

why experience

NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH,
HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH AND MALACHI?

The one experience that ties all of humanity together is that of sorrow or despair. Sadly, not one of us will escape some sort of tragedy. While the scale may be different for each of us, the impact it has in our lives will always leave us in a place of longing.

For the believer, these experiences may cause us to question the goodness and faithfulness of God. We may ask, if God is good, why do I have to experience these painful moments? We begin to question if we will ever be delivered from our troubles and trials and if so, who that deliverer will be? We are left wanting and waiting. Wanting rescue and waiting for the rescuer.

As we journey through these Minor Prophets we step into the story of the Israelites. The Israelites, the chosen people of God, are often categorized as wayward in both their affections and behavior. They experience the goodness and deliverance of the Lord, yet they are prone to wander into unfaithfulness as they seek after other gods to worship.

Reading through the Minor Prophets, specifically Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, we will find the people of Israel in repetitive predicaments (wandering away from the Lord, in need of rescue due to sin) and asking very similar questions about the goodness and faithfulness of God. These prophets, while speaking to a very specific group of people, and within the backdrop of monumental historical situations, speak true to us today! This is the beauty and brilliance of the Scriptures — that words written hundreds of years ago hold principles that have the same value and truth for us in our present situation and circumstances. These prophets ultimately will challenge our thinking of God and reaffirm God's promise to His people He will always be their shelter and place of refuge.

Through our journey of the Minor Prophets, don't let their given title of "minor" prophets shape your view of their value. Early Christian tradition, in fact, never called them the "Minor Prophets," but referred to them as the "Book of 12." These prophets are very important, and their message holds truths that have the ability to strengthen and reaffirm our faith. Friends, pay close attention to the larger sweeping story that seems to define the people of God and showcases the divine character and love of God toward His people.

The story of wandering, misplaced desire and the pain of injustice plagues us today. Yet, even in the midst of our wanderings, our God promises to be faithful for all those who would turn toward Him and return to their refuge — Himself.

Be encouraged by this promise from Nahum 1:7: Regardless of how great an injustice, pain, trouble or turmoil we experience — God is still a refuge for those who trust in Him. He hears us and He will be faithful to deliver us.

"The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him" (Nahum 1:7).



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day 01

SCRIPTURE READING: Nahum 1

Write a verse that summarizes the reading:

MAJOR MOMENT: Nahum begins his oracle with a psalm about God's character.

Nahum 1 opens with a poem about God. This poem sets the stage for the oracle that is about to come. What kind of context does it give? (Nahum 1:2-8) What characterization of God do you see?

Read Nahum 1:2-3. How do these two verses go together to create a clearer picture of God?

The Lord is good and therefore His wrath is against that which is evil. (Nahum 1:7-8) What constitutes an adversary or enemy of God?

Nahum 1:15 closely echoes a messianic prophecy in Isaiah 52:7, which is quoted by Paul in Romans 10:15. What is the "good news" that is brought to the Israelites? To the Romans? To us?



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Nahum 1:7 (ESV)