

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, JULY 6, 2013***

### **HOSEA - God's Love For Israel**

**Scripture Reading: Hosea 10.**

**Golden Text: Hosea 4:1.**

Hosea's commission is the theme of the Book. When he set down his experiences he saw clearly the hand of God directing him.

1. At what time did Hosea receive his prophecy? Hosea 1:1; Isaiah 1:1. This was a time of great prosperity and growth in Israel, also the time of great sinfulness.
2. What did God tell Hosea to do? Hosea 1:2, 3. Gomer's name is symbolic of her wicked actions.
3. What are the names of Hosea's children? Hosea 1:4-9. The names of the children presage judgment. "Jezreel" means destruction. Leviticus 26:17; Deuteronomy 28:25. The Valley of Jezreel is where most of Israel's battles took place. Also Armageddon will take place there. Hosea 1:11; 2:22, 23. Revelation 16:14-16. "Lo-ruhamah" means "Not Pitied" unloved and disliked. In comparison read 1 Samuel 4:19-22. The 3rd child "Lo-ammi" means "Not My People." Israel has come now to the place of total rejection of God. Romans 11:7; Numbers 26:32-35; Isaiah 3:7-9; Isaiah 5:5-7.
4. How does God indict Gomer (Israel)? Hosea 2:10-13; Isaiah 54:4, 5.
5. How will Israel's restoration take place in "Jezreel's Great Day"? Hosea 1:11; Hosea 2:14-17; Jeremiah 7:23; Romans 11:25-27; Isaiah 54:7, 8.
6. By what great achievement does God show His love for Israel? Hosea 2:21-23. The hope of Hosea as found in 2:18 is described by Isaiah 11:6-9; Isaiah 65:23-25. Israel will now live in safety. Each facet of nature will be holy. All this will take place in Jezreel, where previously only judgment and punishment dwelt. The "unloved" will become the "beloved".

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, JULY 13, 2013***

### **THE LESSON OF HOSEA FOR ISRAEL**

**Scripture Reading; Hosea 4:6-19; 5:1-7.**

**Golden Text: Hosea 2:20.**

1. How much has God punished Israel (Gomer)? Hosea 4:1-3; Isaiah 40:1, 2; Jeremiah 3:6-9.
2. Hosea gave six sermons about Israel and Judah. What are the six themes?
  - A) On the moral corruption of Israel. Hosea 4:15-19.
  - B) On the defection of Israel in high places. Hosea 7:12-15.

C) On the national idolatry and its consequences. Hosea 8:7, 8, 12-14.

D) On the judgement of God. Hosea 9:16, 17; 10:9-12.

E) On the Fatherly love of God. Hosea 11:8-11.

F) On the history of Israel's sinfulness. Hosea 11:12; 13:9-12.

3. What is the Lord's offer through the prophet? Hosea 14:1-3.

4. What is the Divine Restoration and its consequences? Hosea 14:4-8.

5. What is the conclusion of the writings of Hosea? 14:9.

*NOTE: Hosea is a prophet of hope. He never gave up the cause of Israel. He was a true husband who could not rest until he had made the last possible move to rescue his wayward wife. Ezekiel 24:25-27; 23:48-49.*

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, JULY 20, 2013***

### **JOEL (The Lord is God)**

**Scripture Reading: Joel 2.**

**Golden Text: Joel 2:11.**

The Book of Joel is presented in three parts. The prophet is writing about the second coming and the "Day of the Lord."

1. What is the first part of the Book of Joel referring to? It refers to the Plagues and the effect of the Plagues. Joel 1:2-7; 1:18-20. It refers also to the Day of the Lord. Joel 2:1.

2. What do the locust look like? Joel 2:4-6.

3. Where have you seen such a scene before? Revelation 9:7-9, 17.

4. What is the next portion of Joel trying to do? Joel 2:12-14. It will be a time of repentance. The Lord wants sincere penitence. Joel 2:28, 29.

