

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR NAHUM, HABAKKUK, AND ZEPHENIAH

JULY 5	PRE-TEST - General Introduction
15	Introduction to Nahum
19	Nahum
22	Nahum
26	Introduction to Zephaniah
29	Zephaniah
AUG. 2	Zephaniah
5	Zephaniah
9	Introduction to Habakkuk
12	Habakkuk
16	Habakkuk
19	Habakkuk
23	POST-TEST - General Review

TENATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

JULY 15 - History of Nineveh and Assyria

JULY 26 - History of Judah's Sins

AUG. 9 - History of the Chaldeans

Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah - PRETEST

1. Define prophecy.

2. Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah were prophets in (JUDAH, ISRAEL) in the _____ Century B.C.

3. What nation was rising in power during the time of these prophets?

4. What "major" prophet was a contemporary to these prophets?

5. Which one of these prophets was the great-great grandson of a king?
Which king?

6. What is the general message of:

NAHUM?

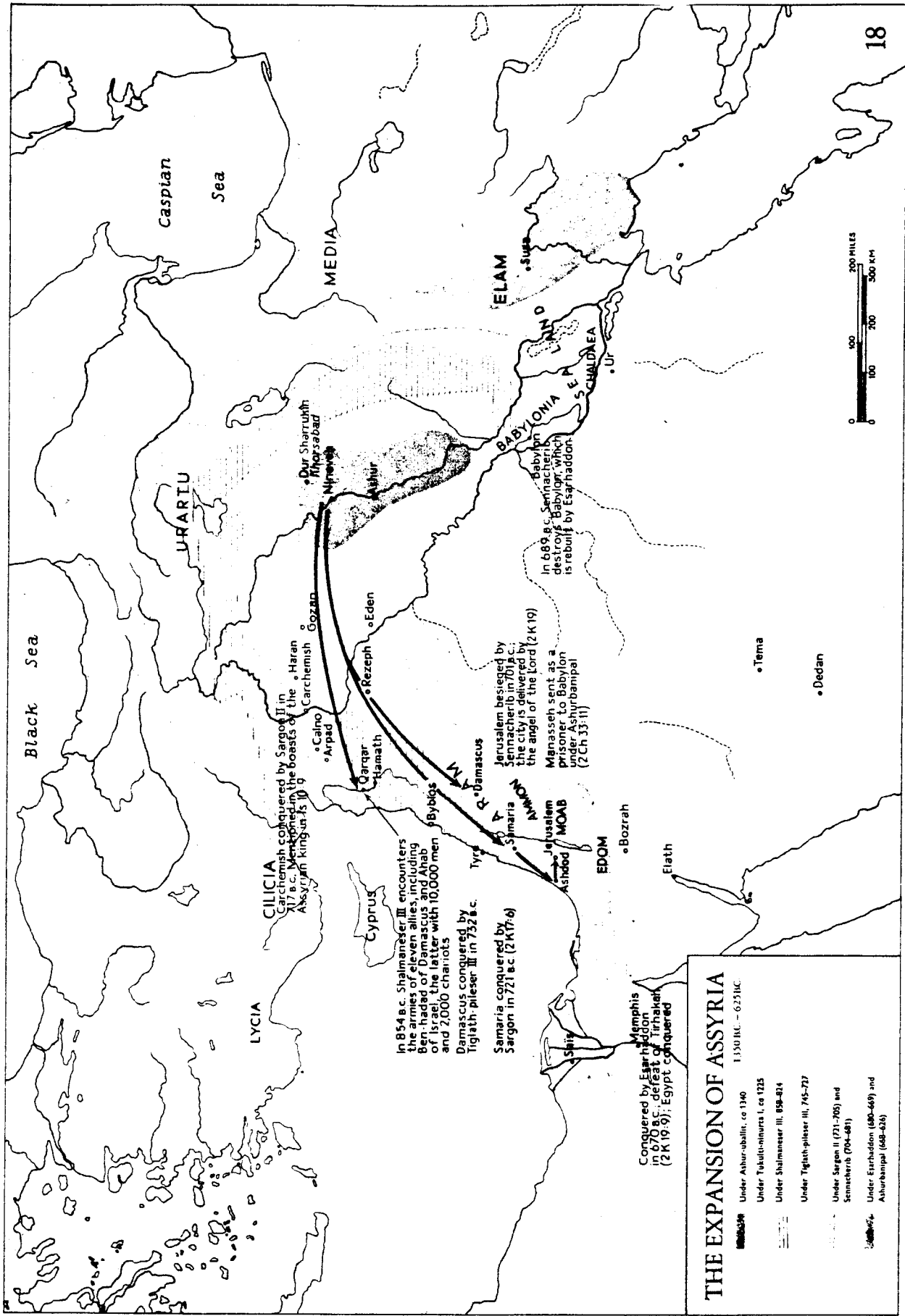
HABAKKUK?

