

Sermon Application Questions

The Amazing Race - week 4

The Prophets

Ice Breaker:

Answer one or more of the following statements:

- 1) What is your favorite "Prophet" book (between Isaiah and Malachi)? Least favorite? Why?
- 2) What is one word or phrase that comes to your mind when you think of the prophetic books of the Old Testament?
- 3) If you were to predict something that you think will happen in the next 5 years, what do you think it will be?

Digging Deeper:

- 1) When you reflect on the story line of the Old Testament, what is the most significant observation you have? Would you say that your observation is similar or different than what you observe today? Explain your answer.
- 2) Brent said that following the division of Israel into a northern kingdom and a southern kingdom, none of the kings in the north were "good," and there was a mixture of good and bad kings in the southern kingdom. How does this relate to the political scene in our world today?
- 3) The book of Jonah records the dire future for the city of Nineveh unless they would repent of their sin, which they did. However, the book of Nahum records the destruction of Nineveh about 100 years later because of their refusal to repent and turn back to God. Eventually this city was destroyed and never rebuilt because of their stubbornness. Do you see any parallels with our country today? Why or why not?
- 4) Read Habakkuk 3:17-19. What is the message of these words? How do they relate to our culture today?
- 5) In the book of Amos, God outlines an interesting progression of judgments on various nations: Aram; Philistia; Phoenicia; Edom; Ammon; Moab; Judah; Israel. Look these up on a map and note the physical progression. What is the emotional significance of this progress for the original readers? What significance might that have for us today? How does God use pronouncements of judgment in the Old Testament for His purposes? Does that have any relevance for our culture?
- 6) Brent referred to Zephaniah 3:17 and talked about how God is "mighty to save, that He will quiet us with His love and rejoice over us with singing." Read that verse in the context of Zeph. 3:12-17. What are the parameters or conditions of those promises? Why is this context important?

- 7) The last prophetic words that God gave in the Old Testament period are found in Malachi 4:5-6. Read those verses. What is the significance of those words not only for the people of that day, but for us as well?

Apply It:

Think about how you might apply this message in a practical way this next week. If you can do that, write it down here:

If you need some suggestions, look at the list below:

- 1) Read Habakkuk (3 short chapters) and write a summary of what God communicates to the Southern Kingdom and make some personal applications for today.
- 2) Memorize and meditate on Malachi 4:6.
- 3) Find an object(s) that represent the principle of Amos 1 and place it in a prominent place to remind you of the message that God sent through this prophet.
- 4) Meditate on the words of the song titled "Mighty To Save" from Zeph. 3:17:
Everyone needs compassion,
Love that's never failing;
Let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Savior;
The Hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains,
My God is Mighty to save,
He is Mighty to save.

Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me,
All my fears and failures,
Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in,
Now I surrender.

My Savior, He can move the mountains,
My God is Mighty to save,

He is Mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light and let the whole world see,
We're singing for the glory of the risen King...Jesus (x2)

My Savior, He can move the mountains,
My God is Mighty to save,
He is Mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

My Savior, you can move the mountains,
You are mighty to save,
You are mighty to save.
Forever, Author of Salvation,
You rose and conquered the grave,
Yes you conquered the grave.