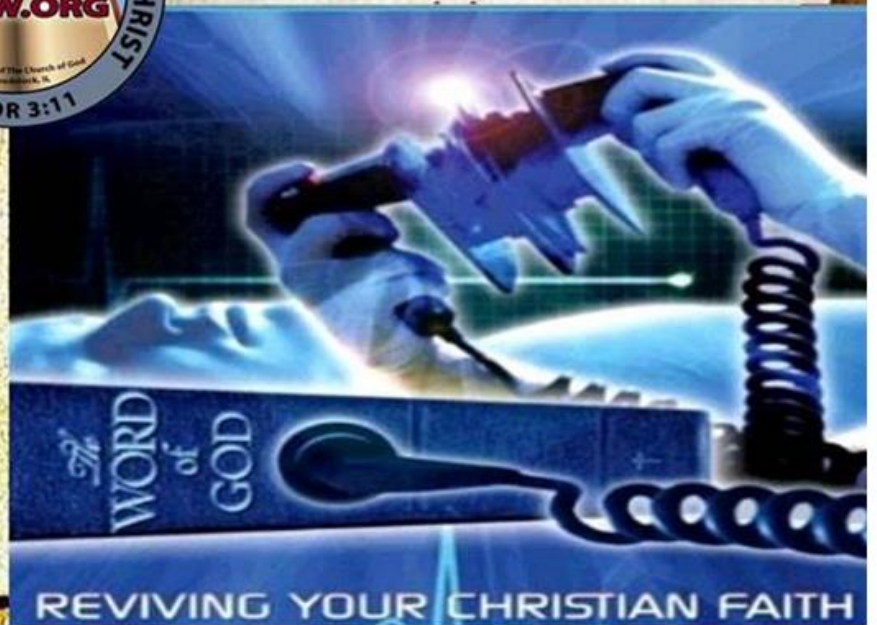
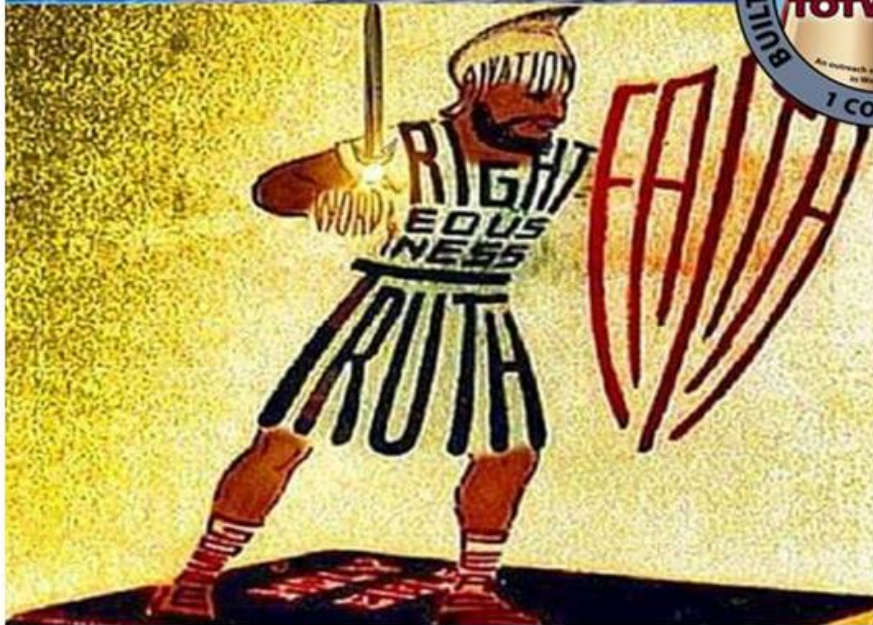
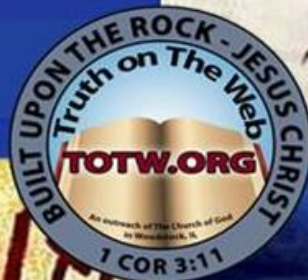
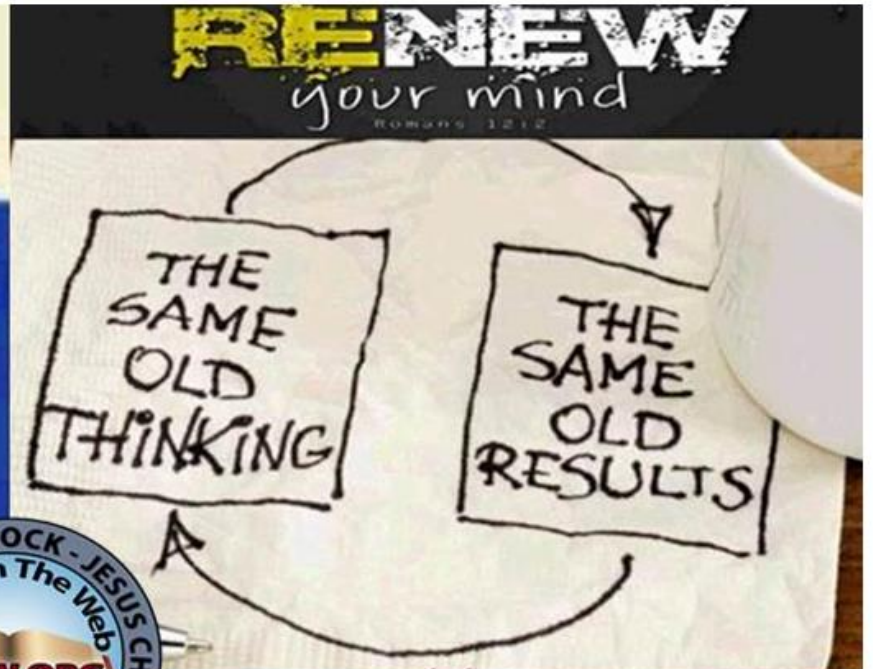


