

# **THE PRACTICAL SIDE OF THE MINOR PROPHETS**

*A Visit to Twelve Books in the Old Testament*  
Skylands Bible Conference....July, 2006, Brevard College  
Tom V. Taylor

## **AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE:**

Inside this folder is a listing of the messages I hope to present at this conference. With the titles I have listed the basic texts and some brief notes. Orally I will offer some background material for the books and subjects and some of the development that leads to conclusions. This quickly becomes a short study in prophetic directives.

Of course, all truth is practical. In these discussions we are thinking of "practical" as meaning what we can do. Our approach is to read the book, determine what the prophet is teaching in the day by day realm, and see how it is applicable where we live. The books will be grouped for the convenience of their messages. The Minor Prophets are, to some extent, often overlooked. But they are filled with advice for the people of God and that makes them relevant to our day.

So, on to the Practical Side of the Minor Prophets

**GROUP ONE: Jonah, Haggai, Zechariah**

*Jonah 1:1-3; 4:9-11, Haggai 1:1-6, Zechariah 8*

**Practical Theme: Do What is the Determined Will of God.**

Summary Notes:

Jonah: Take a message to Nineveh

Haggai: Build the Lord's house

Zechariah: Finish the Temple

Cautions: Avoid complacency; do not put self ahead of God, make no excuses. believe and do the work.

Application: Determine what God wants us to do--- and do it! That is the way of blessing.

**GROUP TWO: Amos, Micah**

*Amos 5:1-15; Micah 2:1-6; 6:6-9*

**Practical Theme: Perform social righteousness**

Summary Notes:

Amos: Seek the Lord, Show it in life

Micah: Honor God among the people

Cautions: Keep worship pure, hold relationships in justice and integrity, hate those things that are wrong in the sight of God.

Application: Use the standards of God in living as well as in worship.

**GROUP THREE: Joel, Habakkuk**

*Joel 2:1-17; 28-32; Hab. 1:1-11, 2:1-4, 3:17-19*

**Practical Theme: Prepare for Divine Visitation**

Summary Notes:

Joel: Warnings of a great judgment

Hab. Wait on God...He will sustain

Cautions: Do not be complacent, do not be afraid. The threats of God come to order our lives in obedience and worship.

Application: Trust in God...the just will live by faith no matter what the external situations seem to be.

#### **GROUP FOUR: Obadiah, Nahum**

*Obadiah 1, Nahum 1:1-8*

**Practical Theme: Trust God and Believe in His Program**

Summary Notes:

Obadiah: The Lord does not overlook unrighteous acts (Edom and Israel)

Nahum: God will deal with Assyria

Cautions: Do not think oneself above rebuke or that temporal gains are spiritual success, do not think God does not care.

Application: If God does not rectify things as soon as you would like...don't give up, continue to give yourself to His testimony.

#### **GROUP FIVE: Zephaniah, Malachi**

*Zephaniah 3:8-20; Malachi 1:6-14; 3:1-18*

**Practical Theme: Integrity is the Rule for God's People: at all Levels of Life**

Summary Notes:

Zephaniah: Safety is found only in the Lord

Malachi: Be honest with God...those who fear Him are kept in His Love

Cautions: Don't be smug about sin! Be faithful in spiritual obligations, live in His care



Application: Beware of hypocrisy especially in spiritual areas...be true to God in practice and profession. He is always true to us!

## **GROUP SIX: Hosea**

*Hosea 6, 14, etc.*

**Practical Theme: God's love for His people is Overwhelming: learn to live in the good of His Love.**

Summary notes:

The plot: Hosea and His Family becomes an object lesson for the family of God in the Old Testament and a lesson in the love of God for the New Testament age as well. There is the constant plea of God seeking for His people to return to Him and the promise that one day their lives will be made fully whole in His grace.

Cautions: The evil of spiritual adultery cannot be fully expressed. The care and love of God should not become a matter of presumption.

Application: We must see things in life in the light of God's love...including correction, chastisement. etc. His love will give us guidance on the path and modeling in the direction of life.

## **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:**

The words of the prophets are directive to encourage and motivate us in the lives that are ours. Many problems would be avoided and many injuries healed if these directives were given the full space in our lives. There are some things hard to understand but what is clear is sufficient for our need.