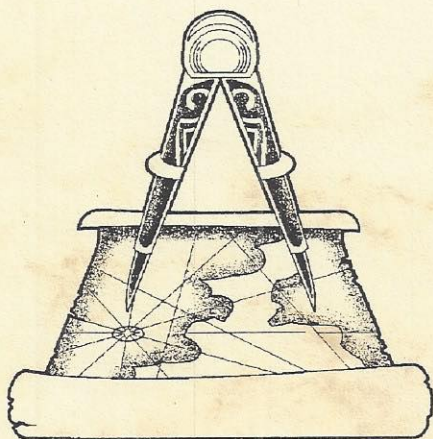


# A Sermon Survey of the



# Old Testament Books

Tom W. Snyder







# GENESIS: THE GERM OF GRACE

## Introduction:

1. Many do not see the purpose nor design of the book of Genesis
2. Too many look to it as a book of stories--fail to see its unity
3. Genesis is a book of beginnings. It shows the beginnings of redemption

## I. THE *PURPOSE* AND *PERCEPTION* OF GRACE.

1. The power of God--He owns man, ch. 1:26
2. The place of man--in harmony & peace, 2:9
3. The profanity of man--showed contempt for God, 3:4-6
4. The plight of man--in sin and separated from his maker, 3:22

## II. THE *PICTURE* AND *PRESERVATION* OF GRACE.

1. Man had become profane and wicked, 6:5
2. God proclaimed destruction because of this, 6:6-7
3. God presents grace predicated on Noah's righteousness, 6:8-9
4. God preserves through His grace, 6:18, & obedience, 6:22

## III. THE *PROPHECY* AND *PROMISE* OF GRACE.

1. Gen 3:15--this is the first glimpse of redemption
2. Gen 12:1-3--God makes another seed promise
  - 1) Great nation--the church
  - 2) All nations--Matt 28:18-20

## IV. THE *PATRIARCHY* AND *PERSONALITIES* OF GRACE.

1. Abraham to be father of a mighty nation
2. Forefathers part of the promise: Isaac, Jacob, 22:17-18; 26:4; 28:14
3. God developed His promises through them (story of Joseph)
4. Abraham's part in grace, Gal 3:29

## V. THE *PERFECTION* AND *PLACE* OF GRACE.

1. Book of Genesis goes beyond the physical promises, Gal 3:6-9
2. Perfected and fulfilled in Christ, Gal 3:16
3. All under plight and curse of sin. Christ (grace) removed it, Gal 3:22
4. Grace has a place in our lives by faith, Gal 3:26-27; Eph 2:8

Conclusion: Let us know and teach Genesis for what it is--a book of redemption

# **AN EXPOSÉ OF EXODUS**

## Introduction:

1. Book of Moses
  2. Part of an historical account which began in Genesis
  3. As the title suggests (going out), this book deals with change
- I. DEALS WITH FULFILLMENT OF PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM.
1. Gen 12:1-3, he was to be a mighty nation
  2. Verse 7, the promise concerned his seed
  3. Gen 15, the promise concerned the future
- II. THE NATION HAD DIVINE BEGINNINGS.
1. God called, Ex 3:7-10
  2. God controlled, Ex 20:1-3
  3. God consecrated, Ex 20:4-6
- III. IN EXODUS A PEOPLE WITH NO NATIONAL LAW.
1. A mighty people, Ex 1:7-9
  2. Under foreign and oppressive rule, Ex 1:11,14
  3. A people desiring freedom and independence, Ex 2:23
- IV. IN EXODUS WE FIND REDEMPTION.
1. God raises up a redeemer--Moses, Ex 3:4,10,12
  2. He, through God, emancipates them from bondage, Ex 14:13-14
  3. The rejection of redemption--not willing to pay the price of freedom
- V. GOD'S GREAT PEOPLE ARE GIVEN A GREAT LAW.
1. It was to be a theocracy, Ex 20:2
  2. It was a moral law as well as a positive law
  3. God was to rule His people, 1 Sam 8:4-7

## Conclusion:

1. This book shows the power of God
2. The people have law and are soon to have land (Joshua)
3. This is just one book in the whole to show the glory of God and the salvation of man

# **LEARNING FROM LEVITICUS**

## Introduction:

1. Book of Moses
2. Continual narrative from Exodus
3. Deals with sin and its covering

## **I. PROBLEM OF SIN.**

1. Book of Exodus showed men to be sinners
2. God is holy and provides a means of fellowship
3. Apply to man's plight today, Rom 3:23

## **II. LAW.**

1. This book contains mostly law
2. Law's design is two-fold
  - 1) Reveals sin
  - 2) Keeps from sin
3. Explain difference in old and new law--forgiveness, Heb 10:1-4; 10:16-22; 8:5-8,12,13

## **III. THE OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE, 1:1 - 7:38.**

1. Types: 1) Burnt, 2) Meal, 3) Peace, 4) Sin, 5)Trespass
2. They were to understand the concept of substitution
3. Explain difference in old and new--forgiveness, Heb 10:4,10

## **IV. THE PRIESTHOOD, 8-10; 21-22.**

1. A special class set apart by the law whose work was to approach God through sacrifices and offerings
2. There was daily work atoning for his own sins & others', Heb 10:11-14
3. Explain new and better priesthood--Christ as high priest, 4:14-16

## **V. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT, 16:2.**

1. Most important day--the day when the high priest entered the most holy place
2. A plea for mercy
3. Consider the day of atonement for Christians--death on cross, Heb 9:7-14

## Conclusion:

1. Sin a problem to all people
2. Provision was made for the people's sin
3. How much better is the blessing under the new covenant

# NOTES ON NUMBERS

## Introduction:

1. Book of Moses
2. Carries on with the developing of the nation of Israel
3. This book deals with the testing of God's people

## I. NOTE ON NUMBERS.

1. The people divide into three sections:
  - 1) The old generation, 1-14
  - 2) A transition period, 15-20
  - 3) The new generation, 21-36
2. Three places:
  - 1) Sinai to Kadesh-barnea, 1-14
  - 2) Wilderness wandering, 15-20 (14:34, 40 years)
  - 3) Kadesh to Plain of Moab, 21-36
3. Study in contrasts:
  - 1) Two generations--what differences!
  - 2) Two numberings--the latter ready to follow God
  - 3) Two journeyings--one ready to enter in

## II. NOTICING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK.

1. To know the history of God's people
2. To know how God dealt with His people
3. Gives background for future studies in NT
4. Typical teaching, 1 Cor 10; Heb 3:15; Jn 3:14-17
5. Many spiritual lessons

## III. NOTABLE LESSONS FROM NUMBERS.

1. Behold the goodness and severity of God, Rom 11:22
  - 1) When Israel did right they saw God's goodness
  - 2) When evil, His severity--14:35-39, murmurings to mournings
  - 3) This is for our learning, 2 Thes 1:6-9
2. Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall, 1 Cor 10:12
  - 1) Here are people who had no excuse for falling, 14:19-25
  - 2) Moses demonstrates this
  - 3) Where do we stand today?
3. Take heed lest there be in you an evil heart of unbelief, Heb 3:12; Num 13:32-14:4
  - 1) The Word did these people no profit because not united with faith, Heb 4:2
  - 2) They could not enter in, Heb 3:19
  - 3) Let us fear, Heb 4:11

## Conclusion:

1. Rich lessons from this book
2. Let us apply them



# DEALING WITH DEUTERONOMY

## Introduction:

1. Moses' farewell address--new people about to enter into new land
2. Not just a repeating of the law; but REMEMBER
3. In this book we see not only law, but principles common to the new law

