

A Study of the Minor Prophets

ANSWER KEY

Compiled by
Terry R. Baughman



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The Book of Amos

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF AMOS

1. Amos prophesied during the reign of what king in Israel?

Jeroboam II

2. Where was Tekoa located?

Tekoa was located in Judah as part of the southern tribes.

3. What did the name Amos mean?

Burden or burden-bearer

4. Where did Amos go to prophesy?

Bethel

5. What is one reason the ministry of Amos attracted wide attention?

Amos was a prophet from Judah, but prophesied in Israel.

6. What natural event is reckoned in the date of Amos' prophecy?

Earthquake

7. Did Amos refer to himself as being a prophet? If so, where?

Yes, in Amos 7:8, 14, 15 and 8:1, 2

8. What is the theme of the book of Amos?

*There is a *call to repentance*, an appeal to “*return*.”*

9. What surrounding nations were addressed in the judgment of the prophecy of Amos?

Syria, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab

10. List some of the sins of the nations in the region that Amos addressed?

Cruelty, slave trade, slave agent, unforgiveness, hatred, despising the Law of God, corruption and oppression.

11. Identify briefly each of the five visions of Amos.

1. Locusts - reminiscent of the plagues of judgment on Egypt

2. Fire - the first two plagues were averted because Amos interceded.

3. Plumb line - measure of judgment

4. Rotten Fruit - Israel is overripe for judgment

5. Stricken Doorposts - Portrayal of judgment

12. What is the New Testament Reference concerning a fulfillment of Amos' prophecy toward the Gentiles?

Acts 15:16-17 "After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things."

13. The book of Amos ends with a note of **consolation** rather than the previous theme of **condemnation**.

14. What are the Focus and Topics of the chart on Amos?

Amos	Chap. 1-2	Chap. 3-6	Chap. 7-9:10	Vs. 9:11-15
Focus	Eight Prophecies	Three Sermons	Five Visions	Five Promises
Topic	Pronouncements of Judgment	Provocations for Judgment	Future of Judgment	Promises after Judgment
	Judgment			Hope

The Book of Hosea

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

1. What does the name "Hosea" mean in Hebrew?

Salvation

2. At the beginning of the prophecy of Hosea, who reigned as king in Israel and in Judah?

Jerobaom II in Israel and Uzziah in Judah

3. Hosea was a younger contemporary to which prophet?

Amos

4. Where is Hosea from and who does he prophesy to?

Hosea is from the Northern Kingdom of Israel and prophesies to his own people.

5. According to Hottel, what was the length of time Hosea prophesied? How long does Smith determine?

Hottel thinks Hosea prophesied for 60-70 years.

Smith thinks Hosea prophesied for _____

6. While Jezreel means "God planted" or "God scattered", what does the names of Lo-Ruhamah and Lo-Ammi mean?

Lo-Ruhamah, meant "no love" (or no compassion). *Lo-Ammi*, meant "not my people".

7. Besides judgment the message of Hosea is also a message of mercy and love as well as of future deliverance and restoration.

8. What similarity does Hosea have to Jeremiah?

He was the weeping Prophet in Israel, as was Jeremiah of Judah.

9. What two other names are sometimes used by the prophet for the ten tribes of Israel?

Samaria and Ephraim

10. What two major sections may the book of Hosea be divided into?

Personal narrative (chaps. 1-3)

Prophetic discourses (chaps. 4-14)

11. What are the three parts of the triple betrothal?

- a. restore covenant -- righteousness and justice
- b. restore relationship -- loving-kindness and mercy, "hesed"
- c. restore confidence -- faithfulness "Great is thy faithfulness"

12. Hosea indicated that "knowledge" was to be more than intellectual acknowledgment, what was it rather to be?

God desired a people who would know him. It was more than intellectual acknowledgment, but a relationship.

