**“Studying the Southern Kingdom Prophets”—Habakkuk 3 and “The Review of the Southern Kingdom Prophets”**

**Habakkuk 3—The Prophet’s Prayer in Song**

1. **Review the theme of the first two chapters of Habakkuk.**
	1. **Contrast chapter 3 with these chapters. A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet: The first two chapters of Habakkuk give us the prophet’s question and answer time with God. Now that God has answered Habakkuk, the prophet brings a prayer to close the book.**
		1. **Is Chapter 3 a prayer or a song?**
2. **What is “Shigionoth?” See Psalm 7:1.**
3. **Is this prayer of Habakkuk actually a prayer for revival?**
	1. **Explain the phrase, “Revive Your work.”**
	2. **Is Habakkuk actually asking God to “revive him, too?”**
	3. **Discuss Habakkuk’s reference to God’s wrath.**
4. **When Habakkuk gets the “big picture,” what does Habakkuk ask for? Verse 2.**
5. **Why is Habakkuk pointing out God’s wrath?**

**Outline for Verses 3-15: Verses 3-6, Abraham; Verses 7-10, Moses; Verses 11-15, Joshua**

1. **Verses 3-15 seem to point back to Israel’s past. Elaborate on God’s past faithfulness to Israel. See Deuteronomy 33:1-6.**
2. **Where is Teman?**
	1. **See Isaiah 63:1-6.**
3. **What does “Selah” mean?**
4. **In verse 7, who is Cushan?**
5. **Talk about verse 11’s reference, “the sun and moon stood still,” in parallel with Joshua 10:11-15.**
6. **God seems to show himself to Habakkuk in verses 8-10. Discuss.**
7. **Discuss the phrase, “Though the fig tree may not blossom, not fruit be on the vines.”**
8. **Compare verse 18 with I Thessalonians 1:9.**
9. **What does the command, “Rejoice in the Lord” mean for today’s Christian?**
10. **Why does Habakkuk call God, “His strength?”**
11. **What does the “deer reference” point to?**
12. **How do we know from the last verse of Habakkuk that he was a priest?**
13. **What is the central theme of Habakkuk 3? What is the “take away” for modern America?**

