

The Prophets – Lesson 1 Workbook

Judgment for Judah, Assyria, & Edom

(Obadiah, Joel, and Jonah)

Obadiah 1-21, Genesis 36:1

1. In your own words, sum up the message of Obadiah.

2. What is the condition of Edom? What have they done wrong?

3. What does Obadiah threaten will happen?

Joel 1:1-12

1. What was the plague that Joel prophesied upon Judah?

2. In what sense is the severity of this plague so important?

3. Later in his prophesy, Joel frequently uses the phrase, "The Day of the Lord." What images come to mind when you hear this phrase?

Jonah 2:1-10

1. What do you sense is Jonah's attitude as he prays?

2. What does he promise God toward the end of this prayer?

3. Why did the fish vomit Jonah onto dry ground?

Joel 2:13

1. What do you think this verse means?

2. Why would God ask this of the people in Joel's day?

3. Why does God not want them to tear their garments? Why is "rend your hearts" more significant?

4. How can God be "slow to anger" in the midst of all this wrath talk?

5. What do you think it means that God is willing to "relent from sending calamity"?

Jonah 4:2

1. Do you think God is ever unfair to His people? Why/why not?

2. In what sense do these nations we're reading about "get what they deserve"? What makes you think that way?

3. Does the God of the Old Testament sound different from the God of the New Testament? In what ways?

4. Do you believe God exercises judgment today in similar ways? What does that look like?

5. How do these judgments foreshadow the final judgment? What must we do to be free from condemnation on that day of final judgment?

2 Peter 3:10

1. What images enter your mind as we read that verse?

2. Does that sound any different than the Old Testament passages we read? How so? How not so?

3. Imagine the emotion on the ultimate Day of the Lord. What do you think it will be like? How will people feel? How will they act?

2 Peter 3:11-14

1. What do you think it means to live a holy and righteous life in the world today?

2. What do you need to change in order to avoid God's judgment?

3. How do you need to embrace Christ and Christ-likeness in a way that you haven't before?

Homework

- Memorize 2 Peter 3:11
- Think of the sins you consistently struggle with and make a list of them. Take one each day and pray earnestly about that particular sin.

The Prophets – Lesson 2 Workbook

Three Unlikely Voices

(Amos, Hosea, and Micah)

Workbook Activity

Amos 1:3-2:5

Go through this passage on your own and name the different groups Amos condemns.

1. _____ verse(s) _____
2. _____ verse(s) _____
3. _____ verse(s) _____
4. _____ verse(s) _____
5. _____ verse(s) _____
6. _____ verse(s) _____
7. _____ verse(s) _____

Amos 2:6-16

1. Why is God angry at Israel?

2. What are some specific examples of their sin listed in this text?

3. God reminds them of His patience and deliverance. What examples does Amos give?

4. What does God say is going to happen to them as a result of their sin?

Hosea 1:1-9

1. What does God tell Hosea to do in verse 2?

2. What does God tell Hosea to name his first son? _____

Why? _____

3. What does God tell Hosea to name Gomer's second child? _____

Why? _____

4. What does God tell Hosea to name Gomer's third child? _____

Why? _____

Micah 1:3-7

1. What images does Micah use to describe God's power?

2. What two places does Micah mention as particularly corrupt in verse 5?

3. What does God say will happen?

4. If you were listening to Micah preach, what would you have thought about him? About yourself? About your nation?

Micah 5:1-5

1. How many of you had heard any of this before? Which verse(s)? _____

2. Verse 2 is quoted in Matthew 2:6. It speaks of the Messiah. What are some of the predicted things that the Messiah will do in verse 4?

3. Why do you think this book about judgment is significant?

Optional Activity

Can God Use Me?

Split up into groups of 4 or 5. Then discuss the following questions with the other members of your group. Go ahead and dream a bit.

- If you could do anything for God knowing that you would not fail, what would you do?
- What do you dream about doing for God that for some reason you have not yet done?
- What is stopping you from serving the Lord?
(Is it a lie about who you think you are or what you think you are capable of?)
- How can you begin preparing for the work that you dream about doing?
- Who can you bring alongside you to help?

1 Peter 2:9-12

1. What do these verses say about who we are?

2. What do these verses say about what we're supposed to do?

3. Who were we once, according to verse 10?

4. Who are we now, according to verse 10?

Homework

- Memorize 1 Peter 2:10 and 2 Peter 3:11
- Review the descriptions of the three prophets discussed in the lesson. Whom do you most closely align with?
 - Amos**-the Shepherd of Tekoa (living a humble life, an unlikely voice)
 - Hosea**-the Prostitute's Husband (trying to be obedient to God while living in difficult circumstances)
 - Micah**-the Lesser Known (living inconspicuously and considered insignificant)

Based on your choice, how can you allow God to use you more effectively. Ask God to reveal to you how your position, status, or lifestyle can work in a positive way for sharing Jesus with others?

