

## Personal Application and Group Interaction:

Joel 2:13 says, “Rend your heart, and not your garments”  
what is involved in rending your heart?

What qualities of our God do these verses reveal? (Amos 3:7; 4:2, 6–11, 13; 5:4, 6, 8, 21–22; 6:8; 7:2–3, 5; 9:2–4, 7) What portrait of God might you develop from these verses?

Read through Obadiah and Nahum 1. Find at least three verses or phrases which contain a message to us today.

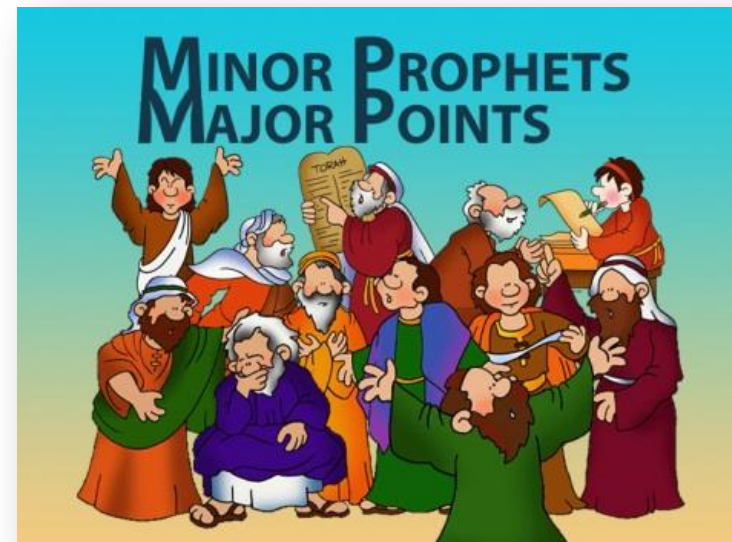
As is true with Jonah, our choices can take us in several directions, away from God, toward Him both reluctantly and wholeheartedly. What direction are your choices now taking you?

What character traits are prevalent when a person is walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8)?

Habakkuk deals with why the wicked prosper. Do the wicked have it good? Why or why not?

Read Haggai 1:3-8 in what ways does this apply today?

Read Zechariah 7:8-11, how does this relate to today and to your life?



Pastor Dennis  
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Hosea

Haggai

Amos

Zechariah

Micah

Malachi

Joel

Obadiah

Habakkuk

Jonah

Zephaniah

Nahum

### Who were they?

Last 12 books of the Old Testament were regarded as one unit not twelve.

### Why are they called Minor Prophets?

Augustine (425 A.D.) called them Minor Prophets because they are shorter in length than the other OT prophetic books. An incentive to treat them seriously is found in; Matthew 12:7 – Jesus quoted Hosea, Matthew 21:1-5 – Jesus fulfilled Zechariah, Romans 1:17 – Paul quoted Habakkuk, Acts 2:17 – Peter quoted Joel.

### What was their ministry?

Prophet the phet part is based on a verb meaning “to speak.” Prophet the Pro part means both “before” & “for.” Therefore prophets both foretold & forthtold. God’s prophets had to be 100% accurate or they were put to death.

### What message did they bring?

1) The sovereignty of God is undeniable 2) God's judgment against sin is inevitable 3) God's love is amazing 4) A passionate call to get right with God 5) The Messiah is coming



#### Hosea



His name means salvation. Dates: 755 – 710 a 45 year career. He was probably a native of the Northern Kingdom (Israel). Israel was enjoying

peace & prosperity but was morally corrupt & spiritually bankrupt. Political anarchy prevailed as 4 of 6 kings left office via assassination.

Main problem: moral waywardness



#### Joel



His name means Yahweh is God. The date is uncertain; locust plagues are common, therefore, of little help. Joel may have been a priest of the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Spiritual refugees from Israel fled to Judah where the spiritual environment was better. Eight of the 19 kings were “good.”

Main problem: revivals required



#### Amos

His name means burden-bearer. Date is 755 B. C. He was a native of Judah but prophesied to Israel. There was an absence of true worship & a lack of justice. While God will remain faithful to the covenant, Israel wouldn't.



Main problem: rejected God's covenant



#### Obadiah

His name means worshiper of Yahweh. Four dates have been suggested. It is a story of betrayal that started with Jacob & Esau in the womb of their mother. Among the things that caused tension is the fact that Edom refused the wandering children of Israel passage. Kings Saul, David, Solomon all had problems with Edom and Edom even attacked Israel. When Jerusalem was under attack by king Nebuchadnezzar Edom encouraged the Babylonians to destroy Israel.



Main problem: Edom's treatment of Israel



#### Jonah

His name means dove. Dates are 793 – 753. He was one of four Minor Prophets referred to by Jesus. He was also a contemporary of Hosea & Amos. His reluctance to fulfill God's command was founded in the question “Why help an enemy?” Main problem: Nineveh was so evil the Assyrian king admitted it (Jonah 3:8)



#### Micah

His name means who is like Yahweh. Date is 700 B. C. The prophet lived 25 miles SW of Jerusalem. He prophesied the capture of Samaria, Israel & Jerusalem as well as prophecies coming of the Messiah.



Main problem: falling short of God's standard



### Nahum

His name means consolation. Dates are 663 – 612 B. C.

He was a native of Elkosh, which is possibly Capernaum. His message concerns the character of God and His relationship to Gentile nations. Main

problem: after repenting 100 years before (Jonah) they quickly returned to evil



### Habakkuk

His name means embracer. Dates are 606 – 604. A major theme is “when God seems

unfair.” Habakkuk dialogued with God about people and posed two questions “Why does evil go unpunished?” and “How can a holy God use evil people to punish Judah?”

Main problem: phony worship of God



### Zephaniah

His name means the Lord has hidden. Dates are 630 – 625. He was of noble

birth and called his people to repentance. The central theme is: “day of Yahweh.”

Main problem: after Manasseh and subsequent evil kings reform was required in Judah



### Haggai

His name means my feast. Date is 520 – and only for only five months. He was a contemporary of

Zechariah and was the first prophetic voice heard after release from the Babylonian exile. He encouraged the rebuilding of the temple.

Main problem: indifference, complacency, apathy & faulty priorities



### Zechariah

His name means Yahweh remembers. Dates are 520 – 518. His book is the longest of the

Minor Prophets and the most quoted Minor Prophet in the New Testament. He is called the prophet of hope.

Main theme: the future of the nation



### Malachi

His name means my messenger. Dates are 450 – 400. The

second temple was complete, rituals & sacrifices were happening daily but enthusiasm had drained away. The same sins found thorough the Old Testament plagued God’s people. The punishment of 70 years of captivity in Babylon had been forgotten.

Main problem: love of God had grown cold

