

Neequaye Williams

OT503 Reading the Old Testament

Spring 2021

Essay 56

This week, I read and listened for close to two hours to the books of all the books of the Bible for this assignment Daniel, Hosea and Joel. I also spent some time reading. I read 100% of the assigned reading and highlighted. I watched all the videos. ✍

When reading prophecy, it is important to understand that a prophet is delivering God's message. The person that is giving God's message, is not important the message is. We need to pay attention to what the prophecy is saying and the meaning of the prophecy.

In the book of Amos, he tells the people that they are to be a nation to bless all nations but instead they were unjust to the poor. Because of this, the day of the Lord is coming. Obadiah deals with the pride of the Edomites and prophecies about how all prideful nations will fall. Then God will restore His kingdom over Jerusalem and include all nations. God demonstrates His great compassion for us, through the small steps of repentance, taken by the Ninevites in the book of Jonah. The book questions whether we are okay with God loving our enemies. In the book of Micah, God once again confronts His people about their sin and reminds them of what is good, "to act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8, NIV). Nahum shows us how God brings down the violent, arrogant, and evil nations of every period and place. This is good news because God won't leave evil unpunished. In Habakkuk we learn that the righteous must live by faith, trust that God will one day punish evil and rescue His people. The book of Zephaniah shows us that the day of the Lord is not just one event, but it is whenever God brings about change. It includes judgement of Jerusalem, then judgement on the nations and ends with hope for Jerusalem and the nations, because of God's great love. In the book of Haggai, he convicts the Israelites for building their own homes and neglecting God's house. We see the people turn, obey, and rebuild the temple of God. Zechariah brought a message of hope, to a discouraged and disillusioned generation, to rebuild their hearts. If they returned faithfully to God and obeyed His covenant. The faithful remnant learns from Malachi, to remember the Tora and scripture. God's words is still valid. They are told of the coming of Elijah before the Day of the Lord.

One major insight for me, was i

n the book of Jonah. We learn that he wasn't running away from Nineveh because of how they treated the Israelites. That had not happened yet. Jonah was fleeing God's will because he knew how merciful God is and that it would take very little action from the Ninevites, for God to turn from His wrath towards them. Once again we see the great patience and compassion God shows to His creation. In the prophecies of ancient Israel, we read about how God uses spokesmen to speak on His behalf. They convey God's plans for His people. If the people break the covenant the prophets warn of judgement; the destruction of the temple, loss of kingship, Israelites deported and locusts. The prophets

tell of God's plan for hope in the form of restoration, a return, to the promised land, the return of the Davidic kingship and a promise of the world filled with God's love and presence.—

"The Day of the Lord" (Zephaniah 1:14, 2:2) is a theme that I would like to research. Even though it is written as singular day, there have been many Days of the Lord and they stand for different things. I would also like to see how it compares to the Day of the Lord in New testament times. Another topic I would like to research is God's outrageous compassion for His creation like we see in Jonah (Jonah 4:2).

The book of Isaiah shows us there is hope and that God is trustworthy. God can be trusted to fulfill His covenant oath. We see God's revelation of Himself, writing His law on the Israelite's hearts, in the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah is trying to turn the people back to Yahweh. Throughout Lamentations, we see the anguish of the Israelites as they suffer for covenant disobedience. Ezekiel calls the Israelites into repentance. They are commanded to return to God and live or face His judgement. The book of Daniel teaches us to live a life of faith in a hostile world. In Hosea, God demonstrates His divine faithfulness towards the Israelites, as He shows us the actions of Hosea towards his adulteress wife. The book of Joel is about the day of the Lord. God setting things right through His judgement, restoration, and deliverance.—

One major insight that was new to me was, God commanding Hosea to take extreme actions towards his wife. Through the story of Hosea and his adulteress wife, God demonstrated by His divine faithfulness, the great lengths that He goes through to save His people. It is the image of the verse, "he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him." 2 Samuel 14:14 NIV. ✓

I would like to research and understand more completely the prophecies found in Daniel 12. I would like to research how and if, verse 1 relates the rapture? I also would like to understand what is meant by "When the power of the holy people has been finally broken," (Daniel 12:7 NIV), and if there are any scriptures in the New Testament that support these verses?