

/We will now begin the fourth lecture on Minor Prophets. /At this time we will study the book of Nahum. /The name of the book was taken after the name of the prophet, Nahum. /Nahum means “Comforter.” /It means “one who comforts.”

/Thus, the book of Nahum was written to comfort the Israelites who were taken captive to Assyria. /Nahum prophesied that Assyria would be destroyed. /In verse 1, it says Nahum was an Elkoshite.

/Elkosh was located in the region of Galilee. /To briefly summarize the book, chapter 1 speaks about God who annihilates his oppressors. /Thus, Nahum proclaims about the destruction of Nineveh. /Chapter 2 tells of the news about conquering Nineveh.

/It says that Nineveh would fall. /In chapter 3, Nahum teaches about the inevitability and appropriateness of the destruction of Nineveh. /This book was written from 686 BC to 656 BC. /The book of Nahum contradicts the book of Jonah.

/The book of Jonah prophesies about the salvation of Nineveh. /However, the book of Nahum prophesies about the destruction of Nineveh. /Jonah taught about God’s mercy. /Yet, Nahum taught about God’s justice and majesty.

/The book of Nahum was recorded about a hundred years after the book of Jonah was recorded. /Nineveh repented through Jonah. /Nineveh repented through Jonah. /Thus, they received salvation. /However, they were once again filled with sin a hundred years later. /Therefore, God prophesied about the destruction of Nineveh through Nahum.

/We will now look at the important contents of chapter 1. /The title of chapter 1 is, “Warning About Nineveh.” /First, the introduction. /Verse 1. /Second, a wrathful and avenging God. /Verses 2-6.

/Third, God who protects his people and judges the wicked. /Verses 7-14. /Fourth, those who bring good news will stand on mountains. /Verse 15.

/Now we will look at the important contents of chapter 2. /The title of chapter 2 is, “Assyria is Attacked.” /First, the army that attacks Nineveh. /Verses 1-7.

/Second, the people of Nineveh will run away and they will be plundered. /Verses 8-10. /Third, the Lord will destroy the strong in Nineveh. /Verses 11-13.

/Next, we will look at the important contents of chapter 3. /The title of chapter 3 is, “The Fall of Nineveh.” /First, Nineveh’s sins and its punishment. /Verses 1-7. /Second, the fall of Nineveh. /Verses 8-11. /Third, Nineveh will be too weak to defend themselves. /Verses 12-17. /Fourth, Assyria’s wound that no one can heal. /Verses 18-19.

/Now we will move on to the book of Habakkuk. /We will continue the lecture with Habakkuk. /Habakkuk was a prophet during the time of Josiah. /The name Habakkuk means, “He that embraces.” /The book of Habakkuk was written by the prophet

Habakkuk.

/It was written between 625 BC and 608 BC. /At that time, Judah in the south was about to be destroyed. /We will now look at the contents of chapters 1 and 2. /The prophet and God conversed with each other.

/They talked about God's judgment of the corrupted nation of Judah. /God would judge Judah through the Chaldeans. /However, God says that the Chaldeans would eventually be destroyed as a result of their arrogance. /It teaches that the wicked will be destroyed, and the righteous will flourish.

/Chapter 3 tells about the judgment of the Chaldeans. /The Lord will judge the wicked. /Thus, chapter 3 is a poetic praise about God.

/We will now begin the lecture on Habakkuk chapter 1. /The title of chapter 1 is "Habakkuk's Complaint." /First, the prophet complains about the corruption of the people of Judah. /Verses 1-4. /Second, God will punish those who escaped through the Chaldeans. /Verses 5-11.

/Third, questions about the Chaldeans' attack on Judah. /Verses 12-17. /Habakkuk asked why God would punish Judah through the Chaldeans when the Chaldeans were more wicked than Judah.

/Read verse 1. /The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received.

/The prophet Habakkuk was a prophet from 625 BC to 608 BC. /He prophesied during the year of King Josiah. /Habakkuk prophesied until right before Babylon was destroyed.

/Verses 2-3. /How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.

/The prophet Habakkuk cried out and prayed before God. /The people of Judah were corrupted. /They were violent, unjust, and sinful.

/Thus, the people of Judah became very corrupted people. /In those times, the prophet Habakkuk prayed to God that he would save the people of Judah from their sins.

/Verse 4. /Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

/The people of Judah did not pay attention to God's word. /They did not obey. /They forsook God's word, and they were unjust. /Therefore, the prophet Habakkuk cried out before God for the people of Judah.

