

NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH: DESTRUCTION & REVIVAL

A. Author: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

B. Title: Nahum= Comfort; Habakkuk= Embrace;
Zephaniah= Yahweh Hides

C. Theme: The Lord will never wink at sin, but neither will He abandon the remnant of His covenant people that belong to Him.

D. Timeline of the Prophets:

- Nahum- Preached to Ninevah after the sack of Thebes (663 B.C.) but before Ninevah's Destruction (612 BC)
- Habakkuk- Preached to Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim (after the revival under Josiah; 640-609 BC)
- Zephaniah- Preached to Judah immediately prior to the revival under Josiah; 627 BC)

E. Outlines:

1. NAHUM (THE SEQUEL TO JONAH)

a. Ninevah's Judge—the Lord (1)

- His Character (1:2-3a)
- His Power (1:3b-6)
- His Goodness (1:7)

b. Ninevah's Judgment (2)

- The Return Favor from Israel (2:7)
- Complete Destruction (2:10)
- God Is Against Them (2:13; 3:5)

c. Ninevah's Surprise Fall (3)

- Constant War (3:1-2)
- Complete Ruin (3:7)
- Parallels with Thebes (3:8)
- No Cure (3:18-19)

2. HABBAKUK

a. The Prophet's Questions

- How long will God refuse His prayer? (1:1-2)
- Why use a nation worse than Judah to judge them? (1:6;13)

b. God's Answer (2)

- The Just Shall Live by Faith (2:4)
- God wants the whole world to know Him (2:14)

c. Prayer for Revival (3)

- Praying for Revival (3:2)
- Faith in the Midst of Discouragement (3:17-19)

3. ZEPHANIAH

a. The Lord's Day of Judgment (1:1-2:3)

- Judgment against the Earth (1:2-3)
- Judgment against Judah (1:4,7)
- The Great Day of the Lord (1:14,18)

b. The Judgment against the Nations (2:4-15)

- Philistia (2:4-7)
- Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)
- Cush (2:12)
- Assyria (2:13-15)

c. The Future of Jerusalem (3)

- Destruction of the Corrupt (3:3-5)
- Deliverance of the Righteous (3:9-12)
- The Joy of Jerusalem (3:17)

F. Real Life Lessons from Nahum, Habbakuk, & Zephaniah

1. God judges sin, but He also sends revival to those who call on Him.
2. The Lord is the only righteous judge for nations or individuals.
3. God sometimes uses the wicked to judge His people.
4. We must trust God even when circumstances are dire.
5. Revival brings great joy to God's people.