The Prophets – Lesson 3 Workbook

Judgment is Coming, Comfort is Coming (Isaiah)

Part One: WORDS OF JUDGMENT (Isaiah 1-Isaiah 39)

Isaiah 1:1-6

1. Who was Isaiah's dad? _____

2. When did Isaiah begin to prophesize?

3. Where did his prophecy take place? _____

4. Of what is the nation guilty?

Isaiah 5:8-30

1. There are 6 woes in this passage. What are they?

2. What will come to these rebellious people according to verses 24-25?

3. Verses 26-30 casts a vision of the pending exile. What images come to mind as you read about the coming conquering army?

4. How do you think the original listener would've responded to these words?

Part Two: WORDS OF COMFORT (Isaiah 40-Isaiah 66)

Isaiah 40:1-5

1. Do any of these passages sound familiar? Which ones?

2. What do you think this message of comfort would've meant to the original listener?

3. What does "the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it" (verse 5) mean?

Isaiah 53:1-12

1. Knowing what you know about Jesus, what in these verses obviously come true in Him?

2. What surprises you about this prophecy?

3. What do you think the original listener would've thought about it?

4. How might this message have comforted Israel? How might it have disturbed Israel?

Isaiah 6:1-13

1. What surprises you about this scene?

2. How would you have responded if you were Isaiah?

3. Why do you think Isaiah responded the way he did in verse 5?

4. What is Isaiah's mission, according to verses 9-13?

Isaiah 6:8

1. What are some obvious things that all Christians should prioritize?

2. What are some things you are uniquely gifted to do that you need to step up and volunteer for?

3. Do you ever get the sense that God has big plans for you? What are they?

4. If God asked you to do something that would not bring you fame, success, or wealth, how inclined would you be to do it? What should your motivation be to serve the Lord?

Homework

- Memorize Isaiah 6:8. Spend a few minutes each day meditating on this verse.
- Read the entire book of Isaiah, if possible in one sitting.
- Think of one way you can serve the Lord this week, and do it. Be prepared to share your experience when asked.

The Prophets – Lesson 4 Workbook

God Doesn't Have Favorites

(Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah)

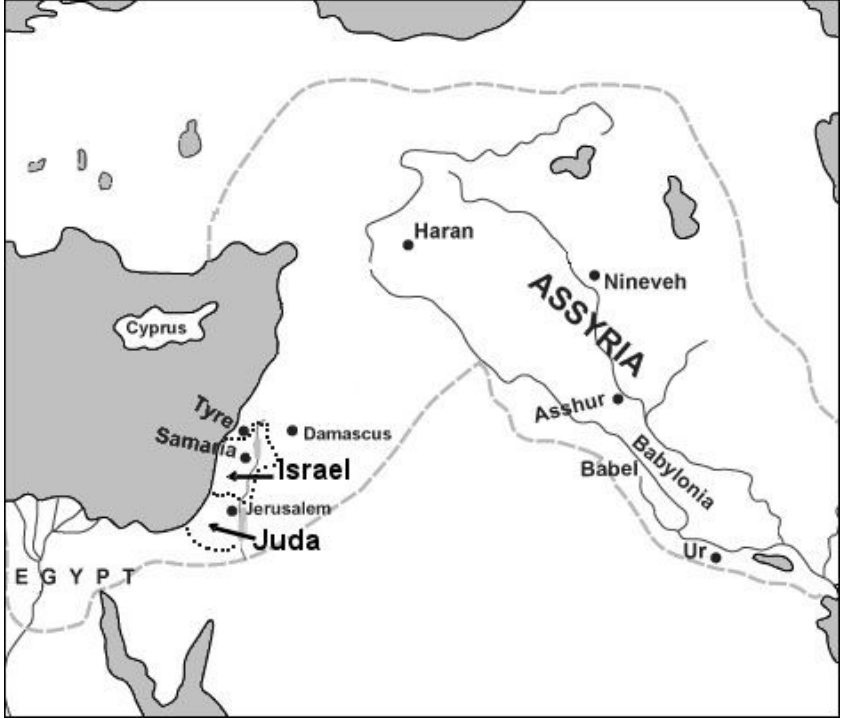
JUDGMENT FOR ISRAEL (Nahum)

Lesson in Geography

Turn to the map section in your Bible, and look for a map of the northern Kingdom of Israel, the southern Kingdom of Judah, Assyria, and Babylon.