13. What is the Focus and Topics of the chart on Hosea?

Hosea	Chap. 1-3	Chap. 4-14
Focus	Adulterous Wife and Faithful Husband	Adulterous Israel and Faithful Lord
Topic	Marriage of Hosea	Message of Hosea
	Personal	National

The Book of Jonah

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF JONAH

1. What does the names, "Jonah" son of "Amittai" mean?

Jonah means dove and Amittai means truth

2. What was Jonah's hometown and where was it located?

The area of Galilee, from the town of Gath-Hepher. Gath-Hepher was right over the hill from Nazareth in the territory of Zebulun just a few miles to the north

3. Whom did Jesus identify as being a prophet from Galilee?

Jonah

4. To what event in the life of Christ is identified as being related to Jonah's experience in the belly of a great fish?

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

5. What proof may be offered that Jesus accepted the story of Jonah as a historical account?

Jesus speaks repeatedly concerning the prophet and never offers an excuse for the fantastic tale of his dilemma. Rather, Jesus offers the experience of Jonah as a sign of his own miraculous resurrection after three days in the grave.

6. How did Jonah come to be placed among the Sacred Writings?

Under the direction of the Holy Spirit

7. How was the Greek word translated *whale* in the KJV, translated in other versions?

In the New King James it is translated "*great fish*" and in the New American Standard it is translated "*sea monster*".

8. How is the book of Jonah described by those who do not believe the account to be factual?

They call it fiction, or an allegory, or a parable, or a prose poem.

9. Why is Jonah referred to as a transitional prophet?

Jonah represents the change from the unwritten prophets, like Elijah and Elisah, and the other writing prophets.

10. What was Jonah's prophecy that is referred to in 2 Kings 14:23-27?

Jonah prophesied that a large portion of the land lost to Syria should be regained, which also came to pass during the prosperous reign of Jeroboam II.

11. In what way is Jonah unique?

Jonah stands alone as the only prophet to actually be sent to a nation outside of Israel or Judah.

12. What nation is the world power and prominent aggressor during the prophecy of Jonah?

Assyria

13. To whom was Jonah commanded to deliver God's message?

The people of Nineveh

14. Where was Nineveh located?

Located 500 miles northwest of Jonah's home

15. What was Tarshish known for?

Its tin and metals

16. What nation before the Romans used crucifixion as a mean of execution?

Assyria

17. What fact about God did Jonah know concerning Nineveh's repentance?

That if Nineveh repented upon Jonah's delivery of the message of God to them, God would forgive them and the king and the city would be spared.

18. What did the preservation of Nineveh mean to Israel?

The preservation of Nineveh meant the eventual conquest and destruction of Israel.

19. To whom is God merciful?

He is merciful to all people who will call on Him in repentance.

20. What two foreign groups are changed as a result of Jonah's life?

Gentile sailors and people of Nineveh/Ninevities

21. What are the Focus, Topics, and Place of the chart on Jonah?

Jonah	Chap. 1-2	Chap. 3-4
Focus	First Commission of Jonah	Second Commission of Jonah
Topic	God's Mercy Upon Jonah	God's Mercy Upon Nineveh
Place	The Great Sea	The Great City

The Book of Micah

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF MICAH

1. What is the meaning of the Hebrew name, "Micah"?

Who is like Yahweh.

2. During what kings of Judah did Micah prophesy?

Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah

3. Who were the contemporary prophets of Micah and in which kingdom did each prophesy?

Hosea in Israel and Isaiah in Judah

4. Though Micah prophesied in the southern kingdom, whom did he address?

Micaiah's message was to both Israel and Judah, and addressed primarily to the capitals of the two respective kingdoms, Samaria and Jerusalem.

5. Who did Micah identify as the people which would destroy Jerusalem?

Babylonians

6. The mission of Micah was what?

Micah's mission was to proclaim to Israel and Judah that judgment was at hand.

7. What may be referred to as the "golden rule" of the Old Testament?

do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God

8. In what three ways may the essence of true religion, and the 613 commandments of the Law be summarized?

Eleven principles in Psalm 15

Six commands in Isaiah 33:15

Three directives from Micah 6:8

9. What are the three directives of Micah 6:8?

1. Do justly,

-Remain Honest in all you do

2. To love mercy,

-Cherish compassionate faithfulness

3. Walk humbly with your God

-Commit yourself to live in submission to your God

10. What are the two aspects of "the walk" in the prophecy of Micah?

Negative Aspect and Positive Aspect

11. Give the four great prophecies of the coming of Messiah.

- In Genesis 49:10 - the **tribe** of Judah
- In 2 Samuel 7:26 - the **house** of David
- In Daniel 9:25 - the **time** was announced
- In Micah 5:2 - the **place** which was **Bethlehem Ephrathah**

12. What is the Focus, Topics, and Place of the chart on Micah?

Chart not included

The Book of Nahum

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF NAHUM

1. What does the name of *Nahum* mean in Hebrew?

Comforter or Consolation

2. What is the message of Nahum?

His message was one of consolation to Judah in that her enemy Assyria (Nineveh) was doomed to destruction by the judgment of God.

