

MINOR PROPHETS: JONAH & NAHUM

(The following is adapted from the Quest Study Bible—Zondervan, 2011)

Who wrote them and when? Jonah wrote his book most likely between 785 and 750 BC during the reign of Jeroboam II—king of Israel (2 Kings 14:25). Nahum wrote his book between 663 BC, when Assyria conquered Egypt, and 612 BC when Nineveh (capital of Assyria) fell to the Babylonians. This was approximately 100 years after the time of Jonah.

What was happening at this time? At the time of Jonah, the northern kingdom regained its influence and was restored by Jeroboam II. But the Assyrians, were asserting themselves in increasingly menacing ways. At the time of Nahum, Assyria had defeated the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. Now, approximately 100 years later, the southern kingdom of Judah was ruled by Manasseh or Josiah, depending on when Nahum's ministry is dated.

Why was it written? Jonah was written to tell the story of God's concern for even the enemies of his people. The book also shows how God used a reluctant prophet as a vehicle of his grace. Nahum was written to assure people that evil does not endure forever and that God will one day fulfill his plan to permanently restore good.

Jonah

- What do you discover about God's calling upon Jonah and Jonah's response to that calling? Why do you think Jonah did this?
- What do you notice about the sailors dealings with God?
- How does Jonah respond to God's renewed calling for him?
- What is striking about Jonah's response to the Ninevites' repentance?
- What is God's bottom-line response to Jonah? Can you relate to this?

Nahum

- What do you learn about the character of God from Nahum's prophecies?
- What do you think it means that God is jealous?
- How do you understand the tension between God's slowness to anger and His decisiveness in dealing with the guilty?
- What is the promise of God for those who seek refuge in Him?

Third Christian Reformed Church

2400 Winchell Ave + Kalamazoo, MI 49008

3rdcrc.org + 343-2400 + Office: Mon-Thur 8 am – 4 pm

Sunday + July 18, 2021

Prayer of Preparation

God of abiding love, you choose us as your servants and dare to call us friends: take our fragmented hearts, commanding them to love, making whole our joy, our life reborn in you; through Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for us. Amen.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Call to Worship — from Psalm 96

○ worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

ALL: let the whole earth tremble before him!

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King;

ALL: let the whole earth tremble before him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

ALL: let the whole earth tremble before him.

SONGS: How Great is Our God (574) + Cornerstone

Prayer of Confession

God, our Creator, you made the sun and the stars. You drew up the hills and the mountains. You formed us and breathed life into us. You saved us and guide us. In our arrogance, we turn from you. We think that we can handle the concerns of our lives on our own. We want to do things our way in our time, and too often, we forget that you hold all things, including us. Forgive our pride and stubbornness. Teach us dependence on you through our Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Encouragement — from 1 Timothy 1:15,17

“Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who confess
their sins and resolve to lead a new life, he says, “Your sins are forgiven.”
He also says, “Follow me.” Now to the one who rules all worlds,
immortal, invisible, the only God:
ALL: be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen!

SONG: Blessed Assurance (363)

Sharing God’s Peace

Children’s Story – children ages 3–2nd grade will be dismissed for Children’s Worship

SONG: This I Believe (The Creed)

Life @ Third

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

*Minor Prophets: Jonah & Nahum
Jonah 4:1-11; Nahum 3:1, 18-19 + “God’s Faces”*

FOLLOWING GOD INTO THE WORLD

Blessing & Sending

May our great and merciful God, the source of all good things,
shower you with his abundant blessings so that your hearts overflow
with endless gratitude; and the blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit—be among you and remain with you always.
ALL: Amen!

SONG: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Books of Jonah & Nahum – “God’s Faces”