/However, God did not answer him right away. /Hence, the prophet Habakkuk became frustrated.

/Verse 5. /"Look at the nations and watch-- and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

/God then answered the prayer of the prophet Habakkuk. /God answered that he would send the ruthless army of the Chaldeans to judge the corrupted people of Judah. /God judges by sending foreign nations in any generation whose religion becomes corrupted.

/Verse 6. /I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own.

/God would raise up the Chaldeans to strike Judah. /The Chaldeans were ruthless, violent, and frightening people. /Their soldiers would come as fast as eagles, and they would ruthlessly torment the people of Judah.

/The Chaldean soldiers would unrelentingly kill the people of Judah. /Then they would take many of them captive to Babylon.

/Verse 10. /They deride kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; they build earthen ramps and capture them.

/The kings, rulers, and cities would all fall before the Babylonian army. /God would destroy the king of Babylon to destroy even all the fortified cities.

/Verse 11. /Then they sweep past like the wind and go on-- guilty men, whose own strength is their god."

/The Chaldeans relied on their own strength like it was their god. /Babylon would sin by excessively tormenting other nations. /God told Babylon to lightly strike Judah, but Babylon would ruthlessly strike Judah.

/Babylon was arrogant and they slaughtered the people of Judah. /Zechariah 1:15. /Therefore, God would pour out his wrath on Babylon and judge them.

/Verse 12. /O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish.

/God is everlasting. /God chooses his people and saves them. /God did not completely destroy the Israelites. /God temporarily put them in Babylon's hands. /God wanted to build up the Israelites through Babylon.

/Verse 13. /Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those

more righteous than themselves?

/The Babylonians were liars. /The “righteous” here are the people of Judah. /Even though the people of Judah sinned, they were still more righteous than the Babylonians. /The Babylonians were more wicked and more corrupted than the people of Judah.

/The Babylonians dragged the people of Judah away. /They would be dragged away like fish in nets. /They would be dragged away like insects.

/Verse 15. /The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices and is glad.

/Here, Habakkuk prophesies that the Babylonian army would take Judah captive.

/Verse 17. /Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy?

/The emptying of the net indicates that the Babylonian army would invade and plunder Judah. /The Babylonians would ruthlessly take the people of Judah. /Then the prophet Habakkuk asked God if the actions of the Babylonians were right.

/How could the wicked nation of Babylon gain more power? /How come the wicked prosper? /Habakkuk questioned God. /Then God answered him in chapter 2.

/We will now begin with chapter 2. /The title of chapter 2 is “Answer.”

/First, Habakkuk waits for God’s answer on the ramparts. /Verse 1. /Second, God’s answer and delivery. Verses 2-3. /Third, the righteous will live by faith. /Verse 4. /Fourth, Babylon’s invasion and the nations’ distress. /Verses 5-8. /Fifth, Babylon will be destroyed. /Verses 9-20.

/Read verse 1. /I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

/Prophets are the people’s watchmen. /Watchmen must remain awake. /Watchmen must make sure that the enemies do not invade. /Thus, pastors must be awake and make sure that the devil does not invade the church.

/We must always build up the truth. /Now, God answered the prophet Habakkuk’s question. /In 1:12, the prophet Habakkuk asked God a question. /The people of Judah were indeed sinners.

/However, what was God’s reason for judging the people of Judah through the Chaldeans, who were even more wicked than them? /The prophet Habakkuk asked God this question and waited for God’s answer.

/Verse 2. /Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on

tablets so that a herald may run with it.

/The “revelation” is God’s word of prophecy. /God said, “make it plain on tablets.” /This meant that Habakkuk was to write down God’s word. /He was to deliver God’s word for people to easily understand.

/Then God’s word was to be remembered even when they ran. /We must engrave God’s word onto our hearts. /We must hear God’s word and understand. /Then we must preach it. /1 Corinthians 14:8.

/Verse 3. /For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

/God’s word has an appointed time. /Therefore, it will be fulfilled in God’s time. /God’s word will ultimately not prove false. /We must believe that God’s word will be fulfilled, and we must be prepared. /Matthew 24:48-51.

/Verse 4. /"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright-- but the righteous will live by his faith--

/The hearts of the Babylonians were arrogant. /The Babylonians were not upright in heart. /The Babylonians invaded and ruthlessly killed the people of Judah. /Judah was oppressed.

