

But they were not as powerful as they thought, nor were they immune to judgment. Nahum predicts God's judgment on Israel's wicked enemy, which brings comfort to His people. Nahum 1:3 ensures God's wrath against sin, while highlighting the opportunity for the forgiveness His patience offers.

Habakkuk: We hate evil yet fear judgment. Habakkuk cries out to God to stop the wickedness he sees going unchecked in Judah. But when God tells him He will punish Judah's sin by sending Babylon to destroy them, Habakkuk cries, for mercy. It is Habakkuk who reveals that the righteous live by faith (2:4). His expression of trust in 3:16-19 is a passage worth remembering.

Zephaniah: Even certain judgment can't nullify God's love. Judah was doomed. Her sin had become a stench in God's nostrils, and His judgment was certain. Zephaniah predicts the coming of "the great day of the Lord," when God would punish the sin of Judah and its wicked neighbors. But He then promises to make worshipers out of Gentiles, so people from every nation, people like us, will praise His name. Zephaniah 3:17-18 promises great comfort and joy.

Haggai: We tend to serve ourselves first. After Israel returned from 70 years in exile for their sin, their priorities still weren't straight. They spent their newfound wealth on their own homes and neglected God's house. Haggai writes to motivate them to finish building a new center of worship to replace the one Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed. In the process, he reminds them that lasting blessings are those that result from obedience. One day, the Messiah will come to the new temple and restore the glory of Israel.

Jude: We're easily led into false teaching. Jude warns against false teachers who teach that grace allows us to sin without punishment. He insists that God's grace frees us from sin so we can walk in holiness. We are not just free from sin's penalty but also from its power. Note the closing blessing in Jude 24-25.

Zechariah: Repentance brings blessing, but sin produces sorrow. Helping Haggai to motivate Israel to rebuild the temple after captivity, Zechariah unveils eight visions he has received. They reveal God's help for His people, promise the coming of the Messiah, and predict certain judgment on the wicked and blessing for the righteous. Zechariah gives a vivid picture of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in 9:9-10.

These small books seem obscure and their readers foreign and strange. But a look at the situations Jude and the Minor Prophets address reveals that we and their ancient readers love the same God, have the same needs, and seek the same hope. Throughout the centuries and across the globe, all who trust in the Lord are strangely much the same.

Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Ask God to fill our church with His Spirit's enabling to make disciples who make disciples.
- **Local Outreach:** Lloyd and Nancy Peckham, teaching Bible translation
- **Missions:** Church planting by Gaborone Chapel, Gaborone, Botswana

Need to pray with someone?

It is our privilege to pray for you personally. Share your prayer requests

- By email at prayer@northpointcorona.org
- By phone, at 951.734.1335
- On a Response Card in the pew during the worship service
- Prayer Team members are available after every worship service.



prayer *life!*

Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year **THREE**) November 2019

The LORD is slow to anger and great in power. The LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. –Nahum 1:3

Strangely the Same

Who are these people and what are they talking about? It's hard to engage much of the Minor Prophets, because they seem so foreign. As you read these books, strangeness is their main impression.

As is true with the letters of the New Testament, to understand the Minor Prophets, it helps to know the situations they address. While each person is unique, we all share characteristics that God addresses in His Word.

Hosea: We naturally stray from God, but He won't let us go. Israel persistently rejected the Lord and worshiped other gods. God had Hosea marry a prostitute to illustrate Israel's unfaithfulness to their covenant with Him. Hosea's pain from his wife's rejection demonstrates the hurt God's erring people cause Him. Hosea casts out his wife, just as God would soon cast Israel out of the Promised Land. But the purpose is correction not rejection. Israel deserved God's wrath but could never break His love. As Israel prepared to go into exile, God used Hosea to show them why they experienced such pain and to ensure them that His love for them would ultimately triumph. Great passages in Hosea include 3:16-20 & 6:1-3.

Obadiah: It's easy to kick someone when they're down. The people of Edom, descended from Esau, Jacob's brother (Genesis 36:40-42; cf. 27:4-45). Instead of helping Israel when foreigners invaded, they gloated over Israel's misfortune and even helped their enemies. Obadiah predicted God's judgment on Edom and protection of His people Israel.

Jonah: We all harbor prejudice and hatred. God commands Jonah to warn Nineveh of coming judgment, but Jonah knows the LORD is a compassionate God, so he runs away instead. After the great fish rescues Jonah from drowning in consequence for his sin, he goes to Nineveh, still longing to see Israel's enemy punished. God contrasts Jonah's hatred with His own compassion and teaches His people they are to love their enemies, just as He does.

Micah: God gives hope to His people, even while He punishes their sin. To love others means to hate what harms them, even when they don't hate it themselves. Micah's prophecies declare how much God loves them but hates their sin. Israel and Judah will go into captivity for their idolatry, injustice, and empty religious ritual, but one day, the Messiah will come and restore the greatness of David's kingdom. Great passages include 5:1-5 and 6:6-8.

