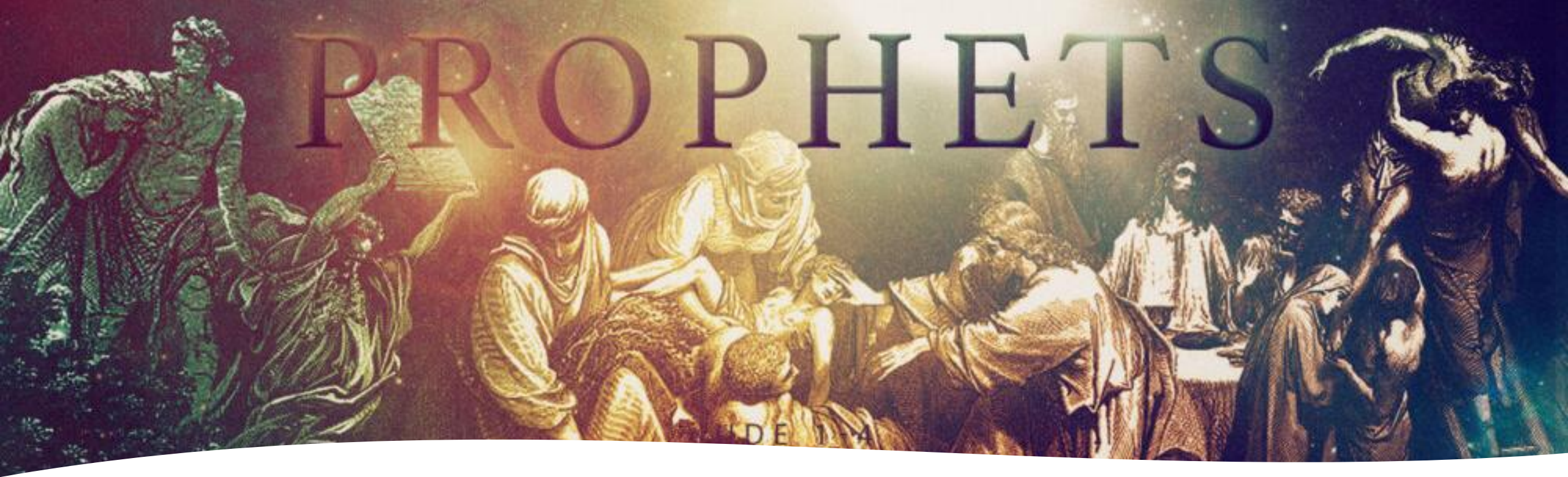


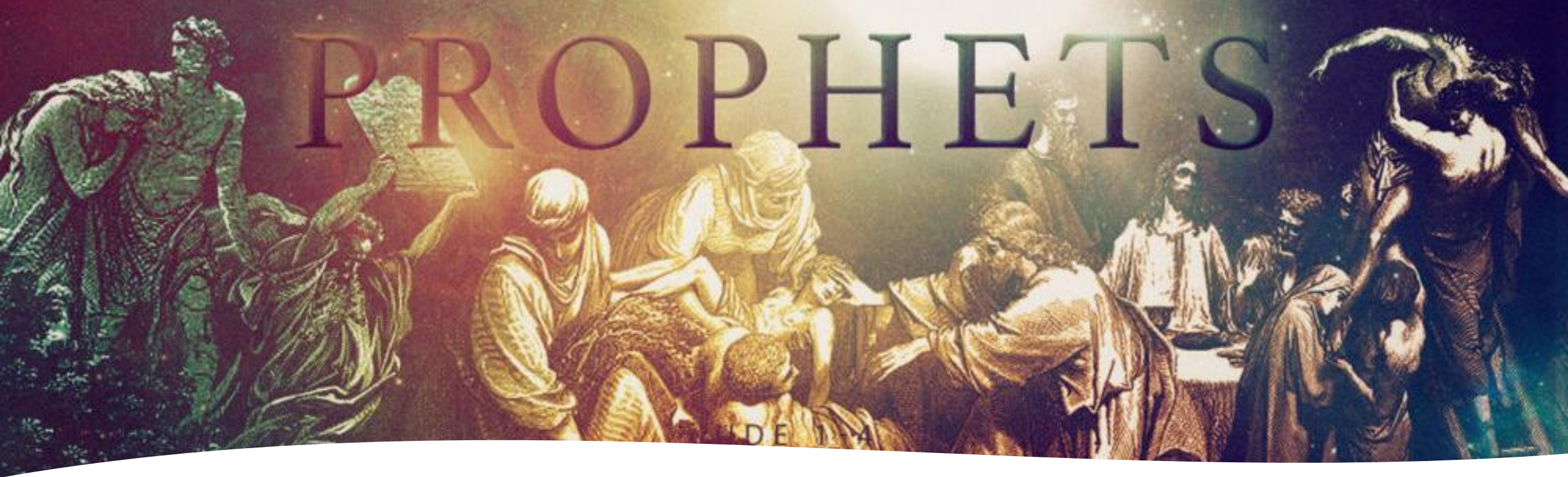
Jonah, Micah.
Nahum and
Habakkuk

-
- Phil Krauss, Fritz Quitmeyer and Marie Schlosser
 - August 20, 2023
 - Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church



