

**WEEK 8: JONAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, AND ZEPHANIAH**  
**DAY 1: JONAH WAS IN SOME WAYS LIKE JESUS**

1. Last week we studied the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Obadiah. This week we will study more of the Little Prophets. We will study Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah.

Can you still say the names of the Little Prophets? \_\_\_\_\_

Say them to yourself without looking at the book.

Who did Obadiah say would be destroyed? \_\_\_\_\_

From the book of Obadiah, what should we teach our people about the sins which they do today?  
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2. Look in the front of your Bible to see if you said the Little Prophets right. Obadiah was the prophet who said that Edom would be destroyed. From this book we should teach our people that our sins will come back to punish us.

Today let us look at the book of Jonah. In some ways Jonah was like Jesus. But in other ways he was not. This is what we will learn:

- (1) Jonah was not like Christ when he ran away from God's work.
- (2) Jonah was like Christ when he was in the fish for three days.

Take your Bible now and read Jonah 1:1 to 3.

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3. Jonah, like Obadiah, had a message for Gentile people. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Nineveh was the main city for the Gentile nation of Assyria. The people of Assyria were enemies of Israel. Perhaps Jonah was glad when God said that he would destroy Nineveh. But then God said that Jonah should go and preach to Nineveh. Jonah was not happy about this.

What did Jonah do when God gave him this work to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. He ran away. He tried to get away from God's voice. God wanted someone to preach to Nineveh. This city was very wicked. But no one had ever warned them about judgment from God. There were many people in this city. Many of them were children who did not know their right hand from their left. God wanted to give all of them a chance to repent.

Whom did God want to send to preach to Nineveh? \_\_\_\_\_

5. God wanted to send Jonah. We sometimes hear that Jonah was a picture of Jesus in his death. This is true. Jesus himself said it. But Jonah was not like Jesus when God told him to go to Nineveh. He refused to go until God sent much trouble to him. But when Jesus was on earth he said, "Not my will, but thine be done."

When Jonah ran away from the work God gave him, who was he not like?

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6. He was not like Jesus. Jonah was glad when God said he would destroy Nineveh. But he did not want to go and tell them. He decided to leave the work of a prophet and go somewhere else.

Jonah 1:3:

But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

How was Jonah different from Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Jonah ran away from God's work. Jesus did not run away. In his book Jonah says that he tried to run away from the presence of the Lord. But God knew where Jonah was and what he was doing. He sent a storm while Jonah was in the ship. The other men threw Jonah into the water. But God sent a big fish to swallow him. Sometimes God sends trouble to make us willing to obey him. This is what he did with Jonah.

Can a person get away from the presence of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. We cannot get away from God's presence. We may try to run away but God knows where we are. It is important that we obey whatever God tells us to do. If we are to be men of God, we must obey him. Jonah was a great prophet among his own people. But when God sent him to a different nation, he refused to go. Perhaps you have known what God wanted you to do, but you also refused to do it.

In what way was Jonah not like Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. He ran away from God's work. He refused to do what God told him to do. But God was not finished with Jonah. He still wanted him to be a picture of Christ. So God sent a fish to swallow him. Jonah prayed inside the fish. After three days, the fish vomitted up Jonah on the shore. Jesus took this story and used it as a picture of his own death.

Matthew 12:40:

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

At what time can we say Jesus was in the heart of the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Jesus was in the earth when he was dead for three days. Jonah in the big fish was a prophecy of Jesus in death. The prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was crucified and put into the grave. After a time, God spoke to the fish and it took Jonah to dry land. When God spoke, the fish could not keep Jonah any longer.

Jonah 2:6:

. . . thou didst bring up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.

For how long was Jonah in the fish, as Christ would be in the grave? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. He was there for three days. But God was taking care of him. David also wrote a prophecy about the death of Christ. And Peter used his words on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:24-28:

But God raised him up having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, . . . For thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades (or death), nor let thy Holy One see corruption (or rotting).

