

MON) September 23**Ch. 3 - For a bribe, for a price and for money**

In this chapter, Micah condemns the leaders and false prophets for their sins. If the love of money were to infiltrate the church today and corrupt its leaders, Micah's message would still be relevant. "Its heads give judgment for a (.....); its priests teach for a (.....); its prophets practice divination for (.....); yet they lean on the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us.""

Ch. 4 - Come, let us ascend the mountain of the Lord

Verse 1 speaks of the 'end times' which refers to the coming of the Messiah. It tells of the ruined temple of the Lord being rebuilt and all nations gathering to hear God's word. Let us sing a song together based on this promise. "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

Ch. 5 - O Bethlehem Ephrathah

This passage records the prophecy about the birthplace of Jesus. "O (.....) Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be (.....), whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." *When the wise men came to Herod, they asked the scribes where the Messiah was to be born, and they accurately quoted Micah's prophecy. Jesus' birth was not a coincidence, but a part of God's divine plan.

Ch. 6 - He has told you, O man, what is good

The Israelites asked God for forgiveness but foolishly refused to correct their wicked ways. Instead, they focused on offering sacrifices. List three ways in which the Lord requires His people to worship Him correctly.

TUE) September 24**Ch. 7 - Who is a God like you**

In this chapter, the prophet prays that even in captivity, God will lead His people with His rod and provide for them (v. 14). He also praises God for His faithfulness in keeping the covenant with their ancestors (vv. 18-20). The prophet asks, "Who is a God like our God?" and declares that God tread our iniquities underfoot and cast all our sins into the depths of the (.....).

Nahum Ch. 1 - He knows those who take refuge in him

The Book of Nahum can be seen as a sequel to the Book of Jonah. When Jonah prophesied to Nineveh in the early 8th century BC, the city repented. However, by the 7th century, when Nahum was active, Nineveh had returned to its wicked ways and was thus destined for God's judgment. Nahum prophesied the destruction of Nineveh. God, a jealous and avenging God (2:1), is slow to anger but will surely execute judgment (3:1). Amidst the terrifying message of judgment, the prophet offers a message of hope, saying, "The LORD is (.....), a (.....) in the day of trouble; he knows those who take (.....) in him."

Ch. 2 - I am against you

The destroyer is coming up against Nineveh" (v. 1). From verse 3 onwards, the entire passage is a proclamation of Nineveh's destruction. Historically, the destroyer refers to the combined forces of Babylon and Media. However, who does this "destroyer" ultimately represent in terms of the history's true master? (Hint: verse 13)

Ch. 3 - Woe to the bloody city (Nineveh)

In the Book of Nahum, the prophet specifically addresses three groups of people in Nineveh and pronounces judgment upon them: merchants who gathered to make money, nobles (soldiers and commanders defending Nineveh), and military officers guarding Nineveh. What does the prophet say will happen to these groups on the day of judgment?

WED) September 25**Habakkuk Ch. 1 - Why**

The prophet Habakkuk conveys his message in the form of questions directed to God. His first question is, "Why does God remain silent in the face of Judah's wickedness?" His second question is, "Why does God use the wicked Babylonian people to punish Judah?" The word "(.....)" is repeated throughout Habakkuk's prayer. Despite his many questions about God's ways and an unexpected response, Habakkuk is commendable for his persistence in prayer.

Ch. 2 - The righteous shall live by his faith

Habakkuk, in chapter one, waited as a watchman, expecting God's answer to his question. God prophesied that the Chaldeans, used as a tool to judge Judah, would also face great judgment. God declared that these events, though delayed, would certainly come to pass. As those who have received God's promise, we, like the prophet Habakkuk, "the righteous shall live by his (.....)".

Ch. 3 - I will punish you for all your wickedness

In chapter 1, Habakkuk was consumed by anger and sorrow over the current events. However, in chapter 2, upon hearing God's prophetic word, he turned his gaze towards God. His confession is astonishing: "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, yet I will rejoice in the (.....); I will take joy in the (.....)." *We need to pray that we may experience the eternal joy that comes from knowing God, not from improved circumstances or relief from problems, but simply from knowing God, even when our circumstances remain unchanged."

THU) September 26

Zephaniah Ch. 1 - For a full and sudden end
Zephaniah, a prophet who delivered his message during the reign of Josiah (640-609 BC), prophesied that God would bring a universal punishment, similar to Noah's flood, to destroy all living creatures due to human sin (vv. 2-3). Specifically, in verses 4-6, God declares the destruction of which group of people?

Ch. 2 - Shall bow down to the LORD, each in its place
God's wrathful judgment will not be confined to Judah alone. It will extend to all the cities of the Philistines (4-7), the Moabites and Ammonites (8-11), as well as Cush (12) and Assyria (13-15). However, there is also a message of salvation within this judgment. Amidst this terrifying judgment, God promises that those whom He has hidden during the day of His wrath (verse 3) will emerge from all nations to fear and worship Him. "and to him shall (.....) each in its (.....), all the lands of the nations."

Ch. 3 - The LORD your God is in your midst
Condemned to the horrific fate of Judah's destruction, the people faced nothing but brutal war and defeat. There was no hope for them. However, the prophet's final words of comfort and hope were that God still existed and that He loved even rebellious Israel. As you ponder verse 17, which contains a message of love for Jerusalem, reflect on the love of God for you.

FRI) September 27

Haggai Ch. 1 - The LORD stirred up the spirit
In the first year of Cyrus the Great, the Jewish people returned to their homeland and began rebuilding the temple. However, due to threats and opposition from their surroundings, the reconstruction was halted. The people became busy with their own lives, and 16 years passed. This was in the second year of Darius the Great (520 BC) when the prophet Haggai received a divine message (1:1). How many days after Haggai received the word of the Lord did the temple reconstruction begin? (Hint: 1:1, 14-15)

Ch. 2 - Yet now be strong
After the temple reconstruction began, the prophet Haggai received three messages from God regarding encouragement and blessings for the project. What is the common, powerful message from God that should fill in the blanks below? "Yet now (.....), O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. (.....), O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. (.....), all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts,"

SAT) September 28

Zechariah Ch. 1 - Return to me
Verses 1-6 serve as an introduction to the entire book and to chapters 1-6 specifically, with the core message being, "Return to me." What did Zechariah do each time God showed him a vision? (Hint: verses 9 and 19)

Ch. 2 - I will be to her a wall of fire all around
In the third vision, Zechariah sees a man with a measuring line. This signifies that a surveyor has gone to Jerusalem to measure for a new wall, but it will not be necessary (v. 4). This is because God Himself will be Jerusalem's (.....) (v. 5).
*Thank You, God, for being our fiery wall of protection every day. Please help us to no longer be afraid or anxious. Grant us the faith to trust in You and find peace every day.

Ch. 3 - I will clothe you with pure vestments
The fourth vision depicts the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the Lord, clothed in filthy garments, which are then removed. God removes our filthy garments, symbolizing our sins (v. 4), and clothes us in what garments and crown?

*Don't you feel a deep sense of dread at the thought of standing before God's judgment seat? However, this passage gives us hope, revealing that that day will be a day when we will put off our filthy garments and put on holy new ones.

Ch. 4 - But by my Spirit
In the fifth vision, we encounter the vision of the golden lampstand and the two olive trees. This vision was given to encourage Zerubbabel, who was working hard to rebuild the temple. God emphasized that the rebuilding of the temple would not be accomplished by might or power, but by what?