

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #30 – Nahum and Habakkuk

PRAYER:

Read Habakkuk's prayer in chapter 3. Try to relate it to your own life.

Notes on Nahum:

(Nahum means "comfort"). Apparently, Judah would be comforted to know that Assyria would be punished for her evil deeds. The book was most likely written between 663 B.C. and 612 B.C. In 612 B.C. Assyria and the capitol city Nineveh, fell to the Babylonians. It seems that the repentance and change to the city of Nineveh brought about by the preaching of Jonah (800-750 B.C.) had not been a permanent change. The Assyrians and Nineveh must have soon reverted to their old brutal, pagan ways. The conquest of Israel in 722 B.C. by the Assyrians was very much on the minds of the people of Judah. They figured they would be next. God chose to punish Assyria. The joy of their demise would be short-lived because the Assyrian's conquerors would soon be Judah's conqueror as well. (586 B.C.)

Questions on Nahum:

1. Chapter 1 – List some of the attributes that show God's power.
2. Chapter 1:15 is referred to in Romans 10:15. What would be the good news to Judah in Nahum 1:15? What is the good news of Romans 10:15?
3. Chapter 2 & 3 – Nineveh was built on a river. It is unclear, but it seems Babylon used this to their advantage when they attacked. List any phrases that may indicate such an attack.
4. Chapter 1-3 – List some of the evil deeds of the people of Nineveh.
5. How does this book show that the Lord is in charge of history?

Notes on Habakkuk:

Habakkuk is a contemporary of Jeremiah during the last decades before the fall of Judah to the Babylonians. (586 B.C.) Unlike most of the other prophets, he is not lashing out at the evils of the people. The book is really a dialogue between Habakkuk and the Lord – Chapter 1 and 2. Chapter 3 is Habakkuk's prayer of response. Habakkuk's questions and the Lord's answers may remind you of the book of Job. The struggle to understand the ways of God is a task that each generation must come to grips with.

Questions on Habakkuk:

1. Habakkuk asks the question in 1:2-4, "How long?" What is God's answer in 1:5-11?
2. He asks a good question in 1:13. How can God use a wicked nation to punish a nation more righteous than themselves? What is the essence of His answer in 2:2-20?
3. How does the New Testament use 2:4? (See Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Ephesians 2:8)
4. It has been mentioned before but why is it stupid to worship idols? (2:18-20)
5. Chapter 3 – In what does Habakkuk have trust and confidence because of His faith?

Your questions on Nahum and Habakkuk...