This will help you get a mental picture of the geographical and political games played during this time.

The map to the right is provided in case your Bible doesn't contain a map section.



Nahum 2:1-10

1. What are some of the words used by Nahum to describe Assyria's attacker?

2. How does Nahum describe the fall of Nineveh in verses 5-10?

3. This description is pretty vivid. How do you think the powerful Assyrians would have responded to Nahum's words?

JUDGMENT FOR THE CHALDEANS (Habakkuk)

Habakkuk 2:2-8

1. How reliable are God's predictions, according to verses 2 and 3?

2. Why is Babylon judged?

3. What is going to happen to them (see verse 8)?

4. How do you think Habakkuk felt when he heard that God would use an evil nation to judge His people?

5. How hard would it have been to believe the nation would also eventually be judged? Explain.

JUDGEMENT FOR JUDAH (Zephaniah)

Zephaniah 1:4-9

1. What is God planning to do to Judah? What are some images used to describe this judgment?

2. What is Judah guilty of, according to this passage?

3. Do you think it would have been hard for Zephaniah to declare these things, given his connection to the government? Why/why not?

Zephaniah 2:1-3

1. What does Zephaniah urge his countrymen to do?

2. What are some things they should seek?

3. What does Zephaniah say could happen if they do?

GOD'S JUDGMENT TODAY

1. What thoughts about God do you have when you contemplate these passages?

2. Do you think God still judges nations today? How?

3. Do you think God judges individuals like He judges nations? On what basis does He judge individual people?

4. Do you think your life is judgment-proof? How do you know?

Optional Activity (10 minutes)

Break out into smaller groups. One of the following passages will be assigned to your group.

_____ **Romans 6:1-4** _____ **Romans 12:1-2** _____ **Romans 1:16-17**

First, read the passage assigned to your group, then, as a group, study and discuss the scripture. Be ready to report back to the class what your passage says by answering the following questions.

• How would you summarize these verses? _____

• What does your verse say about judgment? _____

• What does your verse say about mercy? _____

• What does your verse say about the way we should live in light of those things? _____

Homework

- Memorize Habakkuk 2:4. Review 1 Peter 2:10, 2 Peter 3:11, and Isaiah 6:8.
- Read the entire books of Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah, if possible in one sitting.
- How full is your faith tank? What needs to change in order to live a more faithful life? Choose one of the following activities (or come up with one of your own) to do this week as a means to increase faithfulness.
 1. Attend a church service or function in addition to what you normally attend.
 2. Read a book on faithfulness, or one that confirms the evidence of creation, of God, or of Christ.
 3. Pray for 30 minutes to 1 hour seeking God's presence.
 4. Make a list of all the reasons you believe in Jesus Christ. Review your list each day this week.

The Prophets – Lesson 5 Workbook

40 Years of Weeping

(Jeremiah and Lamentations)

Jeremiah 1:1-19

1. Who was Jeremiah's dad? _____

2. What did Jeremiah's father do for a living?

3. When did the Word of the Lord come to Jeremiah?

4. When does verse 3 say his ministry ended?

5. Do you sense that Jeremiah is eager, hesitant, or confused by his call? Explain your answer.

6. What two visions does God give Jeremiah to confirm his calling?

7. What do these visions mean, according to the Lord?

JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

___ **Jeremiah 2:31-37** ___ **Jeremiah 4:5-9** ___ **Jeremiah 7:30-8:3**
___ **Jeremiah 15:1-9** ___ **Jeremiah 25:8-11**

1. When you read passages like that, what do you think? _____

2. When you hear those tough words, how do you feel? _____

3. How do you think Jeremiah felt preaching them to a nation to which he belonged? _____

___ **Jeremiah 26:1-11** ___ **Jeremiah 37:11-16** ___ **Jeremiah 38:1-6**

1. Which of these situations is most surprising to you? _____
2. How do you think Jeremiah managed to press on during these times? _____

Jeremiah 20:7-18

1. How do you think Jeremiah feels? What does Jeremiah say that lets you know how he feels?

2. What are some signs that he continues to trust in the Lord?

3. How do you think you would've felt under these same circumstances? Do you think you could've maintained your faith in the Lord? Why or why not?