/Judah suffered. /However, the people of Judah would live by faith. /God said, “but the righteous will live by his faith.” /This meant that they would be sealed with faith. /Romans 1:17. /Galatians 3:11. /Hebrews 10:38.

/People would be made righteous by faith. /Martin Luther, a religious reformer, understood the truth of Romans 1:17. /Man is not saved by actions, but is saved by faith in Jesus.

/How were people saved in the Old Testament times? /They looked upon the coming of Jesus and were saved by faith in Jesus. /How are people saved in the New Testament times? /They are saved through faith in Jesus who had already come. /Here it says that the righteous will live by faith.

/No matter how much the Babylonians tormented Israel and Judah, Babylon would ultimately be destroyed. /God would surely save Judah. /God’s word is always fulfilled.

/In those times, they believed that Jesus Christ would surely come. /Today, we believe that Jesus will surely return. /This is how believers live by faith. /Rich men live by money.

/Scholars live by their studies. /Politicians live by politics, /technicians live by technology, /athletes live by their choice of sport. /However, we believers must live by

faith in Jesus.

/Verse 5. /indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples.

/The Babylonians were greedy and self-indulgent. /They were arrogant and invaded other nations. /They enjoyed drinking. /They were indulged in the things of the world. /We must get rid of material greed, sexual desires, and selfishness. /We must be content with what we have. /1 Timothy 6:8.

/Verse 6. /"Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying, "'Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on?'

/There would come a time when the nations that were invaded by Babylon would ridicule Babylon. /The Babylonians invaded other nations. /They took away their things. /However, Babylon would ultimately be destroyed. /Now, there would be a day when the nations would take back what the Babylonians took from them.

/Verse 8. /Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you. For you have shed man's blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

/Babylon invaded and plundered many nations. /However, when the time comes, Babylon would be invaded and plundered by other nations. /The arrogant will be ruined. /Those who take from other will one day have things taken from them. /Those who kill with the sword will die by the sword.

/Verse 9. /"Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin!

/Babylon built high walls around their city and made a place of refuge. /They installed the newest weapons and built fortresses. /They unjustly took things from others. /Therefore, God would ultimately destroy Babylon.

/Verse 11. /The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it.

/Babylon unjustly conquered other nations. /Then Babylon built their own city and walls. /However, there would come a time when the stones of the wall would cry out.

/Whoever unjustly takes from others will face ruin. /They will have their things taken away from them. /James 5:2-6.

/Verse 12. /"Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by

crime!

/Now, Babylon would be judged before God. /Babylon would be burned down. /God is a just God. /God's glory would be revealed. /Babylon would receive judgment as a result of their sins, and our God would receive all the glory. /Many people would recognize the power of God and glorify God.

/Verse 15. /"Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors, pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk, so that he can gaze on their naked bodies.

/Babylon bought officials of other nations with bribes. /Babylon conquered many nations. /Babylon made other nations drunk. /However, Babylon would ultimately face woe.

/In Revelation 17, the adulteress made the kings of the world drunk. /The kings of the world become drunk in the culture of humanism. /We must not get drunk from this world.

/Verse 16. /You will be filled with shame instead of glory. Now it is your turn! Drink and be exposed! The cup from the LORD's right hand is coming around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory.

/The things that Babylon took from others would be taken away from them. /Babylon would be destroyed and be shamed. /They would pay for their wrongdoings against others. /Those who shed the blood of others would shed their own blood. /Whoever sins later pays for their sins.

/Verse 18. /"Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak.

/One reason for Babylon's destruction was that they served idols. /Idols are fake. /Idols teach lies. /Those who rely on idols because as pathetic as the idols. /Those who worship idols become foolish like idols.

/Verse 20. /But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."

/The Lord is in his holy temple. /God is in the spiritual world. /Therefore, those who go before God will be blessed. /It says, "let all the earth be silent before him." /This means that there will be God's judgment.

/Therefore, we must fear God and serve him with trembling hearts. /We must look upon the Lord and live in the Lord. /We must get rid of our sins. /When we go forward in sins, God will send other nations to discipline us.

/God disciplines his children. /Then when believers repent, God forgives them and blesses them.

/We will now continue with chapter 3. /The title of chapter 3 is "Wrath and Mercy."

/First, Habakkuk hears the word of the Lord and prays. /Verses 1-2. /Second, Habakkuk has faith and prays that God would judge the enemies and save the believers. Verses 3-15. /Third, though the things of the world are no more, he will rejoice in the Lord. /Verses 16-19.

/Read verse 1. /A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. On shigionoth.