3. What are three possible locations for the home town of Nahum?

1. Al-Kish - about 24 miles north of the ancient site of Nineveh.
2. Helkesei or Elkese, in Galilee. Some have credited Capernaum as his hometown. Capernaum means "village of Nahum."
3. In the southern part of Judah. The ancient town of Elkosh.

4. What is the insight theme for the book of Nahum?

Judgment on Nineveh

5. What are two important political events that help to date the writing for the book of Nahum?

He writes after the capture of Thebes (No-Amon) in Egypt (3:8-9) which fell in 663 B.C. and prior to the fall of Nineveh in 614 B.C. For our reference we will place the date at 660 B.C.

6. Who is assumed to be the "wicked counselor" of Assyria referenced in Nahum 1:11?

Rabshakeh, the messenger of Sennacherib, king of Assyria.

7. What principle city did Assurbanipal of Assyria capture that Nahum mentioned in his prophecy of the overthrow of Nineveh?

No Amon

8. What do we know about the walls of Nineveh that made it seem impregnable?

They were 100 feet high

9. Why did the surrounding nations rejoice over the destruction of Assyria?

The surrounding nations suffered so severely under the reign of the wicked kings of Assyria that when finally Assyria fell the nations rejoiced over her destruction.

10. Which prophets prophesied exclusively to a foreign nation and what were the nations?

Jonah and Nahum to Assyria and Obadiah to Edom

11. What are the four of the contrasts between the prophets Nahum and Jonah?

Jonah	Nahum
The Mercy of God	The Judgment of God
c. 760 B.C.	c. 660 B.C.
Repentance of Nineveh	Rebellion of Nineveh
Emphasis on the Prophet	Emphasis on the Prophecy
Disobedient Prophet	Obedient Prophet
Obedient Nation	Disobedient Nation
Deliverance from Water	Destruction by Water
The Great Fish	The Great Fulfillment

12. According to Hottel what will happen to the nation that is built on fraud, force and cruelty?

“Any kingdom or nation that is built on fraud, force and cruelty will be judged and punished by God. Sin brings its own ruin.”

13. Although destruction of Nineveh seems impossible, what does Nahum say about it?

Destruction seems impossible for the massive city of Nineveh, Nahum declares it is inevitable. Nothing can now stop the coming judgment (3:11-19).

14. God combined what two things to execute His will of judgment on Nineveh?

God combined the forces of nature (rain, floods of water, and fire) and the growing dominance of the nations of the Babylonians and the Medes to execute His will of judgment on Nineveh.

15. What old prophecy caused the King of Nineveh to build a funeral pile to burn his wealth, concubines and eunuchs?

That the city should not be taken until the river became its enemy. Continual rains caused it to swell and overflow, breaking down the walls for 20 furlongs. Then the King (Saracus), thinking the oracle fulfilled, built a large funeral pile in the palace, and collecting all his wealth, concubines and eunuchs, set fire to it and burnt all. The enemy (after two years' siege) entered by the breach in the wall and took the city.

16. What does the awesome fulfillment of judgment on Nineveh cause one to do?

The awesome fulfillment of judgment on Nineveh causes one to confront the provisions of future judgment in Scripture. Once the recipient of grace in response to the preaching of Jonah, the Assyrians found themselves the object of judgment after their repentance wore off and they returned to their violent practice of sin

The Book of Zephaniah

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

1. Zephaniah was a descendent of what king of the royal house of Judah?

Hezekiah

2. What does the name Zephaniah mean in Hebrew?

“Hidden of Jehovah,” or, “Jehovah hath guarded”

3. Who was a contemporary prophet with Zephaniah?

Jeremiah

4. How long had it been since Israel had been taken into captivity when Zephaniah prophesied?

100 years

5. Who was the last good king of Judah? What two corrupt kings preceded him?

Josiah. Manasseh and Amon were two corrupt kings that preceded Josiah.