Introduction

- Prayer
- Don't forget to take a handout and sign in
- Review – The Minor Prophets so far
- Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk in context



Introduction (Continued)

- Questions and discussion on each book
- Importance
- Christ in each book
- Noteworthy verses

THE MINOR

PROPHETS



The Minor
Prophets So Far

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah



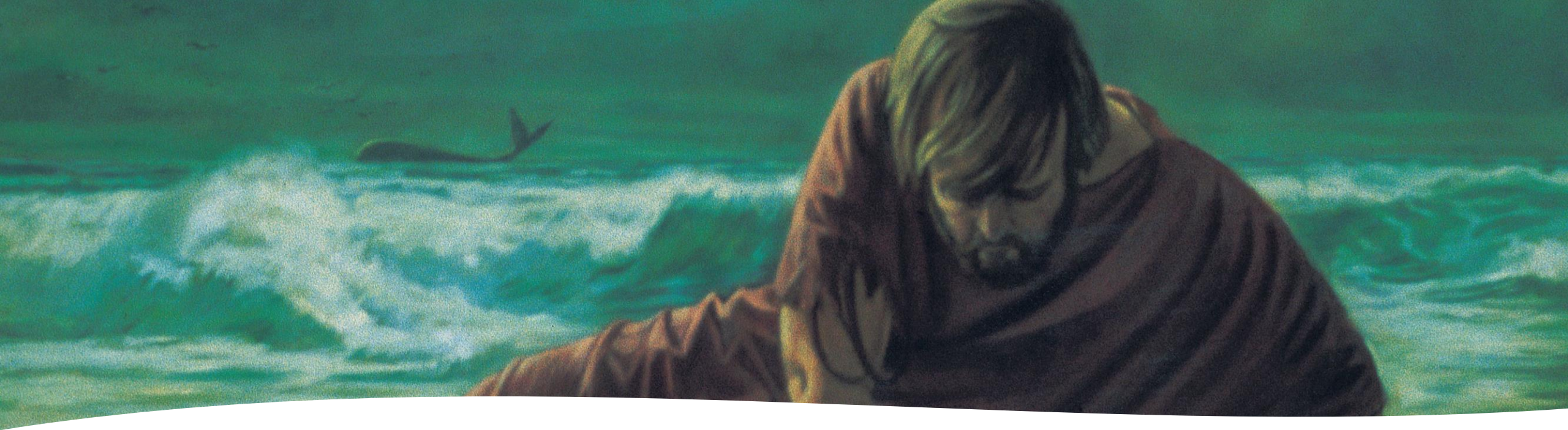
The Minor Prophets So Far

- Are they really “minor”?
- Similar themes
 - God is King - the nations belong to Him
 - God’s relationship with His people
- But each has its own style and message

Jonah

- God's reluctant evangelist
- Nineveh – the capitol of evil
- The attempted escape
 - ship to Tarshish (Spain)
 - The storm
 - The whale (“great fish” ESV)
 - The prayer
- Success
- Anger over the success

