Week 7: Nahum

Objective:

- God’s Mercy and Judgment
- The Destruction of Nineveh
- The Woe of Nineveh

Resources:

- Fr Tadros Y Malaty Commentary
- Catena Bible Commentary
- Fr Dawoud Lamie Bible study (Arabic)
- Minor Prophets SUSCOPTS

Activity for every week: Can you recite the 12 minor prophets?

Reading:

- Nahum 1:1-15
- Nahum 2:1-13
- Nahum 3:1-19

Key verse(s):

"Behold, on the mountains, The feet of him who brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace!" Nahum 1:15

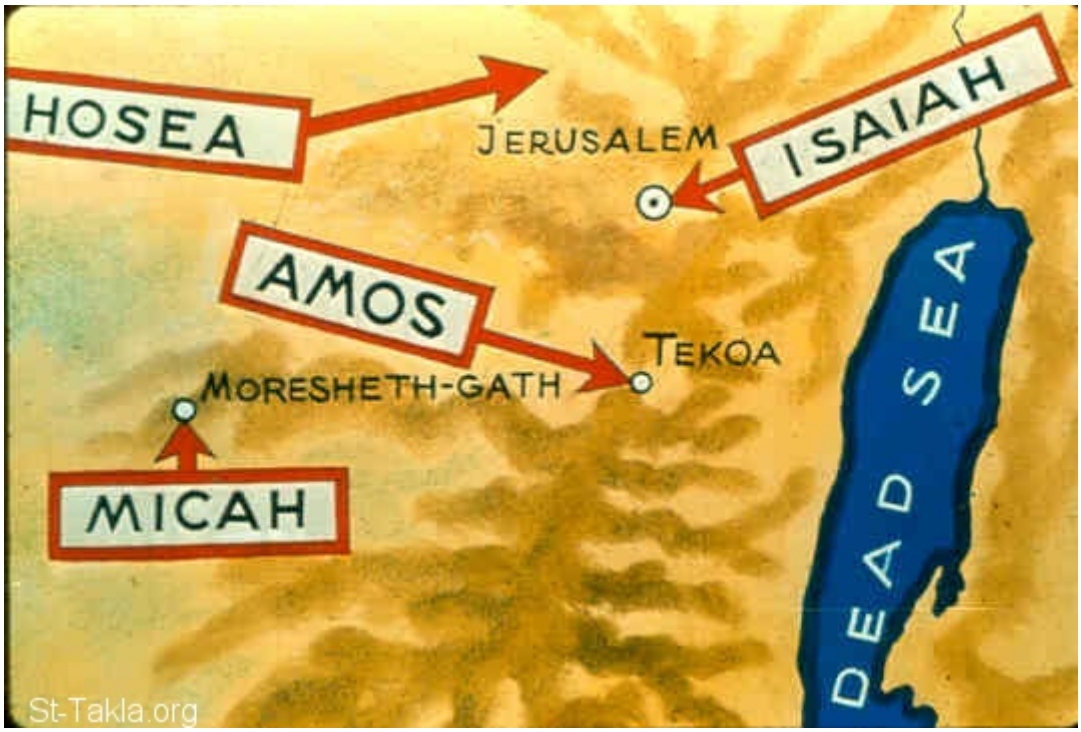
NOTE TO SERVANT:

- Please plan to ask and review these questions every week:
  - Who are the minor prophets? Can you recite them?
  - The theme for last week's minor prophet
  - Highlight Messianic prophecy