## I. GOD IS UNCHANGING

1. We are under the New Testament today
2. Some have assumed that this means the Old Testament is totally foreign to the New Testament
3. While it is true we are under a new law, because both are of God, and--
4. God is unchanging in His nature and attributes--
5. We will see there will be things, especially principles, common to both laws
6. This will help us see the unchanging nature of God, wrong is always wrong, and right is always right

## II. PRINCIPLES OF THE OLD LAW COMMON TO THE NEW

1. Respect of persons. Deut 1:17 -- 1 Tim 5:21; Rom 2:11; Acts 10:34; Col 3:23-25
2. Fear not neither be discouraged. Deut 1:21 -- Heb 3:12 - 4:2
3. Add not nor take from the word. Deut 4:2 -- Rev 22:18-19
4. Lord God is a jealous God. Deut 4:24 -- 1 Cor 10:20-22
5. God is merciful--he will not forsake. Deut 4:30-31 -- Heb 13:5; 1 Jn 1:7-9; Lk 15:18-22
6. The great commandment. Deut 6:5
7. Ye are a chosen people, holy, special. Deut 7:6 -- Tit 2:14; 1 Pet 2:9
8. Received the promise by grace. Deut 9:4-6 -- Eph 2:8-9
9. Circumcise the foreskin of the heart. Deut 10:16 -- Rom 2:29; Col 2:11
10. Love ye therefore the stranger. Deut 10:19--Mt 28:19; 1 Cor 6:9-11
11. Teach children of the lord. Deut 11:19 -- Eph 6:4
12. A blessing & a curse. Deut 11:26-28 -- Rom 2:6-9

## Conclusion:

1. This helps us to understand the old; worship is not just a form
2. These are eternal principles

# **THE JUDGMENT OF JOSHUA**

## Introduction:

1. Text 24:15--judgment based on God's faithfulness
  2. This book demonstrates God's faithfulness reciprocated
  3. Points which produced proper faith
- I. JOSHUA DIVIDES ITSELF INTO THREE SECTIONS.
1. Entering into the land, 1-5
  2. Conquering the land, 6-12
  3. Occupying the land, 13-24
- II. NATION PROMISE.
1. Joshua opens with a great people with a great law but no land
  2. Gen 15:18; Josh 20:1-9; 21:43-45, show the promise fulfilled
  3. God is faithful in His promises
- III. MIGHTY HAND OF GOD.
1. Consider problems God overcame in nation promise
  2. Consider many examples in Joshua of God's mighty hand
    - 1) Non-miraculous: fear, 2:11,23
    - 2) Miraculous
      - A. Jordan River, 3:15
      - B. Jericho, 6:1,2,20
  3. God is worthy of man's faith
- IV. FAITH IS THE VICTORY.
1. Consider the first generation Jews' lack of faith
  2. Consider these people's faith in God, 1:16,24; 24:15-17,31
  3. God didn't change, it was the people and their faith
- V. REFUTATION OF PREMILLENIALISM.
1. Define teachings of premillennialism
  2. The fulfillment of the land promise shows claims of premillennialism to be false, 21:43-45
  3. God makes no errors
- ## Conclusion:
1. This book shows the power of God
  2. It exemplifies faith in God
  3. A book which once again shows the glory of God and salvation of man

# THE JUSTICE OF JEHOVAH IN JUDGES

## Introduction:

1. Key statement, Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25
  2. Nation was to be a theocracy, however in 2:6-16, we find the next generation forsook God
  3. Judges covers about 400 years filled with turmoil because of sin
- I. THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL CAN BE SUMMED UP IN FIVE POINTS.
1. Rest--when they followed God He gave rest in the land
  2. Rebellion--in the time of rest they forgot God and rebelled
  3. Retribution--God sent oppressors into the land as punishment
  4. Repentance--this caused the people once again to turn to God
  5. Restoration--God raised up a deliverer to once again take them in
- II. THERE ARE SIX SUCH OPPRESSORS & THIRTEEN DELIVERERS.
1. Mesopotamians--Othniel
  2. Moabites--Ehud, Shamgar
  3. Canaanites--Deborah with Barak
  4. Midianites--Gideon, Tola, Jair
  5. Ammonites--Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon
  6. Philistines--Samson
- III. OVERALL LESSONS.
1. The necessity of doing ALL of God's commandments, Jdg 1:21,27,29-34; 2:1-4
  2. Our spiritual theocracy is superior to--Father rule, Lawgivers rule, Military rule, Every man doing that which is right in his own eyes, Priest rule, King rule, Gentile rule
  3. The necessity of living with the consequences of our mistakes and sorrows, 2:3,4
  4. The necessity of purity, 2:11-15; 3:6-7
  5. The necessity of the proper response to chastisement, 2:15-19
  6. The peril of not heeding chastisement, 2:20-23
  7. This book exemplifies Proverbs 14:34
  8. The perils of humanism, 17:6--man is the measure
  9. True strength is obeying God, 1:28

## Conclusion:

1. Through the gray clouds of doom and failure we see hope
2. There is always hope through God

# RESPECTABLE RUTH

## Introduction:

1. Consider historical background, 1:1
  2. Ancient customs in Ruth
    - 1) Gleaning
    - 2) Levirate Law
      - A. Deut 25:5-6, brother raise up seed in name--son be legally son of deceased
      - B. Mt 22:24
      - C. From Latin word, "brother-in-law"
      - D. Ruth's account deals with near kinsmen
    - 3) Kinsman--Redeemer
      - A. Work of revenger
      - B. Buy the land if one is poor & must sell
      - C. Boaz willing to buy land in name of Elimelech
      - D. Ruth--had to do both
    - 4) Court Action, Ruth 4:6-8
      - A. Men at the gate serve as judge
      - B. Exchanging shoes--only in Ruth
      - C. Closes example--Deut 25:8-10, if one will not perform duty of brother-in-law, pull shoe off and spit in face
  3. Consider Ruth as part of God's concern for Gentiles
  4. Ruth is one who can be respected for all times
- I. CHOICE OF RUTH, 1:14-18.
1. Deliberate choice--No one forced her to this choice
  2. Determined choice--Put her whole being into the choice
  3. Demanding choice--It required much of Ruth
- II. CAREFUL INFLUENCE, 2:11; 3:10-11; 4:17.
1. Deliberate--Did not happen by accident
  2. Determined--It did not stop at problems
  3. Demanding--It required much of Ruth
- III. CHARITY.
1. Deliberate--Not simply to her advantage
  2. Determined--Love isn't something that comes at its own free will
  3. Demanding--It required much of Ruth
- IV. CONCERN OF NEAR KINSMAN, 3:1-10.
1. Deliberate concern--Did not take advantage
  2. Determined concern--Sought out ways to help, 2:8-9, 14-17; 3:14-16
  3. Demanding--Required much of Boaz, 4:6,10

Conclusion: We need more like Ruth and Boaz

# SELECTIONS FROM FIRST SAMUEL

## Introduction:

1. First Samuel is a transition book--from Judges to Kings
2. Records the rejection of God as king, 1 Sam 8:1-9
3. There are three main characters in this book--

## I. SAMUEL.

1. Starts with a godly mother, 1:11,22,26-28
2. Served as last judge, prophet, priest, king-anointer
3. Lessons from life of Samuel
  - 1) Godly *concerned* parents go far in making children faithful
  - 2) There is the need in pressing on--all the problems yet did not quit, prayed
  - 3) There is the need of being concerned about God's will--life spent in teaching, (1 Sam 3:1,18-21)
  - 4) There is the need to be concerned about brethren--reprove, rebuke, exhort, warn, 2 Tim 4:2

