

ABATT
Zechariah

Christian Life Assembly
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The Minor Prophets

It has become evident to me that no one knows how many Jews were deported to Babylon, or at least there seems to be no consensus on that number so I will leave that subject here.

We know some were deported to Babylon out of Judah around 590 BC and we know that a smaller number returned around 520 BC.


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The Minor Prophets

Prophet	Year-Approx
Obadiah	800 BC
Joel	801 BC
Jonah	790 BC
	740 BC
	730 BC
	720 BC
	640 BC
Zephaniah	620 BC
Habakkuk	605 BC
Babylonian Exile	590 BC
Haggai	520 BC
Zechariah	500 BC
Malachi	450 BC

Zechariah is both a priest and prophet and there are 30 others with his name in OT.

Zechariah is quoted 40 times in the New Testament.



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The Minor Prophets

- The Book of Zechariah was likely written in two primary segments, between 520 and 470 B.C.
- It was written by Zechariah – 1:1 “In November of the second year of King Darius’s reign, the Lord gave this message to the prophet Zechariah”. NLT
- His prophecy is to those Jews coming out of the Babylonian captivity.

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The Minor Prophets

- Zechariah’s prophecy runs through to the end of history as we know it – i.e. the end of the world.
- You’ve heard me say that “**history is going somewhere**” and it is – history is traveling along the exact path God has determined.
- Is it not comforting to know that time and history are not ruled by randomness and chaos?

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The Minor Prophets

- Zechariah’s name means, “Yahweh has remembered” – God remembers all things and nothing escapes his notice.
- So, if God remembers all things, then why are “the books opened” at the Great White Throne?
- They are there for the unbeliever – to be a sinner in God’s presence will be crushing all by itself, but to see one’s works in writing will be damning.

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The Minor Prophets

- Around this time in Israel's history prophecy was neither welcomed nor heeded - this led to the period of silence between the Testaments.
- The period of time between the Old and New Testaments is commonly known as the **400 years of silence**.
- During this time, God had his preachers, but there were no prophets bringing new revelation to his people.

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The Minor Prophets

I believe we scarcely know how blessed we are to have the completed Word of God to mankind in our day.

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The Minor Prophets

- Of utmost importance is "how does God speak to his people"?
- **General (Natural) revelation** – see Romans 1 where Paul lays out the case for the creation itself declaring there is a Creator.
- **Special revelation** – when God speaks via the Holy Spirit by "carrying along" the Biblical writers including giving them visions, and dreams, and "in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" (Heb 1:2).

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The Minor Prophets

- General revelation through the creation speaks volumes about the necessity of a Creator – sufficient to get one lost, but insufficient to get one saved.
- Once you get beyond the necessity of a Creator, general revelation is subject to the impressions of the one observing.
- One might deduce one thing from gravity while another might believe the message from God through gravity is something altogether different.

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The Minor Prophets

- **The Revelation of Preaching** - 1st Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
- God has always had his preachers – Adam, Noah, etc.
- The preached word is the bridge from being awareness of my lostness to being saved from my lostness.

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The Minor Prophets

Romans 10:13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

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The Minor Prophets

- **Revelation of Consciousness** – this can get very subjective so we should be sure to test what we think we hear against scripture because we are prone to hear that which we wanted to hear. ☺
- Christians have found strange things in the words that pass through our minds that may or may not have come from God.
- Not every voice we hear in our mind is God’s.

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The Minor Prophets

- Maybe **“revelation through our conscious minds”** ought to be expressed as personal guidance from the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13 **he will guide you into all the truth**)
- Revelation carries the idea that God is revealing something new to his people.
- The fact that Paul felt led by the Spirit to appeal his case to Caesar is not to be understood as a command for all.

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The Minor Prophets

All too often we hear that which we already wanted to hear and then credit it to God. “I think God is saying”, “I feel like God is telling me”, and “God spoke to me and said”.

Once the “God said” card is played then all arguments raised are presumably irrelevant.

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The Minor Prophets

- Here is how I think this whole, “God spoke to me” thing works.
- First, let’s agree that when Jesus said, “**you know him for he dwells with you and will be in you**” he meant what he said.
- It would seem impossible to me that the Holy Spirit who is “in” us would be speechless to us.

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The Minor Prophets

- When words pass through my mind, because of my familiarity with the Word, I believe I can usually discern his voice from all other noises.
- Jesus said, “**My sheep hear my voice**” – again, words mean things.
- Let’s also agree that 2nd Corinthians 10:5 needs to be followed – the immature had better be extra careful regarding the voices in our head.