Think BIBLICALLY



Understanding the Bible: The Minor Prophets

part 4



The Minor Prophets

Hosea – ca 758-722 BC

Joel – ca 790-760 BC? ca 590 BC?

Amos – ca 760 BC

Obadiah – ca 586 BC

Jonah – ca 780 BC

Micah – ca 725-701 BC

Nahum – ca 663-612 BC

Habakkuk – ca 612-599 BC

Zephaniah – ca 630 BC

Haggai – ca 520 BC

Zechariah – ca 520 BC

Malachi – ca 430 BC

Nahum

ca 663-612 BC

Oracle Against Nineveh

Nahum

ca 663-612 BC

663 BC – Thebes overthrown (Nahum 3:8-10)

612 BC – Assyria overthrown

Nahum

1:1-15 The Zeal And Power Of God

2:1-13 The Siege And Destruction Of Nineveh

3:1-19 The Cause And Certainty Of Nineveh's Downfall

Nahum 1:1-8 The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. **2** God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserveth *wrath* for His enemies. **3** The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit *the wicked*: the LORD hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. **4** He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. **5** The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at His presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. **6** Who can stand before His indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. **7** The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him. **8** But with an overrunning flood He will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue His enemies.

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, **7** Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

Nahum 1:9-15 What do ye imagine against the LORD? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. **10** For while *they be* folden together *as* thorns, and while they are drunken *as* drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry. **11** There is *one* come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor. **12** Thus saith the LORD; Though *they be* quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when He shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more. **13** For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder. **14** And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee, *that* no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile. **15** Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

