

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 142--Introduction to the Babylonian Period

Introduction: Having completed our study of the prophets of the Assyrian period, we now turn our attention to the prophets of the Babylonian period. Four prophets, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Nahum, proclaimed God's message in the seventh century b.c. Their message primarily concerned the events preceeding and including the invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

Lesson aim: To understand the historical background of the prophesies of Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Nahum

The reign of Mannaseh and Ammon--2 Kings 21 (2 Chron. 33)

1. At what age did Mannaseh begin to reign? How long did he reign as king of Judah?
2. Whose evil did Mannaseh imitate? (v. 2)
Enumerate some of the things that he did that displeased the Lord (v. 3-9).
3. Through whom did God express his will concerning Judah? (v. 10) What did God say He would do? (v. 12-15) Why? (v. 11)
4. What other thing did Mannaseh do that was evil? (v. 16)
5. How does the prophet-historian describe the reign of Ammon? (v. 20-22)
6. How did Ammon die? (v. 23)

The reign of Josiah--2 Kings 22:1-23:30 (2 Chron. 34-35)

1. How old was Josiah when he became king? (v. 1)
How long did he reign?

2. Whose example did Josiah follow? (v. 2) How does the prophet describe his reign?
3. What command did Josiah send to the high priest? (v. 3-7) What was the purpose of giving this command?
4. What did Hilkiyah find in the house of the Lord? (v. 8) What was Josiah's response to the reading of the words of the law? (v. 9-13)
5. What message did Huldah the prophetess send to Josiah? (v. 14-20)
6. How did Josiah encourage the people obey the law of the Lord? (23:1-3)
7. Describe Josiah's attempt to remove idolatry from the land? (v. 4-20).
8. What feast did Josiah reinstitute? (v. 21-23)
9. In what way did Josiah distinguish himself among the kings of Judah? (v. 24-25) Could this, however, avert the wrath of God incurred through the sins of the reign of Manasseh and Ammon? (v. 26-27)
10. How did Josiah die? (v. 28-30) What prophet lamented his death? (2 Chron. 35:25)

The reigns of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, and the first deportation of Israelites to Babylon in 606 b.c.--2 Kings 23:31-24:7 (2 Chron. 36:1-9)

1. What happened to Jehoahaz? (v. 31-33) Who did Neco put in his place? (v. 34) How long did Jehoiakim reign? Was he faithful to the Lord?
2. What events manifested God's judgment against Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim? (v. 24:1-4)

The reign of Jehoichin and the Babylonian invasion of 597 b.c.--2 Kings 24:9-17 (2 Chron. 36:10)

1. Who was Jehoiakim's successor? (v. 6) What kind of king was he?

2. What were the results of Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Jerusalem? (v. 10-16)

The reign of Zedekiah and the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 b.c.--2 Kings 24:18-25:30 (2 Chron. 36:11-21)

1. How long did Zedekiah reign? (v. 18) What were the consequences of his evil leadership? (v. 19-20)

2. What happened to Zedekiah during Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Jerusalem? (25:6-7)

3. Describe the damage done to the temple, its furnishing, and the city wall by the Babylonians (25:8-17)

4. Who was made governor of the people that remained in the land? (v. 22) What happened to him? (v. 23-26)

5. What did the king of Babylon do for Jehoiachin later in life? (v. 27-30)

The return from captivity--2 Chron. 36:22-23

1. In whose reign did Israel return from captivity? (v. 22) Who had prophesied this?

2. What decree did he make? (v. 23)