6. What is noted about the reforms under Josiah?

By Zephaniah’s preaching it is believed that both people and king were moved to better things; so that when “the book of the Law of the Lord was found in the Temple” (II Kings 22:8), matters were ready for the great and sweeping reformation which followed. This return to the Law and a more orderly way of living stayed for a while the threatened judgment, The captivity, however, was impending, and Zephaniah points out that the moral state of Judah which, because of the reformation under Josiah was outwardly improved nevertheless was not deep and sincere enough to avert it

7. At what age did Josiah become king and at what age did he initiate his first reforms?

8 years old

8. What aspect of judgment is seen in Zephaniah 2?

Universal impact

9. What does the *future aspect* concern in chapter 3 of Zephaniah?

Judgment and restoration

10. What is the insight theme of Zephaniah frequently referred to in his prophecy?

The Day of the Lord

11. In what way was the message of Zephaniah in Judah similar to the prophecy of Amos in Israel?

Zephaniah predicts judgment on the surrounding nations, neighbors of Judah, much the way Amos prophesied in Israel.

12. In what three ways does Zephaniah's prophecy moves from the *general* to the *specific*?

1. From Universal Judgment to judgment on Judah. (1:1 – 2:3)
2. From judgment on the nations to judgment upon Jerusalem (2:4 – 3:7)
3. From judgment and cleansing of all nations to restoration of Israel (3:8 – 3:20)

13. How many times does the prophet speak of a remnant being saved?

Three times

14. How often does the prophet predict a return from captivity?

Twice

15. Explain the Focus and Topics of the chart on Zephaniah.

ZEPHANIAH	<i>Chapters 1 - 3:8</i>	<i>Chapters 3:9-3:20</i>
<i>Focus</i>	Judgment in the Day of the Lord	Salvation in the Day of the Lord
<i>Topics</i>	Day of Wrath	Day of Joy
	Judgment on Judah	Restoration for Judah

The Book of Habakkuk

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

1. How does Habakkuk refer to himself?

Habakkuk the prophet

2. What conclusions may be reached from the last phrase of Hab. 3:19?

He probably comes from a priestly family and is acquainted with temple worship.

3. What is the two-fold meaning of the name of Habakkuk?

“to embrace” and “being embraced”

4. What is the only explicit time reference in the book of Habakkuk?

Imminent invasion of Babylon

5. What political event elevated the Babylonians to the place of power?

Destruction of Nineveh

6. In what year was the final destruction of the city of Jerusalem?

586 B.C.

7. What was Habakkuk's question to the LORD?

Why the LORD would let iniquity go unpunished.

8. After God revealed that judgment was coming at the hands of the Babylonians, what was Habakkuk's question?

Why would God use a more wicked people to bring judgment against His people?

9. Where does Habakkuk wait for an answer from God?

Watchtower

10. What is the lesson seen in God's answer to Habakkuk?

You can have Faith in God!

11. What three things are objects of Habakkuk's praise in chapter 3?

For the Person (3:1-3)

For the Power (3:4-12)

For the Plan (3:13-19)

12. What is the insight theme of Habakkuk?

Faith

13. What is the essence of the two passages identified as insight verses in Habakkuk?

Just shall live by faith

Rejoice in the Lord

14. What are the first two contrasts given between Jonah and Habakkuk?

God called on Jonah	Habakkuk called on God
Jonah ran from God	Habakkuk ran to God

15. What New Testament passage correlates with Habakkuk in the purpose to *"rejoice in the Lord"*?

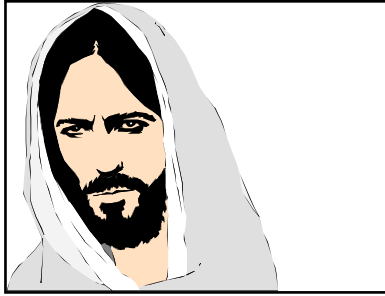
Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"*