/Chapter 3 is the prophet Habakkuk's prayer. /"Shigionoth" is the name of a tune. /It is a fast-paced melody. /It is a tune with changes in rhythm.

/Verse 2. /LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

/Now, the people of Judah would sin, and Babylon would invade. /Then God would judge Babylon in the end. /The prophet Habakkuk prayed about this before God.

/He prayed that the deeds of the Lord would be renewed. /Habakkuk prayed that they would be quickly redeemed. /He prayed that God's kingdom would quickly take place. /He prayed that God would remember mercy in his wrath.

/The Israelites sinned, but the prophet asked God for mercy. /God is merciful even in his wrath. /Therefore, God does not let his people be completely destroyed. /When we recognize our sins and repent, God will forgive us.

/Verse 3. /God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth.

/Teman and Mount Paran are lands in Edom. /Deuteronomy 33:2 /When God came down on Mount Sinai, God's glory shone to far places. /God's glory shined to the ends of the earth when the Israelites came out of Egypt. /"Selah" is resting mark in a song.

/Verse 4. /His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.

/His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden." /God's splendor would powerfully shine.

/Verse 5. /Plague went before him; pestilence followed his steps.

/This indicates God's majesty and judgment. /God sent ten plagues to Egypt. /Exodus 9:13-25.

/Verse 6. /He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed. His ways are eternal.

/God is just. /God judges the sinners. /Thus, God does not let sin be. /The powers of the



world will crumble.

/Verse 7. /I saw the tents of Cushan in distress, the dwellings of Midian in anguish.

/“Cushan” refers to King Cushan-Rishathaim of Mesopotamia. /Judges 3:8. /Othniel, a judge, overthrew Cushan. /They also defeated the Midianites through Gideon. /In this way, God helps his people defeat even the strongest enemies.

/Verse 8. /Were you angry with the rivers, O LORD? Was your wrath against the streams? Did you rage against the sea when you rode with your horses and your victorious chariots?

/“When you rode with your horses” meant that God would destroy the enemies through war. /It says, “Was your wrath against the streams?”

/This meant that God would strike the Nile River. /The “sea” here indicates the Red Sea. /God split open the Red Sea.

/Verse 10. /the mountains saw you and writhed. Torrents of water swept by; the deep roared and lifted its waves on high.

/This tells us about God’s majesty. /When God commanded, the Red Sea split open. /When God commanded, the water in the Jordan River stopped flowing. /Joshua 3:15.

/Verse 11. /Sun and moon stood still in the heavens at the glint of your flying arrows, at the lightning of your flashing spear.

/There was a time when the sun and moon stood still in Joshua’s time. /Joshua 10:12-14.

/Verse 12. /In wrath you strode through the earth and in anger you threshed the nations.

/God would destroy the natives of Canaan in his wrath.

/In verse 13, it says that God would save his anointed one. /The anointed refer to the believers. /God would strike the heads of the wicked. /God would save his people and destroy the wicked.

/Verse 16. /I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us.

/It says that the day of calamity would come. /The prophet Habakkuk prayed because he heard that the day of calamity would come.

/He prayed because the enemies were merciless, and the believers would face great hardships. /Jesus also prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. /Luke 22:43-44.

/We must not be afraid of hardships. /Daniel 6:10. /Acts 14:22. /We must live with the life of Jesus. /Philippians 1:21.

/Verses 17-18. /Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

/When believers face great hardships, the enemies would persecute believers. /The enemies would take the possessions of the believers. /Still, the believers would rejoice in God. /This is true faith.

/True faith is not about being happy when things go well. /We must believe that God will save us even if all the things of the world disappear. /We must have faith like that of Job. /Job 1:13. /We must rejoice in Christ. /Matthew 6:33. /Philippians 4:12.

/We must live in spirit. /We live by God, whether we have many things in the world or don't. /We must succeed in keeping our faith.

/Verse 19. /The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

/Believers must make God their strength, even in the midst of hardships and persecutions. /Psalm 18:1. /We must hope in the Lord. /Here it says, "he makes my feet like the feet of a deer."

/Deer like to run around in high places. /Deer run with strength and speed in the mountains. /We must run forward by relying on God. /2 Samuel 22:34. /Those who live by faith must know how to rejoice even in times of hardships.

/Our faith must increase daily. /Psalm 18:33 /Colossians 3:1 /Here, the "director of music" is one who is like a conductor.

/Here we will conclude the fourth lecture on Minor Prophets. /Thank you.