

Wednesday Night Supplemental Teaching

Covered this week: Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Obadiah

Key Themes

- God is going to punish Edom for their role in assisting the Babylonians.
- God's sovereignty over the nations.

Key Characters: Obadiah

Setting: The book is difficult to date, but sometime after the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BC is the most likely.

Key Verses:

- 1:15 – “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.”

Outline

- I. Superscript (1a)
- II. Yahweh's Message Against Edom (1b-14)
- III. The Day of the Lord (15-21)

Other Interesting Notes

- Obadiah was a fairly common name in ancient Israel. There is an Obadiah in 1 Kings 18. It is unlikely this is the same person.
- Esau was the patriarch of Edom. Edom is also called Hor (Numbers 20:23), Seir (Genesis 36:8-9) and Esau (Deuteronomy 2:4-5).

Jonah

Key Themes

- God's right to perform gracious acts of compassion.
- God's propensity for offering second chances.

Key Characters: Jonah, the King of Nineveh

Setting: The setting of the book is the 8th century. It is less clear when the book was written down.

Key Verses:

- 3:10 – “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.”

- 4:11 – “Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left and also so many animals?”

Outline:

- I. First Call and Jonah’s Attempted Escape (1:1-16)
- II. God’s Rescue of Jonah and Jonah’s Thankful Response (1:17-2:10)
- III. Second Call and Nineveh’s Response to Jonah’s Preaching (3:1-9)
- IV. God’s Rescue of Nineveh and Jonah’s Angry Response (3:10-4:5)
- V. The Object Lesson and God’s Right to Compassion (4:6-11)

Micah-

Key Themes

- Spiritual renewal begins with putting an end to one’s unjust treatment of others.
- The throne of David to be filled by a deliverer born in Bethlehem.
- Right behavior, not manipulating rituals, is the proper response to God’s anger.
- God will deliver Judah from the threat of Assyria.

Key Characters: Micah

Setting: Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah prophesying in the latter half of the eighth century BC.

Key Verses:

- 5:2 – “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 old, from ancient times.”
- 6:8 – “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”
- 7:18-19 – “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. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”

Outline

- I. Prologue (1:1)
- II. The People (1:2-2:13)
 - a. Indictment and Judgment Against the People (1:2-2:11)
 - b. Hope for the People (2:12-13)
- III. The Leaders (3:1-5:15)
 - a. Indictment and Judgment Against the Leaders (3)
 - b. Hope for the Lord’s Leadership and Restoration (4:1-8)
 - c. Future Purging (5:10-15)
- IV. The Nation (6:1-7:20)
 - a. Indictment and Judgment Against the Nation (6:1-7:7)
 - b. Hope for the Nation (7:8-20)

Nahum

Key Themes

- The impending judgement of Nineveh
- Judah's coming release from the power of the Assyrian Empire

Key Characters: Nahum

Setting: Sometime prior to the fall of Nineveh in 612 BC.

Key Verses:

- 1:7 – “The Lord is good, and a refuge in times of trouble.”

Outline:

- I. Introductory Psalm (1:1-8)
- II. The Doom of Nineveh and the Deliverance of Judah (1:9-2:2)
- III. The Siege of Nineveh (2:3-3:19)

Habakkuk

Key Themes

- God is just in dealing with the nations.
- Judah was to receive punishment from the Babylonians, who would in turn be punished by God.
- Even when world events are confusing, we need to trust God and act with integrity.

Key Characters: Habakkuk

Setting: Probably around 640 BC perhaps in the earliest part of Josiah's reign.

Key Verses

- 2:14 – “The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”
- 2:20 – “The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.”
- 3:16-19 – “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, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

Outline

- I. Discourse 1
 - a. Habakkuk's Complaint Concerning Judah (1:1-4)
 - b. God's Answer Concerning Babylon's Invasion of Judah (1:5-11)
- II. Discourse 2
 - a. Habakkuk's Question Concerning God's Justice (1:12-17)
 - b. Instruction from God (2:1-3)
 - c. God's Answer about the Responsibility of the Righteous and Babylon's Fall (2:6-20)

- III. Discourse 3
 - a. Habakkuk Requests Mercy (3:1-2)
 - b. The Sovereign Power of God to Deliver (3:3-15)
 - c. Habakkuk's Trust in God's Sovereignty (3:16-19)

Zephaniah

Key Themes

- The coming day of the Lord
- The call to the humble to seek the Lord.
- The universal impact of the coming judgment.

Setting: The reign of Josiah (640-609 BC)

Key Verses

- 1:14 – “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.”
- 7:17 – “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.”

Outline

- I. Judgment (1:1-3:8)
 - a. Warning of Universal Judgment (1:1-3)
 - b. Judgment Against Judah and Jerusalem (1:4-13)
 - c. The Day of the LORD and the Judgment of the Nations (1:14-2:3)
 - d. Indictment Against Judah and Jerusalem (3:1-7)
 - e. Warning of Universal Judgment (3:8)
- II. Restoration (3:9-20)

Haggai

Key Themes

- The importance of establishing proper priorities
- The value of the temple as a covenant symbol for Israel
- The faithfulness of God in renewing his covenant promises to God.

Setting: 520 BC

Key Verses

- 1:7-8 – “Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the Lord.”
- 2:6-7 – “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory.’”

Outline

- I. Message 1: Haggai's Challenge to Covenant Renewal (1:1-15)
- II. Message 2: The Promise of Restoration (2:1-9)
- III. Message 3: The Call to Holiness (2:10-19)
- IV. Message 4: Zerubbabel – Davidic Servant and Signet Ring (2:20-23)

Zechariah

Key Themes

- Repentance and covenant renewal
- Hope rooted in God's sovereignty
- The coming of the Messiah
- The importance of justice for a society

Setting: Postexilic Israel (520 BC and following)

Key Verses

- 1:3 - "'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you.'"
- 2:10 - "'Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,' declares the LORD."
- 9:9 - "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
- 14:9 - "On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name."

Outline

- I. Call to Repentance (1:1-6)
- II. Zechariah's Visions (1:7-6:15)
- III. Zechariah's Messages (7-8)
- IV. The Oracles about the Messiah (9-14)

Malachi

Key Themes

- God is worthy of our worship.
- God expects faithfulness in marriage.
- The day of the Lord will affect both the righteous and the wicked.
- An Elijah-like figure will announce the day of the Lord.

Setting: 430BC in postexilic Israel

Key Verses

- 1:11 - "My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun."
- 3:1 - "I will send my messenger who will prepare the way before me."

- 3:6-7 – “I the LORD do not change...Return to me, and I will return to you.”
- 3:10 – ““Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessings that there will not be room enough to store it.””
- 4:2 – “But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out leaping like calves from the stall.”

Outline

- I. Superscription (1:1)
- II. First Oracle: God’s Lover for Israel (1:2-5)
- III. Second Oracle: Unfaithful Priests Rebuked (1:6-2:9)
- IV. Third Oracle: Unfaithful People Rebuked (2:10-16)
- V. Fourth Oracle: Future Day of Judgment and Purification (2:17-3:5)
- VI. Fifth Oracle: Call to Repentance (3:6-12)
- VII. Six Oracle: Israel Restored as God’s Special Possession (3:13-4:3)
- VIII. Concluding Exhortations: Remember the Law of Moses and Elijah the Prophet (4:4-6)