Nahum 1:1-15 NLT **1** This message concerning Nineveh came as a vision to Nahum, who lived in Elkosh. **2** The LORD is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose Him and continues to rage against His enemies! **3** The LORD is slow to get angry, but His power is great, and He never lets the guilty go unpunished. He displays His power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath His feet. **4** At His command the oceans dry up, and the rivers disappear. The lush pastures of Bashan and Carmel fade, and the green forests of Lebanon wither. **5** In His presence the mountains quake, and the hills melt away; the earth trembles, and its people are destroyed. **6** Who can stand before His fierce anger? Who can survive His burning fury? His rage blazes forth like fire, and the mountains crumble to dust in His presence. **7** The LORD is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him. **8** But He will sweep away His enemies in an overwhelming flood. He will pursue His foes into the darkness of night. **9** Why are you scheming against the LORD? He will destroy you with one blow; He won't need to strike twice! **10** His enemies, tangled like thornbushes and staggering like drunks, will be burned up like dry stubble in a field. **11** Who is this wicked counselor of yours who plots evil against the LORD? **12** This is what the LORD says: "Though the Assyrians have many allies, they will be destroyed and disappear. O My people, I have punished you before, but I will not punish you again. **13** Now I will break the yoke of bondage from your neck and tear off the chains of Assyrian oppression." **14** And this is what the LORD says concerning the Assyrians in Nineveh: "You will have no more children to carry on your name. I will destroy all the idols in the temples of your gods. I am preparing a grave for you because you are despicable!" **15** Look! A messenger is coming over the mountains with good news! He is bringing a message of peace. Celebrate your festivals, O people of Judah, and fulfill all your vows, for your wicked enemies will never invade your land again. They will be completely destroyed!

Nahum 2:1-13 NLT **1** Your enemy is coming to crush you, Nineveh. Man the ramparts! Watch the roads! Prepare your defenses! Call out your forces! **2** Even though the destroyer has destroyed Judah, the LORD will restore its honor. Israel's vine has been stripped of branches, but He will restore its splendor. **3** Shields flash red in the sunlight! See the scarlet uniforms of the valiant troops! Watch as their glittering chariots move into position, with a forest of spears waving above them. **4** The chariots race recklessly along the streets and rush wildly through the squares. They flash like firelight and move as swiftly as lightning. **5** The king shouts to his officers; they stumble in their haste, rushing to the walls to set up their defenses. **6** The river gates have been torn open! The palace is about to collapse! **7** Nineveh's exile has been decreed, and all the servant girls mourn its capture. They moan like doves and beat their breasts in sorrow. **8** Nineveh is like a leaking water reservoir! The people are slipping away. "Stop, stop!" someone shouts, but no one even looks back. **9** Loot the silver! Plunder the gold! There's no end to Nineveh's treasures--its vast, uncounted wealth. **10** Soon the city is plundered, empty, and ruined. Hearts melt and knees shake. The people stand aghast, their faces pale and trembling. **11** Where now is that great Nineveh, that den filled with young lions? It was a place where people--like lions and their cubs--walked freely and without fear. **12** The lion tore up meat for his cubs and strangled prey for his mate. He filled his den with prey, his caverns with his plunder. **13** "I am your enemy!" says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "Your chariots will soon go up in smoke. Your young men will be killed in battle. Never again will you plunder conquered nations. The voices of your proud messengers will be heard no more."

Nahum 3:1-10 NLT **1** What sorrow awaits Nineveh, the city of murder and lies! She is crammed with wealth and is never without victims. **2** Hear the crack of whips, the rumble of wheels! Horses' hooves pound, and chariots clatter wildly. **3** See the flashing swords and glittering spears as the charioteers charge past! There are countless casualties, heaps of bodies--so many bodies that people stumble over them. **4** All this because Nineveh, the beautiful and faithless city, mistress of deadly charms, enticed the nations with her beauty. She taught them all her magic, enchanting people everywhere. **5** "I am your enemy!" says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "And now I will lift your skirts and show all the earth your nakedness and shame. **6** I will cover you with filth and show the world how vile you really are. **7** All who see you will shrink back and say, 'Nineveh lies in ruins. Where are the mourners?' Does anyone regret your destruction?" **8** Are you any better than the city of Thebes, situated on the Nile River, surrounded by water? She was protected by the river on all sides, walled in by water. **9** Ethiopia and the land of Egypt gave unlimited assistance. The nations of Put and Libya were among her allies. **10** Yet Thebes fell, and her people were led away as captives. Her babies were dashed to death against the stones of the streets. Soldiers threw dice to get Egyptian officers as servants. All their leaders were bound in chains.

