

I. Period - Josiah's Reign

- A. Key period in world history
 - 1. Assyria comes to an end
 - 2. Babylon moves into world prominence
- B. Key time for prophecy in Judah
 - 1. Habakkuk
 - 2. Nahum
 - 3. Zephaniah
 - 4. Jeremiah

II. Nahum

- A. Message is directed against the city of Nineveh
- B. Message is a description and justification of the judgment of God on that city
 - 1. Nahum forms a necessary balance to Jonah
- C. Message is valuable particularly to confirm the Word of God
 - 1. Walter Maier lists 21 specific and surprising predictions fulfilled in Nineveh's destruction
 - 2. Note particularly Nahum 1:14 - *Your name will not be perpetuated*

Assignment:

Read the story of Josiah's reign. 2 Kings 22-23, 2 Chronicles 34-35

III. Zephaniah

- A. Speaks of judgment on Judah
 - 1. By the Babylonians
 - 2. The day of the Lord
- B. Addresses how to prepare for that day - Zeph. 2:3
 - 1. Note there is no promise of escape of the experience of the judgment
 - 2. Hope is to be hidden or protected
 - 3. Means to the protection is to seek humility
 - a. Note again Hab. 2:4 - faith is the opposite of pride
 - b. Note 2 Chron. 7:14 - *if my people... humble themselves*
 - c. Humility is not the same as faith but is the first evidence of true faith
- C. God will keep His people through the judgment - Zeph. 3:8-13
 - 1. Through that judgment God will purify His people
 - 2. Purified by the removal of every vestige of pride
- D. The final result will be a joyous experience of the love of God - Zeph. 3:14-20
 - 1. He will rejoice over you with joy
 - 2. He will be quiet in His love