

LESSON 6

LIVING WITH THE PROPHETS

(Micah, Amos, Hosea, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah and Nahum)

Putting the prophets in groups by dates, four prophets, Micah, Hosea, Amos and Jonah, all ministered during the time of Isaiah, 750-687 BC. Another four, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk and Nahum, ministered around the time of the revival under Josiah, 640-609, with Jeremiah lasting until the time of Zedekiah and his 11th year, 597-586. Consequently, one would expect a certain amount of agreement to Isaiah from the first four, and the latter four agreeing or adding to the former. One might also sense a growing urgency in their cry as the exiles of 722 and 586 approach, crying out for both Israel and Judah to repent before it is too late.

- I. MICAH**—in the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, 750-686 BC
- A. Micah opens with, YHVH is coming for and will tread on the high places of the earth (1:3)
 - B. It includes the announcement of the judgment on Samaria (722 BC) and Judah (586)
 - C. Like the statements in Isaiah, their wounds are incurable (2:3-4)
 - D. But there is the hope that the Shepherd of Israel will gather a remnant of the sheep into a protective fold and then the king will break forth and lead them out (2:12-14)
 - E. In 4:1-5, like in Isa. 2, in the latter days the mountain of the house of YHVH will be established as chief of the mountains and nations will stream to it
 1. Then they will hammer their swords into ploughshares
 2. The lame and outcasts will be assembled
 3. YHVH will reign on Mt. Zion and the law will go forth
 4. YHVH will then judge the nations
 - F. 4:6-8—In that day:
 1. God will assemble the lame
 2. YHVH will reign on Mt. Zion, from now and forever more
 3. The former dominion (David's) will come
 - G. This is all Edenic or millennial speech
 - H. In 5:2-15, following the impending siege of 722 and the exile of a humiliated king, there arises a new hope for Israel and the world
 1. A new David is born in Bethlehem Ephrathah
 2. One who will go forth to be ruler in Israel, fulfilling Gen. 49 and Num. 24
 3. His going forth is from long ago, from eternity (cf. Isa. 7:14; 8:8; 9:6-7)
 4. He will be great to the ends of the earth
 5. Israel will be given up until she who is in labor has born a child (cf. Isa. 7:14)
 6. He will deliver Israel from "the Assyrian" (Gog?)
 7. And Israel shall be purged and refined
 - I. Until then, they are given over to destruction

- J. The prophet will wait for the God of his salvation (7:7)
- K. Though the prophet Micah says he will fall, he will arise (7:8)
 - 1. Then the enemy will see (7:9-10)
 - 2. The walls will be rebuilt (7:9-10)
 - 3. Israel will come from Assyria and Egypt (7:12)
 - 4. The earth will become desolate, judged on account of her deeds (7:13)
 - 5. God will again have compassion on Israel (7:14-20)
 - a. God will show them miracles as when they were in the land of Egypt
 - b. Nations will be ashamed and come in dread to YHVH their God
 - c. He will pass over the rebellious acts of the remnant

II. AMOS—in the time of Uzziah and Jeroboam II (767-739; 781-753)

- A. The first 6 chapters are composed of judgment oracles—the Lion, YHVH, roars from Zion against:
 - 1. Damascus (Syria)
 - 2. Gaza (Philistines)
 - 3. Tyre
 - 4. Edom
 - 5. Ammon
 - 6. Moab
 - 7. Judah
 - 8. Israel

For 3 transgressions and for 4, I will not revoke their punishment (1:3-2:8)
- B. From 2:9-9:6, YHVH speaks about the judgment of Israel
- C. The longing for the day of YHVH will be darkness, not light (6:18-20)
- D. The eyes of YHVH are on the sinful kingdom to destroy it, nevertheless, He will not totally destroy it (9:7-15)
 - 1. The house of Israel will be shaken among the nations
 - 2. All sinners will die by the sword
 - 3. In that day the fallen booth of David will be restored as in the days of old
 - 4. They will possess Edom and all the nations called by His name
 - 5. Days are coming when the ploughman will overtake the reaper, i.e., the land will be restored to Eden-like (millennial) conditions from before the fall and the judgment upon the man (Gen. 3:17-18)

III. HOSEA—to Israel in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (767-686)

- A. Hosea ministered in very turbulent times for Israel, the 10 Northern tribes
 - 1. There were 6 incursions of Assyria
 - 2. There were 6 kings within about 30 years, all from different dynasties
 - 3. Then came the Exile of 722 BC
 - 4. Baal was the accepted religion by most