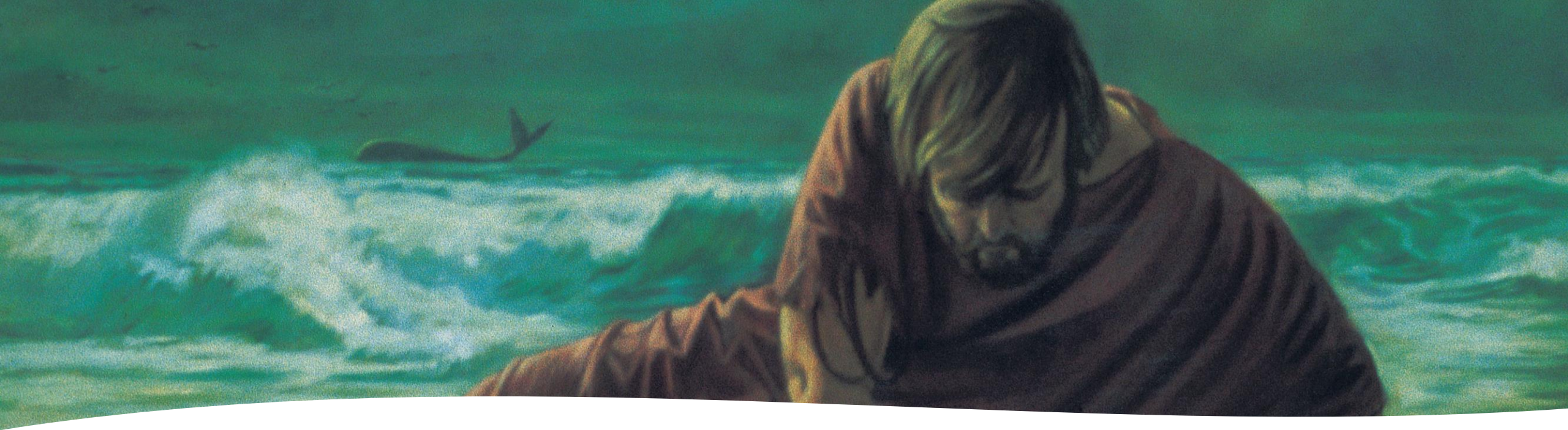




Does God always pursue those who run from Him?

But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. – Jonah 1:3

Questions/Discussion



Questions/Discussion

Do we have a right to get angry with God?

But the Lord replied, "Have you any right to be angry?" – Jonah 4:4

Importance



- The Book of Jonah is a clear illustration of God’s compassion and love
- God wants everyone, even those who we consider to be “unsave-able,” to repent and turn to Him
- This is a lesson many Christians have forgotten over the two thousand years of our history – even today



Christ in Jonah

Jesus compares himself to Jonah

But he [Jesus] answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.” – Matthew 12 39-41

Christ in Jonah

- Can you think of another similarity?



Noteworthy Verses

I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

– Jonah 2:2

...for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

- Jonah 4:2b



Micah

Micah expresses a common theme found in the prophets, both major and minor:

- Evil abounds in the world and even in God's people
- God will judge those who do evil
- But there is hope if they repent
- Know that God is very active in the world



Questions/Discussion

Does God refuse to listen to sinners?

*Then they will cry to the LORD,
but he will not answer them;
he will hide his face from them at
that time,
because they have made their
deeds evil.*

- Micah 3:4



Questions/Discussion

Does God refuse to listen to sinners? (continued)

- God is known for responding with mercy when people genuinely repent.
- When a change of heart and attitude is demonstrated by a change in behavior, God will hear the prayers of even the most evil of people.



Importance

Today's understanding of social justice – the expectation of care for those less fortunate – comes from the Old Testament, especially the prophets and including Micah.

And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel!

Is it not for you to know justice?— you who hate the good and love the evil,

- Micah 3:1-2a



Importance

More of Micah's call to justice:

Woe to those who devise wickedness

and work evil on their beds!
When the morning dawns, they perform it,

because it is in the power of their hand.

They covet fields and seize them,
and houses, and take them away;

they oppress a man and his house,
a man and his inheritance.

- Micah 2:1-2



Christ in Micah

One of the most famous predictions about Jesus is found in Micah. It is found in Matthew 2 – the Christmas story:

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among
the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.*

- Micah 5:2



Noteworthy Verses in Micah

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

- Micah 6:8

*But as for me,
I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.*

- Micah 7:7



MICAH



Nahum

**Nahum speaks to the destruction of Nineveh/Assyria
Again, God is in complete control of the nations – Nineveh
was an instrument of God’s judgement for Israel (the
Northern Kingdom), yet they too will feel God’s wrath**

Questions/Discussion

Can anyone, or any nation, pass the point of forgiveness?

Nahum has some pretty harsh predictions for Nineveh.

*There is no easing your hurt;
your wound is grievous.
All who hear the news about you
clap their hands over you.
For upon whom has not come
your unceasing evil?*
- Nahum 3:19



Questions/Discussion

Can anyone, or any nation, pass the point of forgiveness?

- No!
- Even Nineveh, a nation who had a reputation for cruelty far exceeding what was done to Israel, was redeemable.
- God hates sin, but forgiveness is always available to those who turn from sin and asks forgiveness.
- Remember Jonah's successful mission to Nineveh.



Importance



Nahum's lesson for the Jewish people and for us:

- Have comfort that God will bring the appropriate judgement on everyone who sins

Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.

- Deuteronomy 34:35

- God is in control, even when it seems like He isn't

Christ in Nahum

The suffering predicted in Nahum is sometimes compared to the suffering Jesus experienced at the hands of His enemies.