ZEPHANIAH?

7. Which book is written as a dialogue between the prophet and Jehovah?

8. Which prophet describes the coming of the day of the Lord?

9. For which book of prophecy might a study of the Jonah be helpful?



CILICIA
Carchemish conquered by Sargon II in 717 B.C. Mentioned in the boasts of the Assyrian King in Is 10:9

In 854 B.C. Shalmaneser III encounters the armies of Shalmaneser III and the Ben-hadad of Damascus and Ahab of Israel; the latter with 10,000 men and 2,000 chariots

Damascus conquered by Tiglath-pileser III in 732 B.C.

Samaria conquered by Sargon in 721 B.C. (2K17:6)

Jerusalem besieged by Sennacherib in 701 B.C.; the city is delivered by the angel of the Lord (2K19)

Manasseh sent as a prisoner to Babylon under Ashurbanipal (2Ch 33:11)

In 689 B.C. Sennacherib destroys Babylon, which is rebuilt by Esarhaddon

Conquered by Esarhaddon in 670 B.C. (2K19:37); Egypt conquered

THE EXPANSION OF ASSYRIA

1,530 B.C. - 625 B.C.

- Under Ashur-uballit, ca 1340
- Under Tukulti-ninurta I, ca 1225
- Under Shalmaneser III, 858-824
- Under Tiglath-pileser III, 745-727
- Under Sargon II (721-705) and Sennacherib (705-681)
- Under Esarhaddon (680-669) and Ashurbanipal (668-626)

The Prophets in Time

<u>Prophet</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Period</u>
Obadiah	845	Judah	Edom	Assyrian
Joel	835	Judah	Judah	↓
Jonah	782	Israel	Nineveh	
Hosea	760	Israel	Israel	
Amos	760	Israel	Israel	
Isiah	739	Judah	Judah	
Micah	735	Judah	Judah	
Nahum	650	Judah	Nineveh	
<u>Zephaniah</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>Judah</u>	<u>Judah</u>	
Jeremiah	627	Judah	Judah	↓
<u>Habakkuk</u>	<u>609</u>	<u>Judah</u>	<u>Judah</u>	
Daniel	605	Judah	Babylon	↓
Ezekiel	593	Judah	exiles	
Haggai	520	Judah	Judah	
Zechariah	520	Judah	Judah	
Malachi	433	Judah	Judah	

INTRODUCTION - NAHUM

I. NAHUM the man

A. "consoler"

B. An Elkoshite

1. Left bank of the Tigris, two days journey north of Nineveh
2. Galilee
3. Capernaum "village of Nahum"
4. Simeon

II. NAHUM the book

A. Date 663-612 B.C.

1. Nahum 3:8 - The fall of No-Amon (Thebes) in Egypt occurred in 663 B.C. at the hands of Ashurbanipal, king of Assyria.
2. The book pre-dates the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C. (or 606 B.C)

B. Background

1. Assyria

- a. Tiglath-pileser (745-727) carried Northern Israel to captivity
- b. Shalmaneser V (727-722) and Sargon II (722-705) sieged Samaria
- c. Sennacherib (705-681) sieged Jerusalem in Hezekiah's reign
- d. Ashurbanipal (668-625) campaigned in Egypt and was very cruel.

2. Prophecy

- a. Jonah (782) prophesied Nineveh's destruction - Nineveh repented
- b. Zephaniah in Nahum's time prophesied Nineveh's final destruction

III. NAHUM the message

A. Nineveh is doomed

1. The fate is final (1:14)
2. The destruction will be complete (2:13)
3. You will receive the same fate as your enemies (3:8-11)
4. Nineveh brought this fate on herself (3:4)

