**BCM Bible Study – March 18 - 19, 2015**

**Minor Prophets and Jesus**

1. **Importance of the OT and its Prophets and how it pertains to the New Testament**

Have you ever studied the Old Testament Prophets (Minor Prophets)?

Why study the OT and Prophets?

 *They are the foundation for the New Testament and Jesus’ coming.*

*Jesus showed how the OT is fulfilled in Him.*

*Jesus taught that the OT was about himself.*

2 Timothy 3:15-17 (What are the scriptures/Old Testament about?)

1. **Things to remember when reading the Minor Prophets**

What is your approach to reading the Old Testament? Is it obsolete or still relevant today? How familiar are you with the Minor Prophets and what the name means?

The Prophets spoke to a specific people group at a specific time for a specific purpose (to God’s people about their apathy, to God’s priests for their sin, to other nations about repentance, to marry a prostitute to symbolize God’s relationship between Himself and Israel, etc). However, the work of God, his love, mercy, and redemptive power remain as consistent themes throughout.

* The prophets primary function was to speak for God to their people
* We must remember the purpose for why it was written.
* It was written in a time and context that is completely foreign to us.
1. **Themes of Christ’s life found in the OT**

This semester we will be studying 5 different themes found in the Minor Prophets and how they relate to Christ Jesus and our relationship with God.

We see an overall message of Love throughout the Minor Prophets; God’s love and action towards us (including sending His son Jesus) and our response and action towards Him (our relationship with Him). Each time we study the Minor Prophets and these 5 themes we want to look for two things: seeing God’s love for us, what is it saying about Jesus, *and* how we should be in relationship with Him.

**Theme 1:** Jesus has always been God’s plan.

1. **Minor Prophets and New Testament: Theme 1 – Jesus has always been God’s plan.**
	1. Luke 24: 44-47 (What does Jesus say the entire Old Testament, including the Minor Prophets, is about?)
	2. Romans 10:4; Matthew 5:17 (Again, what did Jesus and Paul say the Old Testament about?)
	3. Micah 5:2 (Quoted in Matthew 2: 3-5) (When did the prophecy say Jesus originated?)
	4. Jeremiah 31: 31-34 (quoted in Hebrews 8:6-13); 1 Corinthians 11:25 (The coming of Jesus was God doing a “new thing,” but was this new thing a surprise?)

**What is this teaching us about Jesus & God’s love for us?**

**What is our response? What does it mean to live like a bride (one who is in a true, lasting, trusting, peaceful, active, full, serving, faithful relationship) and how should we/are we living like Christ’s bride?**

More OT and NT prophecies: Jesus has always been.

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| The Messiah would be eternal. | Psalm 102:25-27a | Colossians 1:17 |
| The Messiah would be from everlasting. | Proverbs 8:22-23 | John 17:5 |
| The Messiah would be from everlasting (the "Everlasting Father"). | Isaiah 9:6e | Revelation 1:8 |
| The Messiah would be from everlasting. | Isaiah 48:16a | John 1:1-2 |
| The Messiah would be from everlasting. | Micah 5:2c | John 8:58 |