5. Along with repentance what does the Lord want the people to do before the "Day of the Lord?" Joel 2:15-17.

6. If there is true repentance what will the Lord do? Joel 2:28-31. In comparison what does Revelation say in 6:12, 13; read Joel 2:10; 3:15.

7. What is the third part of Joel? It is the signs of the "Day of the Lord." Joel 3:2, 11-14; Revelation 16:15, 16; 6:15-17.

8. What is the resume of the Lord presented by Joel? Joel 3:18-21.

*NOTE: Joel delivered a magnificent writing concerning the two Advents of our Lord. The first coming of Jesus is to save His people and all that want to be obedient. The second is the judgment of the Lord, followed by another time of blessedness during the kingdom age.*

*It is Joel's call to repentance and the coming Golden Age of a thousand years that is so outstanding to Israel, as well as to Believers everywhere. The Book as a whole shows that Children of God must be engrossed in the coming events and "That Great Day of the Lord."*

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, JULY 27, 2013***

### **AMOS (A Wise Teacher and Preacher)**

**Scripture Reading: Amos 3:1-15.**

**Golden Text: Amos 5:4.**

The purpose of this Book is to get Israel to listen to what God has in mind for them. Amos is like a County Agent to the shepherds of Tekoah Judah.

To get Israel's attention Amos relates all that the Lord did to their enemies. This pleased the people and as Amos reiterated they began to agree with him.

1. What were some of enemies of Israel that Amos displayed for them by a sermon?

a. Against all the Aramean States, Amos 1:3-5. This included Damascus, Ben-hadd, Aven, Eden and Syria.

b. Against the Phoenicians and their cities. Amos 1:9-10.

c. Against the Philistines and their cities. Amos 1:6-8.

d. Against the inhabitants of Edom. Amos 1:11, 12.

e. Against the Ammonites. Amos 1:13-15.

f. Against the Moabites. Amos 2:1-3. In all of these cases the punishment was "Fire." It was a purifying agent.

2. The Children of Israel are now enthused by hearing how God dealt with their enemies, and how they were punished. They are interested in the words of Amos. They have the "Tell us more!" attitude. What does the Lord then say to the "Whole Family of Israel?" Amos 3:1-6.

*NOTE: No stranger could make such dire predictions, as Amos reiterated God's words. They were spoken by God and the people knew that God had a just cause. Amos 3:8-11; Acts 14:16, 17.*

3. How does Amos warn Israel further? Amos 4:6-10. He points out the lessons given to Israel from time to time. Amos 4:11-13.

4. What is the epilogue of the Book of Amos? Amos 9:11-15.

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, AUGUST 3, 2013***

### **OBADIAH (One Who Serves the Lord)**

**Scripture Reading: Obadiah 1-14.**

**Golden Text: Obadiah 21.**

The purpose of this short one Chapter Book is to give Israel a message of Hope. Despite the outwardly hopeless present there will be in store for them a better day.

1. What are the parts of the Book of Obadiah? Edom and Esau are synonymous in this lesson. vv. 6-8. There are three parts to this Book.

A. The humiliation of Edom. vv. 1-4.

B. The great sin committed by Edom. vv. 10-14

C. What will happen to Edom in the time of the Day of the Lord? vv. 15, 16.

2. Who will be the ruler over Esau? vv. 17-18; Genesis 25:23; Romans 9:10-13.

3. What will be the outcome of the House of Esau? vv. 17, 18; Ezekiel 25:12-14.

4. Some of the confederacy of Esau (v. 7) will possess the land of Esau. Who are they? vv. 19-20.

5. Who are saviours that will come up on Mt. Zion? v. 21. They are the judges that will judge Esau. Judges 2:16; Matthew 19:28.

From this Book we gather that the Edomites rejoiced at the disaster and indeed gratuitously aggravated it. Psalms 137:7; Lamentations 4:21, 22; Ezekiel 25:12-14.