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The Minor Prophets

2nd Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

The more we feast on the Words of God the more likely we are to hear his voice in everyday matters.

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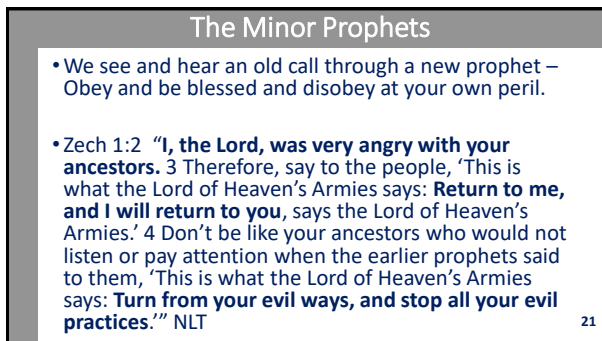
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The Minor Prophets

- Zech 2:10 The Lord says, "Shout and rejoice, O beautiful Jerusalem, for **I am coming to live among you.**"
- Matt 1:23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means '**God is with us.**'"
- The enormity of this promise and its reality cannot be overstated – that God would come and live with us.

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The Minor Prophets

- Another prophecy with both a near and far fulfillment.
- Rev 21:3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! **He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.**"
- We have Jesus's 1st coming as the near fulfillment of this Zech 2:10 and Jesus' 2nd coming as the far.

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The Minor Prophets

- The setting is in Babylon at the end of the 70 years of captivity – Babylon had fallen to the Persians, so Judah was under a new king.
- Better still is that Cyrus, the new king, will see to it that the captives are returned to their home.
- Jeremiah who prophesied of Judah's 70-year captivity, also prophesied of a return to Jerusalem and a glorious (someday) future.

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The Minor Prophets

- Zech 1:4 Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, **'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.'**
- This theme is so familiar it is all but boring – **"turn from your evil ways to the Lord"**.
- Remember why you landed here in the first place – your sin separated you from the blessings of God.

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The Minor Prophets

- Zechariah will have a series of dreams that would be like Jacob's and Joseph's – they would have both near term and future fulfillments.
- He will have 8 separate dreams that are not only God's communication to his people, but they are actually tied together in twos.
- Dreams 1 and 8, 2 and 7, 3 and 6, and 4 and 5 are couplets – they fit together.

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Zech 1:8-17 and Zech 6:1-8

- Dream #1 is about 4 horseman and dream #8 is about 4 chariots drawn by horses.
- Both dreams speak of the land being at peace so naturally the Jews think, "wait a minute, we have peace, this must be the time Messiah comes".
- God makes it clear again that yes, Messiah is coming to reign over them and the world, but not just yet.

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Zech 1:18-21 and Zech 5:1-11

- Dream #2 and dream #7 are coupled – they provide a weird sort of look at their current state in Babylon.
- Dream #2 is about Babylon conquering Assyria and Persia conquering Babylon.
- Dream #7 is a woman in a basket symbolizing Judah's rebellion and then two-winged women lift the basket and fly it to Babylon. Huh?

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Zech 2:1-13 and Zech 5:1-4

- Dream #3 and dream #6 are coupled – both dreams are about the rebuilding the city of Jerusalem.
- The rebuilt Jerusalem will be a place of peace, justice, and security for Jews and Gentiles.
- The near fulfillment would happen after their return and the future fulfillment will be fulfilled in the Millennium and then completely in eternity.

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Zech 3:1-10 and Zech 4:1-14

- Dream #4 and dream #5 are coupled – they are about Joshua (the high priest) and Zerubbabel who will supervise the temple rebuild.
- Both Joshua and Zerubbabel are connected with 2 olive trees that auto-feed a menorah.
- When God used Joshua and Zerubbabel as described in Zachariah's prophecy, a great statement was made about the power of the Holy Spirit even when man is uncooperative.

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Zech 3:1-10 and Zech 4:1-14

• Zechariah 4:2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. 3 And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." 4 And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" 5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

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Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth – what Revelation cites is from Zechariah



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The Minor Prophets

• Zechariah 4:6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

• Throughout the time that Israel had no temple and therefore no need for it's furnishings, God kept the lampstand burning through the power of the Holy Sprit.

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The Minor Prophets

When the work we are doing is the Lord's he will supply all that we need to do that which he has assigned to us.

Not by money, nor by skill, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

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Questions?

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