

INTRODUCTION:

1) TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT *THE PREEXILIC PROPHETS*

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) NAHUM: THE PROPHET OF NINEVEH'S FALL
- 2) HABAKKUK: THE PROPHET OF FAITH
- 3) ZEPHANIAH: THE PROPHET OF THE DAY OF THE LORD
- 4) OBADIAH: THE PROPHET AGAINST EDM
- 5) JEREMIAH: THE WEEPING PROPHET AND HIS LAMENTATIONS

FIGURE 1)

Babylonian Kingdom		Persian Kingdom
Pre-exile Prophets: Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, and Jeremiah	Prophets in Exile: Ezekiel and Daniel	Post-exile Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi
Chapter 12	Chapter 13	Chapter 14

PART 1 – NAHUM: THE PROPHET OF NINEVEH'S FALL:

Q 1) WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF NAHUM?

Q 2) WHEN WAS THE BOOK OF NAHUM WRITTEN?

Q 3) WHO DID NAHUM PROPHECY AGAINST?

Q 4) WHO PROPHESED TO THE SAME PEOPLE AS NAHUM MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE HIM?

Q 5) WHAT WERE THE TWO REASONS NAHUM PROPHESED?

Q 6) WHAT IS THE PRIMARY THEME OF THE BOOK OF NAHUM?

OUTLINE OF NAHUM...

- I. The Judge of Nineveh, 1
 - A. God's wrath and goodness (1:1–7)
 - B. Nineveh's judgment (1:8–11, 14)
 - C. Judah's comfort (1:12–13, 15)
- II. The Fall of Nineveh, 2-3
 - A. Nineveh attacked and destroyed (2:1–12)
 - B. The voice of the Lord (2:13)
 - C. The Reasons for and Certainty of Nineveh's Fall (3)

PART 2 – HABAKKUK: THE PROPHET OF FAITH:

Q 7) WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK?

Q 8) WHEN WAS THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK WRITTEN?

Q 9) WHO WAS RISING IN POWER DURING THE TIME HABAKKUK WROTE HIS BOOK?

FIGURE 2)

1. 605 BC: Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and other individuals as captives to Babylon (Daniel 1:1–7).
2. 597 BC: Nebuchadnezzar took about ten thousand people, including Ezekiel, into captivity in Babylon (2 Kings 24:14).
3. 587 BC: Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and took numerous captives (2 Kings 25:11–21).

Q 10) WHAT WAS THE MAIN PURPOSE FOR HABAKKUK'S WRITING?

Q 11) WHAT ARE THE TWO GREAT THEMES IN THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK?

OUTLINE OF HABAKKUK...

- I. Habakkuk's Questions and God's Answers, 1–2
 - A. Question 1: How can God allow wicked Judah not to be punished? (1:2–4)
 - B. Answer 1: God will use the Babylonians to punish Judah (1:5–11)
 - C. Question 2: How can God use a more wicked nation to punish Judah? (1:12–2:1)
 - D. Answer 2: God will judge Babylon later (2:2–20)
- II. Habakkuk's Prayer and Song of Faith, 3
 - A. Prayer: In wrath, remember mercy (3:1–2)
 - B. The power of the Lord (3:3–7)
 - C. The saving acts of the Lord (3:8–15)
 - D. Habakkuk's steadfast faith in God (3:16–19)

FIGURE 3)

From Habakkuk's honesty come three crucial applications for the believer today:

1. Believers do experience doubt. Doubt is not a sign of a lack of faith.
2. Believers must place their trust in the providential hands of God.
3. Believers can and should continue to praise God in spite of any lingering questions or doubts.

PART 3 – ZEPHANIAH: THE PROPHET OF THE DAY OF THE LORD:

Q 12) WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH AND WHEN DID THEY WRITE?

Q 13) WHAT ARE THE THREE REASONS FOR WHICH THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH WAS WRITTEN?

OUTLINE OF ZEPHANIAH...

- I. The Day of the Lord Will Bring Judgment to Some, 1–3:8
 - A. God will judge the whole earth (1:2–3)
 - B. God will judge Judah (1:4–13)
 - C. The great Day of the Lord will come (1:14–18)
 - D. God calls all to repent (2:1–3)
 - E. God will judge the nations (2:4–15)
 - F. God will judge Jerusalem (3:1–7)
 - G. God will judge the whole earth (3:8)
- II. The Day of the Lord Will Bring Salvation to Some, 3:9–20
 - A. A remnant will be restored and purified (3:9–13)
 - B. The people will rejoice with God in their midst (3:14–17)
 - C. God promises to restore His people (3:18–20)

PART 4 – OBADIAH: THE PROPHET AGAINST EDOM:

Q 14) WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF OBADIAH AND WHEN DID THEY WRITE?

Q 15) WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES AND THEME OF OBADIAH'S WRITING?

OUTLINE OF OBADIAH...

- I. Judgment on Edom, 1–14
 - A. God's promise to completely destroy Edom (1–9)
 - B. The reason for Edom's destruction (10–14)
- II. The Day of the Lord, 15–21
 - A. Judgment on Edom and other nations (15–16)
 - B. Salvation for Israel (17–21)

PART 5 – JEREMIAH: THE WEeping PROPHEt AND HIS LAMENTATIONS:

Q 16) WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH AND WHEN DID THEY WRITE?

OUTLINE OF JEREMIAH...

- I. Jeremiah's Call and Commission, 1
- II. Jeremiah's Prophecies to Judah, 2–33
 - A. Prophecies about judgment (2–29)
 - B. Prophecies about restoration (30–33)
- III. Jeremiah's Role as Watchman, 34–45
 - A. Prophecy to Zedekiah about captivity (34)
 - B. The lesson of the Recabites (35)
 - C. Burning of Jeremiah's scroll and his imprisonment (36–38)
 - D. Fulfillment of prophecies concerning Jerusalem's fall (39)
 - E. Jeremiah's ministry after the fall of Jerusalem (40–45)
- IV. Jeremiah's Prophecies to the Nations, 46–51
- V. Historical Appendix on Jerusalem's Fall, 52

FIGURE 4)

Chapters	Topic
11–20	Jeremiah's confessions; that is, his dialogues with God
21–29	Jeremiah's confrontations and rebuke of civil and religious leaders, including false prophets and the people in general
30–33	The book of comfort or consolation, emphasizing Israel's return to God and the land and God's awesome future actions or works
34–39	The spiritual atrocities of leadership
40–45	Jerusalem after the fall
46–51	Oracles concerning Egypt and other nations
52	Conclusion, reiterating the issue of Jerusalem's fall

Q 17) WHO WROTE LAMENTATIONS AND WHEN DID THEY WRITE IT?

Q 18) WHAT DOES LAMENTATIONS REFLECT?

Q 19) WHAT DOES THE AUTHOR OF LAMENTATIONS EXPRESS?

OUTLINE OF JEREMIAH...

- I. Jerusalem's Destruction, 1
- II. God's Anger and Jerusalem's Sorrow, 2
- III. God's Suffering People and Their Hope, 3
- IV. Jerusalem's Past, Present, and Future, 4
- V. Prayer for Restoration, 5

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK:

Read Nahum & Habakkuk, or Zephaniah & Obadiah, or Jeremiah & Lamentations. Read each outline section in one setting. If you choose to use an Audio Bible, that is fine too.

