

Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

Session 38: The Close of the Old Testament and Intertestamental History

(Zechariah-Malachi)

Remember Acts 17:11

The Twelve Minor Prophets:

Prophet	Ministry	Date of Book	Chr. Order
Haggai	Return	c. 520 BC	9
<u>Zechariah</u>	Return	c. 518 BC	10
Malachi	Return	c. 450-420 BC	11

Zechariah:

Zechariah “God Remembers”

- Prophetic Ministry 520 – 518BC
- Central Themes:
 - o You Have Part to Play in God’s Redemptive Plan.
 - Will You Choose to be Obedient?
 - Will You Choose to be an Obstacle?

Outline:

- The Past of Judah 1:1-6
- The Eight Visions 1:7-6:8
- Blessings Upon Joshua the Priest 6:9-15
- Worship During the 2nd Temple Period 7:1-8:19
- The Nations & The Messiah (1st Coming) 9-11
- The Messiah & Jerusalem 12-14

Worship During the 2nd Temple Period (7:1-8:19):

- (Ch. 7) Do You Engage in Your Traditions to Worship God or to Worship Yourselves?
 - o You Cannot Worship God & Oppress Your Neighbors
- (Ch. 8) God’s Presence will Return to Jerusalem
 - o The City Wil Prosper Again
 - o Will its Prosperity Cause Pride Among the People?
 - o One Day a People will Live in Jerusalem who Will take Joy in the Lord’s Prosperity
 - o Obey the Law & Learn its Ethics

The Nations & The Messiah’s 1st Coming (9-11):

- The Enemies of Israel will be Defeated by God
 - o The Remainder will Convert (9:7)
- A New Kind of King will Emerge in Zion (Jerusalem)
 - o Righteous, Victorious, and Humble
 - Riding on a Donkey (9:9)

The Nations & The Messiah's 1st Coming (Cont.):

- A Complete Peace will Come
- His Kingdom will Extend Throughout the Earth
- He will Judge the Earth
- The People of God will be Spared
- Mystics will try to Pollute the Message of Redemption
 - “Shepherds” (Ch. 10)
(Return to Religious Syncretism)
 - A Teacher (Cornerstone) will Come from Judah
 - A Scattered Remnant Will Return to the Land
- The Two Shepherds (Ch. 11)
 - A Prophetic Image of God Shepherding the Divided Kingdom (v. 7-14)
 - A Shepherd was “Paid Off” for 30 Pieces of Silver
 - Thrown to a Potter in the Temple (v. 12-14)
 - (v. 15-17) A “Worthless Shepherd” Shall Lead the Unfaithful to Destruction Before Being Judged
 - Does Not Care for the Flock
 - Cursed to be Struck with a Sword
 - Withered Arm and a Blinded Right Eye (Head Wound?)

The Messiah & Jerusalem (12-14):

- God will Rescue Judah from a War with All Nations
 - The “Day of the Lord”
 - The Nations Will Recognize God’s Power
 - Jerusalem Will Recognize God’s Strength
- The One Who They Have Pierced (12:10-14)
 - They will Recognize the Messiah
 - They will Acknowledge their Denial of Him
 - They will Mourn for Him
- “On That Day”
 - Sins Will Be Forgiven
 - False Religion Will End
 - The Faithful will be Oppressed/Strengthened
- The Final Battle & the Aftermath
 - Jerusalem will be Attacked by All Nations
 - God will Judge the Attackers
 - Natural Disasters will Accompany “The Day”
 - God will Reign on Earth
 - The Survivors will Worship (Tabernacles)

History of the Late Exile Period:

- Province of Judea Reorganized
 - o 538BC: Edict of Cyrus the Great
 - o 536BC: 49,670 Return with Zerubbabel
 - o 515BC: Temple Rebuilt
 - o 483BC: Setting of Esther
 - o 458BC: 2,000 Return with Ezra
 - o 445BC: Nehemiah Receives Permission to Rebuild Jerusalem (Cf. Dan. 9)
 - o 450-420BC: Malachi Ministers in Judea

The Prophet Malachi:

Malachi: “Messenger” or “Missionary”

- Speculation: Not a Proper Name (Penname for Ezra)
- Not Mentioned by Name in the Rest of the Bible
- Sermons Date to 450-420BC
 - o 1 Century After the Babylonian Exile
- Book Set Out as Arguments Between Judea & God
- Theme: The Cycle of Human Nature Continues
 - o The Exile Did Not Transform Human Nature

Outline:

- Argument 1: God’s Love 1:1-5
- Israel Doubts God’s Love
 - God Reminds Israel of Being His Chosen People
- Argument 2: God’s Temple 1:6-2:9
- God is not Pleased with Temple Worship
 - Israel Offers Poor (Good Enough) Sacrifices
- Argument 3: Israel’s Faithlessness 2:10-16
- Israel’s Men Are Unfaithful to God & Their Wives
 - Adopting Pagan Worship & Marriages
- Argument 4: God’s Messenger 2:17:3:5
- God is Accused of Neglecting Israel
 - God will Send a Prophetic Messenger Before Himself
- Argument 5: Israel’s Greed 3:6-12
- God Demands Israel’s Rededication
 - Reminds Them of their Duty in Contributing Tithes (1/10th Income) to the Ministry
- Ref. Lev. 27:30/ Neh. 13:10-11
- Argument 6: God’s Justice 3:13-18
- The Wicked Succeed & God Does Nothing
 - (Parable) “Faithful Remnant”
 - o Commandment for a Scroll to be Written to Remind Future Generations of God’s Blessings & Faithfulness (Canonization of Scriptures)