## II. SAUL, 1 Samuel 10:23, 9:1-3

1. Saul was man's choice
2. Lessons from Saul
  - 1) Great beginnings ended with great downfall--why?
  - 2) Man is doomed to failure when he picks & chooses from God's will, 15:13
  - 3) Evil men wax worse and worse
  - 4) Rejection of God leads to rejection from Him--far worse, 15:26; 28:16-20

## III. SPIRITUAL DAVID.

1. David was God's choice--after God's own heart
2. From shepherd of sheep to shepherd of Israel
3. Lessons from David
  - 1) One can be great & mighty and yet meek & humble, 24:3-10
  - 2) God is with them which seek to do His will
  - 3) Righteous men sin but it need not lead to destruction
  - 4) We learn what worship in spirit and truth is--whole heart

## Conclusion:

1. Bible shows us both good and bad men
2. It shows what makes them that way--hence examples

# SCENES FROM SECOND SAMUEL

## Introduction:

1. David is the main character in 2 Samuel
2. The plot is common to man
3. The theme runs through the Bible--God is faithful

## I. HUMBLE DAVID, 1-10.

1. David is saddened of God's anointed, 1:17-24
  - 1) He had respect for his enemy
  - 2) We are to love our enemies, Mt 5:43-48
2. David asked advice of God, 5:19
3. David wanted to work for God, 7:1-2
4. God blessed David, 7:8-14
5. God gave David victory over his enemies

## II. HAUGHTY DAVID, 11-12.

1. We find David in idleness, 11:1
  - 1) So many sins are committed due to idleness
  - 2) Christians need to occupy their minds, Phil 4:7-9
2. Progress of sin
  - 1) Lust, 11:2
  - 2) Fornication, 11:4
  - 3) Trying to cover up sin improperly, 11:7-13
  - 4) Murder, 11:14-17
3. It displeased the Lord, 11:27; 12:9

## III. HAUNTED DAVID.

1. His sin continued with him through the consequences--though he repented--
  - 1) Sword not to depart from house, 12:10-11
  - 2) Sin to be known, 12:12
  - 3) Child to die, v. 14
  - 4) Lost his influence
2. And through the guilt
3. 13-20 records the troubles of David

## Conclusion:

1. God did not forsake David--was faithful to him, 23:1-5
2. David never lost his faith in God, 22-24

# KEY CHARACTERS IN FIRST KINGS

## Introduction:

1. This is an historical book. It is history with a purpose
  2. There is great value in 1 Kings
- I. SOLOMON--SECURE KINGDOM.
1. Personally
    - 1) Wisest man on earth, 1 Kgs 3:9-14
    - 2) Most foolish man on earth, 11:1-9
    - 3) What we have doesn't make the man; but how we use it
  2. Historically
    - 1) Israel reached its zenith under Solomon, 8:56; 10:7
    - 2) Israel started its decline under him, 11:11-12
  3. Typically
    - 1) Points concerning the king, 2 Sam 7:12-14
    - 2) Points concerning the temple
- II. JEROBOAM & REHOBOAM--SCHISMATIC KINGDOM.
1. Rehoboam
    - 1) "Son" of David, 1 Kgs 11:12-13
    - 2) Unwise, 12:1-15
    - 3) God uses both weakness & strength of men for His will, 12:15
  2. Jeroboam
    - 1) Given a wonderful opportunity, 11:35-38
    - 2) He chose to follow his heart, 12:25-33
    - 3) "Jeroboam . . . who caused Israel to sin"
- III. ELIJAH--SINFUL KINGDOM.
1. The remainder of 1 Kings focuses mainly on Israel
  2. Whenever we see a prophet we can know there is sin
  3. Some key verses concerning Elijah's work:
    - 1) 14:9--Israel forsook God
    - 2) 18:17--good is always accused of making trouble
    - 3) 18:21--the choice to be made (Rev 3:16)
    - 4) 19:18--God has His remnant
    - 5) 21:20--warfare between good and evil

## Conclusion:

1. The folly of forsaking God is seen
2. God is always near

# **KINDS OF KINGS IN SECOND KINGS**

## Introduction:

1. Consider the historical setting of Second Kings
  2. The word of God is held up as the standard in the Bible
  3. Leaders treated the Word in different respects--
- I. SOME WERE IGNORANT OF GOD'S WORD.
1. We could speak of all of Israel, Hos 4:6; Isa 5:13
  2. Ignorance is a tool of the devil
  3. Second Kings shows ignorance isn't the proper way to treat God's word
- II. SOME IGNORED GOD'S WORD.
1. 2 Kgs 21, Manasseh longest reigning king
  2. Note how he set aside God's word--results
  3. 2 Kings shows what ignoring God's word does
- III. SOME USED IT TO THEIR SELFISH GAIN.
1. 2 Kgs 17:25-28, used it to keep the lions away--results, compromise, 32-34
  2. Many used God's word for many types of gain
  3. Second Kings teaches that it is not for personal gain
- IV. SOME FOLLOWED IT AS LONG AS SOMEONE WAS PUSHING THEM.
1. 2 Kgs 12, Joash did much good--consider background, 12:2
  2. The sad story begins when Jehoiada dies, 2 Chron 24:17-21
  3. Second Kings teaches the need for personal conviction
- V. SOME TRIED TO DESTROY GOD'S WORD.
1. 2 Kgs 24:1-2, Jehoiakim--Jer 36:23-24
  2. Many through the years have tried to destroy it but failed
  3. Second Kings teaches us that God's will will be done
- VI. SOME LOVED GOD'S WORD.
1. Hezekiah, 2 Kgs 19; Josiah, 2 Kgs 22:19; 23:25
  2. They loved it and lived it and lamented its departures. Note death, 2 Chron 35:24
  3. Second Kings teaches us to give proper regard to God's word

## Conclusion:

1. For our learning
2. Will we learn?



# FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES

## Introduction:

1. This book shows the glory of the kingdom
2. Gives the beginning of its glory to its end
3. History of God's chosen
4. Two-fold message: to them; to us

## I. TO THEM.

1. It is probable that these books were written after the captivity
2. The message then is clear: look at history & it reveals--
  - 1) Divine beginnings, divine ending, 1:1,34; 2:1,12,15--
    - A. Ch. 10, kingdom
    - B. Ch. 11, David, 1-9
  - 2) The ending was due to human sin, 36:12-21
  - 3) God was longsuffering
  - 4) You trusted in the arm of flesh and not God, Isa 31:1
  - 5) Your heart was not right
    - A. You thought because you were God's chosen He would never leave you
    - B. You thought God would accept "form" worship
  - 6) God *is* a jealous God

## II. TO US.

1. The above message applies equally to us
  - 1) They serve as an example, 1 Cor 10:6
  - 2) Consider same points applying to spiritual kingdom
2. There are lessons primarily to us:
  - 1) It shows the superiority of the spiritual kingdom over the temporal kingdom, Col 1:13; Heb 12:22-23,28; 2 Sam 7:12-13; Dan 2:44
  - 2) It shows the superiority of the spiritual king over the fleshly kings, Acts 2:29-36
  - 3) It shows the superiority of the spiritual priesthood over the fleshly priesthood, Heb 7:22-28
  - 4) It shows the superiority of the New Law over the Old, Heb 8:6-8,13
  - 5) It shows the superiority of the temple of God over the old temple--only we can pollute this temple, 1 Cor 6:19