Nahum 3:11-19 NLT **11** And you, Nineveh, will also stagger like a drunkard. You will hide for fear of the attacking enemy. **12** All your fortresses will fall. They will be devoured like the ripe figs that fall into the mouths of those who shake the trees. **13** Your troops will be as weak and helpless as women. The gates of your land will be opened wide to the enemy and set on fire and burned. **14** Get ready for the siege! Store up water! Strengthen the defenses! Go into the pits to trample clay, and pack it into molds, making bricks to repair the walls. **15** But the fire will devour you; the sword will cut you down. The enemy will consume you like locusts, devouring everything they see. There will be no escape, even if you multiply like swarming locusts. **16** Your merchants have multiplied until they outnumber the stars. But like a swarm of locusts, they strip the land and fly away. **17** Your guards and officials are also like swarming locusts that crowd together in the hedges on a cold day. But like locusts that fly away when the sun comes up, all of them will fly away and disappear. **18** Your shepherds are asleep, O Assyrian king; your princes lie dead in the dust. Your people are scattered across the mountains with no one to gather them together. **19** There is no healing for your wound; your injury is fatal. All who hear of your destruction will clap their hands for joy. Where can anyone be found who has not suffered from your continual cruelty?

Habakkuk

ca 612-599 BC

Trusting on God

Habakkuk

1:1-4 Habakkuk's First Struggle

1:5-11 God's Answer

1:12-21 Habakkuk's Second Struggle

2:2-20 God's Answer

3:1-19 Habakkuk's Prayer

Habakkuk 1:1-17 NLT **1** This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision. **2** How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But You do not listen! "Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but You do not come to save. **3** Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. **4** The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted. **5** The LORD replied, "Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it. **6** I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands. **7** They are notorious for their cruelty and do whatever they like. **8** Their horses are swifter than cheetahs and fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their charioteers charge from far away. Like eagles, they swoop down to devour their prey. **9** "On they come, all bent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind, sweeping captives ahead of them like sand. **10** They scoff at kings and princes and scorn all their fortresses. They simply pile ramps of earth against their walls and capture them! **11** They sweep past like the wind and are gone. But they are deeply guilty, for their own strength is their god." **12** O LORD my God, my Holy One, You who are eternal--surely You do not plan to wipe us out? O LORD, our Rock, You have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins. **13** But You are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will You wink at their treachery? Should You be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they? **14** Are we only fish to be caught and killed? Are we only sea creatures that have no leader? **15** Must we be strung up on their hooks and caught in their nets while they rejoice and celebrate? **16** Then they will worship their nets and burn incense in front of them. "These nets are the gods who have made us rich!" they will claim. **17** Will You let them get away with this forever? Will they succeed forever in their heartless conquests?

Habakkuk 2:1-10 NLT **1** I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how He will answer my complaint. **2** Then the LORD said to me, "Write My answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. **3** This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. **4** "Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. **But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.** **5** Wealth is treacherous, and the arrogant are never at rest. They open their mouths as wide as the grave, and like death, they are never satisfied. In their greed they have gathered up many nations and swallowed many peoples. **6** "But soon their captives will taunt them. They will mock them, saying, 'What sorrow awaits you thieves! Now you will get what you deserve! You've become rich by extortion, but how much longer can this go on?' **7** Suddenly, your debtors will take action. They will turn on you and take all you have, while you stand trembling and helpless. **8** Because you have plundered many nations, now all the survivors will plunder you. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence. **9** "What sorrow awaits you who build big houses with money gained dishonestly! You believe your wealth will buy security, putting your family's nest beyond the reach of danger. **10** But by the murders you committed, you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives.

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Habakkuk 2:11-20 NLT **11** The very stones in the walls cry out against you, and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint. **12** "What sorrow awaits you who build cities with money gained through murder and corruption! **13** Has not the LORD of Heaven's Armies promised that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes? They work so hard, but all in vain! **14** For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the LORD. **15** "What sorrow awaits you who make your neighbors drunk! You force your cup on them so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness. **16** But soon it will be your turn to be disgraced. Come, drink and be exposed! Drink from the cup of the LORD's judgment, and all your glory will be turned to shame. **17** You cut down the forests of Lebanon. Now you will be cut down. You destroyed the wild animals, so now their terror will be yours. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence. **18** "What good is an idol carved by man, or a cast image that deceives you? How foolish to trust in your own creation--a god that can't even talk! **19** What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols, 'Wake up and save us!' To speechless stone images you say, 'Rise up and teach us!' Can an idol tell you what to do? They may be overlaid with gold and silver, but they are lifeless inside. **20** But the LORD is in His holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

