



# New Living

## Welcome!

We are glad to have you with us today and want you to feel comfortable as we enter into worship.

Audio CD's of our sermons are free upon your request. Please browse our free CD selection in the foyer.

Please come back and be with us anytime you have the opportunity!

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## Why Study the Minor Prophets?

**F**. W. Farrar called the Minor Prophets the “crown and flower of the Old Testament writings.” Their extreme value and great profit to the New Testament Christian can be easily overlooked if we are not careful. While a study on the Minor Prophets may not sound exactly interesting, once one delves into these brief books written by obscure writers, much knowledge can be discerned from them. The Minor Prophets are so called because of the brevity of their content—not because of the importance or authority of their content. These books are much shorter than what we refer to as the Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel), but no less important. Taken individually, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel are longer than all twelve Minor Prophets put

together. The twelve books that make up this section of the Bible were originally grouped together into a single “booklet” because of their small size. The Jews would have placed these books together on one scroll because of their small size and the ease of keeping up with one scroll instead of twelve. The Minor Prophets were called the “Book of the Twelve” by Jews living in the first and second centuries.

### What can we learn from the Minor Prophets?

Romans 15:4 says, *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* Later, in 1 Corinthians 10, Paul would write: *these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall,* 1 Corinthians 10:11-12. There are a number of important themes and lessons New Testament Christians can take from these books. Consider these important concepts:

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- **The moral, social, and economic conditions of God's people during a significant period of Israel's history.** We can gain a perspective in how immoral living, idolatry, and luxurious living caused the people of God to turn a deaf ear to His pleadings for repentance. There are a number of warnings to be gleaned from these verses—especially for Christians living in the luxurious times of the twenty-first century.
- **God's interaction with nations other than Israel during Old Testament times.** God often raised up foreign nations to punish Israel for their sin. The sins of these heathen nations would not go unrecognized or unpunished by God.
- **God's call for repentance.** Although extremely sinful, God still held out for and called His people to repentance. It is in these books where we see a wonderful example of His mercy, love and concern for His people—despite their repulsive rebellion.
- **God's certain punishment for rebellion.** God will not allow wickedness and rebellion to go unpunished.
- **Glimpses of the fulfillment of God's eternal plan through the Messiah and the church.** In these books we see foreshadowing and prophecies concerning the Messiah, the Holy Spirit, and the church. See Hosea 2:23; 11:1; 6:6; Joel 2:28-32; and Micah 5:2.



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*Matthew Allen*

## ***Silencing of God***

Beginning April 2nd and continuing on April 9, 16, and 23, a class on the *Silencing of God* series will be offered for the ladies of our congregation.

**Ed Major** will be conducting the class. The classes will be at 7 PM. If you are interested in being in the class, please sign up on the bulletin board by the auditorium. See **Ed** if you have any questions.