When Jonah was in the fish for three days, of what did this prophesy? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. It showed that Christ would die. Jonah's life was a prophecy about Christ. The fish put Jonah on dry land. Then Jonah went where God told him to go. He went to preach to Nineveh and the people repented. They were sorry for their great sins. And God forgave them. He did not have to destroy them as he said he would. It is wonderful that Jonah was saved from the fish. But it is more wonderful that Christ rose from the dead. These things do not happen by themselves.

Whose power brought Jonah from the fish and Jesus from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_  
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13. It was God's power which did this. God wants to save people. He wanted to save the people of Nineveh and he wants to save people today.

When was Jonah's life a prophecy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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14. His life was a prophecy when he was in the fish for three days. But Jonah was not always like Christ.

When was Jonah not like Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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15. Jonah was not like Christ when he ran away from God's work. God sent Jonah to Nineveh. Through his preaching the people were saved. Their city was not destroyed at that time. Jonah went through some hard things. It would have been easier if he had obeyed God from the beginning.

When was Jonah's life a prophecy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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16. Jonah's life was a prophecy when he was in the fish for three days. Jesus used the book of Jonah for teaching. You can also use this book in this way. You can teach your people how we must obey God. We should obey him even when he tells us things we do not want to do. You can teach from this book that God loves all people and wants them to repent. You can teach about the power of God which brought Jonah from the fish and Christ from the dead. Teach your people that this power will work in their lives as they obey God.

Which of these teachings do your people need most at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. We will talk about this in class.

When was Jonah not like Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

When was Jonah's life a prophecy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 8: JONAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, AND ZEPHANIAH**  
**DAY 2: MICAH WROTE THAT JESUS WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM**

1. We are studying the Little Prophets. The prophets in the Old Testament gave many prophecies for their own time. They also gave prophecies about Christ and future times.

When was Jonah not like Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

When was Jonah's life a prophecy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Jonah was not like Christ when he ran away from God's work. But his life was a prophecy when he was in the fish for three days.

Today we will study the book of Micah. Micah also prophesied about Christ. He told where Christ would be born. If you went to the land of Israel today, you could see the town of Bethlehem. Many of us know that this is where Jesus was born. But we do not know the name of the prophet who told us he would be born there. This is what we will learn today.

- (1) Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem.
- (2) Israel needed to know this so they could know which person was Christ.

Many weeks ago we learned that one of the prophets gave many prophecies about Christ. He showed that Christ would come as Saviour, and then as king, and then would set up his kingdom on earth. Which prophet said these things?

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3. It was Isaiah who prophesied these things. Isaiah and Micah were prophesying at the same time. Both of them prophesied about Jesus. But Micah told something which no other prophet did. Isaiah said that Christ would be born of a virgin girl. But Micah prophesied something else about his birth.

Where did Micah say that Christ would be born? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Micah prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. He also gave prophecies of judgment for Israel and Judah. But his most important prophecy is the name of the town where Christ would be born.

You remember that when Jesus was born, wise men came looking for him. They did not know where to find him. Those who knew the prophecies told them Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. They told them the words from Micah.

Take your Bible now and read Micah 5:2 to 4. With your pencil draw lines under the words of verse 2.

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5. If you have Micah 5:2 marked in your Bible, it will help you to remember Micah's prophecy. God wanted Israel to know which person was Christ. He wanted them to know Christ when he came. They should know the word of God through the prophets. Then they would know when God fulfilled his word. They would know that God keeps his promises.

What did Micah prophesy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. He prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. He also prophesied that judgment was coming to Israel and to Judah. This prophet preached to both of these parts of the country. Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. This city was in Judah, but the coming of Christ was not just for Judah. It was for the northern tribes of Israel too. Samaria was the big city of Israel. Jerusalem was the big city of Judah. The prophet spoke against the evil of both of these cities.

Micah 1:1:

The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth . . . which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

Who told both Israel and Judah that Christ would be born in Bethlehem?  
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7. Micah preached to both Israel and Judah. The tribes had divided into two parts many years before. But God was still speaking to both of them. He would send Christ to both of them.