Habakkuk 3:1-10 NLT **1** This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: **2** I have heard all about You, LORD. I am filled with awe by Your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as You did in years gone by. And in Your anger, remember Your mercy. **3** I see God moving across the deserts from Edom, the Holy One coming from Mount Paran. His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with His praise. **4** His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise. Rays of light flash from His hands, where His awesome power is hidden. **5** Pestilence marches before Him; plague follows close behind. **6** When He stops, the earth shakes. When He looks, the nations tremble. He shatters the everlasting mountains and levels the eternal hills. He is the Eternal One! **7** I see the people of Cushan in distress, and the nation of Midian trembling in terror. **8** Was it in anger, LORD, that You struck the rivers and parted the sea? Were You displeased with them? No, You were sending your chariots of salvation! **9** You brandished Your bow and Your quiver of arrows. You split open the earth with flowing rivers. **10** The mountains watched and trembled. Onward swept the raging waters. The mighty deep cried out, lifting its hands to the LORD.

Habakkuk 3:11-19 NLT **11** The sun and moon stood still in the sky as Your brilliant arrows flew and Your glittering spear flashed. **12** You marched across the land in anger and trampled the nations in Your fury. **13** You went out to rescue Your chosen people, to save Your anointed ones. You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe. **14** With his own weapons, You destroyed the chief of those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey. **15** You trampled the sea with Your horses, and the mighty waters piled high. **16** I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us. **17 Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, 18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! 19 The Sovereign LORD is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.** (For the choir director: This prayer is to be accompanied by stringed instruments.)

Zephaniah

ca 630 BC

God Is Judge Of All

Zephaniah

1:1-18 The Day Of The LORD Is Coming

2:1-3:8 Judgments On The Nations

3:9-20 Restoration Of The Remnant

Zephaniah 1:1-9 NLT **1** The LORD gave this message to Zephaniah when Josiah son of Amon was king of Judah. Zephaniah was the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah. **2** "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," says the LORD. **3** "I will sweep away people and animals alike. I will sweep away the birds of the sky and the fish in the sea. I will reduce the wicked to heaps of rubble, and I will wipe humanity from the face of the earth," says the LORD. **4** "I will crush Judah and Jerusalem with My fist and destroy every last trace of their Baal worship. I will put an end to all the idolatrous priests, so that even the memory of them will disappear. **5** For they go up to their roofs and bow down to the sun, moon, and stars. They claim to follow the LORD, but then they worship Molech, too. **6** And I will destroy those who used to worship Me but now no longer do. They no longer ask for the LORD's guidance or seek My blessings." **7** Stand in silence in the presence of the Sovereign LORD, for the awesome day of the LORD's judgment is near. The LORD has prepared His people for a great slaughter and has chosen their executioners. **8** "On that day of judgment," says the LORD, "I will punish the leaders and princes of Judah and all those following pagan customs. **9** Yes, I will punish those who participate in pagan worship ceremonies, and those who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

Zephaniah 1:10-18 NLT **10** "On that day," says the LORD, "a cry of alarm will come from the Fish Gate and echo throughout the New Quarter of the city. And a great crash will sound from the hills. **11** Wail in sorrow, all you who live in the market area, for all the merchants and traders will be destroyed. **12** "I will search with lanterns in Jerusalem's darkest corners to punish those who sit complacent in their sins. They think the LORD will do nothing to them, either good or bad. **13** So their property will be plundered, their homes will be ransacked. They will build new homes but never live in them. They will plant vineyards but never drink wine from them. **14** "That terrible day of the LORD is near. Swiftly it comes--a day of bitter tears, a day when even strong men will cry out. **15** It will be a day when the LORD's anger is poured out--a day of terrible distress and anguish, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, **16** a day of trumpet calls and battle cries. Down go the walled cities and the strongest battlements! **17** "Because you have sinned against the LORD, I will make you grope around like the blind. Your blood will be poured into the dust, and your bodies will lie rotting on the ground." **18** Your silver and gold will not save you on that day of the LORD's anger. For the whole land will be devoured by the fire of His jealousy. He will make a terrifying end of all the people on earth.