16. In what three NT books do we find a phrase from Habakkuk, *"The just shall live by faith"*?

Romans, Galatians, Hebrews

17. Explain the Focus and Topics of the chart on Habakkuk.

Habakkuk	Chap. 1-2	Chap. 3
Focus	Problems of Habakkuk	Praise of Habakkuk
Topic	Faith Troubled	Faith Triumphant
	What God is Doing	Who God Is



The Book of Joel

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF JOEL

1. What does the name of Joel mean?

Yahweh is God

2. What is the insight theme for the book of Joel?

The Day of the LORD

3. What is the earliest suggested date for the writing of Joel?

830 BC

4. Embedded in the abundance of Joel's prophecy of judgment what dynamic prophecy is made?

Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all Flesh

5. Portions of Joel's prophecy quoted by Peter have not come to pass. What is this an illustration of?

This is an illustration of partial fulfillment or *prefillment*.

6. What other message is contained in Joel making it true to the form of other prophets?

Message of restoration; both provisional (2:25) and ultimate restoration for the nation (3:17-21).

7. Joel outlines a broad range of God's judgment seen in what two extents?

The current devastation of locusts and the future "*day of the Lord*"

8. Besides Joel's prophecy of Pentecost and judgments concerning the "day of the Lord" what other prophetic themes are addressed?

Themes of repentance, salvation and deliverance to those who call upon the name of the LORD

9. What is the range of dates offered for the life and writing of Joel's prophecy?

9th century BC to the Maccabean era

10. In spite of varying views concerning the authorship and date of writing for the book of Joel, what is one thing that has not been debated?

The canonicity of this book has never been debated

11. What evidence might be offered to say that the plague of locusts described in Joel was an actual event?

Due to the vivid description and the factual documentation of such plagues there is no reason to take this incident as other than an actual event.

12. What is the immediate and symbolic references to restoration in Joel?

Restoration is promised to Judah from the immediate plague of locusts and symbolically from the future dispersion, as well as restoration to the nations through the outpouring of God's Spirit on all flesh.

13. What is the most significant and perhaps the largest passage of any Old Testament prophet quoted?

Joel 2:28-32

14. What passage in the book of Joel is set apart as a separate chapter in the Hebrew text?

Joel 2:28-32

15. Why is Joel sometimes referred to as the "prophet of Pentecost"?

Because of the quotation from the book of Joel used by Peter in the book of Acts chapter two.

16. Under what king does Joel prophesy?

Joas

The Book of Obadiah

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

1. What does the name Obadiah mean?

“Worshipper of Yahweh” or “Servant of Yahweh”

2. Who is the object of Obadiah’s strong message of Judgment?

Edom

3. To what other prophet is the message of Obadiah comparable?

Nahum

4. What was the crime of Edom for which they were being judged?

They refused to allow Israel to pass through their land on the way to Canaan. They continually opposed Israel, at times being subdued and again being victorious.

5. Who were the Edomites descendants of?

Esau

6. What does the name Edom mean and what does it refer to?

“Red” - reference the “red stew” Jacob bargained with for the birthright.

7. What ruler over the land of Israel was a descendent of the Edomites?

Herod the Great

8. What was the ironic twist of fate concerning the descendants of the Edomites (the Idumaeans) in A.D. 70, who had rejoiced at the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C?

Edomites died trying to defend Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

9. How was the restoration of Israel a part of the judgment on Edom?

Part of the judgment on Edom will be the possession of their territory by Israel.

10. To what is the judgment on Edom compared?

Compared to a day in court

- Arraignment
- Indictment
- Sentence

11. If Repentance is not a “right” what is it?

A privilege afforded by God

The Book of Haggai

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

1. From what does the name Haggai probably come?

Feast or festival - "Håg". We will assume his name means "Festive" -- party!

2. In which other Old Testament book is Haggai mentioned?

Ezra

3. How many phases of repatriation are there?

Three

4. What occurred 70 years after the destruction of the temple in 586 B.C.?

Completion of the second temple in 516 BC

5. Who is the primary leader of each of the three returns from Exile?

Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah

6. What things discouraged the settlers of Jerusalem and caused them to cease the construction of the temple after two years?