*NOTE: As we look at the history of Edom today, we find it has been plundered, even more disastrously than we read in Malachi 1:1-4. Edom thought he was impregnable among his rocks and Petra inviolable (v. 3), but the Lord sent an ambassador among his very allies, and he who betrayed his brother is now deceived by his friends. (v. 7).*

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, AUGUST 10, 2013***

### **JONAH (Dove or Pidgeon)**

**Scripture Reading: Jonah 1.**

**Golden Text: Jonah 4:4.**

Jonah represents a typical Israelite. He was dedicated, strong-willed, peevish and stubborn, even against God.

1. How long did Jonah wait before he began to pray from the fish's belly? Jonah 1:17; 2:1. The word

"Then" lets us know that it was after being in the fish "Three Days and Three Nights." Matthew 12:38-41.

2. What was the prayer of Jonah from the inside of the fish? Jonah 2:4-9. This is a Psalm that Jonah prayed. It is very similar to Psalm 42.

3. What did the Lord say to Jonah a second time? Jonah 3:1, 2.

4. Did Jonah obey the Lord this time? Jonah 3:3, 4. This Book differs from the other prophetic books. It is not a collection of oracles but is a narration of the author's experience at this time.

5. What is the comparison between Jonah and Joel as we have read early in this quarter? Jonah 3:9 and Joel 2:14 and Jonah 4:2 with Joel 2:13.

6. After Nineveh repented what was Jonah's reaction? Jonah 4:1-5. From a point of view Jonah was disturbed because God's Word found in Deuteronomy 18:22. From this verse Jonah could be accused of being a false prophet. Jeremiah 28:7,8. His experience brought forth a bitter complaint. Jonah 4:3. Compare this with Numbers 11:15; 1 Kings 19:4. Elijah's message had failed but Jonah's was eminently successful.

7. Exactly what was the message Jonah gave to the Ninevites? Jonah 3:4-6.

8. What was the lesson given by the Lord to Jonah? Jonah 4:6-9. There in the blazing sun, Jonah learned a bitter lesson. Jonah 4:10, 11.

*NOTE: This Book reveals that there was opposing tensions set up by Jewry by the policy of particularism and hatred for the Gentiles. Malachi 1:10-12. Read more about this in the Book of Nahum.*

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, AUGUST 17, 2013***

### **MICAH (Who is Like the Lord)**

**Scripture Reading: Micah 4.**

**Golden Text: Micah 7:18.**

The sins of abusing one's fellow man is the target of the Prophet Micah. Israel society shifted from agricultural to economical. Many unethical merchants sprang up everywhere.

1. Micah rails against Israel for its perversion in business and worship. Micah 6:10-12. Compare this with Amos 8:5-6. Each of these prophets accuses the people of cheating the poor by using false weights, small measures and rigged scales. Job 31:4-6.

2. How many sections are there to the Book of Micah? Each section begins with the word "Hear." Of judgment - Ch. 1-3; Of hope - Ch. 4, 5; And of judgment and hope combined - Ch. 6, 7. Read Micah 1:2; 3:1, 9; 6:1.

3. What are the three prominent questions asked by Micah? 2:7, 8. (1) Our responsibility to God. 2:3. (2) Our use of the Holy Spirit. 3:8. (3) Our knowledge of good and evil. 2:5-7.

4. What was God's controversy with His people? Micah 6:1-4.
5. What incident did God remind His people of? Micah 6:5, 6; Numbers 23:7, 19; Numbers 22:5; Jude.11.
6. What does the Lord require of His people? Deuteronomy 10:12-14; 1 Samuel 22:23.
7. What is the momentary triumph of the wicked? Micah 7:1-4. What does the New Testament say of the wicked in the last days? 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 1:28-32.
8. What does Micah's prayer voice for the remnant of Israel? Micah 7:7-9, 18.
9. What is primarily the confession and intercession of the Prophet who identifies himself with Israel? Micah 7:19, 20. Intercession was a test to prove the man of God, and his office. Jeremiah 27:18; Genesis 20:7.
10. What wonderful prophecy was given to Micah? 5:2. This verse tells us the place where Jesus was to be born. Matthew 2:4, 5. It also tells of His pre-existence and deity from this precious writing. Colossians 1:15.