Zephaniah 2:1-9 NLT **1** Gather together--yes, gather together, you shameless nation. **2** Gather before judgment begins, before your time to repent is blown away like chaff. Act now, before the fierce fury of the LORD falls and the terrible day of the LORD's anger begins. **3** Seek the LORD, all who are humble, and follow His commands. Seek to do what is right and to live humbly. Perhaps even yet the LORD will protect you--protect you from His anger on that day of destruction. **4** Gaza and Ashkelon will be abandoned, Ashdod and Ekron torn down. **5** And what sorrow awaits you Philistines who live along the coast and in the land of Canaan, for this judgment is against you, too! The LORD will destroy you until not one of you is left. **6** The Philistine coast will become a wilderness pasture, a place of shepherd camps and enclosures for sheep and goats. **7** The remnant of the tribe of Judah will pasture there. They will rest at night in the abandoned houses in Ashkelon. For the LORD their God will visit His people in kindness and restore their prosperity again. **8** "I have heard the taunts of the Moabites and the insults of the Ammonites, mocking My people and invading their borders. **9** Now, as surely as I live," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, "Moab and Ammon will be destroyed--destroyed as completely as Sodom and Gomorrah. Their land will become a place of stinging nettles, salt pits, and eternal desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them and take their land."

Zephaniah 2:10-15 NLT **10** They will receive the wages of their pride, for they have scoffed at the people of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. **11** The LORD will terrify them as He destroys all the gods in the land. Then nations around the world will worship the LORD, each in their own land. **12** "You Ethiopians will also be slaughtered by My sword," says the LORD. **13** And the LORD will strike the lands of the north with his fist, destroying the land of Assyria. He will make its great capital, Nineveh, a desolate wasteland, parched like a desert. **14** The proud city will become a pasture for flocks and herds, and all sorts of wild animals will settle there. The desert owl and screech owl will roost on its ruined columns, their calls echoing through the gaping windows. Rubble will block all the doorways, and the cedar paneling will be exposed to the weather. **15** This is the boisterous city, once so secure. "I am the greatest!" it boasted. "No other city can compare with me!" But now, look how it has become an utter ruin, a haven for wild animals. Everyone passing by will laugh in derision and shake a defiant fist.

Zephaniah 3:1-8 NLT **1** What sorrow awaits rebellious, polluted Jerusalem, the city of violence and crime! **2** No one can tell it anything; it refuses all correction. It does not trust in the LORD or draw near to its God. **3** Its leaders are like roaring lions hunting for their victims. Its judges are like ravenous wolves at evening time, who by dawn have left no trace of their prey. **4** Its prophets are arrogant liars seeking their own gain. Its priests defile the Temple by disobeying God's instructions. **5** But the LORD is still there in the city, and He does no wrong. Day by day He hands down justice, and He does not fail. But the wicked know no shame. **6** "I have wiped out many nations, devastating their fortress walls and towers. Their streets are now deserted; their cities lie in silent ruin. There are no survivors--none at all. **7** I thought, 'Surely they will have reverence for Me now! Surely they will listen to My warnings. Then I won't need to strike again, destroying their homes.' But no, they get up early to continue their evil deeds. **8** Therefore, be patient," says the LORD. "Soon I will stand and accuse these evil nations. For I have decided to gather the kingdoms of the earth and pour out My fiercest anger and fury on them. All the earth will be devoured by the fire of My jealousy. **9** "Then I will purify the speech of all people, so that everyone can worship the LORD together. **10** My scattered people who live beyond the rivers of Ethiopia will come to present their offerings. **11** On that day you will no longer need to be ashamed, for you will no longer be rebels against Me. I will remove all proud and arrogant people from among you. There will be no more haughtiness on My holy mountain. **12** Those who are left will be the lowly and humble, for it is they who trust in the name of the LORD. **13** The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will never tell lies or deceive one another. They will eat and sleep in safety, and no one will make them afraid."