## Conclusion:

1. We have all of history to learn from
2. Will we use it?

# **ESSENTIAL LESSONS FROM EZRA**

## Introduction:

1. Consider background for Ezra
2. God's people turning back to God
3. Requirements for restoration

## Discussion: IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KNOW THAT--

1. God establishes His people, ch. 1
2. Progress requires sacrifice, 2:68-69
3. Sin takes away blessings, 3:10-13
4. There is always an element which wants the work of God to cease, ch.4
5. There have always been men willing to stand and meet the face of opposition, ch.5
6. God's will will not be hampered, ch.6
7. There must be law if there is to be restoration, 7:6,10,25-26
8. We must practice what we have faith in, 8:21-23,31
9. We need people who can blush because of sin, 9:5-6
10. The very nature of repentance sometimes calls for great sacrifices, ch.10

## Conclusion:

1. The plea for restoration is relevant
2. Restoration demands doing things God's way

# NEHEMIAH: LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

## Introduction:

1. History
2. Nehemiah 1:1-3, the great need
3. The attitude, v.4
4. Nehemiah 4:6, "People had a mind to work"
5. "Let this mind be in you", Phil 2:5

## I. MIND TO WORK, 4:6.

1. Nehemiah **recognized** the need for work
2. Nehemiah **regretted** there was the need for this work (because of their sins)
3. Nehemiah **responded** to the need in prayer
4. Nehemiah **resolved** himself to the need by work

## II. MIND TO HELP, 2:1-8.

## III. MIND NOT TO WORK, 3:5; 5:1,7; Matt 9:37

## IV. MIND TO OPPOSE, 2:17-19. Progress of Opposition:

1. Ridicule, scorn, 2:19
2. Mocking, 4:1-3
3. Bodily fight, 4:7-9
4. Attempt compromise, 6:1-4
5. Lies, 6:5-9

## V. MIND TO SACRIFICE, 4:23; 5:18.

## VI. MIND TO TEACH, 8:1-8.

## Conclusion:

1. Great truths are taught throughout the Old Testament
2. How to grow is just one

# **ELEGANT ESTHER**

## Introduction:

1. The place of Esther in history
2. The name of God not mentioned in book
3. Yet, “the finger of God can be seen”

## **I. THREE GREAT TRUTHS.**

1. There is a God
2. God acts in providence
3. God touches life at every point

## **II. THREE GREAT DUTIES.**

1. We must reckon with God
2. We must trust God
3. We must act for and in harmony with God

## **III. THREE LESSONS IN GOD’S WORK IN PROVIDENCE.**

1. It is hidden, but all inclusive
2. It displays perfect righteousness, knowledge, power
3. It results in confidence and courage for believers; in fear and punishment for the disobedient; and in progress and blessing in all history

## Conclusion:

1. Encouragement for people living today
2. God works
3. Man needs faith

# **JOB: A JEWEL THROUGH SUFFERING**

## Introduction:

1. Job, a book most needed, least studied
  2. Job is a revelation on many subjects
- I. REVEALS THE PERSON OF GOD.
1. All powerful, 1:12; 2:6, ch.38
  2. In control, 42:16-17
- II. REVEALS THE PERSONAL TRUST OF HIS PEOPLE.
1. We don't understand all yet we have faith, 1:20-22; 2:10; 13:4-10
  2. Trust in the person of God
- III. REVEALS THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING.
1. The 3 friends' (Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar) wrong answer: suffering is God's punishment for sin
  2. Elihu's partly right answer: suffering teaches, disciplines and refines
  3. God's perfect answer: suffering is a test of showing God for who He is, not for what He does, 1:9-11; 2:1-7
- IV. REVEALS WHY SONS OF PERDITION PROSPER WHILE OTHERS SUFFER.
1. We must not trust God for what He does--Christianity a spiritual religion
  2. But that He is God
- V. REVEALS THAT PATIENCE IS TO BE DESIRED.
1. In Job we see patience in trust
  2. Note the New Testament teaching, Js 5:11; 1:2-4
- VI. REVEALS A PERTINENT PROBLEM FACING MAN.
1. If a man shall die shall he live again? Job 14:14
  2. Christ forever answered this, 1 Cor 15:21-23

## Conclusion:

1. Job answers so many problems facing man
2. We need the wisdom of God and not man

# **PRAISING GOD IN THE PSALMS**

## Introduction:

1. Consider *about* the Psalms' authors, times, history
  2. The central theme is "Praise the Lord"
  3. There are many facets of praises
- I. PRAISING GOD CAN INVOLVE INSTRUCTION, 2 Tim 4:2-3.
1. Many of the Psalms did this
  2. Example: Psm 1, instruction in proper living
- II. PRAISING GOD CAN INVOLVE HISTORY.
1. History helps one see actions to be wrong and right
  2. Example: Psm 78, God dealing with His people (Rom 15:4)
- III. PRAISING GOD CAN INVOLVE SIMPLY WORDS OF PRAISE.
1. Because He is God, for what He has done, His promises, power
  2. Example: Psm 146, these usually begin with "Praise ye the Lord"
- IV. PRAISING GOD CAN INVOLVE PENITENCE.
1. Expressing an attitude of sorrow and change because of sin
  2. Example: Psm. 6, David expressing regret for sin (1 Jn 1:9-10)
- V. PRAISING GOD CAN INVOLVE THANKSGIVING.
1. For the child of God, there is much for which to be thankful
  2. Example: Psm 16, thankful that we can put our trust in God
- VI. PRAISING GOD CAN INVOLVE SUPPLICATION.
1. He is the One we should turn to, the arm of flesh is weak
  2. Example: Psm 86, He is all-powerful, merciful, forgiving--will listen

## Conclusion:

1. There is much in the Psalms for the Christian
2. The Messianic Psalms give much hope & confidence that Jesus is the Messiah

# **PRACTICAL, PROFITABLE PROVERBS**

## Introduction:

1. Background of the Proverbs
  2. Wisdom is to be gained from a study of Proverbs
- I. WISDOM IS PROFITABLE.
1. It guards against evil companions, 1:8-19
  2. It delivers from evil men and women, 2:10-22
- II. WISDOM HAS PRECIOUS BLESSINGS.
1. God prospers the wise, 3:1-8
  2. God protects the wise, 3:19-26
- III. WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING, 4:7.
1. To be exalted, 4:8
  2. Never forsaken, 4:6
- IV. PRACTICAL WARNINGS AGAINST FOLLY.
1. The dangers of laziness and deceit, 6:6-19
  2. The folly of adultery, 6:20 - 7:27
- V. THE PERSONIFICATION OF WISDOM.
1. The invitation of wisdom's feast, 9:1-12
  2. The invitation of folly, 9:13-18
- VI. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES PROCLAIMED.
1. Contrast of right and wrong in practice, ch.10-15
  2. Admonition to fear and obey God, ch.16-21
- VII. THE PURPOSE OF WISDOM EXEMPLIFIED, 31:10-31.
1. The virtuous woman, v.10
  2. She shall be praised

## Conclusion:

1. In a time when worldliness is so prevalent we need those who are wise in God
2. Cf., 1 Cor 1:17-31

# **ECCLESIASTES: SOLOMON'S SUMMARY**

## Introduction:

1. Consider Solomon, 1 Kgs 10:24; 10:7; Mt 6:29
2. Wise but became a fool, Ecc 1:1-10
3. Ecclesiastes gives an overview of his folly--and ours