Lamentations 2:11-22

1. What are some of the most devastating scenes that Jeremiah witnesses?

2. How are the people of Jerusalem reacting to their judgment?

3. According to this passage, how wide-spread is the judgment of God?

Lamentations 3:19-24

1. How do you think Jeremiah musters the strength to say such things?

2. Could you possess hope in a time like the one he endures?

3. What is most surprising to you about Jeremiah's attitude?

JEREMIAH'S MINISTRY

1. Would you consider Jeremiah's ministry a success or a failure? Why? _____

2. What do you think it was that kept Jeremiah going? What made him say, "I can't help but to keep preaching?"

3. How passionate are you about being devoted to God? _____

4. If you could ask Jeremiah one question, what would it be? Why? _____

Jeremiah 20:9

1. How would you rate Jeremiah's passion, according to this text?

2. Are you that passionate about anything? Is there a fire in your bones about anything in your life?

3. What do you think you are most passionate about? How do you know?

4. What would it take for you to be able to say that verse personally—that God’s Word is in you, and if you try to hold it in you’ll suffocate inside?

5. Do you know anyone whose passion reminds you of Jeremiah’s? Who? _____

JEREMIAH’S MINISTRY (Continued)

1. What is a successful ministry? What would’ve made him a “success”? _____

2. Do you think Jeremiah considered himself a success? Why/why not? _____

3. Do you think God considered Jeremiah a success? Why/why not? _____

Optional Activity (10 minutes)

REFLECTIONS:

First consider the following questions:

- Do you think God is calling you to success or faithfulness?
- Jeremiah’s life of faithfulness looked pretty ragged. What does faithfulness in your life look like?
- What is one thing you can be more faithful about this week?

Next, find a partner in the room

Share how you want to be more faithful. Also, pray for each other—that each of you can be faithful, that when trials come you will not abandon your mission, and that God will grow your passion for His Word and the ministry He is giving you.

Help your partner by reminding each other of your decisions sometime this week. Get a phone number if you need to, and be ready to answer to one another next week about this promise you’re making today.

Homework

- Memorize Jeremiah 20:9
- Review previous memory verses: Habakkuk 2:4, 1 Peter 2:10, 2 Peter 3:11, and Isaiah 6:8
- Follow the suggestions in REFLECTIONS above to become more faithful, especially when trials come your way.

The Prophets – Lesson 6 Workbook

Letters from Exile

(Ezekiel)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

1. Ezekiel’s vision is pretty amazing. What happens?

2. Imagine that you are beside Ezekiel as he walks through dry bones talking to them. What would you think of him?

3. What condition are the bones in? How long have they been there?

4. God asks Ezekiel if the bones could live. How does Ezekiel respond?

5. Twice God tells Ezekiel what to say to the bones. Is Ezekiel obedient?

6. What happens each time Ezekiel speaks?

7. Who do the bones represent, according to verse 11?

8. What do the bones and this nation have in common?

9. What does God promise will happen to Israel in verse 12ff?

Ezekiel 37:15-28

1. What does God tell Ezekiel to do next?

2. What does God promise for those two nations?

3. Who will rule over them, according to verse 24?

4. Is this the actual David?

5. Who do you think Ezekiel is prophesying about here?

6. What imagery and language helps us understand this is the Messiah?

7. How does Jesus fulfill these prophecies?

___ **Romans 4:25** ___ **Romans 5:17** ___ **Romans 6:10** ___ **Romans 6:23**
___ **Romans 8:6** ___ **2 Corinthians 4:11** ___ **2 Timothy 1:10**

1. What do these verses say about death? _____

2. What do these verses say about life? _____

3. What do these verses say about the movement from death to life? _____

Ezekiel 37:3

1. Who could not be brought to life by God's forgiveness and His Holy Spirit?

2. What does the theology of regeneration—that the dead can be brought to life—mean to you and your life?

Homework

- Memorize Ezekiel 37:3
- Review previous memory verses: Habakkuk 2:4, 1 Peter 2:10, 2 Peter 3:11, Isaiah 6:8, and Jeremiah 20:9
- Write a short narrative that answers the following questions. Share these thoughts with someone this week.
 1. What was my life like when I was dead to God?
 2. How did I hear Him calling me to a new life?
 3. What was my conversion like?

If you have not already turned your life to Jesus, answer the following questions instead.

1. What is it about my life now that I would like to change?
2. How will I know if Jesus is calling me to a new life?
3. What would it be like if I decided today to give my life to Jesus?

The Prophets – Lesson 7 Workbook

Faithfulness Despite Circumstances

(Daniel)

FAITHFULNESS PRODUCES BLESSINGS

Daniel 1:1-20

1. What does the king give to the four that they refuse?

2. Why does the king's official fear this situation?

3. What happens as a result of this test?

Daniel 3:1-16

1. What were all the people commanded to do in this passage, and what was the punishment for refusing?

2. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do?