**By David Pawson, Habakkuk’s Prayer (Habakkuk 3: 2-19) - to the tune of ʻOde to Joyʼ**

**Words by David Pawson**

**Music by Beethoven**

**Verse 1**

**Lord your fame has gone before you, from the time your arm was bared**

**Tales of deeds so overwhelming, even listening makes me scared**

**Now today, O Lord, repeat them, prove that you are still the same**

**But in love remember mercy, for the honor of your name**

**Verse 2**

**Look, this Holy God descending, spreads the sky with glorious rays**

**Trailing from His hand of power, earth is filled with sounds of praise**

**But the guilty nations tremble, plague and pestilence their fears:**

**Even ancient mountains crumble, when the infinite appears**

**Verse 3**

**Are you angry with the rivers? Is your wrath upon the streams?**

**Do you rage against the ocean, with your horse and chariot teams?**

**Writhing hills and flooded valleys, sun and moon stand still in fear**

**At the glint of flying arrows, lightning of your flashing spear.**

**Verse 4**

**Striding through the earth in vengeance, thrashing nations till it’s done.**

**All to save your chosen people, rescue your anointed one**

**You have crushed their wicked leader, stripped him bare and split his head**

**So his storming, gloating warriors scatter to the wind instead**

**Verse 5**

**Having heard the final outcome, knowing all and not just part**

**Great emotion grips my body, quivering lips and pounding heart**

**Trembling legs give way beneath me, yet with patience will I wait**

**When the foe invades my country, certain of his dreadful fate**

**Verse 6**

**Though the fig tree does not blossom and the vine is void of grapes**

**Though the olive trees are barren and the fields produce no crops**

**Though no lambs are in the sheepfold and no cattle in the stall**

**Yet will I enjoy my savior, glad that God is all in all.**

**Verse 7**

**Joyfully I face the future with my failing strength restored**

**And my angry questions answered by this marvelous sovereign Lord**

**See my heart and feet are leaping, like a deer upon the heights**

**Set my words to holy music, voices and stringed instruments!**

**“The Review of the Minor Prophets of the Southern Kingdom”**

**“Joel,” (Day of the Lord)--3 Chapters**

1. **Joel’s name means “Yahweh is God.”**
2. **Theme of this book: “Day of the Lord,” a phrase coined first by Joel. This goes from the Great Tribulation through the end of the Millennium.**
3. **Joel sees the “Great Tribulation,” or “That Day.”**
4. **He is the son of Pethuel.**
5. **This book tells of a locust invasion, both past and future, and mimics Revelation.**
6. **Joel 2 foretells of the Battle of Armageddon, 1600 furlongs, the distance between Megiddo to Bozrah.**
7. **Chapter 3 talks of: 1. The Gentile Invasion, 2. Destruction of the Invaders, 3. Repentance of Judah, and 4. The Response of YHWH.**
8. **Chapter 3 describes the Valley of Jehoshaphat and the Valley of Decision.**
9. **It describes the Millennial Kingdom.**
10. **Famous verses from JOEL: Joel 3:10, “Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, ‘I am strong,” Joel 2:28-29, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit,” Joel 2:32, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.”**

**“Micah,” (Rural Prophet, ‘Phil’) -- 7 Chapters**

1. **A Prophet to Judah and a younger contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea. He was from Moresheth of Gath, in the latter part of the 8th century B.C.**
2. **Prophesied under: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah—about 40 years.**
3. **This book is a mini “Isaiah.”**
4. **MICAH’S MESSAGE WAS HEEDED, AND HE MADE A DIFFERENCE—DISASTER WAS POSTPONED FOR A CENTURY.**
5. **Like Jonah, he changed history in the days of Hezekiah.**
6. **THE SECOND CHAPTER OF ISAIAH QUOTES MICAH!**
7. **He was probably a friend of Isaiah’s.**
8. **Writes a series of puns about cities that are to be captured.**
9. **He is a “Hidden Hero” 120 years later for Jeremiah, when he quotes him in Jeremiah 26:18-19, and this quote saves Jeremiah’s life.**
10. **Defines sins by leaders, judges, priests, and reminds of the “Doctrine of Balaam.”**
11. **Prophesies of the “Coming Kingdom” and the “Millennium.”**
12. **MOST FAMOUS VERSE—Micah 5:2, “Bethlehem Ephrathah.”**
13. **KEY VERSE—Micah 6:8 (Old Testament Sermon on the Mount) and 6:6 (Pure Religion Passage).**
14. **Famous verses from Micah: Micah 7:6, “For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man’s enemies are the men of his own household,” is quoted by Jesus in Matthew 10:35-36, Micah 5:2, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be the Ruler of Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting,” and Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”**

 **“Zephaniah,” (Dynamic Duo—with Josiah)--3 Chapters**

1. **Lived at the time of King Josiah. Was of the royal blood, and traced lineage back to Hezekiah.**
2. **Zephaniah means, “Whom the Lord Hides,” and his mother hid him from evil King, Manasseh.**
3. **Zephaniah gets to introduce the concept of the Rapture, Zephaniah 2:3……hides us.**
4. **He was a contemporary of Jeremiah.**
5. **Talks also about “The Day of the Lord,” which begins right after rapture and goes through the Millennium until the New Heavens and Earth.**
6. **Warns Judah to repent before God’s judgment.**
7. **Warns that the nations will be judged for: Pride, Immorality, and Idolatry.**
8. **Zephaniah parallels the Book of Revelation.**
9. **Zephaniah pictures “The Great Tribulation.”**
10. **KEY VERSE: ZEPHANIAH 3:17, and because of this verse, He is called “THE PROPHET OF LOVE.”**
11. **Famous verses from Zephaniah: Zephaniah 3:17, “The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing,” Zephaniah 1:7, “Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests,” Zephaniah 2:3, “Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lords anger.”**

**“Habakkuk,” (The “Clinger,”)—3 Chapters**

1. **He is the last prophet to preach to the Southern Kingdom before captivity.**
2. **He was a prophet and a musician.**
3. **He asks God why He has allowed the sins of Judah to increase, since the death of Josiah.**
4. **When God answers that He will bring the Babylonians for punishment, then Habakkuk questions that, too**.
5. **Paul quotes Habakkuk three times**: **Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38.**
6. **Key Verse: Habakkuk 2:4. Began the Protestant Revolution.**
7. **Issues a 5-fold woe to Babylon.**
8. **Chapter 3 is Habakkuk’s psalm of praise.**
9. **Famous verses from Habakkuk: Habakkuk 1:4, “Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds,” Habakkuk 2:4, “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith,” and Habakkuk 3:19, “The Lord Godis my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s *feet,* And He will make me walk on my high hills.”**