## **I. PROBLEM OF WISDOM.**

1. Solomon blessed with wisdom and knowledge, 1 Kgs 3:12
2. Contentment comes with having all the answers, Ecc 7:25; however, Ecc 1:18; Ecc 1:15
3. He saw no difference between him and a fool, Ecc 2:16; Mt 6:33

## **II. PROBLEM OF WEALTH.**

1. God had blessed him with wealth, Ecc 2:9
2. Thought wealth was answer; however, wanted more, Ecc 2:10
3. Love for money not the answer, Ecc 2:11; 5:10-12; Prov 23:4; 1 Tim 6:6-10

## **III. PROBLEM OF POWER.**

1. God made him mightiest man on earth, 1 Kgs 10:23
2. Israel reached its zenith and decline under him
3. Note that power could not bring contentment, Ecc 4:13

## **IV. PROBLEM OF IMMORAL PLEASURE.**

1. Misuse of his power
2. 1 Kgs 11:1, downfall of king; 11:4, downfall of nation
3. It did not bring true pleasure, Ecc 2:1

## **V. SOLUTION TO SOLOMON'S PROBLEM.**

1. Problem--what is true happiness and pleasure?
2. He lost sight of God
3. Here is the wise man's solution, Ecc 12:13-14

## Conclusion:

1. Such has always plagued mankind
2. In Solomon we have the God-given answer
3. "For our learning" if we will learn



# SONG OF SOLOMON: A LOVE STORY

## Introduction:

1. A love story
  - 1) Characters: Solomon, Shulamith, Court attendants
  - 2) In some ways this book is not consistent with Solomon's life, cf. 1 Kgs 4:32; 1 Kgs 11:3--Sof Sol. 6:8
2. Any who want to understand true love need to read it

## I. ABOUT THE BOOK.

1. Perhaps one of the least read books
2. Most different views, can't be dogmatic
3. Three main ways it is interpreted:
  - 1) Purely historical
  - 2) Purely allegorical
  - 3) Typical, which agrees with scriptures
4. Its place in the Bible
  - 1) Job: the problem of suffering
  - 2) Psalms: praising God
  - 3) Proverbs: the behavior of the believer
  - 4) Ecclesiastes: folly of forgetting God
  - 5) Lamentations: sorrow in love
  - 6) Song of Solomon: pure love
5. The typical teaching on love is manifested in--
  - 1) Love of husband and wife
  - 2) Love of God and Israel
  - 3) Love of Christ and the church

## II. WORDS OF LOVE PERSONIFIED.

1. 1:5-6, blind love
2. 2:10-14, pleading love, together in love
3. 3:1-4, thoughtful love
4. 4:7, pure love
5. 5:9, single love
6. 6:3, mutual love
7. 7:1, adoring love
8. 8:6-7, abiding love

## Conclusion:

1. God has indeed given us all things that pertain to godliness
2. Let us learn from God

Someone said, "If you would be holy, read the Psalms; if you would be wise, read Proverbs; but if you would learn love's language and understand the action of love to establish real and lasting communion, read the Song of Songs."

# ISAIAH AND THE INIQUITY OF ISRAEL

## Introduction:

1. Read 1:1-5, introduction and problem
2. 1:6-9, state of Israel
3. Applies so well today

## I. CHARGE OF FORM WORSHIP, 11-15.

1. Not entirely a problem of perversion of acts of worship
2. God does not accept all worship
3. Such is true today, Jn. 4:24; Mk. 7:7-9; Acts 10

## II. CHARGE OF FORSAKING JUSTICE, 16-17.

1. Worshipped God with no concern for fellow man
2. God is concerned with relationships
3. Such is true today, Matt. 5:16,23,24; 7:12; Js. 1:27

## III. CHARGE OF FILTHINESS, 18-20.

1. Sin separates--but God is ready to take back
2. No sin is so bad that God is not willing to take back
3. "But if ye refuse and rebel--"

## IV. CHARGE OF FORNICATION, 21.

1. Used in the sense of spiritual unfaithfulness
2. No reason to be unfaithful--look back
3. Such can be committed today, Js. 4:4; Matt. 6:24

## V. CHARGE OF FALSE DEALINGS, 22-23.

1. Concern only with self
2. Religion of convenience--note problem in first century
3. Can the charge be leveled today?

## Conclusion:

1. Read vs.4 and 24
2. Look to the example of Israel and learn
3. God requires the whole of man

# **JEREMIAH'S JEHOVAH**

## **Introduction:**

1. Consider historical background
  2. Worked on the eve of captivity
  3. In this book we have God's urgent message
- I. PLAINLY PLEADED FOR THE PEOPLE TO REPENT, 4:1.**
1. They had moved away from God, 3:21
  2. God pleads for all in sin to return
- II. PLAINLY PROPHESED OF PUNISHMENT, 13:19; 21:7.**
1. Because of their sin
  2. Sin brings punishment, 1 Thess. 1:7-9
- III. PLAINLY POINTED OUT THEIR PREDICAMENTS, ch. 8.**
1. Ignorance, v.7; rejection, v.9; compromise, v.11; shameless, v.12
  2. Trusted in man, 17:5
- IV. PLAINLY PROMPTED THE PEOPLE TO REPENT.**
1. God uses the plagues and punishments to prompt the people, 14:1-7
  2. They would not hear, therefore God would not hear them, 14:10-12
- V. PLAINLY PROMISED A REMNANT TO RETURN, 29:10-14.**
1. They were going to be punished
  2. God was going to take care of the faithful
- VI. PLAINLY PREDICTED THE PRINCE OF PEACE.**
1. David to be raised up (Christ), 30:8-9; 32:22
  2. New covenant promised, 31:31-34
- VII. PLAINLY POINTED OUT THE PERDITION OF PEOPLE IN SIN, 46-51.**
1. God is against all who sin
    - 1) 46:1, Egypt
    - 2) 47:1, Philistines
    - 3) 48:1, Moab
    - 4) 49:1, Ammonites
    - 5) 50:1, Babylon
  2. Sin is a reproach to any people

## **Conclusion:**

1. This book shows that attitudes do not change
  - 1) God through His book shows sin and its consequences
  - 2) God urges people to change
  - 3) Many reply in the same way as in Jeremiah's day, 6:16
2. Let us learn from Israel

# LESSONS FROM LAMENTATIONS

## Introduction:

1. Book from the weeping prophet
2. Shows the emotion of God
3. This book teaches--

## I. SIN CAUSES SADNESS.

1. Judah in misery because of sin, 1:1-3
2. She is mourning because of this, 1:4-6
3. There is no reason for joy, because God is against her, 1:18-19
4. "Weeping and gnashing of teeth" the common plight of those in sin, Matt. 25:30; 2 Thess. 1:6

## II. SURENESS OF GOD'S WRATH BECAUSE OF SIN, Jer. 13:19-21

1. Sin causes anger and rejection from God, 2:1-4
2. Sin makes God an enemy, 2:5
3. Sin causes God to remove blessings, 2:6,15
4. Such is promised today, Rom. 2:3,6; Heb. 10:28-31

## III. SOBERNESS SHOULD COME FROM PUNISHMENT.

1. There is no hope in sin, 3:1-3
2. It should cause one to consider his ways, 3:19-21
3. It should cause one to turn to the Lord, 3:40-44
4. We need to be sober about sin, Rom. 2:4-9