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, AUGUST 24, 2013***

### **NAHUM (The Poet)**

**Scripture Reading: Nahum 3.**

**Golden Text: Nahum 1:15.**

This Book is classified as a Hebrew Dirge. It was written about 150 years after Jonah had visited Nineveh. It is concerned with the physical details of the last few hours of this great city.

1. How was Nineveh described by the Apostle Paul? Romans 1:21-23. Nahum was a school teacher. He did not call himself a prophet. He wrote this Book as a text for students learning to read, spell and come to the knowledge of God. It is written in the style of Psalm 119 and 145. Both of these are acrostic and helped students to learn the alphabet.
2. Where do we find the name of Nahum in the New Testament? Luke 3:25. He was a part of the lineage of Jesus.
3. How does Nahum begin his textbook for students? Nahum 1:2, 3; Romans 3:25, 26.
  - a. A lesson on the ethics of God and His characteristics. The chief deity of Nineveh was the Bull God with the face of a man and wings like a bird. It was image' 'made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts."
  - b. God is the great Creator. Nahum 1:4, 5.
  - c. God is a ruler of love, mercy, justice, and judgment. Nahum 1:9-12; Exodus 34:6, 7.
4. In Nahum 3:1 what is the City of Nineveh called? 1:14. It was a city that strangled its people. 3:2-

4.

5. How is the battle of Nineveh described? Nahum 2:1. The invader approaches; the enemy is described. vv. 3-5; The flooding of the city v. 6; The capture of the queen v. 7; Nineveh is helpless v. 8 Plunder of the city v. 9,10.

6. In verses 3:18, 19, the enemy is addressed. No one survives. Standing in the midst of the ruins the teacher sums up his whole theme of satisfaction at the defeat and downfall of the city so long feared and hated by the rest of the world. All will rejoice for the end of the "unceasing evil." God's justice will have been accomplished. Nahum 3:16-19.

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, AUGUST 31, 2013***

### **HABAKKUK (An Assyrian Garden Plant)**

**Scripture Reading: Habakkuk 2.**

**Golden Text: Habakkuk 1:5.**

It appears Habakkuk, like Nahum, played no significant part of history. He simply made a literary contribution to the people of his time. He was a priest of the tribe of Levi.

1. Who are the wicked referred to in Habakkuk 1:4,6, 13? They were the Chaldeans raised up by God to bring violence and oppression to Israel.

2. What was Habakkuk asked to do? To the watching Prophet comes the response of the vision (vv. 2-20). The wicked in this chapter is referred to Israel. The vision is yet to come. Habakkuk 2:2, 3.

3. Where is Israel at the time of this writing? Habakkuk 2:4, 5; Ezekiel 37:1, 11, 12, 13. "Hell" is sheol and is the grave. Job 14:13; Psalms 88:3, 4.

4. How does Paul use Habakkuk's words in writing to Rome, Galatia, and Philippi? Romans 1:17; 3:21, 22; Galatians 3:11; Philippians 3:9. In Paul's words can be seen the central declaration of Habakkuk. A man of faith will accept the free gift of God through Christ Jesus. The hope of a Child of God becomes the power of God.

5. What five taunts did Habakkuk give to those who prospered in their wickedness? Habakkuk 2:5,6.

A. The "Woe" against the cruel plunderer. Habakkuk 2:5, 6. B. The taunt against the greedy builder. Habakkuk 2:9, 10. C. The taunt against the City builder. Habakkuk 2:12-14. D. The taunt against one who makes his neighbour drunk Habakkuk 2:15, 16. E. The woe against the maker of idols. Habakkuk 2:18,19; Isaiah 44:9-11.

6. What is meant by Habakkuk 2:20? This does not necessarily mean to listen in awe struck worship before the Lord, but to receive instruction as in Micah 1:2,3; Isaiah 2:2,3; Zechariah 2:13. No idol can respond in such a personal way as the Lord does. The Lord will speak from His Holy temple.