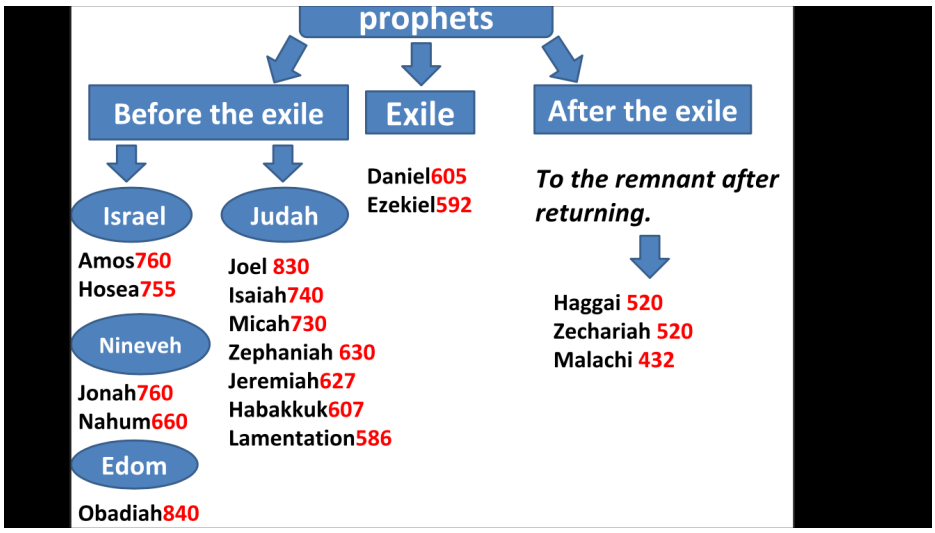
Minor Prophets introduction:

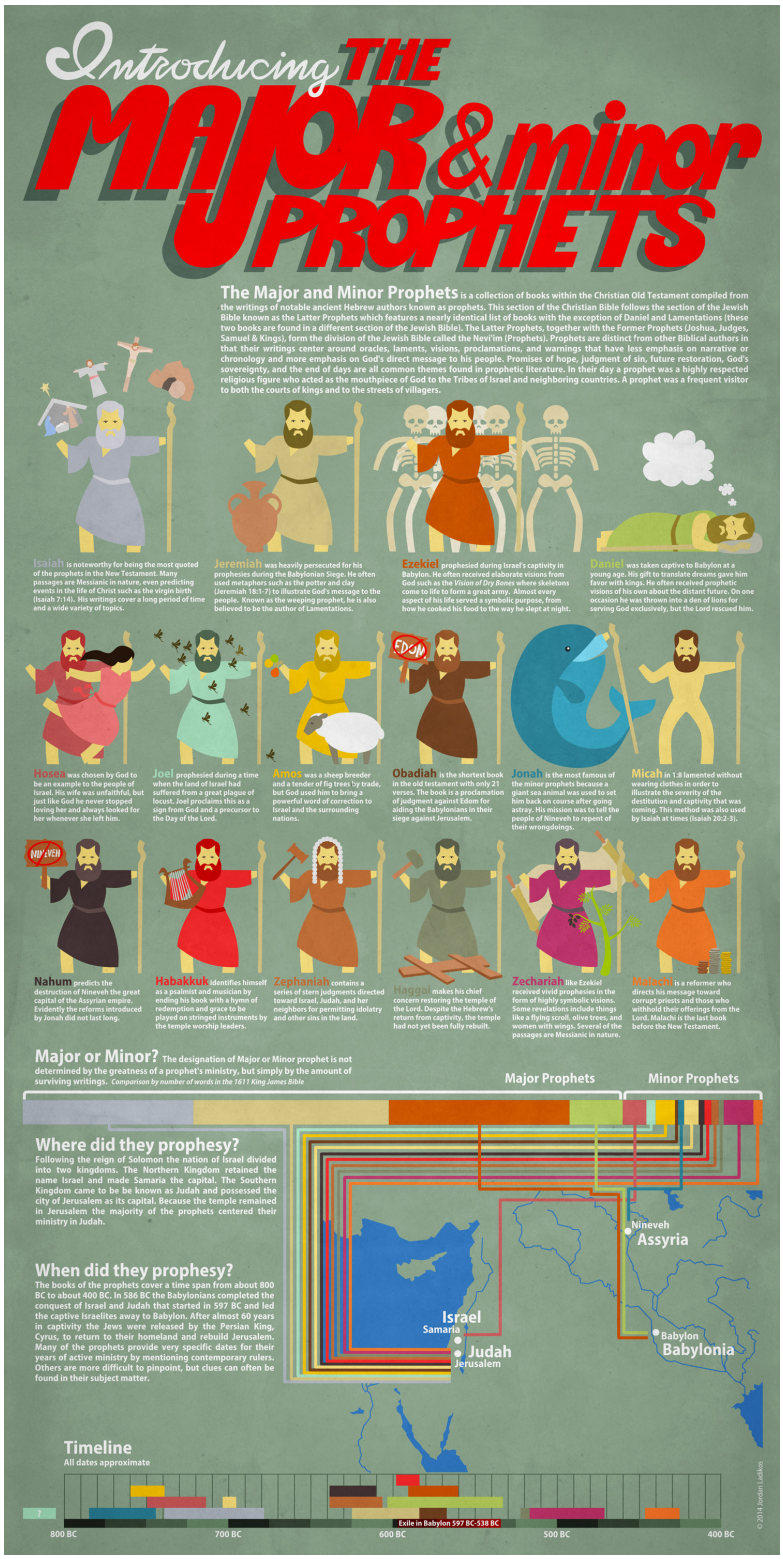
- The Major and Minor Prophet division of the Holy Bible does not denote the importance or rank of the writing prophets, but the length of the Holy Books which bear their prophecies.
  - Ex: Jonah 4 chapters - Isaiah 66 chapters
- There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets (5 books including Lamentations)
- In the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), all these books were listed under "prophets". In the Septuagint and Vulgate translations, this classification of major and minor was mentioned.