B. Judah is delivered

1. No more Assyrian oppression (1:12-13)
2. Continue to serve the Lord (1:15b)

The Book of

NAHUM

I

1 The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.
2 God is jealous, and the Lord avenges;
The Lord avenges and is furious.
The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries,
And He reserves wrath for His enemies;
3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
And will not at all acquit the wicked.
The Lord has His way
In the whirlwind and in the storm,
And the clouds are the dust of His feet.
4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry,
And dries up all the rivers.
Bashan and Carmel wither,
And the flower of Lebanon wilts.
5 The mountains quake before Him,
The hill melt,
And the earth heaves at His presence,
Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.
6 Who can stand before His indignation?
And who can endure the fierceness of His anger?
His fury is poured out like fire,
And the rocks are thrown down by Him.
7 The Lord is good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.
8 But with an overflowing flood
He will make an utter end of its place,
And darkness will pursue His enemies.
9 What do you conspire against the Lord?
He will make an utter end of it.
Affliction will not rise up a second time.
10 For while tangled like thorns,
And while drunken like drunkards,
They shall be devoured like stubble fully dried.
11 From you comes forth one
Who plots evil against the Lord,
A wicked counselor.
12 Thus says the Lord:
"Though they are safe, and likewise many,
Yet in this manner they will be cut down
When he passes through.
Though I have afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more;
13 For now I will break off his yoke from you,
And burst your bonds apart."
14 The Lord has given a command concerning you:
"Your name shall be perpetuated no longer.
Out of the house of your gods
I will cut off the carved image and the molded image.
I will dig your grave,
For you are vile."
15 Behold, on the mountains
The feet of him who brings good tidings,
Who proclaims peace!
O Judah, keep your appointed feasts,
Perform your vows.
For the wicked one shall no more pass through you;
He is utterly cut off.

4 Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot,
The mistress of sorceries,
Who sells nations through her harlotries,
And families through her sorceries.
5 "Behold, I am against you," says the Lord of hosts;
"I will lift your skirts over your face,
I will show the nations your nakedness,
And the kingdoms your shame.
6 I will cast abominable filth upon you,
Make you vile,
And make you a spectacle.
7 It shall come to pass that all who look upon you
Will flee from you, and say,
'Nineveh is laid waste!
Who will bemoan her?'
Where shall I seek comforters for you?"
8 Are you better than No Amon
That was situated by the River,
That had the waters around her,
Whose rampart was like the sea,
Whose wall was like the sea?
9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength,
And it was boundless;
Put and Lubim were your helpers.
10 Yet she was carried away,
She went into captivity;
Her young children also were dashed to pieces
At the head of every street;
They cast lots for her honorable men,
And all her great men were bound in chains.
11 You also will be drunk;
You will be hidden;
You also will seek refuge from the enemy.
12 All your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs:
If they are shaken,
They fall into the mouth of the eater.
13 Surely, your people in your midst are women!
The gates of your land are wide open for your enemies;
Fire shall devour the bars of your gates.
14 Draw your water for the siege!
Fortify your strongholds!
Go into the clay and tread the mortar!
Make strong the brick kiln!
15 There the fire will devour you,
The sword will cut you off;
It will eat you up like a locust.
Make yourself many -- like the locust!
Make yourself many -- like the swarming locusts!
16 You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven.
The locust plunders and flies away.
17 Your commandments are like swarming locusts,
And your captains like great grasshoppers,
Which camp in the hedges on a cold day;
But when the sun rises they flee away,
And the place where they are is not known.
18 Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria;
Your nobles rest in the dust.
Your people are scattered on the mountains,
And no one gathers them.
19 Your injury has no healing,
Your wound is severe.
All who hear news of your
Will clap their hands over you,
For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?

STUDY QUESTIONS - NAHUM

1. Read through the book of Nahum, noting the characteristics of God which are described there (please note the verse).

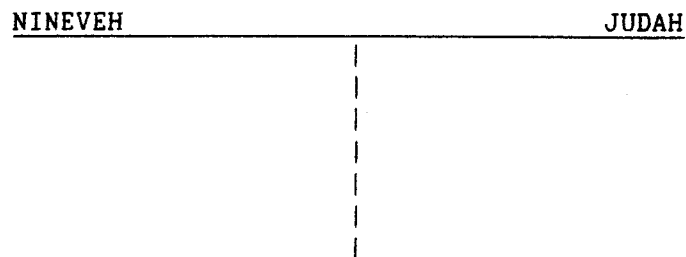
2. Many modern "bible scholars" indicate that the old testament portrays God as a God of vengeance and justice while the new testament portrays Him as a God of mercy and love.

A. Does the book of Nahum support this assertion? (why or why not?)

B. Does the new testament support this statement? (see Eph 5:1-7)

C. How then do we reconcile the nature of God described in Nahum 1:2 and 1:7?

3. Nahum gives a message to Judah and Nineveh in 1:9-2:2. Contrast these messages.



4. Describe the fall of Nineveh which Nahum depicts in 2:1-3:4

5. From history, what people did destroy Nineveh?
say would destroy Nineveh? Explain this conflict.

Who does Nahum

INTRODUCTION - ZEPHANIAH

I. ZEPHANIAH the man

- A. "Jehovah hides" (perhaps from evil Manasseh)
- B. Probably from Jerusalem (at least he calls Jerusalem "this place"(1:4))
- C. Possibly the great-great-grandson of Hezekiah
 - 1. None of the other prophets go past their father in any genealogy.
 - 2. This ancestry would make King Josiah and Zephaniah 4th cousins.

