² Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ³ He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

⁴ Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

⁵ All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Micah 4:1-5

Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

“My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me.

⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.
⁵ My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

⁶ With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:3-8

Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, which lives by itself in a forest, in fertile pasturelands. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in days long ago.

¹⁵ “As in the days when you came out of Egypt, I will show them my wonders.”

¹⁶ Nations will see and be ashamed, deprived of all their power. They will put their hands over their mouths and their ears will become deaf. ¹⁷ They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on the ground. They will come trembling out of their dens; they will turn in fear to the Lord our God and will be afraid of you.

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. ¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago.

Micah 7:14-20

The Book of Nahum

- Author: Prophet Nahum, the Elkoshite
- Date: c. 612 BC
- Theme: Prophecy of destruction of Nineveh, capital of Assyria.
- Purpose: To show God's judgment is sure against all opposing Him and his people.
- Outline:
 - *Destruction of Nineveh Decreed (1)
 - *Destruction Described (2)
 - *Destruction Deserved (3)

A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

² The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies.

³ The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.

⁴ He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

⁵ The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it.

⁶ Who can withstand his indignation?

Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.

Nahum 1:1-6

This is what the Lord says:

“Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more. ¹³ Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away.”

¹⁴ The Lord has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: “You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile.” ¹⁵ Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.

Nahum 1:12-15

An attacker advances against you, Nineveh. Guard the fortress, watch the road, brace yourselves, marshal all your strength!

² The Lord will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel, though destroyers have laid them waste and have ruined their vines. ...

⁵ Nineveh summons her picked troops, yet they stumble on their way. They dash to the city wall; the protective shield is put in place. ⁶ The river gates are thrown open and the palace collapses. ⁷ It is decreed that Nineveh be exiled and carried away. Her female slaves moan like doves and beat on their breasts. ⁸ Nineveh is like a pool whose water is draining away. “Stop! Stop!” they cry, but no one turns back. ⁹ Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold! The supply is endless, the wealth from all its treasures! ¹⁰ She is pillaged, plundered, stripped! Hearts melt, knees give way, bodies tremble, every face grows pale.

¹¹ Where now is the lions’ den, the place where they fed their young, where the lion and lioness went, and the cubs, with nothing to fear? ¹² The lion killed enough for his cubs and strangled the prey for his mate, filling his lairs with the kill and his dens with the prey.

¹³ “I am against you,” declares the Lord Almighty. “I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.”

Nahum 2:1-2, 5-13

Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! ² The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots! ³ Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses— ⁴ all because of the wanton lust of a prostitute, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft.

⁵ “I am against you,” declares the Lord Almighty. “ I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness and the kingdoms your shame. ⁶ I will pelt you with filth, I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle. ⁷ All who see you will flee from you and say, ‘Nineveh is in ruins—who will mourn for her?’ Where can I find anyone to comfort you?”

Nahum 3:1-7

The Book of Habbakuk

- Author: Prophet Habakkuk
- Date: c. 600 BC - 587 BC
- Theme: God is questioned and then praised for the approaching judgment against Judah.
- Purpose: To show the just will live by faith in God – even when things are unclear.
- Outline:
 - *Habakkuk's 1st Challenge (1:1-4)
 - *God's 1st Reply (1:5-1:11)
 - *Habakkuk's 2nd Challenge (1:12-2:1)
 - *God's 2nd Reply (2:2-2:20)
 - *Habakkuk's Prayer of Praise (3)

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

² How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save?

³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.

⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

Habakkuk 1:1-4

“Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. ⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor.

⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like an eagle swooping to devour; ⁹ they all come intent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand.

¹⁰ They mock kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; by building earthen ramps they capture them. ¹¹ Then they sweep past like the wind and go on— guilty people, whose own strength is their god.” Habakkuk 1:5-11

Lord, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, Lord, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

¹⁴ You have made people like the fish in the sea, like the sea creatures that have no ruler. ¹⁵ The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices and is glad. ¹⁶ Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, for by his net he lives in luxury and enjoys the choicest food. ¹⁷ Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy?

^{2:1} I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

Habakkuk 1:12-2:1

Then the Lord replied:

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. ³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

⁴ “See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness— ⁵ indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples.

⁶ “Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying, “Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on?”

⁷ Will not your creditors suddenly arise? Will they not wake up and make you tremble? Then you will become their prey. ⁸ Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you. For you have shed human blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them. Habakkuk 2:2-8

Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy. ...

¹¹ Sun and moon stood still in the heaven sat the glint of your flying arrows, at the lightning of your flashing spear. ¹² In wrath you strode through the earth and in anger you threshed the nations. ¹³ You came out to deliver your people, to save your anointed one. You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness, you stripped him from head to foot. ¹⁴ With his own spear you pierced his head when his warriors stormed out to scatter us, gloating as though about to devour the wretched who were in hiding. ¹⁵ You trampled the sea with your horses, churning the great waters.

¹⁶ I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

¹⁹ The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

The Book of Zephaniah

- Author: Prophet Zephaniah
- Date: c. 641 BC - 609 BC
- Theme: Prediction of judgment against the whole earth (esp. Judah), but with great future blessing.
- Purpose: To show God is holy and righteous, & He will call all nations to account.
- Outline:
 - * Judgment to Come in the Day of the Lord (1:1-3:8)
 - * Salvation to Come in the Day of the Lord (3:9-20)

The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah:

² “I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord. ³ “I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea—and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.”

“When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the Lord, ⁴ “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem.

I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests— ⁵ those who bow down on the roofs to worship the starry host, those who bow down and swear by the Lord and who also swear by Molek, ⁶ those who turn back from following the Lord and neither seek the Lord nor inquire of him.”

⁷ Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near.

Zephaniah 1:1-7

“On the day of the Lord’s sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. ⁹ On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit. ...

¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. ¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—¹⁶ a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

¹⁷ “I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. ¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath.”

Zephaniah 1:8-18

Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, ² before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's wrath comes upon you.

³ Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger.

Zephaniah 2:1-3

“Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder. ¹⁰ From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings. ¹¹ On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. ¹² But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the Lord. ¹³ They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.”

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

Zephaniah 3:9-17

At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord.

Zephaniah 3:18-20