- The prophet in the OT was someone who passed God's message to the people. A prophet in the NT is also someone who passes God's message or news (God's love and salvation for all mankind).
- In the OT, there were many prophets (Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, etc.), but when we refer to the "Prophets", we refer to the ones who recorded their prophecy.
- All prophecies had one goal: Repentance!
- Recorded prophecies were split into three groups: Before, during, and after the exile.
  - Before: Repent so God doesn't bring the exile
  - During: Repent so God can end the exile and take us back to our land
  - After: Repent because the Messiah is coming
- The books of the prophets are rich with Messianic prophecies. Our Lord fulfilled all.
- The meaning of the names of the prophets is usually the message of their writings.
- The prophetic books always start with a strong tough message and then end with a joyful promising message.
- All books have different themes. All books have the same message (repentance).
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Introducing THE MAJOR & minor PROPHETS
The Major and Minor Prophets is a collection of books within the Christian Old Testament compiled from the writings of notable ancient Hebrew authors known as prophets. This section of the Christian Bible follows the section of the Jewish Bible known as the Latter Prophets which features a nearly identical list of books with the exception of Daniel and Lamentations (these two books are found in a different section of the Jewish Bible). The Latter Prophets, together with the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings), form the division of the Jewish Bible called the Nevi'im (Prophets). Prophets are distinct from other Biblical authors in that their writings center around oracles, laments, visions, proclamations, and warnings that have less emphasis on narrative or chronology and more emphasis on God's direct message to his people. Promises of hope, judgment of sin, future restoration, God's sovereignty, and the end of days are all common themes found in prophetic literature. In their day a prophet was a highly respected religious figure who acted as the mouthpiece of God to the Tribes of Israel and neighboring countries. A prophet was a frequent visitor to both the courts of kings and to the streets of villagers.
Isaiah is noteworthy for being the most quoted of the prophets in the New Testament. Many passages are Messianic in nature, even predicting events in the life of Christ such as the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14). His writings cover a long period of time and a wide variety of topics.
Jeremiah was heavily persecuted for his prophesies during the Babylonian Siege. He often used metaphors such as the potter and clay (Jeremiah 18:1-7) to illustrate God's message to the people. Known as the weeping prophet, he is also believed to be the author of Lamentations.
Ezekiel prophesied during Israel's captivity in Babylon. He often received elaborate visions from God such as the Vision of Dry Bones where skeletons come to life to form a great army. Almost every aspect of his life served a symbolic purpose, from how he cooked his food to the way he slept at night.
Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at a young age. His gift to translate dreams gave him favor with kings. He often received prophetic visions of his own about the distant future. On one occasion he was thrown into a den of lions for serving God exclusively, but the Lord rescued him.
Hosea was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.
Joel prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locust. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God and a precursor to the Day of the Lord.
Amos was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.
EDOM
Obadiah is the shortest book in the old testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for aiding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.
Jonah is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their wrongdoings.
Micah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).
NINEVEH
Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Jonah did not last long.
Habakkuk identifies himself as a psalmist and musician by ending his book with a hymn of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.
Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.
Haggai makes his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrew's return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.
Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophesies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some revelations include things like a flying scroll, olive trees, and women with wings. Several of the passages are Messianic in nature.
Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.
Major or Minor? The designation of Major or Minor prophet is not determined by the greatness of a prophet's ministry, but simply by the amount of surviving writings. Comparison by number of words in the 1611 King James Bible
Major Prophets
Minor Prophets
Where did they prophesy?
Following the reign of Solomon the nation of Israel divided into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom retained the name Israel and made Samaria the capital. The Southern Kingdom came to be be known as Judah and possessed the city of Jerusalem as its capital. Because the temple remained in Jerusalem the majority of the prophets centered their ministry in Judah.
When did they prophesy?
The books of the prophets cover a time span from about 800 BC to about 400 BC. In 586 BC the Babylonians completed the conquest of Israel and Judah that started in 597 BC and led the captive Israelites away to Babylon. After almost 60 years in captivity the Jews were released by the Persian King, Cyrus, to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem. Many of the prophets provide very specific dates for their years of active ministry by mentioning contemporary rulers. Others are more difficult to pinpoint, but clues can often be found in their subject matter.
Nineveh
Assyria
Israel
Samaria
Judah
Jerusalem
Babylon
Babylonia
Timeline
All dates approximate
Exile in Babylon 597 BC-538 BC
800 BC
700 BC
600 BC
500 BC
400 BC
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Minor Prophets (in biblical order)	*Main Themes of their Writings*
Hosea	Salvation
Joel	**The Day of the Lord**
Amos	God's Judgment, **The Day of the Lord**, Israel's redemption
Obadiah	The destruction of Edom, **The Day of the Lord**
Jonah	Serving the Lord, His mercy
Micah	Injustice, oppression
Nahum	Judgement on Nineveh, comfort to Israel
Habakkuk	God embracing Judah, the destruction of Chaldea
Zephaniah	God's anger, **The Day of the Lord**, Israel repents and is spared
Haggai	Restoraton of the Temple
Zechariah	The building of the Temple, the coming of God's Kingdom
Malachi	The messenger to come, **The Day of the Lord**