7. The third chapter of Habakkuk is in the style of a hymn (Psalm). It is about the meditation and response at the appearance of the Lord. He measured the earth. Habakkuk 3:6. He was displeased at

the poor conditions of the rivers and the seas. Habakkuk 3:8-13, 15. How true today?

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 7, 2013***

### **ZEPHANIAH (The Lord Hides)**

**Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 3.**

**Golden Text: Zephaniah 3:16.**

Zephaniah writes to the Judah kingdom during a revival by King Josiah. 2 Kings 22:1, 2, 13; 23:25.

1. Even though Josiah was a great king before God, Zephaniah had to proclaim to Judah of the coming judgment of God. Zephaniah 1:8-11; 2 Kings 21:12-15; Jeremiah 2:11-13.
2. The references to the City of Nineveh (Zephaniah 2:13-15) tells us that this writing was made before the destruction. All the references to the foreign nations look forward to their destruction. Zephaniah 2:4, 8, 12; 3:6.
3. What is meant by the housecleaning operation of the Lord in Zephaniah 1:2-6? The operation of sweeping away everything is confined to "ALL NATIONS." The thought behind the cleansing is getting rid "of the wicked" and "stumbling blocks" as well as the "remnant of Baal."
4. Why is the Lord so determined to sweep everything off the face of the earth? Zephaniah 1:7-9, 15, 16. Zephaniah 3:6, 7. This cleaning was for the purpose of causing Judah to accept correction.
5. What are the humble seekers of truth to do before the day of the Lord's wrath? Zephaniah 2:1-3.
6. When will Judah and Israel not transgress anymore? Zephaniah 3:11, 13.
7. What will the Lord restore to the people at that time? Zephaniah 3:9, 12. Zephaniah was familiar with Genesis 11:1,6, 9. He also read Isaiah 6:5. He put these words together and told of the time when the uncleanness and impurity on the lips of the people would be removed. This becomes a reality when a pure language is given to the people again. Zephaniah 3:13.
8. What becomes a part of the life of the Children of God that have been redeemed? Zephaniah 3:14-17. Zephaniah leaves no doubt about the happiness and thankfulness to God in singing. Isaiah 12:1, 2; Jeremiah 20:13; 31:12; Revelation 15:2, 3; 19:5, 6.

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013***

### **HAGGAI (Haggiyah, Faithful to God)**

**Scripture Reading: Haggai 2:1-19.**

**Golden Text: Ezra 6:14.**

The purpose of Haggai's ministry was to stir up his contemporaries to honour God by rebuilding the temple. Israel was captive for 70 years when Cyrus made a decree for them to return to their



homeland again. Jeremiah 25:11, 12.

1. What did the people say concerning the temple? Haggai 1:2.
2. Why did the people say such a thing? Ezra 4:23, 24. The people knew of the Laws of the Medes and Persians and therefore refuse to rebuild the temple. Daniel 6:8, 12, 15.
3. What did the Lord say when he saw that the labor on the temple had ceased? Haggai 1:3-7.
4. What action did the Lord take against the people who refused to rebuild the temple? Haggai 1:9-11. What did Haggai do? Ezra 5:1, 5; Haggai 1:12.
5. What did Darius II do when he heard of the intimidations and work stoppage back in Jerusalem? Ezra 5:17; 6:1-3.
6. What was the reply of Darius II to the troublemakers in Jerusalem? Ezra 6:6-8. What decree did Darius find written by Cyrus? Ezra 1:1-3; Haggai 1:13,14.
7. When the temple was finished what was the question asked of the older people? Haggai 2:2, 3, 18. Haggai's words invited comparison between the first temple and the one that was being built now? "How do you see it now?" v. 2:3. They saw "it as nothing."
8. After the comparison had been made by the people what did God say to them? Haggai 2:4-7.
9. What wonderful promise was made by the Lord? Haggai 2:18, 19. Action taken by the people in faith will lead to blessings from the Lord.

