

## **Bible Study Lesson Summary, Dec. 16, 2018**

*This Sunday, Dec. 16th, you're done! Congratulations! You know the Lord far better than 14 months ago.*

### **THE BOOK OF SIRACH**

**Sir. 47:12-25—Sir. 50:** These chapters give more eulogies of the heroes of Israel. It praises those who were a part of God's work.

**Sir. 51:** This is the author being glad that he has been kept from slander or falsehood, but in his prayer of thanks is actually making a prayer by Jesus. Vs. 2-3: "You have saved me from death and kept back my body from the pit. From the clutches of the nether world you have snatched my feet; you have delivered me, in your great mercy, from the scourge of a slanderous tongue, and from lips that went over to falsehood..." The rest is worth spending time in meditation to soak it in.

### **THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET NAHUM**

*From what I could find, this book is not quoted in the NT. The main themes match the other prophets except Nahum really dislikes Nineveh. It helps to understand what Jonah was thinking. In the notes it says that Assyria ruled ruthlessly for three centuries. In the book of Jonah they were temporarily spared to deal out vengeance on Judah but this is later when the capital city of Assyria did fall.*

**Nahum 1:** This is basically all about how God is the one to deal out vengeance.

**Nahum 2:** Vs. 1-3 are about celebrating after this vengeance, but it is celebrating the Lord's feasts. "Celebrate your feasts, O Judah, fulfill your vows! For nevermore shall you be invaded by the scoundrel; he is completely destroyed." That is really about heaven when it will be totally fulfilled. The rest of the chapter is describing the destruction of Nineveh.

**Nahum 3:** What this chapter describes concerning Nineveh is a reminder of what hell is about.

### **THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET HABAKKUK**

*The same themes from Nahum apply again, but this book is quoted in the NT.*

**Hab. 1:** Vs. 5 is quoted in Acts 13:41: "Look over the nations and see, and be utterly amazed! For a work is being done in your days that you would not have believed were it told."

**Hab. 2:** Vs. 4 is quoted in Rom.1:17; Gal. 3:11: and Heb.10:38: "The just man, because of his faith, shall live."

**Hab. 3:** Nothing in this chapter is quoted in the NT but is a repeat of a lot of places in the OT.

## **THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ZEPHANIAH**

*This was written before Jeremiah and they think it had an influence on him. It is interesting to think about the OT books being written and the first books influencing the others, but how much is hard to contemplate.*

**Zeph. 1:** Lots of doom foretold here.

**Zeph. 2:** Here is more about judgment so is good and bad. Vs. 3b: “Seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger.”

**Zeph. 3:** Vs. 15-17 says: “The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior...” In the Gospel of John, Jesus fulfills this when He rises from the dead and appears to the apostles, “Peace be with you.” Or in other words, do not be afraid.

## **THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET HAGGAI**

*This is written when the remnant had come back from exile in Babylon. Haggai has to motivate them to rebuild.*

**Hag. 1:** Haggai, a prophet, is trying to convince them to rebuild the Temple, or house of the Lord in vs. 2. For in vs. 7: “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways! Go up into the hill country; bring timber, and build the house that I may take pleasure in it and receive my glory, says the Lord.”

**Hag. 2:** Again Haggai is being a cheerleader for the rebuilding of temple but his words speak better of heaven, the New Jerusalem. Vs. 3: “Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory...” Vs. 7b: “I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts...” Vs. 9: “Greater will be the future glory of this house than the former...”

## **THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH**

*Zechariah, a contemporary of Haggai, is also a cheerleader for the rebuilding of the temple. This is what the first eight chapters are about. With Chapter 9 he starts the Messianic prophecies.*

**Zech. 1:** Vs. 8-10: The four horsemen are patrolling the earth. Vs. 12 mentions that they had been in exile for 70 years. But now mercy is coming.

**Zech. 2:** The four horns scattered God’s people. In vs. 3 the four blacksmiths seem to be sent to take out the four horns. So vs. 5-17 are about warning the people of God to flee Babylon before this happens.

**Zech. 3:** Satan is standing in accusation of Joshua, the high priest, but God is washing him clean. This symbolizes the restoration of the priesthood which must happen to be right with God.

**Zech. 4:** Notice the confusing verse numbering in this chapter. 4-10, then 1-3, then 11-14. Maybe the prophecies are even confusing them back in those days.

**Zech. 5:** The flying scroll is a list of the sins and sinners. The flying bushel contains the wickedness of the people.

**Zech. 6:** The chariots are back to deal out vengeance. They make a crown and crown Joshua or Zerubbabel.

**Zech. 7:** A lot of the previous images are also contained in the Book of Revelation. Here they get instruction that sounds familiar from the rest of the OT. Vs. 10: “Do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the alien or the poor...”

**Zech. 8:** God will save a remnant.

**Zech. 9:** In vs. 9, we get an image of the Messiah as being meek and humble: “See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.” This should remind us of Palm Sunday, but it should also make us wonder why some thought that the Messiah would have to be a warrior.

In vs. 15-16, “They shall drink blood like wine, till they are filled with it like libation bowls, ...and the Lord, their God, shall save them on that day, his people, like a flock.” This sounds like Communion.

**Zech. 10:** Vs. 1 tells us we can pray about the weather: “Ask of the Lord rain in the spring season!”

**Zech. 11:** In vs. 12-13, “And they counted out my wages, thirty pieces of silver. But the Lord said to me, “Throw it in the treasury, the handsome price at which they valued me.” So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the treasure in the house of the Lord.” Think of Judas in Mt. 26:15, where he gets the 30 pieces of silver and Mt.27:5, where he throws it into the treasury before he hangs himself.

**Zech. 12:** In vs. 10, “and they shall look on him whom they have thrust through, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they shall grieve over him as one grieves over a firstborn.” John quotes this passage in Jn.19:37.

**Zech. 13:** In vs. 7, Strike the shepherd that the sheep may be dispersed...” is quoted in Mt.26:31.

**Zech. 14:** Vs. 21, “On that day there shall no longer be any merchant in the house of the Lord of hosts.” This explains part of why Jesus threw out the money-changers in Mt.21:12, and Jn.2:13-16. But the one that helps me personally is vs. 6, “On that day there shall no longer be cold or frost.”

## **THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET MALACHI**

*The last book of the OT is one of the best prophet statements concerning John the Baptist. Malachi might not be the prophet's name because it simply means “my messenger.” The timing is when the people have returned from exile.*

**Mal. 1:** Vs. 8: “When you offer a blind animal for sacrifice, is this not evil? When you offer the lame or the sick, is it not evil?” This is why on Jesus could be an appropriate sacrifice.

**Mal. 2:** This is about bad priests. But the second half of the chapter is general teaching. Vs. 16 is why the Church works so hard to stand up for marriage. “For I hate divorce, says the Lord the God of Israel...” We have a whole tribunal system.

**Mal. 3:** Vs.1, “Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me: and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek, and the messenger of the covenant who you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.” And in vs. 23 we have, “Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with doom.” This is dealt with in Mt. 11:14.