

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

PERIOD SEVEN

LAST DAYS OF JUDAH - PROPHETS

LESSON 33

In this lesson we want to learn about three prophets - NAHUM, ZEPHANIAH, HABAKKUK

- *Who they were.*
- *The outlines of their books.*
- *The main messages in their books.*

The prophets, Nahum, Zephaniah and Habakkuk lived in Judah. They lived from 650 BC to 600 BC.

Time	PERIOD SEVEN		JUDAH
Main thought	LAST DAYS OF JUDAH AS A KINGDOM		
Chapters that tell of this part	2 Kings 18:1 2 Chronicles 10:1	to to	2 Kings 25:30 2 Chronicles 36:16
What this part tells about	931 BC Southern Kingdom - Judah - Rehoboam to Judah lasted 350 years.		586 BC end of Jerusalem
	<p>Government of Judah</p> <p>19 kings, they all belong to the family of David.</p> <p>Way of Living</p> <p>They all lived about the same, none were very poor, and none were very rich. They had a simple way of living.</p>		<p>Religion</p> <p>Little by little the people turned from God - then they came back to God as the prophets brought them back to God.</p> <p>Prophets</p> <p>850 - 700 - Joel, Isaiah, Micah, - Obadiah</p> <p>700 - 600 BC - Jeremiah, Zephaniah, - Nahum, Habakkuk</p>

JUDAH	Amon						Jehoahaz		
King	Manasseh			Josiah			Jehoiakim		
Prophet	Nahum						Ezekiel		
Prophet				Zephaniah		Habakkuk		Daniel	
Prophet				Jeremiah					
BC	660	650	640	630	620	610	600		
Prophet									
Prophet									
King	Israel in exile								
ISRAEL									

1. INTRODUCTION

Nahum, Zephaniah and Habakkuk were minor (small) prophets. Nahum, Zephaniah and Habakkuk lived while Manasseh, Amon and Josiah ruled Judah.

Manasseh was an evil king. He led the people of Judah away from the Lord. The Lord was ready to bring judgment upon Judah. Jeremiah called out to the people of Judah, "Repent."

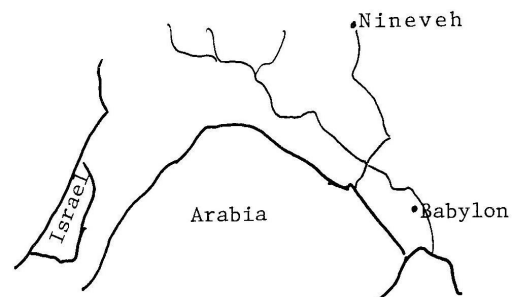
Josiah saved the people of Judah from being destroyed. He was able to turn the people from idols. He destroyed all the idol worship. Josiah repaired the temple. He had the people worship the Lord again.

NAHUM

- **THE MAN NAHUM**

Nahum means "comfort."

Nahum came from Elkosh. We do not know where Elkosh was. Some teachers believe it was in Galilee. Other teachers think it was near Jerusalem.



Nahum was a prophet to Nineveh.

He prophesied about 150 years after Jonah prophesied. Nahum told about the end of Nineveh.

● THE BOOK NAHUM

READ THE BOOK OF NAHUM.

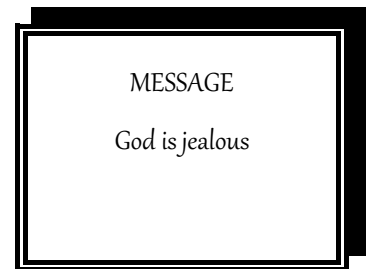
A. Outline of the book.

- The great Lord would judge and show mercy, Nahum 1:1-15.
- Nineveh was destroyed, Nahum 2:1-13.
- Why Nineveh was destroyed, Nahum 3:1-19.

B. Lessons of the book.

What is God like? Nahum 1:2,3

God's jealousy is not like our jealousy. God is jealous for His people. He does not want His people to worship gods that cannot help them. God wants His people to worship HIM. God wants to love and help His people, Exodus 20:3-5; 1 Kings 14:22,23.



God loves those who belong to Him. He does not like it when someone does something bad to those who love Him. God was jealous for the people of Israel and Judah. God punished the people of Nineveh for what they did to the people of Israel and Judah (Zechariah 1:14; 8:2). (Nineveh was the leading city of Assyria.)

God is jealous for His children. He will punish those who make it hard for His children (Romans 8:31; 12:19).

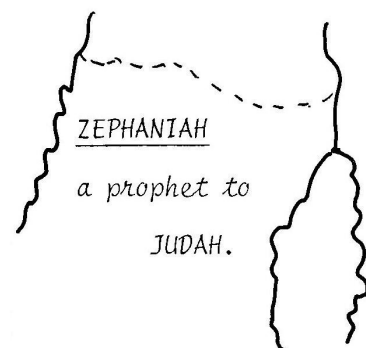
Does the Lord get angry quickly (Nahum 1:3)?