They are discouraged with the sheer difficulty of the task, the desolation of the land, crop failure, and the opposition by the inhabitants of the land.

7. What became their preoccupation?

In their own building projects and neglected the construction of the house of the Lord.

8. What is the insight theme of Haggai?

Reconstruction of the Temple

9. What are Haggai and Zechariah called to do?

Haggai and Zechariah are called to encourage the people to complete the building of the temple.

10. How many years had the construction of the temple been neglected and how long did the completion of the project require?

After fourteen years of neglect the work on the temple was resumed in 520 BC and completed in 516 BC (Ezra 6:15)

11. What was the true "glory of the latter temple"?

Its true glory was the presence of God incarnate each time Jesus made his appearance there.

12. Who is the “Desire of All nations” and the “Peace” that Haggai prophesied concerning?

Jesus

13. Why did the elders weep and the youths rejoice over the completion of the second temple?

The elders remember the glory of Solomon’s Temple and weep. The youth rejoice. It’s the only temple they have known.

14. What blocks the blessing of God?

The contamination of sin blocks the blessings of God.

15. In what way did Zerubbabel foreshadow the coming Messiah?

In the merging of the two branches of David; from the Solomonic lineage and from Nathan.

The Book of Zechariah

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH

1. What does the name Zechariah mean in Hebrew?

“God Remembers”

2. What prophet was the older contemporary of Zechariah?

Haggai

3. What is the insight theme of Zechariah?

Preparation for the Messiah

4. Which is the only other prophetic book that has more numerous messianic passages than Zechariah?

Isaiah

5. List three sets of contrasts according to the notes that distinguish between Haggai and Zechariah.

HAGGAI	ZECHARIAH
Older Activist	Younger Visionary
Present Concern	Future Concern
Exhortation	Encouragement
Concise	Expanded
More Concrete	More Abstract

6. Give the basic outline for the book of Zechariah.

1 - Eight Visions

2 - Four Messages

3 - Two Burdens

7. List 8 explicit prophecies of Christ from the book of Zechariah. (reference not required)

- The angel of the Lord (3:1-2)
- The righteous Branch (3:8; 6:12-13)
- The stone with seven eyes (3:9)
- The King-Priest (6:13)
- The humble King (9:9-10)

- The cornerstone, tent peg, and bow of battle (10:4)
- The good shepherd, rejected and sold for 30 shekels of silver, the price of a Slave (11:4-13)
- The pierced One (12:10)
- The cleansing fountain (13:1)
- The smitten Shepherd who is abandoned (13:7)
- The coming Judge and righteous King (14)

The Book of Malachi

Study Questions

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

1. What does the name of Malachi mean in Hebrew?

“My Messenger” - maybe a shortened form of “Messenger of Yahweh”

2. The book of Malachi may have been written during the Persian rule over Israel during the days of what other biblical writer?

Nehemiah

3. What types of problems does Malachi address?

Social and moral problems

4. What is the answer to the sin problem?

Malachi points to the coming Messiah and kingdom when the answer to the sin problem comes.

5. What three conditions exist in the time of Nehemiah that the prophecy of Malachi also notes?

- Corrupt priests (1:6-2:9; Neh. 13:1-9)
- Neglect of tithes and offerings (3:7-12; Neh. 13:10-13)
- Intermarriage with pagan wives (2:10-16; Neh. 13:23-28)

6. What is the insight theme in the book of Malachi?

Appeal to Backsliders

7. What is the “privilege” of the nation of Israel according to Malachi?

A reminder of their special and unique covenantal relationship to Yahweh.

8. Why does God withhold his blessing from Israel in the book of Malachi?

Because of their disobedience to the covenant.

9. What types of animals were being offered on the altar of God?

Diseased and imperfect animals

10. In what way had Israel robbed God?

“In tithes and offerings.”

11. In the “Promise” to the nation of Israel, who would be judged and who would be blessed?

The wicked will be judged and those who fear the Lord will be blessed.

12. What is the “bitter ending” of the Old Testament?

A curse.

13. How many disputations are noted in the book of Malachi?

Six

14. What subjects are addressed by Malachi's disputations?

Love, honor, faithlessness, divine justice, repentance, and serving God