Noteworthy Verse

*The LORD is good,
a stronghold in the day of
trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in
him.*

-Nahum 1:7



Habakkuk

Habukkuk asks the questions of God:

- **How long do we have to suffer?**
- **Are You really in control?**
- **Why do You ignore injustice?**
- **Why do the wicked prospser?**

Importance

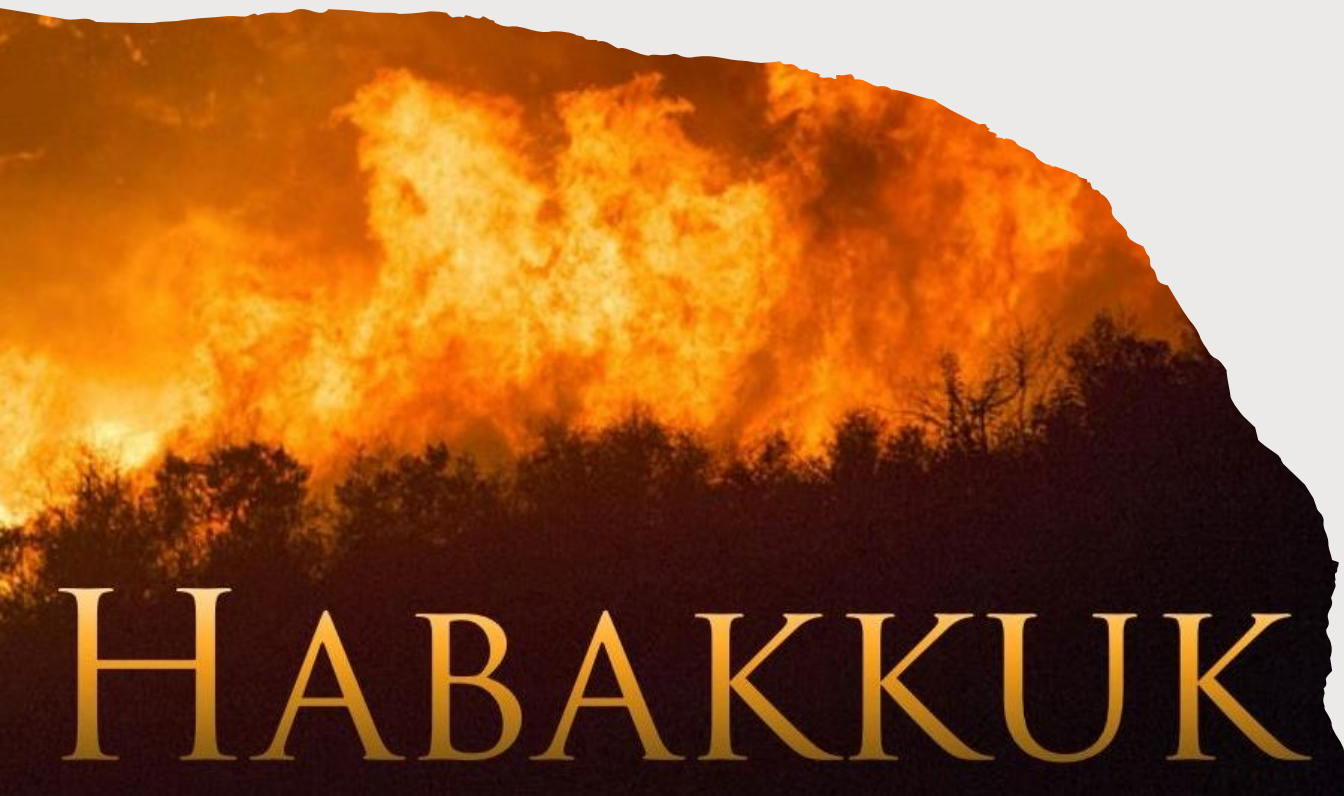
How does God answer those questions in Habakkuk?

- I am in control
- I am almighty

What does Habakkuk conclude in his book?

- Trust the Lord

Can there be a better answer for us when we face calamity in our lives?



HABAKKUK

Importance

Habakkuk's conclusion – our conclusion:

*Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;*

- Habakkuk 3:17-19a



HABAKKUK

Christ in Habakkuk

Prophecy of Jesus Christ:

For still the vision awaits its appointed time;

it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

- Habakkuk 2:3

The NIV uses “revelation” in place of “vision.” This revelation/vision is Jesus.



HABAKKUK



Noteworthy Verse

...but the righteous shall live by his faith.

- Habakkuk 2:4b

HABAKKUK

THE MINOR

PROPHETS



Preview

Next week Fritz will discuss the Synodical Convention

No class on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend

September 10th – the rest of the Minor Prophets

Read, read, read!! Because you have an extra week