What did Micah prophesy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. Micah prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. How did he know this? Only God could show him. Micah gave his prophecy about 700 years before it was fulfilled. He could not know this prophecy by himself.

God gave his word to the prophets. They wrote it down. But when Jesus was born many of the people did not know him. They did not know God's word. If they had known God's word, they would have known which person was Christ.

What people needed to know where Jesus would be born? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. The people of Israel needed to know this. It was for the tribes of Israel and Judah. When Micah gave this prophecy, the people were worshipping idols. The rulers were cheating the people. The false prophets were not giving the people the word of God. The priests were teaching only for money.

Micah told them that God would punish them for their sin. He would send them out of their countries. They would be bound in other lands for many years. But God would send a Saviour who would bring them back to their land. He would bring them back to follow God. This Saviour would be born in Bethlehem.

Who was the coming Saviour about whom Israel needed to know? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. This was Christ. Micah prophesied that he would come. Micah said that he would be a ruler and a shepherd.

Micah 5:2-4:

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

What prophecy of Micah would help the people of Israel know which person was Christ?

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11. This was the prophecy that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Micah said that Jesus would be a ruler and a shepherd. When Jesus died on the cross, he was the shepherd giving his life for the sheep. When Christ returns, he will be the ruler of his people.

Many prophecies about Christ are written in the Old Testament. But if people do not know the prophecies, they do not know what God has planned. They do not know when the prophecies are fulfilled. Most of the people of Israel did not know the prophecies. They did not know Christ when he came.

Why was it important for the people of Israel to know where Jesus would be born?

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12. It was important so they would know which person was Christ. There are many prophecies about Christ in the Old Testament. We need to know them. We need to see how some have been fulfilled. We need to know others which are still coming so we can be ready for them.

Why did many people of Israel not know Christ when he came? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. They did not know the prophecies. They did not know that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. They did not know he would be crucified. They did not know he would rise again.

Why was it important for the people of Israel to know this? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. It was important for the people of Israel so they would know which person was Christ.

What did Micah prophesy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. He prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. The people of Israel needed to know this. Our people need to know the prophecies too. They need to know the word of God well. If they do not know what God is saying, they cannot obey him. They cannot be ready for the things he has planned.

You are one of God's preachers for today. It is your work to tell people what God wants them to know and do. Do not fail in this work.

Think about these questions, but do not write any answers. We will talk about them in class. Do you and other leaders in your church know God's word very well? Besides studying in this class, what could you do to know God's word better?

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16. What did Micah prophesy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it important for the people of Israel to know this? \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 8: JONAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, AND ZEPHANIAH  
DAY 3: NAHUM PROPHESED THE DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH**

1. God was faithful in giving his word through the prophets. He spoke through the books of the Big Prophets and the Little Prophets.

Say the names of the Little Prophets to yourself.

What did Micah prophesy about Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Why was it important for the people of Israel to know this? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Look in the front of your Bible to see if you said the Little Prophets right. Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. It was important for Israel to know this so they would know Jesus when he came.

Today we will study the book of Nahum. It is a short book. That is why it is called a Little Prophet. Nahum had a message for the city of Nineveh. This is what we will learn today: Nahum prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed.

You remember that another prophet gave God's message to Nineveh. Who preached to the people of Nineveh and they repented?  
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3. It was Jonah. The people were sorry for their sins and stopped them. But in the time of Nahum, 150 years had passed since Jonah preached in Nineveh. The people who had repented were dead. Their children were in sin again. They had taken the northern tribes of Israel. They had been very hard and tried to kill all of them. Now they wanted to do the same with the southern kingdom of Judah. God sent Nahum to tell them that destruction was coming.

Were the people of Nineveh still following God? \_\_\_\_\_

Take your Bible now and read Nahum 1:1 to 3.