Daniel 3:17-27

1. What is the response of these men in verses 16-18?

2. In verse 19, what do we learn about the king's attitude toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

3. When the king looked, what did he see?

4. What did Nebuchadnezzar do next?

5. What were some observations about the men who came out of the furnace in verse 27?

Daniel 6:1-28

1. What decree does Darius issue, and what was the punishment for refusing to obey?

2. What does Daniel do in response?

3. In what way was the lions' den sealed?

4. Darius is troubled. How does he respond that night?

5. What does Daniel say about his condition?

6. For what reason does Daniel mention that he was unharmed?

7. What is Darius's response?

LACK OF FAITHFULNESS RESULTS IN JUDGMENT

Daniel 5:22-30

1. What indictment does Daniel bring against Belshazzar in verses 22-23?

2. What does Daniel promise will occur?

3. What happens that very night?

<p style="text-align: center;">THREE CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Draw a Line in the Sand Early2. Trust God Even in Impossible Circumstances3. Turn Your Devotion into Evangelism

Draw a Line in the Sand Early

1. What is it that you believe about God? Can you even articulate it? Try.

2. For what will you compromise your faith? Relationships? Popularity and power? Money? What's more important to you than Christ? Be honest!

3. Can you think of a few times when you've crossed the line and shouldn't have? What can you do differently next time?

Trust God Even in Impossible Circumstances

1. Do you believe there is any situation where God cannot deliver His people or any situation in your life that He cannot help you with?

2. Why might God choose not to deliver those who follow Him?

3. What does it take to trust God in the midst of fear?

4. How does Psalm 46:1 relate to what we're talking about?

Turn Your Devotion into Evangelism

1. Can you think of anyone in your life that has gone through a difficult circumstance and turned it into a positive? Who? How?

2. How did Daniel and the others do this?

3. Why do you think experiences in which we are tested and God is glorified can often be turned into evangelism?

4. How can you use your current circumstances to glorify God?

5. If you can change your life (repenting of sin, turning to God) how will it produce more Christ followers around you?

Homework

- Review previous memory verses: Ezekiel 37:3, Habakkuk 2:4, 1 Peter 2:10, 2 Peter 3:11, Isaiah 6:8, Jeremiah 20:9
- Reflect upon the three challenges from this lesson. How can you make positive life changes in these areas?
- Memorize Matthew 15:16

The Prophets – Lesson 8 Workbook

Make Room For Jesus

(Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi)

HAGGAI - My House is Coming (Jesus as Temple)

Haggai 1:1-15

1. What does God send Haggai to say?

2. Why was it wrong for the people to have not worked on the temple?

3. What was the result?

4. How did the people respond?

Haggai 2:6-9

1. What does God promise to do in "a little while"?

2. There's little doubt that, in some ways, God is saying the temple will be returned to great physical splendor. How do we know this based on verses 7-8?

3. What do you think verse 9 refers to? Why do you think that?

Haggai 2:20-23

1. What does God promise to do with Zerubbabel in verse 23?

2. Does anyone know what a signet ring is?

3. Do you have any idea what this might mean?

John 2:19-22

1. Why do you think Jesus associates His own body with the temple?

2. In what ways was the temple a place of worship? In what ways is the body of Christ?

3. What does John say about the disciples believing in all this?

ZECHARIAH - My King is Coming (Jesus as Messiah)

Zechariah 1:1-6

1. What is Zechariah's basic message for the people?

Zechariah 9:9-17

Salvation Words	Kingdom Words

John 12:12-15

1. How is Jesus treated in this passage?

2. What do the people cry out to Him?

3. What does Jesus do?

4. What prophesy is quoted in John's Gospel?

MALACHI - My Word is Coming (Jesus as Messenger)

Malachi 3:1-5

1. Which part of verse 1 do you think refers to John the Baptist?

2. Which part of verse 1 do you think refers to Jesus?

3. Read the rest of this passage. What will the messenger do?

Matthew 3:1-3 and 11-12

1. What is John the Baptist's purpose, according to Matthew 3:3?

2. Which prophet does he quote? _____

3. In verses 11-12, how does John the Baptist describe Jesus' purpose?

4. How do these phrases match with Malachi's?

Workbook Activity
Real Soul Searching

1. We all have areas of our life where we need to make room for Jesus? How can we go about doing that?

2. What does it really look like to have Jesus at the center of everything we do?

3. What accountability do we need to have in place to make sure we remain surrendered to the Lord?

4. What challenges can we expect people in the Old Testament experienced?

5. What can we learn from our ancient examples when these difficulties come?

Homework

- Memorize Zechariah 1:3
- Relate 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 to the Zechariah's message. What does it say about repentance.
- Review what you wrote down during the "Real Soul Searching" activity completed during class. Make an effort this week to give God free reign over those special guarded areas of your life.