



JOURNEY
— THROUGH THE —
OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 6
The Later Prophets

1. THE PRE-EXILIC PROPHETS

(Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Obadiah, Jeremiah)

NAHUM

Nahum prophesied against Ninevah 100 years after Jonah did. The reason was because while they repented during Jonah's time, their change of behavior was short lived!

Assyria had a false sense of security because she believed she was so well fortified that no one could defeat her!

**There was no repentance after
Nahum preached to them, so
Ninevah was destroyed!**

HABAKKUK

Three Babylonian Invasions of Judah...

1. 605 B.C. when Nebuchednezzar took Daniel and other leaders into captivity.
2. 597 B.C. - 10,000 more people including Ezekiel.
3. 587 B.C. after he destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

The two themes of this book are...

- 1) God will judge all sinners in His time frame.**
- 2) The righteous will live by faith.**

**The theological dilemma for
Habakkuk was...**

**“How could God use someone more
wicked to punish His people?”**

Habakkuk decides that God is sovereign and can be trusted even when he doesn't understand.

ZEPHANIAH

**The theme of this book is
“The Day of the Lord.”**

The book ends with a note of hope stating that the day of judgment will also bring with it healing and restoration!

OBADIAH

The majority of scholars believe this book was written around 587-586 B.C. which coincides with the destruction of Jerusalem. This book was a divine word of retribution for Edom the nation that took delight in Judah's destruction

JEREMIAH

**He prophesied during the last 40
years of Judah's existence. In
Jeremiah we get a transparent picture
of what it's like to be in ministry**

**He was nicknamed,
“The Weeping Prophet”**

Jeremiah declared that Judah had committed two grave sins...

1. They had turned away from God the spring of living water to dig their own wells.

2. They had replaced the worship of the true God with idols

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah witnessed three horrible things during the three invasions of the Babylonians. He saw the temple burned, he saw intolerable cruelty and many people murdered.



2. THE EXILIC PROPHETS

(Ezekiel, Daniel)

EZEKIEL

**Ezekiel was called
The Prophet of Dramatic Acting**

Ezekiel helped the Jews understand that God's judgment had to fall because of their disobedience, but that didn't mean God was finished with them

The reason God used dramatic actions and language was to get the attention of people who had been desensitized by sin.

DANIEL

The book of Daniel records events from the first invasion of Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. to the third year of King Cyrus in 536 B.C. Daniel was one of the last OT prophets...

The book of Daniel, like Revelation is categorized as Apocalyptic Literature. That word means “to unveil or reveal” something. This type of literature uses symbols and visions to reveal hidden things

The Four Beasts

Babylon = Head of gold and the lion with the wings.

Media-Persia = Chest of silver and the bear.

Greece = bronze belly and the leopard with four wings.

Rome = Iron/clay mix in the statue and the beast of Daniel 7

3. THE POST-EXILIC PROPHETS

(Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

HAGGAI

When Haggai arrives on the scene no work had been done on the Temple for 16 years. Haggai's message was meant to inspire them to get back to work. His rebuke was that their homes were lavishly built and decorated, while God's house lied in ruins.

Zechariah was born in Babylon and returned in the first wave of exiles.

Like Haggai, he encouraged the rebuilding of the Temple, which is the focus of chapters 1-8

In Zechariah 8 are a series of night visions that have to do with Judah's past sins, forgiveness and cleansing, along with the coming of the Messiah and the need to rebuild the Temple

MALACHI

Malachi means “my messenger.”

**Malachi speaks to the careless,
apathetic attitude the people had
adopted after returning from exile.
They were not giving God their best,
either in their finances, marital
relationships, or worship practices.
They had grown complacent**

**The theme of this book is a Return
to Spiritual Vitality...**