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Minor Prophets		
Before Assyrian Captivity Directed to the North Kingdom	After Assyrian and before Babylonian captivities Directed to the South Kingdom	After Captivity
1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah (Edom) 5. Jonah	6. Micah 7. Nahum (Nineveh) 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah	10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi

Comments:

Theme of Nahum: Destruction of Nineveh
Messianic Prophecy: Christ in the New Testament (1:15)

- Nahum means "comfort" or "consolation"
- Nahum prophesied against Ninevah after Jonah went there (approximately 130 years) and after they took Israel into captivity.
- Since the message of the book is a prediction of the destruction of Nineveh, it must have been delivered sometime before 612 B.C., when the city was destroyed by the Babylonians.
- The message of the prophecy is clearly stated in Nahum 3:7.
- Nahum 1:15: A Prophecy on Christ in the New Testament. Christ will come and will proclaim peace on earth. Our lives will be in constant rejoicing (feasts) because Christ reconciled the earthly with the heavenly.
- Nahum 2 talks about God's mercy and goodness to those who believe in Him after he punished them (His judgments). The chapter also talks about what will happen to those who reject God after numerous chances to return to him and offer repentance.
- Nahum 2:11 shows the Assyrians as lions who controlled the whole world and everyone feared them.
- Nahum 3:7: What Nineveh (The Assyrians) did to other nations, it will return on them. It is also a message for us that sin enslaves us. Sin needs to be amputated from its roots or will take the person down as it took many others slaves.

Review/recap questions:
***Servant may add more questions*

1. Nahum is prophesying against the city of :
   a) Samaria b) Egypt c) Nineveh
2. What is the Messianic prophecy in chapter 1?
3. What will God do to those who conspire against Him?
4. Why compare Nineveh to lions?
5. List the sins of Nineveh according to chapter 3.

Homework:
***Servant may add more questions*

1. Nahum is prophesying against the city of :
   a) Samaria b) Egypt c) Nineveh
2. The LORD is _____, a stronghold in the day of _____; and He knows those who _____ in Him.
3. The shields of his mighty men are made _____, the valiant men are in _____.
4. The lion tore in pieces enough for his _____, killed for his _____, filled his caves with _____, and his dens with _____.

5. All your strongholds are _____ trees with ripened figs: if they are _____, they fall into the _____ of the eater.
6. Those who hear the news of Nineveh will:
   a) cry b) clap their hands c) sing songs

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