II. ZEPHANIAH the book

- A. Date 640-612 B.C.
 - 1. The book was written during Josiah's reign (1:1).
 - 2. The book predates the fall of Nineveh (2:13).
 - 3. The book probably predates the reforms of Josiah in 621 B.C.
 - a. Zeph. 1:3-6 condemns the idolatry which Josiah abolished.
 - b. Religious conditions described by Zephaniah readily fit the times before Josiah's reforms (1:3-6, 8-9, 12, 3:1-7).
- B. Background
 - 1. Judah
 - a. Manasseh and Amon had set up the worst period of idolatry in Judah's history (II Kings 21).
 - b. Josiah attempted to restore true worship of Jehovah. He was able to outwardly change the worship, but probably not the hearts of the people.
 - 2. The world
 - a. Upon the death of Ashurbanipal (633 B.C.), Assyria began to loose power in the region.
 - b. Nabopolassar, Chaldean king, declared independence from Assyria in 625 B.C.
 - c. The resulting war led to the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C. at the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, son of the Chaldean king, with the assistance of the Medes.
 - 3. Prophecy.
 - a. Zephaniah and Jeremiah prophesied to the same audience, with similar messages, and over the same period of history. They both may have begun to prophesy in the same year.
 - b. Nahum prophesied to Nineveh during this period.
 - c. Habakkuk's prophecy closely followed Zephaniah's.
 - d. Josiah may have heard all of these prophets of God!

III. ZEPHANIAH the message.

- A. The Day of the Lord is at hand!
- B. Repent, that you may be hidden!
- C. After this judgement, a remnant will be saved and glorified.

The Book of

ZEPHANIAH

I

1 The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of
Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the
son of Amon, king of Judah.

2 "I will utterly consume all things
From the face of the land,"
Says the Lord;

3 "I will consume the birds of the heavens,
The fish of the sea,
And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked.
I will cut off man from the face of the land,"
Says the Lord.

4 "I will stretch out My hand against Judah,
And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place,
The names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests --

5 Those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops;
Those who worship and swear oaths by the Lord,
But who also swear by Milcom;

6 Those who have turned back from following the Lord,
And have not sought the Lord, nor inquired of Him."

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord God;
For the day of the Lord is at hand,
For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
He has invited His guests.

8 "And it shall be,
In the day of the Lord's sacrifice,
That I will punish the princes and the king's children,
And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.

9 In the same day I will punish
All those who leap over the threshold,
Who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

10 "And there shall be on that day," says the Lord,
"The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate,
A wailing from the Second Quarter,
And a loud crashing from the hills.

11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh!
For all the merchant people are cut down;
All those who handle money are cut off.

12 "And it shall come to pass at that time
That I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
And punish the men
Who are settled in complacency,
Who say in their heart,
'The Lord will not do good,
Nor will He do evil.'

13 Therefore their goods shall become booty,
And their houses a desolation;
They shall build houses, but not inhabit them;
They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine."

14 The great day of the Lord is near;
It is near and hastens quickly.
The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter;
There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 That day is a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of devastation and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloominess,
A day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of trumpet and alarm
Against the fortified cities
And against the high towers.

12 "You Ethiopians also,
 You shall be slain by My sword."
 13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north,
 Destroy Assyria,
 And make Nineveh a desolation,
 As dry as the wilderness.
 14 The herds shall lie down in her midst,
 Every beast of the nation.
 Both the pelican and the bittern
 Shall lodge on the capitals of her pillars;
 Their voice shall sing in the windows;
 Desolation shall be at the threshold;
 For He will lay bare the cedar work.
 15 This is the rejoicing city
 That dwelt securely,
 That said in her heart,
 "I am it, and there is none beside me."
 How has she become a desolation,
 A place for beasts to lie down!
 Everyone who passes by her
 Shall hiss and shake his fist.

