

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### No One Seeks For God

• You've heard me say on more than one occasion that, "seeker friendly churches are misguided because according to Paul no one is actually seeking God."



4

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### No One Seeks For God

• Psalm 14:2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, **to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.** 3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. (sounds like no one is seeking)

• Romans 3:10b "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; **no one seeks for God.** 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

5

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### No One Seeks For God

• Contrary to what many may believe, the world is not filled with people seeking God – they may be trying to find themselves, but they are not seeking God.

• Because until we know we need God, we do not want him – not the God of the Bible.

• We might want a "higher power", or a god of our own making, but we don't want the true God, or David and Paul would not have spoken as they did.

6

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

No One Seeks For God

The unsaved want God without his Word, want what he offers without commitment, and a bright future while clutching their sin. They are not seeking God they are seeking approval for their sin.

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

7

No One Seeks For God

We do not seek God until we are broken over our sin.

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

8

No One Seeks For God

- We don't want the God who saves until we are broken over our lost condition – a better name would be "broken people services".
- In a "broken person" service we would need nothing but Spirit-filled worship and Spirit-filled preaching.
- When you got saved did you need special accommodations or was Jesus quite enough all by Himself?

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

9

No One Seeks For God

- A greater problem than using the term “seeker friendly” is a church where you have Christians who are not seeking God.
- And since you are surely part of the most mature sector of CLA, let us not reach a point of contentment with our level of personal holiness.
- If we think we’ve arrived that is but evidence that we have not!

10

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

No One Seeks For God

“Not that I have already grasped it all or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”  
Paul the Apostle AD 62

11

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

No One Seeks For God

Maybe we need to redefine “seeker friendly” to mean that if you want to be among Christians who know our state before God and are still a bit discontent, then you are in the right place.

12

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

# Babylonian Captivity

13

13

---

---

---

---

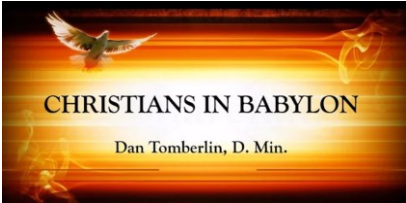
---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets



**CHRISTIANS IN BABYLON**  
Dan Tomberlin, D. Min.

14

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Minor Prophets

- God's discipline on his people did serve one massive purpose – no longer would they involve themselves in idolatry.
- If we read Ezra and Nehemiah, we also see that Israel was revived coming out of captivity.
- Another post-exile note - no longer are there two kingdoms – the northern kingdom is gone for good so now Judah is called Israel.

15

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- In the Bible, Babylon is a symbol for any human government that demands our loyalty to their beliefs..... i.e., their definitions of good and evil.
- In a sense we all live in a Babylonian world where the state could compel us to submit to their world view or be punished for not doing so.
- Fortunately, we have a model to follow when we understand we've become citizens of Babylon.

16

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Unlike the Assyrians, the Babylonians did not always carry off those they conquered out of their homelands.
- It was around 604 BC that Nebuchadnezzar defeated the Egyptians who were helping King Zedekiah hold off Babylon.
- Following that defeat, the people of Judah were now captives in their own land, but uncooperative.

17

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- It was roughly 600 BC that the Babylonians started to deport the elites of Judah - Daniel was part of this first wave of exiles.
- Then in 587 BC a larger deportation of Jews took place, leaving mostly the poor behind. If you could benefit Babylon, you were taken. (estimated 12,000 deported)
- The Jews left behind would be used as slaves of Babylon to tend vineyards and other crops.

18

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- We should not be surprised to learn that not all of the exiled Jews returned to Judah. (Esther and Mordacai would have descended from such)
- Evidently, they got into Babylon and then Babylon got into them.
- We should not assume all Jews are spiritual giants, most were not and that has not changed – unsaved people, Jew and Gentile, are lost people.

19

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Jeremiah's words below, along with Daniel and three of his friends, show us for how to live in Babylon.
- Jeremiah 29:4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5 Build houses** and live in them; **plant gardens** and eat their produce. **6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.** **7 But seek the welfare of the city** where I have sent you into exile, and **pray to the Lord on its behalf**, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

20

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Jeremiah tells Judah, and us by extension, to be good citizens in Babylon and Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tell us to set boundaries.
- You could 1) **fight the system**, 2) **embrace the system**, or 3) you could **live for the Lord within the system**.
- In a sense, option #3 is what Jesus did – he said, "render to Caesar what is his and render to God that which belongs to him".

21

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- Daniel knew of the promised Messiah, but like all Jews he did not know when he would come.
- God revealed to him in a dream that Babylon would fall and be followed by three more empires before the true King comes, so he knew Messiah's coming wasn't imminent.
- **Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome** (sort of twice), before the King of Kings comes.

22

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

- A good strategy for us is to adopt the mindset of a foreigner –
- Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and **having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.** 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, **they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **he has prepared for them a city.**

24

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### The Minor Prophets

- Daniel and his friends looked forward to freedom, but even when they left Babylon, they were not free – they were in subjection to the Persians.
- They continued to work within the system to glorify God by being productive citizens while setting limits on what they would submit to.
- This is pretty much how it went for the Jew from Babylon on – even when we get to Jesus’ day they are still under a foreign empire, Rome.

25

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Minor Prophets

Not it be lost in the details of Judah’s 70 years in Babylon is that God was not without a plan – he had a redemption plan to complete and that would be done is his time and in his way.

26

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Questions?

27

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---