- B. Hosea was called to use his own wife and children as a parable of Israel's unfaithfulness
- C. However, numerous times in 14 chapters, Hosea speaks out hope
 1. 2:14-23—a day when God will allure her into the wilderness to speak kindly to her: (cf. John the Baptist; and remember the exodus chapter 19-24)
 - a. There He will remove the Baal's, renew the animal order; abolish bow and sword; and betroth Israel to Himself forever
 - b. He will reestablish the bounty of the land (Eden-like)
 - c. And those not His people will be His people
 2. 3:1-5—For many days the sons of Israel will be without king or prince; without sacrifice, pillar, ephod or household idols; but afterward will return to seek YHVH and David their king in the latter days
 3. 5:15-6:3—judgment will last until they acknowledge their guilt and seek YHVH's face—for in affliction they will seek Me
 4. 9:3-6, 17; 11:5-6—Israel will return to Egypt; they will wander among the nations, but their Egypt will be Assyria
 5. 11:8-11—Their destruction will not be a complete destruction, for YHVH will roar and His sons will come trembling from the west and He will settle them in their houses
 6. 13:4—the reason for the judgment is that YHVH has been their God since Egypt—there is no savior besides Him (remember the Egyptian gods and Israel's deliverance in Exodus 7-12; Pharaoh being destroyed in Exodus 14)
 7. 14:4-7—but YHVH will heal their apostasy; they will blossom like the vine

IV. HABAKKUK—in the time of Josiah, 640-609; Israel has already gone into exile, 722

- A. Habakkuk never addresses Judah directly, but is in a dialogue with God and himself
- B. 1:1-11—he opens with a complaint, because God is raising up the Chaldeans (Babylonians—in 626 they come to power), who are more wicked than Judah, but will be held guilty
- C. 2:1-3—Habakkuk stands watch to see God's answer
- D. 2:4-20—God's answer: to the proud and exalting one, nothing but “woe” awaits
- E. 3:1-19—so, Habakkuk calls for a new demonstration of wrath and mercy as in the days of old, choosing therefore to wait on God in faith and trust
- F. Consequently, Habakkuk is a demonstration of how the just shall survive the judgment of God, the just shall live by faith (Heb. faithfulness—2:4)

V. ZEPHANIAH—in the time of Josiah, 640-609

- A. His theme is “the Day of the Lord,” “the day of YHVH”
- B. In spite of Israel's destruction in 722, Judah refuses to repent and return to YHVH
- C. 1:2-6—so he speaks first, about the coming judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem
- D. 1:7-8—he calls for silence before YHVH, for the day of YHVH is near for Jerusalem (see Rev. 8:1); a day of wrath, trouble, destruction, desolation, darkness, gloom,

- trumpet and battle cry upon all mankind (adam), for all the earth will be devoured; a complete end to all the inhabitants of the earth (haares)
- E. 2:1-3:7—gather therefore, before the decree takes effect and humble yourselves, for perhaps you will be hidden, unlike:
1. Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron (the Philistines)
 2. Moab
 3. Ammon
 4. The Ethiopians (Cush)
 5. Assyria (Nineveh)
 6. Jerusalem—“woe” to the tyrannical city
- F. 3:8—For YHVH will assemble the nations to pour out His indignation and burning anger on them

VI. JEREMIAH, THE PROPHET TO THE NATIONS—1:10; in the days of Josiah, 640-609, Jehoiakim, 609-598, and Zedekiah, 597-586, to the captivity of Jerusalem, 586

- A. Jeremiah and Baruch desire P to leave behind a record of the times surrounding Judah's exile and the shifting of power from Assyria to Babylon in 612 BC, the fall of Nineveh
- B. The first group of exiles were taken in 605 BC, including Daniel and his 3 friends
- C. The second group of exiles were taken in 597 BC, with Zedekiah, Judah and Jerusalem being exiled in 586 BC
- D. Jeremiah's call for repentance is filled with great urgency and tears, coupled with notes of hope
1. 2:11-13—the indictment is that a nation has changed gods when they were not gods, i.e., Judah has changed their glory for what does not profit
 2. 3:11-18; 4:1-2—because of Judah's unwillingness to repent in light of faithless Israel's judgment of 722, Israel is called to return, for she is more righteous than Judah
 - a. All that is needed is for Israel to acknowledge her iniquity
 - b. Then YHVH will give them shepherds after His heart
 - c. In those days they will no longer say, “The ark of the covenant of YHVH,” nor shall it come to their mind, nor shall they miss it, for they shall say, “The throne of YHVH (see Matt. 25:31)
 - d. In that day all the nations shall be gathered to Jerusalem and Judah shall walk with Israel in their land
 3. 4:27; 5:18-19; 9:7—the whole land will be a desolation, but not a complete one, for the desolation is to refine them
 4. 9:25-26; 10:11—He will punish the circumcised, yet uncircumcised—Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab, desert dwellers, for He is king of the nations (10:7)
 5. 12:14-17—YHVH is going to uproot Israel's neighbors from their land, then after, He will have compassion on them