III

1 Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted,
 To the oppressing city!
 2 She has not obeyed His voice,
 She has not received correction;
 She has not trusted in the Lord,
 She has not drawn near to her God.
 3 Her princes in her midst are roaring lions;
 Her judges are evening wolves
 That leave not a bone till morning.
 4 Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people;
 Her priests have polluted the sanctuary,
 They have done violence to the law.
 5 The Lord is righteous,
 He is in her midst,
 He will do no unrighteousness.
 Every morning He brings His justice to light;
 He never fails,
 But the unjust knows no shame.
 6 "I have cut off nations,
 Their fortresses are devastated;
 I have made their streets desolate,
 With none passing by.
 Their cities are destroyed;
 There is no one, no inhabitant.
 7 I said, 'Surely you will fear Me,
 You will receive instruction' --
 So that her dwelling would not be cut off,
 Despite everything for which I punished her.
 But they rose early and corrupted all their deeds.
 8 "Therefore wait for Me," says the Lord,
 "Until the day I rise up for plunder;
 My determination is to gather the nations
 To My assembly of kingdoms,
 To pour on them My indignation,
 All my fierce anger;
 All the earth shall be devoured
 With the fire of My jealousy.
 9 "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language,
 that they all may call on the name of the Lord,
 To serve Him with one accord.
 10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia
 My worshipers,
 The daughter of My dispersed ones,
 Shall bring My offering.

INTRODUCTION - HABAKKUK

I. HABAKKUK the man

- A. "embrace" Habakkuk embraced the nation.
- B. His home is unknown, although the context of the book suggests that he was familiar with Jerusalem.

II. HABAKKUK the book

- A. Date 612-606 B.C.
 - 1. Assumes the book is prophetic of Babylonian captivity.
 - 2. An earlier date suggests the oppressors were the Assyrians.
 - 3. A later date assumes the book was written after-the-fact.
- B. Background
 - 1. Judah
 - a. God has already pronounced condemnation on Judah for her sins.
 - b. The reforms of Josiah had not altered God's decree.
 - c. Josiah was killed in trying to prevent Pharoah Necho from joining the Babylonians against Assyria.
 - 2. World powers
 - a. Assyria's demise had occurred, as prophesied by Nahum.
 - b. Babylon was quickly rising in power to the east.
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar had made Jehoiakim, king of Judah, his vassal.

III. HABAKKUK the message

- A. God will judge the wicked...in His own time and way.
- B. The just shall live by his faith.
- C. Evil is self-destructive.
- D. The necessity of discipline.
- E. The righteous are concerned about the unrighteous.

The Book of

HABAKKUK

I

1 The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw.
2 O Lord, how long shall I cry,
And You will not hear?
Even cry out to You, "Violence!"
And You will not save.
3 Why do You show me iniquity,
And cause me to see trouble?
For plundering and violence are before me;
There is strife, and contention arises.
4 Therefore the law is powerless,
And justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.
5 "Look among the nations and watch --
Be utterly astounded!
For I will work a work in your days
Which you would not believe, though it were told you.
6 For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans,
A bitter and hasty nation
Which marches through the breadth of the earth,
To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.
7 They are terrible and dreadful;
Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.
8 Their horses also are swifter than leopards,
And more fierce than evening wolves
Their charges charge ahead;
Their calvary comes from afar;
They fly as the eagle that hastens to eat.
9 "They all come for violence;
Their faces are set like the east wind.
They gather captives like sand.
10 They scoff at kings,
And princes are scorned by them.
They deride every stronghold,
For they heap up mounds of earth and seize it.
11 Then his mind changes, and he transgresses;
He commits offense,
Imputing this power to his god."
12 Are You not from everlasting,
O Lord my God, my Holy One?
We shall not die.
O Lord, You have appointed them for judgment;
O Rock, You have marked them for correction.
13 You are of purer eyes than to behold evil,
And cannot look on wickedness.
Why do You look on those who deal treacherously,
And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours
One more righteous than he?
14 Why do You make men like fish of the sea,
Like creeping things that have no ruler over them?
15 They take up all of them with a hook,
They catch them in their net,
And gather them in their dragnet,
Therefore they rejoice and are glad.
16 Therefore they sacrifice to their net,
And burn incense to their dragnet;
Because by them their share is sumptuous
And their food plenteous.
17 Shall they therefore empty their net,
And continue to slay nations without pity?

HABAKKUK - STUDY QUESTIONS (SHEET 2)

11. Chapter 3 of Habakkuk is a prayer to Jehovah. Make a rough outline of the Habakkuk's prayer.

12. What is Habakkuk's main plea to God?

13. In verses 3-15, Habakkuk looks over Israel's history, focusing on events that showed God's control over history. List each example named by Habakkuk, and find where each event is recorded in earlier Old Testament books.

14. How did Habakkuk react when he realized that God was working in this way?

15. Describe the progression of Habakkuk's personal faith which this book reveals. Try to come up with a chart to demonstrate Habakkuk's growth process.