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4. The people of Nineveh were no longer following God. They had turned away from him. God cannot overlook sin. He must punish it. He had to destroy Nineveh for the bad things she was doing. God needed someone to tell the people this prophecy. Nahum was the man God found. Nahum was not afraid to speak God's words. God had given the people of Nineveh time to repent and live for him. But they had refused.

What did Nahum prophesy about Nineveh? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. He prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed. Nineveh had heard God's word from Jonah. They repented, but they did not continue in God's way. They turned from God. They even planned evil against the Lord. There was no reason for God to keep them any longer.

Nahum 1:9:

What do you plot (or plan) against the Lord? He will make a full end; he will not take vengeance (or punishment) twice on his foes.

Who prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Nahum prophesied this. Nineveh was the main city of Assyria. God used Assyria to punish Israel for her sins. But Assyria did not stop when God told them. They tried to kill all the people of Israel. They also worshipped other gods. Nahum preached that God is a jealous God. Perhaps he used these words from Joshua.

Joshua 24:19-20:

You cannot serve the Lord; for he is a holy God; he is a jealous God. . . . If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you after having done you good.

What did Nahum prophesy? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Nahum prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed. God had good reasons for doing this. One reason was that they tried to kill all the people of Israel. There was also another reason.

Nahum 1:14:

The Lord has given commandment about you; "No more shall your name be perpetuated (or carried on); from the house of your gods I will cut off the graven image and the molten image. I will make your grave, for you are vile (or very wicked).

From this verse, write another reason why God would destroy Nineveh.

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8. You could say that they were very wicked, or they worshipped idols. We serve a holy and jealous God. God will not agree for people to serve other gods. Sometimes people tell us they have repented and want to be Christians. But they go back and worship idols or the ancestors or wear charms. Others love money or possessions or other things of this world. These things become their gods. God sees what they have done. Some day he will punish them for serving other gods.

Matthew 6:24:

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted (or faithful) to the one and despise (or think little of) the other.

Could the Assyrians serve God and other things at the same time? \_\_\_\_\_

Can we serve God and other things at the same time? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. No one can do this. We may try, but if we serve other things, we cannot serve God. We must choose to serve God or to serve other gods. The people Micah preached to did not choose to serve God. They served and worshipped idols. But that is not the only reason God would destroy them. They were against God's people.

Who did Nahum say would be destroyed? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. It was Nineveh. This was a great city. It ruled over many nations. It was rich in silver and gold. But God must judge Nineveh. He said he would destroy her with a flood. Later her enemies built a dam on the river. Then sent all the water of the river into the city. The city was destroyed as God said.

Nahum 1:8:

But with an overwhelming flood he (God) will make a full end of his adversaries (or enemies).

Nineveh was destroyed because she worshipped idols. What is another reason why she was destroyed?

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11. Nineveh was destroyed because she was very wicked. She was against God's people. The city was completely broken down. Nothing was left. The place where it was is like a desert now. For many years people could not even find it. Some people thought that the Bible and other books which talk about Nineveh were not true. But then a man found big piles of earth at one place on the Tigris River. He dug deep into the earth. Here he found parts of the broken houses of the kings of Assyria. He also found writings which tell about these kings and their city of Nineveh.

What did Nahum prophesy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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12. Nahum prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed. It happened just as God said. God warns people about what will happen. We have his word in the Bible today.

Write some things which you can teach your people from the book of Nahum.

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13. We will talk about this in class.

What did Nahum prophesy? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**WEEK 8: JONAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, AND ZEPHANIAH**  
**DAY 4: HABAKKUK PROPHESED THAT THE GOOD MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH**

1. What did Nahum prophesy? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Nahum prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed. This week we are studying five of the Little Prophets. Jonah and Nahum prophesied to a Gentile nation. But Micah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah prophesied to the people of Israel. Today we will study the prophecies of Habakkuk. Habakkuk had many questions and doubts about what God was doing. He did not doubt the truth of God's word. But he could not understand why God was doing some things.