Nahum tells about the end of Nineveh. Notice how well he told about the end of Nineveh (Nahum 2:13). Why did the Lord destroy Nineveh (Nahum 3:1,4)?

ZEPHANIAH

● THE MAN ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah means "the Lord has hidden." This does not mean the Lord hid Himself. It means the Lord hid the people of Israel. The Lord hid the people of Israel among the nations.



After the northern kingdom (Israel) was destroyed, the

Bible still talks about Israel. A small group of people (remnant) from Israel and Judah came back to the promised land. These people were called Israel, or Israelites. These same people are called Israelis or Jews today.

Zephaniah was a prophet to the people of Judah when Josiah was king of Judah. Zephaniah told the people of Jerusalem that the Lord would send judgment upon them soon. Josiah got rid of the idol worship. However, the people still lived in sin.

Zephaniah is thought to be a descendant of Hezekiah, king of Judah.

- **THE BOOK ZEPHANIAH**

A. Outline of the book.

- Jerusalem was going to come to an end, Zephaniah 1:1-18.
- The Lord was going to judge other nations, Zephaniah 2:1 - 3:8.
- The Lord was going to bring the people of Israel back to their country and bless them, Zephaniah 3:9-20.

B. Lessons of the book.

The main thought of Zephaniah is "the coming of the day of the Lord." The day of the Lord was when the Lord judged Judah and the other nations.

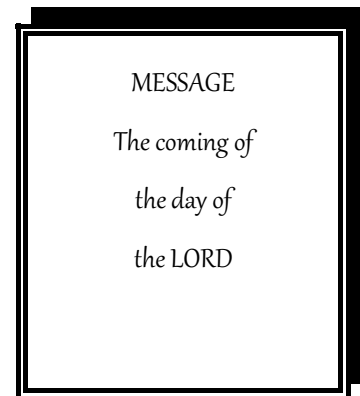
Zephaniah told that the Lord judged or punished the people of Israel to turn them away from their sin. When the people of Israel stopped worshipping other gods and repented, the Lord blessed them.

Zephaniah prophesied of two times. The first time was when Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BC. The city was burned (2 Chronicles 36:19). The next time may be the end of the world. READ 2 PETER 3:10-12. What will happen at that time (Zephaniah 1:2,3)?

What will the "day of the Lord" be like (Zephaniah 1:7,8)?

What did Zephaniah tell the people to do before the judgment would come (Zephaniah 2:2,3)?

What will the Lord's judgment do for the people (Zephaniah 3:9)?



After the judgment, who will be living among the people of Israel (Zephaniah 3:15)?

This is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming back to earth again to be king.

HABAKKUK

● THE MAN HABAKKUK

Habakkuk means "embrace."

There are many stories about where Habakkuk came from. We will not study them now. The Bible tells very little about Habakkuk. He lived when Zephaniah and Jeremiah lived. Habakkuk lived when Jerusalem was destroyed.

● THE BOOK HABAKKUK

A. Outline of the book.

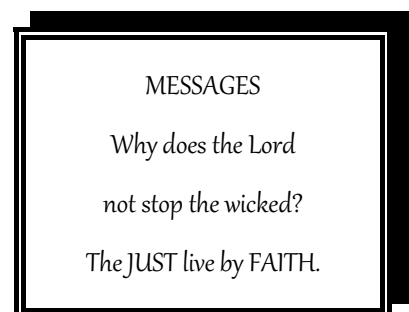
- Why doesn't the Lord stop the wicked? Habakkuk 1:1-4.
- The Lord used the Chaldeans to stop the wicked, Habakkuk 1:5-11.
- Why does the Lord use wicked people to punish His people? Habakkuk 1:12 - 2:1.
- The righteous, Habakkuk 2:2-4.
- God speaks against unrighteousness, Habakkuk 2:5-20.
- Habakkuk's prayer (psalm of praise), Habakkuk 3:1-19.

B. Lessons of the book.

READ THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK.

Habakkuk asks a question we ask today, "Why does the Lord not stop the wicked?" We often see that people who live in sin are not punished. They seem to get everything they want. We wonder why God lets this happen. Habakkuk gives us the answer.

What kind of people were the Chaldeans (Habakkuk 1:6,7)?



Habakkuk knew the Chaldeans sinned more than the people of Judah. Habakkuk could not understand why the Lord would use these people to punish the people of Judah.

The Lord told Habakkuk to wait and see what He was going to do. The Lord was

working out a plan (Habakkuk 2:3). Habakkuk was to have faith that the Lord would do what was best for the people of Israel.

We too must have faith that the Lord is doing what is best for us.

How did the just live in those days (Habakkuk 2:4)?

How do the just live today? Romans 1:17

WORDS TO LEARN

1. fall - the Bible speaks about the fall of cities or countries - that means they are destroyed, or they lose their power as a city or as a country.
2. jealous - to want someone to be taken care of, to have a real desire to help someone and protect this one; to not like to see someone get ahead with his work or in his life.