## IV. SUPPLICATION NEEDS TO BE MADE BECAUSE OF SIN.

1. Call on to remember, 5:1
2. They realized their loss because of sin, 5:2-5,16
3. They tried to turn God back to them, 5:21-22
4. Now is the time to call on God, there won't be another chance

## Conclusion:

1. Do we have the same attitude toward sin as God?
2. Some of the Jews had another opportunity
3. The door of opportunity will close at death

# **EMPHATIC LESSONS FROM EZEKIEL**

## **Introduction:**

1. Consider historical background
  2. Many great lessons from these books
- I. THE PREACHER IS REJECTED MANY TIMES BECAUSE THE AUTHOR IS REJECTED, 3:7-9.**
1. Such was the case with Christ and the apostles, 1 Thess. 2:13
  2. We need to remember this today
- II. PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THERE IS A PROPHET IN THE LAND, 2:1-8.**
1. This could be said of early preachers
  2. It needs to be said today, 1 Pet. 4:11
- III. GOD'S PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THEY ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR WARNING THE LOST, 3:17-21.**
1. The question of accepting and rejecting is not the question
  2. Many set themselves as prophets, prejudging
- IV. GOD'S GLORY WILL DEPART FROM THAT WHICH IS HOLY, 10:18.**
1. Through the ages men thought holiness was simply in the very object itself--ark of covenant, temple, brazen serpent, Jer. 7:4
  2. Some think the same about the "church of Christ", Mt. 7:21
- V. SOME ARE BENT ON PREACHING A HEART-FELT RELIGION, 13:2,10.**
1. The New Testament warns of such, 1 Jn. 4:1
  2. The problem exists today
- VI. SOME ARE BENT ON FELLOWSHIPING THE FALSE PROPHET, 14:9-10.**
1. There was the problem in the New Testament, 1 Cor. 5; Eph. 5:11
  2. This applies today, 2 Jn. 11
- VII. GOD'S PEOPLE CAN BECOME WORTHLESS, 15:1-8.**
1. Sin makes people worthless before God--any kind of sin: laziness, apathy
  2. Such can happen today, Matt. 25:14-30

## **Conclusion:**

1. We find the Old Testament is relevant--people don't change
2. Can we learn from them or will we repeat history?

# **DEVELOPING THEMES FROM DANIEL**

## **Introduction:**

1. Background to Daniel, Isa. 39:6-7, Dan. 1:1-7
2. Daniel was more of a statesman than a prophet
3. This deals with God, a punished nation, a wicked nation, and the faithful

## **I. DEITY WORKING.**

1. Prophecy being fulfilled
2. Deity's influence, 1:10
3. Deity's concern over the faithful, the nation of Israel, gentile nations, future, 1:17

## **II. DANIEL'S DETERMINATION.**

1. He determined to keep himself pure, 1:8
2. He determined to remember his God, 2:26-28
3. He determined to remain faithful, 6:4,5,10

## **III. DIVINE DELIVERANCE .**

1. Of the wise men, 2:12,13,28-30
2. Of the Hebrew children, 3:12,13,17-30
3. Of Daniel from the lions, 6:7,10,16,20-23

## **IV. DESIGN OF THE BOOK.**

1. Give inside information of the captivity
2. To insist on faithfulness
3. To indicate God in control of the world, 2:36-38; 4:17,18,24-33
4. To give an insight into the future--dreams, 2:44; 7:13-14; 9:24
5. To show Daniel as an instrument of God, 2:47; 6:26, Ezra 1:1

## **Conclusion:**

1. In Daniel we see God working through the faithful and the non-faithful to bring about His will
2. This should inspire us to faithfulness

# **HOSEA: HARBINGER OF HARVEST**

## Introduction:

1. Note historical background
  2. This is a book which shows the emotions of God
  3. Hosea worked on eve of destruction. The book concerns--
- I. HARLOTTRY, ch. 1-3.
1. Summarize first three chapters--prologue to book
  2. Hosea symbolizes the place of God
  3. Ch.1, transgression; ch.2, judgment; ch.3, restoration
- II. HIGH-HANDED SIN, 4:1-2,12,13; 5:7; 6:10; 3-8:4.
1. A nation God loved, did so much for
  2. Corruption from people, priest, king
  3. God loved them, yet they played the harlot
- III. HARDENED HEARTS, 4:6-8,17,18;5:4; 6:6; 7:2,7; 10:12,13; 11:1-2
1. They were in sin with no turning back
  2. God "called" to them yet they only feigningly turned back
  3. They were bringing destruction on themselves
- IV. HARD WORDS, 5:5; 5:9,14,15; 7:13; 8:7; 9:17; 11:5-7; 13:16.
1. In spite of God's love and mercy they refused to repent
  2. In love God was going to put Israel away
  3. There is a limit to His mercy
- V. HAVEN OF HOPE.
1. With the impending doom there is also hope
  2. The fulfillment can be seen in the return, 586 BC
  3. The ultimate hope is in the Christian age, 3:5

## Conclusion:

1. A sad note is their destruction because of sin
2. All destruction can be avoided, 14:9
3. Christ is the next harbinger of harvest

# JEOPARDY IN JOEL

## Introduction:

1. Message relevant to any time
2. In Joel we find the working of God because of concern
3. Joel's theme is "the day of the Lord"

## I. POWERFUL PLAGUE ON THE PEOPLE.

1. This is something to note, 1:2,3
2. The locust destruction is complete, 1:4,7,11,12,17-20
3. It is because of sin
  - 1) God uses such, Deut. 28:15-29,42
  - 2) Joel 1:5,15
4. God is using this to call people to repentance

## II. PLEA FOR PENITENCE BY THE PEOPLE.

1. This is the purpose of the "day of the Lord"
  - 1) Destruction on God's enemies
  - 2) Deliverance for those who trust Him
2. Message is simple
  - 1) Repent or suffer, 2:1-11
  - 2) Repent and be blessed, 2:12-14
3. God is longsuffering and willing to accept the sinner back, 2:18,19; Matt. 23:37,38

## III. PROFOUND PROMISES FOR THE PEOPLE.

1. God will restore, 2:18-25
2. They are to have plenty, 2:25
3. He is to be known, 2:26--God will be glorified
4. Future promises
  - 1) Spirit of God poured out, 2:28-32
  - 2) Salvation in the church, 2:32; 3:16-21

## Conclusion:

1. The message for men today is plain
  - 1) God wills none should perish but repent, 2 Pet. 3:9
  - 2) There is a "day of the Lord" coming, 2 Pet. 3:10
  - 3) God takes care of His, 2 Pet. 3:13-15
2. God will be glorified, Phil. 2:10



# **AMOS: ISRAEL'S ADVERSARY**

## Introduction:

1. Historical background
2. Ch. 1 - 2:5, judgment of nations; 2:6, following judgment on Israel
3. 7:10-17, call of Amos

## I. APATHY.

1. The Lord did much for them--yet unconcerned, 2:9-12
2. They only concerned themselves with ease--unconcerned about judgment, 6:1-7
3. There is the problem of apathy today

## II. AFFLUENT ABUSES.

1. Used and abused the poor, 2:6; 3:15; 4:1-3
2. Unjust in their dealings, 5:10-12
3. There is the same problem today

## III. ABUSE OF WORSHIP.

1. They felt they could sin and still worship acceptably, 4:4-5; 8:1-7
2. Note God's view on this, 5:21-27
3. There is the same problem today