Do you ever have a hard time understanding what God is doing? \_\_\_\_\_

3. God's people sometimes think about what God is doing. They cannot understand the way in which he works. Sometimes they feel like asking God questions. God allowed Habakkuk to ask questions. Then God answered him. The book of Habakkuk is the prophet's conversation with God. This is what we will learn from it.

- (1) Habakkuk asked: Why do you let the people of Judah live in sin? God answered: They will be punished.
- (2) Habakkuk asked: Will you let a nation which is worse than Judah punish her? God answered: Babylon also will be punished.
- (3) Habakkuk's great message was: The good man shall live by faith.

Take your Bible now and read Habakkuk 1:1 to 4.

4. Habakkuk was a man who followed God. He wanted his people to follow God too. Instead, the people of Judah were deep in sin. All around him Habakkuk saw people cheating and fighting and killing. It seemed that God did not care about these things. He asked God why he allowed people to go on in sin.

We can ask this question today. Around us are people in sin. They seem to be happy. They get rich and go on living in sin.

As we learned, what does God always do to sin which is not confessed?

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5. God always punishes sin. We know this from the lives of people in the Bible. We also know it from what the prophets said. But to Habakkuk it seemed that God was not doing anything. Habakkuk cried and prayed about the sins of the people. But God did not seem to hear. So Habakkuk asked God why he allowed the people to live in sin.

God answered Habakkuk. He showed him that he was preparing to punish his people. God was preparing a strong, new nation in the world. This nation was Babylon. God had not forgotten his people. They would be punished. Babylon would come and destroy Jerusalem and take the people away.

God punished Israel through Assyria. What people would God punish through Babylon?

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6. The people of Judah were to be punished. If you wrote Israel, that is not wrong. The people of Judah were also called people of Israel. But Habakkuk was a prophet especially to the people of Judah. This was the southern kingdom. The people of the northern tribes had already been carried away by Assyria. The people of Judah were still in their land, but they were very wicked. And they were not being punished.

Perhaps you have seen a child who does not obey. Every day he is bad and no one punishes him. You may have thought in your heart that he ought to be punished. You knew he needed this to help him become a better child. This is the way the prophet felt about his people.

Which prophet asked God why he allowed people to live in sin? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. It was Habakkuk who asked this. And God gave him an answer. This is what God said.

Habakkuk 1:5-6:

Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded (or surprised). For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For lo, I am rousing (or waking up) the Chaldeans (or people of Babylon).

What was God preparing to do to the people of Judah through Babylon?

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8. He was preparing to punish the people of Judah. He had not forgotten about their sins. He had not forgotten about the prayers of Habakkuk. In his own time he would work. He would punish those who did not obey him. Sometimes we are like Habakkuk. We cannot understand what is happening. We see people in sin around us. We cannot understand why God lets them go on.

When Habakkuk asked why God allowed people to live in sin, what did God answer?

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9. God answered that they would be punished. God punishes all sin unless it has been confessed. God told Habakkuk that a new nation would punish Judah. This too was hard for Habakkuk to understand. He was surprised to hear which nation God would use. Habakkuk knew how wicked this nation was. He knew that these people were more sinful than the people of Judah.

What nation would God use to punish the people of Judah? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. God would use the people of Babylon to do this. They were very sinful people. Let us think again about the bad child. He needed to be punished. But let us say that one day the father said to him, "You have been bad long enough. I am going to punish you." Let us say that he picked up a big stick and began to beat the child. What would other people do? They would probably ask the father to be patient. They might even try to stop him from beating the child.

Did Habakkuk think it was good for God to punish Judah through Babylon?

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11. Habakkuk did not think this was good. Babylon was more wicked than Judah. How could God forget the sins of Babylon. Habakkuk knew that God is righteous. So he asked God a second question. He asked how God could let Babylon punish Judah when Babylon was more wicked. God answered that Babylon would also be punished.

