

LESSON 24: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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(REVISED) TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Lesson 1:	Overview
Lesson 2:	Genesis
Lesson 3:	Exodus
Lesson 4:	Leviticus
Lesson 5:	Numbers
Lesson 6:	Deuteronomy
Lesson 7:	Joshua
Lesson 8:	Judges, Ruth
Lesson 9:	1st & 2nd Samuel
Lesson 10:	1st & 2nd Kings
Lesson 11:	1st & 2nd Chronicles
Lesson 12:	Ezra, Nehemiah
Lesson 13:	Esther
Lesson 14:	Job
Lesson 15:	Psalms
Lesson 16:	Proverbs
Lesson 17:	Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

--- SUMMER ---

Lesson 18:	Isaiah
Lesson 19:	Jeremiah, Lamentations
Lesson 20:	Ezekiel
Lesson 21:	Daniel
Lesson 22:	Hosea, Joel, Amos
Lesson 23:	Obadiah, Jonah, Micah
Lesson 24:	Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
October 23, 2024:	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
October 30, 2024:	INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
November 6, 2024:	The Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
November 13, 2024:	John
November 20, 2024:	Acts
November 27, 2024:	Romans

--- ADVENT / CHRISTMAS ---

January 8, 2025:	1st & 2nd Corinthians
January 15, 2025:	Galatians
January 22, 2025:	Ephesians
January 29, 2025:	Colossians
February 5, 2025:	1st & 2nd Thessalonians
February 12, 2025:	1st & 2nd Timothy
February 19, 2025:	Titus, Philemon
February 26, 2025:	Hebrews
March 5, 2025:	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
March 12, 2025:	James
March 19, 2025:	1st & 2nd Peter, Jude
March 26, 2025:	1st, 2nd, 3rd John
April 2, 2025:	Revelation

Lesson 24

NAHUM

- Nahum prophesied to Judah about one hundred and fifty years after Jonah.
- There is little known about him. Scholars speculate he was from Capernaum.
- His prophecy concerned the destruction of Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria and the ultimate destruction of the Assyrian empire because of their cruelty toward all the nations they conquered.

OUTLINE

- *A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. (1:1)*
- The Certainty of God's Judgment on Nineveh (1:2–15)
 - God's wrath. *The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet... The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it. Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him. (1:2–6)*
 - ***The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, (1:7)***
 - Nineveh's destruction. *...with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh... they will be consumed like dry stubble. From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and devises wicked plans... they will be destroyed and pass away... The Lord has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: "You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile." (1:8–14)*
 - Hope for Judah. *Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed. (1:12–15)*
- Details of God's Judgment on Nineveh (chap. 2)
 - The attack. *An attacker advances against you, Nineveh... The shields of the soldiers are red; the warriors are clad in scarlet... The chariots storm through the streets, rushing back and forth through the squares. They look like flaming torches; they dart about like lightning. Nineveh summons her picked troops, yet they stumble on their way. They dash to the city wall... The river gates are thrown open and the palace collapses. (2:1–6)*

- The defeat and plundering of Nineveh. *It is decreed that Nineveh be exiled and carried away... She is pillaged, plundered, stripped! Hearts melt, knees give way, bodies tremble, every face grows pale... "I am against you," declares the Lord Almighty. "I will burn up your chariots in smoke... I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard."* (2:7–13)
- The Reasons for God's Judgment on Nineveh (chap. 3)
 - Nineveh's violence and deceit. *Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots! Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses... "I am against you," declares the Lord Almighty. "...I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle..."* (3:1–7)
 - Her treatment of Thebes to result in her own defeat (3:8–11)
 - Nineveh's defenses will be useless. *All your fortresses are like fig trees with their first ripe fruit; when they are shaken, the figs fall into the mouth of the eater. Look at your troops — they are all weaklings. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has consumed the bars of your gates... the sword will cut you down — they will devour you like a swarm of locusts... King of Assyria, your shepherds slumber; your nobles lie down to rest. Your people are scattered on the mountains with no one to gather them. Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you clap their hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty?* (3:12–19)

HABAKKUK

- Little is known of Habakkuk the prophet. Rabbinic tradition teaches he was the son of the Shunammite woman raised to life by Elisha (2 Kings 4). Scholars believe he was an officially ordained prophet who took part in temple liturgical singing. He was well educated, deeply sensitive, and in his literary style was as much a poet as he was a prophet.
- The focus of Habakkuk's prophecy is Babylon. Obadiah spoke of the fate of Edom, Nahum the fate of Assyria, and Habakkuk the fate of Babylon.
- Habakkuk is a unique book. Unlike other prophets who declared God's message to people Habakkuk dialogued with God about people and circumstances that concerned him. The result is an intriguing interchange between a perplexed prophet and his Maker.
- A key point of interpretation concerning Habakkuk is his ever-present "why?" which was answered by the everlasting "Who!"