*NOTE: Even though the first temple was more beautiful on the outside, adorned with silver and gold. 1 Kings 7:51. The Lord said: "He owned all the silver and gold anyway. Haggai 2:8,9. It is the inside of the temple that counted. It is same with our heart that counts. 1 Peter 3:3, 4.*

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013***

### **ZECHARIAH (The Lord Has Remembered)**

**Scripture Reading: Zechariah 12.**

**Golden Text: Zechariah 4:6.**

Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai. He introduces himself with prophetic utterances such as 1:8, 18; 2:1; 3:1; 6:9. His book is the largest of the Minor Prophets.

1. How is the prophet Zechariah admonished by the Lord? Zechariah 1:2-5. It seems that this book is a parallel to the book of Revelation.
2. How does Jesus recognize Zechariah in his time? Luke 11:50-52.
3. The chapters one to six are visions given to Zechariah. There are ten of them:
  1. Man on a red horse. Zechariah 1:8-11.

2. The four horns. Zechariah 1:18, 19.
  3. The four carpenters. Zechariah 1:20, 21.
  4. The man with the measuring line. Zechariah 2:1, 2.
  5. Joshua the High Priest. Zechariah 3:1-4. Here is an example of self-righteousness to the righteousness of God. Romans 3:21, 23. Israel is asked to prepare itself for the "Branch." Isaiah 4:2, 3.
  6. The servant & Son of God - The Branch. Zechariah 3:8-10.
  7. The golden candlestick and the two olive trees. Zechariah 4:2-4, 11-14; Revelation 11:3-6.
  8. The flying scroll. Zechariah 5:1-4; Revelation 14:6, 7.
  9. The Ephah. Zechariah 5:6-11. A container of the woman of Shinar (Babylon). Revelation 17:4, 5.
  10. The four chariots. Zechariah 6:1-5. The four horsemen of Revelation 6:1-8.
4. The rest of the chapters of Zechariah deal with the second coming of Jesus. The city of Jerusalem shall now be called. Zechariah 8:3. What is the Holy Mountain? Hebrews 12:22, 23.
  5. What do the Children of Israel say and do? Zechariah 8:21-23; 12:9-14; 13:6.
  6. What great battle will take place around Jerusalem? Zechariah 14:1-5; Revelation 16:15, 16.
  7. How many of the Children of Israel will be saved? Zechariah 13:8, 9. Zechariah 14 is the summary of the warring phase of Christ's coming. Armageddon, v. 2, 3; Christ standing on the Mount of Olives, v. 4; physical changes and setting up of the Kingdom. v. 9.

## ***LESSON FOR SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013***

### **MALACHI (My Messenger)**

**Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:16-18 and 4th chapter.**

**Golden Text: Malachi 2:10.**

Malachi is the last in the date of the other 11 prophets. "The Messenger" lived in an age of spiritual decline.

1. What does Malachi accuse the priests and Levites of? Malachi 1:6-8. They minister perfunctorily and unworthily 2:8, 9.
2. What were the people devoid of? Malachi 1:2, 6. They had no sense of gratitude.
3. The people sat loosely by the ties of home, Malachi 2:14, and of the altar. 3:8, 10.

4. The people were cynical and said that there was no point in living a good life and it was only the unscrupulous that prospered. Malachi 2:14, 15.

5. What was Malachi's answer to this state of affairs? To whom did he point to show Israel how wrong they were? Malachi 1:4.

*NOTE: If Haggai is the temple builder, and Zechariah is for temple worship, then Malachi is for instruction of Levites. The warning notes of Amos come to prove that the Day of the Lord comes with great judgment. Malachi 4:1.*

6. What does Malachi conceive that Israel will be given a final and potent appeal to repent? Malachi 4:4-6; 3:1.

7. What does the angel of the Lord say about this matter? Luke 1:15-17.

8. What did Jesus say of this same incident? Matthew 17:10-13; Matthew 11:12, 13. The relationship of John the Baptist to Jesus was like Elijah and Israel. Malachi 4:5, 6.