Habakkuk's first question was: Why do you allow the people of Judah to live in sin? What was God's answer?

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12. God answered that Judah would be punished. He was preparing Babylon to punish Judah. God always punishes sin. We have learned this from other prophets. Sometimes God uses people who are more wicked than his own people to punish them. This troubled Habakkuk. He could not understand it. So he asked God about it.

The second question Habakkuk asked was: How can you let Babylon punish Judah when Babylon is more wicked? When God answered, what did he say he would do to Babylon?

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13. God said that he would punish her. He would punish both Judah and Babylon for their sins. But they would not be punished at the same time. God judges and does his work in his own time. Sometimes we may wait a long time. We may feel like asking God questions. But we know that he will be righteous in his judgment.

When Habakkuk asked how God could let Babylon punish Judah, what did God answer?

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14. God answered that Babylon also would be punished. These things were hard for Habakkuk. It seems that he was afraid and discouraged. But God showed him that sin is always punished.

Habakkuk 1:13:

Thou who art of purer eyes than to behold evil and canst not look on wrong, why dost thou look on faithless men and art silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

Habakkuk 2:4:

Behold, he whose soul is not upright in him shall fail, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Sometimes good men do not understand, but from this verse, what should they live by?

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15. God said that a good man should live by his faith. God gave these words to his prophet and the prophet wrote them down. It was for his own people and it is for us today. God showed the prophet that good men do not live by what they see. They live by what they believe. These words are repeated three times in the New Testament.

Take your Bible now and read these three verses. Draw lines under the words about the righteous man and his faith. Read Romans 1:17. Galatians 3:11. Hebrews 10:38.

Which prophet first wrote that the good man will live by his faith?

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16. Habakkuk wrote these words. He could not understand everything which was happening. He did not see how God was working. But God told him how a good man should live. This became an important prophecy of Habakkuk.

What did Habakkuk say a good man shall live by? \_\_\_\_\_

17. A good man shall live by faith. He should trust God and know that God is good. He should believe that God will work everything out in the right way and at the right time.

Write God's answers to Habakkuk's two questions.

(1) Why do you let the people of Judah live in sin?

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(2) How can you let Babylon punish Judah when Babylon is more wicked?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. God answered that Judah would be punished. He said that Babylon also would be punished.

What did Habakkuk say a good man shall live by? \_\_\_\_\_

19. A good man shall live by faith. Sometimes we think that the teaching of the Old Testament is not for us today. Some preachers preach only from the New Testament. But God has given us the whole Bible. As we preach from the Old Testament we show our people that there are eternal laws of righteousness.

Go and tell someone what you have learned from the book of Habakkuk. Be ready to tell in class what that person said.

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20. Write God's answers to Habakkuk's questions:

(1) Why do you let the people of Judah live in sin? \_\_\_\_\_

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(2) How can you let Babylon punish Judah when Babylon is more wicked?

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What did Habakkuk say the good man shall live by? \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 8: JONAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, AND ZEPHANIAH**  
**DAY 5: ZEPHANIAH PROPHESED JUDGMENT ON THE DAY OF THE LORD**

1. Write God's answers to Habakkuk's questions:

(1) Why do you let the people of Judah live in sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
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(2) How can you let Babylon punish Judah when Babylon is more wicked?  
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What did Habakkuk say the good man shall live by? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. God answered this way: Judah will be punished. Babylon also will be punished. Habakkuk prophesied that the good man shall live by faith.

Today we will study the book of Zephaniah. Zephaniah prophesied during the time when Josiah was king of Judah. The northern tribes had already been taken away by Assyria. The time for the southern tribes to be taken was very near. The people of Judah needed to be warned of coming judgment. This is what we will learn about Zephaniah: Zephaniah prophesied about "the day of the Lord" as the time of judgment for all nations.

Take your Bible now and read Zephaniah 1:14 and 15.

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3. Zephaniah's work was to prophesy judgment. He prophesied judgment for Judah and for all nations. He used the same words which Joel used when he spoke of God's judgment.

