

OLD TESTAMENT

Minor Prophets

September 2, 2018

Micah 6: 6-8

Habakkuk 1: 1-4

Micah 6:

6 'With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

8 He has told you, **O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?**

Habakkuk 1:

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?

3 **Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?**

**Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.**

4 **So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.**

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

The voice of the Lord is heard through the Prophets.

Thus says the Lord:

O mortal, what is good;

and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,

and to walk humbly with your God?

**Salvation History in this section of
the Bible reminds us that our LORD
continues to Love us and reach for
us even when there are
consequences ...**

Special Thank you to Pastor Matt for covering
the Major Prophets last week ... his teaching of
the ways the Lord reaches to us individually/
communally / and through our Justice in the
world.

The Major Prophets are

Isaiah,
Jeremiah,
Lamentations,
Ezekiel,
and Daniel.

The reason they are named this way ... simply
... Major wrote more ... Minor wrote Less!?!?!?

The Minor Prophets are

Hosea,
Joel,
Amos,
Obadiah,
Jonah,
Micah,
Nahum,
Habakkuk,
Zephaniah,
Haggai,
Zechariah,
and Malachi.

THREE PARTS TO THE SERMON TODAY:

Hear the word of the Lord ... in **History / themes /**
and a few **examples**

History

The prophets spoke into the relationship that the
Lord has with the People of God... the Jews ...

The Hebrews... the chosen ones ...

The keepers of the Covenants with:

Noah
Abraham
The Nation Israel
David

And through Jeremiah the new Covenant
written on the hearts of the people of God

**This section of the Library that is our Bible
is grounded in a time and season of history.**

Most of the activity of the major and minor
prophets occurred just before / during / or after
what is called Babylonian EXILE!

Babylonian **Exile**, also called Babylonian
Captivity, the forced detention of Jews in
Babylonia. The EMPIRE of Babylonia did indeed
conquer the kingdom of Judah in 597 and
586 BCE. The **exile** formally ended in 538 BCE,
when the Persian conqueror of Babylonia,
Cyrus the Great, gave the Jews permission to
return to Palestine. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

ONE MORE PART OF HISTORY of Israel.

We remember the GLORY DAYS OF THE UNITED
MONARCHY of Israel... King David and King Solomon
are the key figures ... but with that political season came
and end and the ONE MONARCHY of Israel was divided
North and South ... kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom
of Judah ... THUS the two different starting dates of the
EXILE ... Northern Kingdom of Israel Conquered/
Captured in 597 and the Southern Kingdom of Judah in
586 BCE ...

Into these Kingdoms the Prophets were speaking.

themes

I once learned that the Prophets were the voice for the Lord to the people! There were some basic themes:

Repent from giving your salvation to the Monarchy of David and Solomon ...

Repent from believing that the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah can save you...

Repent from forgetting that the Lord alone is your salvation!

Repent from evil ways that are not of the Lord's laws

REPENT from seeking salvation in the Nation of Israel.

You heard the Key word?

REPENT REPENT REPENT REPENT!

Change ...

At different times the prophets would offer hope that REPENTANCE could lead to the restoration of the NATION ... Repentance could save the people from the Babylonian EMPIRE's destruction of the KINGDOMS ... But eventually the Prophets shifted from the warnings and call to repentance to a message of simple gloom and doom around the saving of the nation Israel.

The Babylonian EXILE or CAPTIVITY ... Lasted 50 to 60 years ... a generation of people who had not experienced the hope that came through the Kings being faithful to the Lord and TEMPLE WORSHIP being at the core of faithful religious activity.

examples

Micah was clear as he wrote:

O mortal, what is good;

and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,

and to walk humbly with your God?

URNS out that we are unable to live such purity! Doing Justice! Loving Kindness! And walking HUMBLY with our God!?!?!?

AND BECAUSE WE ARE UNABLE ... the Kingdoms of this world are incomplete and will be overturned!

We heard the minor Prophet Habakkuk speak:

*2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?*

*Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?*

**3 Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?**

**Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.**

**4 So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.**

AMOS Wrote:

Thus says the LORD:

*13 So, I will press you down in your place,
just as a cart presses down
when it is full of sheaves.*

*14 Flight shall perish from the swift,
and the strong shall not retain their strength,
nor shall the mighty save their lives;*

*15 those who handle the bow shall not stand,
and those who are swift of foot shall not save
themselves,*

nor shall those who ride horses save their lives;

*16 and those who are stout of heart among the mighty
shall flee away naked on that day,*

Thus says the Lord.

Thus says the LORD ... not good news ...

The Prophets are speaking of serious accountability for the moments when we break the law and have gods before our one GOD ALMIGHTY LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH!

Many people of faith who want to be faithful Christians find the judgment of the Lord through the voice of the Prophets during this period of History of the Hebrew people very threatening and disturbing ... there is not hope in the invasion of faith with political salvation through the kings and kingdoms when Israel was being conquered by Babylonia ... and eventually the ROMANS ...

Prophetic voices do not permit us to think other ways about salvation from any source but GOD ALONE! Otherwise we perish!

Eventually we hear a word of / sliver of hope in the Lord's Salvation story ...

From Jeremiah 31:

*31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.*

Salvation History in this section of the Bible reminds us that our LORD continues to Love us and reach for us even when there are consequences ...

The voice of the Lord is heard through the Prophets. Thus says the Lord:

*O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,

Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?
Check Out

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.