## IV. ABSENCE OF MORALS

1. They forgot how to do right, 3:10
2. They refused the Lord, 2:11,12
3. There is the same problem today

## V. ADVICE OF AMOS.

1. Seek God, 5:4,6,8,14; hate evil, 5:15
2. Because they refused to do this, prepare, 9-13, 4:12
3. The same advice is given today, 2 Pet. 3:9-12

## Conclusion:

1. People do not change, only the circumstances
2. We have a better covenant today yet the same problems exist
3. There is a day of reckoning coming

# **OBADIAH: OBITUARY OF THOSE WHO OFFEND**

## Introduction:

1. Gen. 36 is the genealogy
2. Message to Edom--destruction
3. Conflict goes back to Jacob & Esau
4. His message concerned--

## I. THOSE OBSESSED.

1. Pride, 3-4
2. Violence against his brethren, 10
3. This became their downfall
4. It becomes the downfall of many today

## II. THOSE WHO REJOICED IN OTHERS' OPPRESSION.

1. They rejoiced to see their brothers in destruction, 11-12
2. They took advantage of them, 13
3. They helped in their brothers' downfall, 14
4. Do we keep our brethren from falling or add to it? Gal. 6:2

## III. THOSE WHO WERE OBLIVIOUS TO BROTHERS' NEEDS.

1. They were brothers but no love--violent toward them, 10-11
2. They were brothers but did not help--they looked the other way, 12
3. They were brothers but no concern--distressed them, 14
4. Do we turn our back on those in need?

## IV. THEIR OBLIVION.

1. They were to reap the same harvest, 15
2. Because of their sins they were to be punished
3. It was to be a complete destruction, 16,18
4. Eternal punishment is promised to those in sin

## V. ISRAEL OVERCOMING.

1. In Zion is deliverance, 17
2. These were God's people
3. Ultimately speaking of spiritual Zion, 21
4. God delivers the faithful to the "new heaven and new earth"

## Conclusion:

1. God has always required respect toward fellow man
2. This has been the downfall of churches. Let us heed the lesson

# **JOURNEYING JONAH**

## **Introduction:**

1. Historical background
  2. Book about Jonah--his journeying in respect to God
  3. All can relate to Jonah
- I. JOURNEYED AWAY FROM GOD, ch. 1.
1. God told him to go one way, he went the opposite, v.2-3
  2. He forgot the power of God, 4-6
  3. There was confession of sin but not repentance
  4. God not only prepared a fish, He was preparing Jonah, v.17
- II. JOURNEYED BACK TO GOD, ch. 2.
1. Jonah had a second chance to repent, 1-2
  2. He considered his distress, 3-6
  3. Sometimes it takes distress to help remember God, 7
  4. God is faithful, 10
- III. JOURNEYED WITH GOD, ch.3.
1. The same instructions given--God has not changed, 1-2
  2. Jonah has--obedience, 3-4
  3. The simplest thing would have been to obey God the first time
  4. God is faithful, 10
- IV. JOURNEYED AHEAD OF GOD, ch.4.
1. Jonah was pleased at his second chance but not theirs, 1
  2. Jonah was selfish, 2-3
  3. God teaches Jonah in the sovereignty and mercy of God, 4-10
  4. God will extend mercy to all, 11

## **Conclusion:**

1. In Jonah we see the importance of obedience
2. God desires all to obey Him
3. Let us not be as Jonah and try to hide God's mercy

# **THE MANIFEST OF MICAH**

## Introduction:

1. Contemporary with Isaiah
2. Background, 2 Kg. 15:17 - 20:21; 2 Chron. 26-30
3. Micah concerns himself with--

## I. FALL OF JUDAH, ch.1.

1. From God, 2-4
2. Complete fall, 6-9
3. Remnant to return, 7:14-17

## II. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FALL.

1. False prophets, 2:6,11; 3:5
2. Frivolous attitude of the princes, 3:1-4
3. False judgment, 3:9-11; 6:9-11
4. False gods, 5:11-13
5. Form worship, 6:6-7

## III. FAVORED WALK, 6:8.

1. Just walk
2. Mercy
3. Humbleness

## IV. FAITH IN GOD, ch.7.

1. Not to trust in the arm of flesh, 5,6
2. God has salvation, v.7
3. God is faithful, 14-20

## V. FUTURE GLORY, ch.4.

1. The church prophesied of, 4:1-2
2. The messiah to bring peace, 4:3-4
3. He is to be born in Bethlehem, 5:2

## Conclusion:

1. In the Kings & Chronicles, we read history & facts
2. In the prophets we read "between the lines"
3. We see how God deals with and feels about sin

# **NAHUM'S MESSAGE TO NINEVEH**

## **Introduction:**

1. Consider historical background
2. Consider Jonah and Nahum together (approx. 115 years later)
3. Book of doom and despair

## **I. NINEVEH'S DOOM DECLARED, ch. 1.**

1. The fact of God's character revealed, 1:2
2. He is longsuffering but there is a point of wrath, 1:3
3. "Who can stand before his indignation?" None, 1:6
4. Nineveh will be consumed, 1:13-15; 3:18,19

## **II. NINEVEH'S DOOM DESCRIBED, ch. 2.**

1. Consider the mighty city of Nineveh
2. There shall be confusion, 2:4-5
3. None will stand, 2:8
4. She shall become a wasteland, 2:10-13 (612)

## **III. NINEVEH'S DOOM DESERVED.**

1. She shed much blood, 3:1
2. She was ruthless, 3:3
3. There is much immorality, 3:4-5
4. She was much wicked, 3:19

## **IV. LESSONS DEVELOPED FROM NINEVEH'S DOOM.**

1. We learn of the longsuffering of God, 1:3; 2 Pet. 3:9
2. We learn of the vengeance and wrath of God, 1:2; Heb. 10:27,29-31
3. We learn of the power of God, 2 Pet. 3:12
4. We learn of the justice of God, 2 Thess. 1:6
5. God will protect those that are His, Jn. 14:1-4; 2 Tim. 4:7-8
6. God requires righteousness from all, Rom. 11:22
7. Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach, Prov. 14:34

## **Conclusion:**

1. Nahum should give the faithful hope and patience
2. It should be a warning to those who are not God's

# **HABAKKUK: A HARBOR OF DOUBT**

## Introduction:

1. Addresses his speech to God
  2. Consider historical background
  3. Book deals with the faithfulness & righteousness of God
- I. QUESTION ONE; HOW LONG IS EVIL TO CONTINUE? 1:1-4.
1. A relevant question even for today
  2. Habakkuk considers the evil and violence
  3. He also is concerned with the righteous
- II. ANSWER TO QUESTION ONE, 1:5-11.
1. There is a judgment coming, v.6
  2. The evil will overcome the evil, vs. 7-11
  3. God uses the evil to do His will
- III. QUESTION TWO: HOW CAN A HOLY GOD LOOK WITH FAVOR ON SUCH A NATION? 1:12-17.
1. They are even more evil and violent
  2. They attribute their success to their false gods, v.16
  3. The righteous ask the same questions today
- IV. ANSWER TO QUESTION TWO, ch.2.
1. The prophet watches for an answer, 2:1
  2. The Lord gives an answer, 2:2-3, to be seen by all
  3. Judgment will come, 4-6. Note the 5 woes upon them, 6,9,12,15,19
- V. PRAYER OF FAITH, ch.3.
1. God is all powerful, 3:1-12
  2. God helps His people, 13-16
  3. Faith in God, 17-19
- Conclusion:
1. God is a just God
  2. This book answers questions dealing with this justice
  3. This book starts with some questions that suggest some doubt; it ends building faith and confidence in God
  4. It will increase our faith in God