As we learned, what did Joel call the time of God's judgment? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Joel called the time of God's judgment "the day of the Lord." Zephaniah did the same. Zephaniah was in the family line of Hezekiah, who was a good king. Zephaniah preached during the time of King Josiah who was also a good king.

Zephaniah 1:1:

The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

Josiah was a very good king. During his reign, he destroyed all the idols which the people were worshipping. He helped people live by the laws which God gave Moses. Perhaps it was the preaching of Zephaniah which helped him to do this.

Who did Zephaniah say would judge Judah and all nations in "the day of the Lord"?

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5. The prophet said that God would do this. King Josiah helped the people to do many good things. But God still had to judge Judah for disobeying him for so many years. Judah needed to be warned about this coming judgment. The prophet called it "the day of the Lord." These words are repeated seven times in his book. "The day of the Lord" is a time of judgment and great trouble for Judah and for all nations.

Who prophesied that "the day of the Lord" would be a time of judgment for all nations?

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6. Zephaniah prophesied this. He said that this would be a time of great trouble for Judah. He also said it would be a time of trouble for all nations. Remember that the prophets spoke for their own time. They also spoke for time which is still ahead.

What did Zephaniah call the time of God's judgment? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. He called it "the day of the Lord." Zephaniah first prophesied judgment for Judah and the city of Jerusalem. A great time of suffering was about to begin for Judah. Zephaniah showed how the enemies would come and take the people. They would break down and burn the city of Jerusalem. Then Zephaniah went on to show that God would also punish the people who punished Israel and Judah.

Zephaniah 3:8:

For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my jealous wrath all the earth shall be consumed (or judged).

How many nations will be judged in "the day of the Lord"? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. All of them will be judged. There is no nation which will be forgotten. Zephaniah showed that God would judge Assyria and Babylon. He would also judge Gasa and Edom and Ethiopia. All of this showed how God would judge all nations in time to come.

What did Zephaniah mean when he used the words "the day of the Lord"?

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9. He meant the time of judgment for all nations. Perhaps you once saw a very big fire in a village. You saw the people's houses burning. The people lost most of their things. Perhaps some of the people were burned to death. There was much crying and suffering. When the day of judgment for all nations comes. It will be much worse than this. A village fire will seem like nothing when God judges the nations.

Zephaniah 1:2-3:

"I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," says the Lord. "I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. I will overthrow the wicked."

What did Zephaniah call the time of judgment for all nations? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. He prophesied about “the day of the Lord.” He used these words many times in his book. In the New Testament, some of the writers used these words from his prophecy.

2 Peter 3:10:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

Which prophet in the Old Testament preached much about “the day of the Lord”?

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11. Zephaniah did this. He prophesied judgment. But that was not all he said. At the end of his book he showed that God would have mercy on his people. He told the people to wait for God to work. These are the words which God spoke to Zephaniah.

Zephaniah 3:9:

Yea, at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.

What did Zephaniah mean when he spoke of “the day of the Lord”?

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12. Zephaniah meant the time of judgment for all nations. He ended his book by telling how God will cause all men to serve him. He will bring the people of Israel back to Jerusalem. He will give Israel rest from her enemies. Christ will set up his kingdom on earth.

Zephaniah 3:20:

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you together; yea, I will make you renowned (or honoured) and praised among all the people of the earth.

Do you think this prophecy has been fulfilled yet? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. We have not yet seen all people serving God. We believe that this time is still coming. We see many Jews going back to Jerusalem, but those Jews are not receiving Christ. We have not yet seen “the day of the Lord.”

What did Zephaniah mean when he spoke of “the day of the Lord”?

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14. Zephaniah meant the time of judgment for all nations. There are still many wonderful things which must be fulfilled. The nations will all be judged. And each person will be judged.

Are you ready for “the day of the Lord”? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. We will talk about this in class.

What did Zephaniah mean when he spoke of “the day of the Lord”?

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