6. 23:1-8—"woe" to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture, for behold days are coming when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, who will:
- Reign as king
 - In His days, Judah and Israel will be saved and dwell securely
 - Then they will say—"As YHVH lives, who brought up the sons of Israel"
7. 23:19-20—this judgment and anger of YHVH will only be understood in the latter days
8. 25:11-14—the land and these nations will serve Babylon 70 years, then Babylon will be punished (cf. 29:10-14; Dan. 9:2)
9. 25:15-38—Jeremiah is told to take this cup of YHVH's wrath and cause all the nations where He sends him to drink of it:
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|-------------|-------|------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Judah | Edom | Sidon | Buz | Elam | Sheshach (Babylon) |
| Egypt | Moab | Coastlands | Arabia | Media | |
| Uz | Ammon | Dedan | Desert Dwellers | North (near/far) | |
| Philistines | Tyre | Tema | Zimri | all kingdoms of the earth | |
- For I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, for I have a controversy (rib) with the nations
 - Those slain on that day will be from one end of the earth to the other end
 - They shall be like dung on the face of the ground
10. 30:2-3—Jeremiah is to write these words in a book for YHVH is going to restore the fortunes of Israel
11. 30:4-11—the day of Jacob's trouble
- There is no day like it
 - In that day I will break the yoke of Israel and Judah off their neck
 - Jacob's offspring will return to their land
 - YHVH will destroy completely all the nations where Israel is scattered
 - Israel will be chastened but not completely
12. 30:18-24—Israel will be His people and He their God; in the latter days they will understand
13. 31:1-14—the people Israel who survive the sword will find grace in the wilderness (cf. Exod. 19-24)
- YHVH has loved them with an everlasting love
 - He will bring forth the remnant and lead them
 - For YHVH has ransomed Jacob
14. 31:15-22—a voice is heard in Ramah, Rachel weeping for her children; but she is no longer to weep, for there is hope for the future; YHVH has created a new thing—a woman will encompass a man (gaber)

15. 31:27-34—Israel and Judah shall be sown with the seed of men again
 - a. YHVH will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah, not like in Egypt, which they broke
 - b. He will put His law in their heart
 - c. He will be their God and they His people
 - d. They will all know YHVH
 - e. He will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more
16. 31:38-40—the city shall be rebuilt
17. 32:1-44—as the sign of God's word, Jeremiah is to redeem a piece of land
18. 33:1-22—here are YHVH's promises:
 - a. Call and I will answer
 - b. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Israel
 - c. I will cleanse them from their sin
 - d. The voice of joy and gladness will be heard again
 - e. The pasture and their flocks will return
 - f. In those days a righteous branch from David will spring forth
 - g. In those days Juda will be saved and Jerusalem shall dwell in safety
 - h. This covenant cannot be broken
19. 39:1-10—Jerusalem is captured; Jeremiah is spared (39:11-45:5)
20. 46:1-51:8—concerning the nations:
 - a. Egypt
 - b. Philistines
 - c. Moab
 - d. Ammon
 - e. Edom
 - f. Damascus (Syria)
 - g. Kedar/Hazor
 - h. Elam
 - i. Babylon—behold I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys the whole earth (51:25)
21. 52:1-34—Nebuchadnezzar came and captured Jerusalem, and Judah was led away into exile; however, Jehoiachin was shown favor by Evil-merodach

VII. NAHUM—Nineveh, the arrogant capital of Assyria will be destroyed (612 BC)

- A. A sequel to Jonah
- B. 1:2-14—a jealous and avenging God is YHVH
- C. 1:15-2:12—behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news; never again will Belial pass through you; he is cut-off completely; YHVH will restore the splendor of Jacob
- D. 3:1-19—“woe” to the bloody city