# **ZEPHANIAH AND THE "ZERO HOUR"**

## Introduction:

1. Consider historical background
  2. Related to Josiah, v. 1
  3. Zephaniah shows us the way to look in view of the "zero hour"
- I. LOOK WITHIN--WRATH TO COME ON JUDAH, 1:1 - 2:3.
1. Jehovah's judgment, 1-6
  2. The "day" of Jehovah is "at hand", vs. 14-18
  3. Therefore, seek Jehovah, 2:1-3
  4. Application--we need to look within, for--
    - 1) God shall judge us, 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Pet. 3:3,4,10-12
    - 2) To be safe we must be in God, Rom. 8:1
- II. LOOK AROUND--WRATH ON ALL NATIONS, 2:4 - 3:8.
1. Look to the west and east--Philistia, Moab, Ammon, 4-11
  2. Look to the south and north--Ethiopia, Assyria, 12-15
  3. Therefore, woe to Jerusalem, 3:1-8
  4. Application--we need to look around, for--
    - 1) We can know and see God's judgments, 2 Pet. 3:3-7
    - 2) Let us come to repentance, 2 Pet. 3:9
- III. LOOK BEYOND--AFTER WRATH, HEALING, 3:9-20.
1. There is a new time coming, 11,12
  2. There is a coming forth out of captivity, vs. 12-15
  3. He also looks to the New Jerusalem (Church Age), 16-20
  4. Application--we need to look beyond this life--
    - 1) To a new heaven and new earth, 2 Pet. 3:13
    - 2) We need to be right before God, 2 Pet. 3:14,18

## Conclusion:

1. We are living in the last days
2. Through the history of the Scriptures, God has given us all ample warning, 2 Pet. 3:2

# HAGGAI: THE HERALD OF HASTE

## Introduction:

1. Consider historical background
    - 1) 586--captivity & destruction
    - 2) 536, Ezra 1:1, Decree of Cyrus
    - 3) Ezra 9:21-24, work ceased until 2nd year of Darius, 15-16 years later
    - 4) 520, Ezra 5:1-2, work resumed
    - 5) 515, Ezra 6:13-15, work completed
  2. Haggai was to put the people back to work, Ezra 5:1,2
  3. Deals with the help God gave His people
- I. PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS VERSUS GOD'S THOUGHTS.
1. The time to build is not yet, 1:2
  2. God's answer, 1:4, It is time
    - 1) They live in good houses--the Lord's work suffers, v.4
    - 2) Not blessed because of this, 1:6
  3. God commands work if they are to be blessed
  4. Application
    - 1) People prosper while the Lord's work suffers
    - 2) There won't be blessings until work
    - 3) The plea must be made lawfully, 1:12-14--not gimmicks, etc.
- II. PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS ON THE PAST.
1. They look to the glory of Solomon's temple, 2:3; Ezra 3:12-13
  2. The physical things of the temple are not the standards, 2:4-5
  3. The fact that God is in it will give it glory, 2:7-9
  4. Application
    - 1) We can't compare our work with past experiences
    - 2) Effort must be spent in the kingdom, not buildings only
- III. GOD'S THOUGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE.
1. This people is unclean, 2:11-14
  2. Finish the work that you may be clean and blessed
  3. Application--idleness leads to sin
- IV. GOD'S THOUGHTS ON POWER.
1. God had control over nations, 2:21-22
  2. God plans for Zerubbabel, 2:23, Matt. 1:11,12
  3. Application: God requires obedience, not military might
- Conclusion:
1. God expects His work to be attended to
  2. Let us hasten to His work



# **ZECHARIAH EXHORTS TO ZEALOUSNESS**

Introduction:

1. He was a priest, Levite, Neh. 12:1,4,16
2. 1-8, dated prophecy; 9-14, Messianic. His work: Ezra 5:1,2
3. Zechariah is a cry against apathy

I. GENERAL CALL TO REPENTANCE, 1:1-6.

1. Two requirements: right heart; working hands
2. God reminds them of their fathers' folly
3. Exhorts them to turn to the Lord

II. ADMONITION TO BUILD, 1:15-17.

1. Purpose of this book is to encourage to build
2. God's house will be built

III. WARNING TO THOSE WHO REMAINED IN BABYLON, 2:1-10.

1. Those who remained in Babylon encouraged to return & work
2. It was to be an united effort

IV. CHARGE TO THE HIGH PRIEST, 3:1-7.

1. The religious leaders must be clean
2. God requires the proper walk, 3:6,7

V. ENCOURAGEMENT TO ZERUBBABEL, 4:6-10.

1. Strength not of man but of God
2. Started small but in God it is mighty

VI. THE FUTURE KINGDOM.

1. It is not by accident that in speaking of the restoraton of God's religion that the prophets lifted their prophetical eyes to the ultimate way--Christ and His church. **Note some prophecies & fulfillments:**

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Servant, 3:8              | Mark 10:45               |
| 2) Branch, 3:8; 6:12;        | Luke 1:78, margin (KJV)  |
| 3) King-Priest, 6:13;        | Heb. 6:20 - 7:1          |
| 4) Lowly King, 9:9-10;       | Mt. 21:1-5; Jn. 12:14-16 |
| 5) Betrayed, 11:12-13;       | Matt. 27:9               |
| 6) Hands pierced, 12:10;     | Jn. 19:34-37             |
| 7) Cleansing fountain, 13:1; | Rev. 1:5                 |
| 8) Humanity & deity, 13:7;   | John 8:40; 1:1; 6:12     |
| 9) Smitten shepherd, 13:7-9; | Matt. 26:31; Mk. 14:27   |
| 10) Coronation, 14:5,9;      | Rev. 11:15; Eph. 4:4     |

2. There are 71 quotations in the New Testament, 31 in Revelation.

Conclusion:

1. God warned the people then
2. How much more a warning today, Heb. 10:28-29

# THE MESSAGE OF MALACHI

## Introduction:

1. Consider historical background
  2. Last recorded message to the people
  3. Note the digression of the people
- I. SIN OF DISHONOR, 1:6.
1. There is a natural order of respect
  2. Yet they refused to give honor to the One it was due, 1:7-8
  3. He can be dishonored in the same way today
- II. SIN OF DISREGARD OF WORSHIP, 1:12-14.
1. They were apathetic in their worship, 13
  2. Because of this they gave Him the useless, 13
  3. He can be disregarded in the same way today, Psm. 122:1
- III. SIN OF A DEPARTED PRIESTHOOD, 2:1-8.
1. They had the duty of keeping and teaching the law, 2:7
  2. They departed out of this way, 2:8
  3. Many have departed in the same way today, 1 Pet. 2:9
- IV. SIN OF DEALING UNFAITHFULLY WITH THE WIFE, 2:13-16.
1. They put away God's moral law
  2. In this they were putting away their wives
  3. There can be seen such a problem today
- V. SIN OF DISORDERLY WALKING, 3:5-7.
1. Note some of their sins
  2. All facets of their lives show their spiritual regression
  3. Such can be seen today
- VI. SIN OF NOT DELIVERING TO GOD WHAT IS HIS, 3:8.
1. Note these things are God's, "rob"
  2. Note how they robbed God and the results, 3:10
  3. We reap what we sow today also

## Conclusion:

1. Hebrew history closes on this sad note
2. Yet there is hope for all mankind, 3:1; 4:4-6
3. The perfect kingdom is coming.