Zephaniah 3:14-20 NLT **14** Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! **15** For the LORD will remove His hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD Himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last your troubles will be over, and you will never again fear disaster. **16** On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, "Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid! **17** For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs." **18** "I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals; you will be disgraced no more. **19** And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and fame to My former exiles, wherever they have been mocked and shamed. **20** On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction, among all the nations of the earth, as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

Haggai

ca 520 BC

The New Temple

Haggai

1:1-15 The Call To Rebuild The Temple

2:1-9 The Glory Of The Second Temple

2:10-19 A Defiled People Purified And Blessed

2:20-23 A Message To Zerubbabel

Haggai 1:1-15 NLT **1** On the first day of the sixth month of the second year of King Darius's reign, the LORD gave a message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. **2** "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.'" **3** Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: **4** "Why are you living in luxurious houses while My house lies in ruins? **5** This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! **6** You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! **7** "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! **8** Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild My house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the LORD. **9** You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because My house lies in ruins, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses. **10** It's because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. **11** I have called for a drought on your fields and hills--a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get." **12** Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of God's people began to obey the message from the LORD their God. When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the LORD their God had sent, the people feared the LORD. **13** Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave the people this message from the LORD: "I am with you, says the LORD!" **14** So the LORD sparked the enthusiasm of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the enthusiasm of Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God's people. They began to work on the house of their God, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, **15** on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month of the second year of King Darius's reign.

Haggai 1:1-15 NLT **1** On the first day of the sixth month of the second year of King Darius's reign, the LORD gave a message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. **2** "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.'" **3** Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: **4** "Why are you living in luxurious houses while My house lies in ruins? **5** This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! **6** You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! **7** "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! **8** Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild My house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the LORD. **9** You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because My house lies in ruins, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses. **10** It's because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. **11** I have called for a drought on your fields and hills--a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get."

Haggai 1:12-15 NLT **12** Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of God's people began to obey the message from the LORD their God. When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the LORD their God had sent, the people feared the LORD. **13** Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave the people this message from the LORD: "I am with you, says the LORD!" **14** So the LORD sparked the enthusiasm of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the enthusiasm of Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God's people. They began to work on the house of their God, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, **15** on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month of the second year of King Darius's reign.

Haggai 2:1-9 NLT **1** Then on the twenty-first day of the seventh month of that same year, the LORD sent another message through the prophet Haggai. **2** "Say this to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of God's people there in the land: **3** 'Does anyone remember this house--this Temple--in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all! **4** But now the LORD says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. **5** My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.' **6** "For this is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. **7** I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. **8** The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. **9** The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"

Haggai 2:10-23 NLT - 10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month of the second year of King Darius's reign, the LORD sent this message to the prophet Haggai: 11 "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says. Ask the priests this question about the law: 12 'If one of you is carrying some meat from a holy sacrifice in his robes and his robe happens to brush against some bread or stew, wine or olive oil, or any other kind of food, will it also become holy?'" The priests replied, "No." 13 Then Haggai asked, "If someone becomes ceremonially unclean by touching a dead person and then touches any of these foods, will the food be defiled?" And the priests answered, "Yes." 14 Then Haggai responded, "That is how it is with this people and this nation, says the LORD. Everything they do and everything they offer is defiled by their sin. 15 Look at what was happening to you before you began to lay the foundation of the LORD's Temple. 16 When you hoped for a twenty-bushel crop, you harvested only ten. When you expected to draw fifty gallons from the winepress, you found only twenty. 17 I sent blight and mildew and hail to destroy everything you worked so hard to produce. Even so, you refused to return to Me, says the LORD. 18 "Think about this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, the day when the foundation of the LORD's Temple was laid. Think carefully. 19 I am giving you a promise now while the seed is still in the barn. You have not yet harvested your grain, and your grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees have not yet produced their crops. But from this day onward I will bless you." 20 On that same day, the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, the LORD sent this second message to Haggai: 21 "Tell Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, that I am about to shake the heavens and the earth. 22 I will overthrow royal thrones and destroy the power of foreign kingdoms. I will overturn their chariots and riders. The horses will fall, and their riders will kill each other. 23 "But when this happens, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, I will honor you, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, My servant. I will make you like a signet ring on My finger, says the LORD, for I have chosen you. I, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"

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