Nahum: The doom of the wicked brings comfort to God's people. Nineveh was Israel's brutal enemy. Known for cruelty, they were God's "rod" to punish His people. After their short-lived repentance in Jonah's day, they subjugated the Kingdom of Israel—almost 100 years before Nahum's time.

Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year THREE)

November 2019

Sunday: Church & Ministry	Monday: Home & Family	Tuesday: Job or School	Wednesday: Neighbors & Community	Thursday: Nation	Friday: World & Kingdom	Saturday: Praise for God's Blessings
<p><i>Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. –Psalm 147:1</i></p>					<p>1) Read: Hosea 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> The spread of the Gospel in the Middle East and the strength of the Church in that region.</p>	<p>2) Read: Hosea 6 <i>Praise God for ...</i> The free country He has given us to live in and the influence God's Word has had on us as a nation.</p>
<p>3) Read: Hosea 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Genuine thanksgiving to fill our hearts, as we see and appreciate what God is doing in us, for us, and through us. Lord, give us eyes to see.</p>	<p>4) Read: Hosea 8 <i>Pray for ...</i> A dynasty of faith in your home that will influence people to Christ for generations.</p>	<p>5) Read: Hosea 9 <i>Pray for ...</i> A voice that speaks Jesus to those around you at work, with gentleness and respect for others but directness and clarity that honors God.</p>	<p>6) Read: Hosea 10 <i>Pray for ...</i> Anyone with needs you're aware of in your neighborhood. Let them know you are praying for them.</p>	<p>7) Read: Hosea 11 <i>Pray for ...</i> Godly influences in our nation's schools: May God's truth and righteousness be taught and modeled.</p>	<p>8) Read: Hosea 12 <i>Pray for ...</i> God to purify His Church and make us a light to this dark world.</p>	<p>9) Read: Hosea 13 <i>Rejoice that ...</i> God brought the Gospel across 20 centuries and thousands of miles to find you.</p>
<p>10) Read: Hosea 14 <i>Pray for ...</i> Carolee Jefferson, Ministry Assistant Youth: May God use her work to bring honor to His name & lead students to Christ.</p>	<p>11) Read: Obadiah 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> You and your family to have boldness and love in sharing the Gospel with others.</p>	<p>12) Read: Jonah 1-4 <i>Pray for ...</i> The needs of those you serve where you work or your teachers at school: May God bless them with every spiritual blessing in Christ.</p>	<p>13) Read: Micah 1 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your neighbors' ability to give thanks at this season. Ask God to give them reasons to give thanks and make you one of them.</p>	<p>14) Read: Micah 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Spiritual renewal of our culture that leads us to look to Christ and live.</p>	<p>15) Read: Micah 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> The Church in Africa to be strong and to advance against the forces of Islam. Pray for the strength and protection of God's people.</p>	<p>16) Read: Micah 4 <i>Praise God for ...</i> Making Man male and female in His image. Thank Him for the blessings of marriage and family.</p>
<p>17) Read: Micah 5 <i>Pray for ...</i> Amber McEwen, Ministry Associate, Women's Ministries and Facilities: May God use her work to bring honor to His name & lead students to Christ.</p>	<p>18) Read: Micah 6 <i>Pray for ...</i> Your spouse and children or your closest friends: May God make them one, even as Jesus is one with the Father.</p>	<p>19) Read: Micah 7 <i>Pray for ...</i> Opportunities to express God's love for others on your job or at school.</p>	<p>20) Read: 2nd-3rd John <i>Pray for ...</i> Your relationships and Christian influence in your neighborhood.</p>	<p>21) Read: Nahum 1 <i>Thank God for ...</i> The influence of the Church in the past, present, and future of our nation.</p>	<p>22) Read: Nahum 2 <i>Give Praise for ...</i> The spread of the Gospel to the ends of the earth and the worldwide influence of the Church of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>23) Read: Nahum 3 <i>Rejoice that ...</i> Your family and friends. Rejoice in God's design for relationships.</p>
<p>24) Read: Habakkuk 1-2 <i>Pray for ...</i> The Christmas Tea to present Christ clearly and in a positive and winsome way, leading people to Christ.</p>	<p>25) Read: Habakkuk 3 <i>Commit ...</i> Yourself & your family to Christ: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).</p>	<p>26) Read: Zephaniah 1 <i>Pray that ...</i> The quality & effectiveness of your work will exalt Christ and point others to Him.</p>	<p>27) Read: Zephaniah 2 <i>Pray for ...</i> Peace and safety in your neighborhood and community, along with increased engagement between you & your neighbors.</p>	<p>28) Read: Zephaniah 3 <i>Pray for ...</i> Wisdom, godliness, & integrity for our president, Congress, & judges as they lead us. Ask God to reign in the hearts of people of all parties in our nation.</p>	<p>29) Read: Haggai 1-2 <i>Pray for ...</i> The Gospel of Jesus Christ to triumph in China & Japan, changing lives & transforming the culture.</p>	<p>30) Read: Jude 1 <i>Thank God for ...</i> The Lord will come again. As on the first Christmas, "He rules the world with truth & grace."</p>