OUTLINE

- Dialogue with God. (1)
 - Habakkuk's first complaint. *How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? ...Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? ...the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.* (1:1–4)
 - God's response. *"Look at the nations and watch — and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. I am raising up the Babylonians... They are a feared and dreaded people... Their horses are swifter than leopards... They fly like an eagle swooping to devour; they all come intent on violence... They mock kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; by building earthen ramps they capture them. Then they sweep past like the wind and go on — guilty people, whose own strength is their god."* (1:5–11)
 - Habakkuk's second complaint. *Lord, are you not from everlasting? ...You, Lord, have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? ...The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices and is glad... Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy?* (1:12–17)
- A dirge. (2)
 - *I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give*

to this complaint. (2:1)

- God's admonition. *Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. "... the enemy is puffed up... he is arrogant and never at rest... he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples. (2:2-5)*
- A series of 'woes.' (2:6-20)
 - *Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! ... Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you. (2:6-8)*
 - *Woe to him who builds his house by unjust gain... You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life. (2:9-10)*
 - *Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by injustice! ...For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD... (2:12-14)*
 - *Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk, so that he can gaze on their naked bodies! You will be filled with shame instead of glory...! The cup from the LORD's right hand is coming around to you... Of what value is an idol carved by a craftsman? Or an image that teaches lies? ...The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him. (2:15-20)*
- A Doxology. (3)
 - *The power of God's presence. ...I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord... His glory covered the heavens, and his praise filled the earth. His splendor was like the sunrise... He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble... he marches on forever... You came out to deliver your people, to save your anointed one. You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness, you stripped him from head to foot. With his own spear you pierced his head when his warriors stormed out to scatter us... You trampled the sea with your horses, churning the great waters. (3:3-15)*
 - *Habakkuk's peace. I heard and my heart pounded... my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us... I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to tread on the heights... (3:16-19)*

ZEPHANIAH

- Because of the way he opened his book we know more about Zephaniah than any other Minor Prophet. He was the great-great-grandson of King Hezekiah and prophesied in Judah during the reign of Josiah, which makes him a contemporary of Jeremiah.
- Zephaniah focused on the coming “day of the Lord” that would purge Judah. He encouraged the people to return to God before that day. He also predicted the judgment and destruction of neighboring nations, but ended with a note of hope — God would bring his people home and restore their honor among the nations.

OUTLINE

- *The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah... (1:1)*
- The Day of God’s Judgment (1:2–3:8)
 - Judgment on all the earth. *“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord. “I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea— and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.” (1:2–3a)*
 - Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem. *“When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the Lord, “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem... (1:3b–4)*
 - Idolatry. *I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place... Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. (1:4–7)*
 - Corruption. *I will punish the officials and the king’s sons... (1:8)*
 - Dishonesty. *...all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. (1:11)*
 - Complacency. *I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, ‘The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.’ (1:12)*
 - A Warning. *Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s wrath comes upon you. Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger. (2:1–3)*
 - Judgment on the surrounding nations (2:4–15)
 - Philistia. *Gaza will be abandoned, and Ashkelon left in ruins... Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted... the*

word of the LORD is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines. He says, "I will destroy you, and none will be left..." That land will belong to the remnant of the people of Judah... The LORD their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes. (2:4–7)

- *Moab and Ammon. "I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land. Therefore, as surely as I live," declares the LORD... "Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah... a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land." (2:8–11)*
- *Cush. "You Cushites, too, will be slain by my sword." (2:12)*
- *Assyria. He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert... All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists. (2:13–15)*
- *Judgment on Jerusalem (3:1–7)*
- *Zephaniah's indictment. ...She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God... her rulers are evening wolves... they are treacherous people. Her priests profane the sanctuary and do violence to the law... the unrighteous know no shame. (3:1–5)*
- *God's judgment. "I have destroyed nations; their strongholds are demolished. I have left their streets deserted... Their cities are laid waste; they are deserted and empty... I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them— all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger. (3:6–8)*
- *The Day of Restoration (3:9–20)*
 - *Restoration of the nations. "I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder... my scattered people, will bring me offerings." (3:9–10)*
 - *Restoration of Israel. On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD... Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy... never again will you fear any harm... The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves... At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you... I will gather you... I will bring you home... (3:11–20)*