

Old Testament Survey

Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Historical Context - Haggai & Zechariah

- Haggai & Zechariah
 - prophesied in Jerusalem, starting in 520 B.C.
 - prophesied to those who had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon
 - Encouraged them to rebuild the Temple that had been destroyed in 586 B.C.

Historical Context - Haggai & Zechariah

- Timeline

- 538 B.C. - King Cyrus allows Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple
 - (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4; 6:3-5)
- ~536 B.C. - approx. 50,000 Jews return to Jerusalem
 - start rebuilding the Temple (Ezra 2-3)
 - lay the foundation, stop building due to opposition
 - work stopped for the next ~15 years (Ezra 4:1-5, 24)

Historical Context - Haggai & Zechariah

- Timeline

- 520 B.C. - rebuilding of the Temple resumes
 - At the encouragement of Haggai & Zechariah (Ezra 5:1-2; Haggai 1; Zechariah 1:1)
- ~519-518 B.C. – opposition re-emerges
 - Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates province, writes to King Darius to oppose re-building (Ezra 5:1-17)
 - Darius confirms the Temple is to be rebuilt; orders Tattenai to pay the costs (Ezra 6:1-12)
- March 12, 516 B.C. - the Temple is completed and dedicated (Ezra 6:13-15)

Historical Context - Haggai & Zechariah

- Key figures in the rebuilding process:
 - Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel
 - grandson of King Jehoiachin
 - the local governor
 - Joshua, son of Jozadak, the high priest

Haggai- Introduction

- Haggai
 - name may mean "festal" - may have been born during one of the feasts
 - prophecies date from August 29 to December 18, 520 B.C.
 - central focus: a call to rebuild the House of God (i.e. the Temple)

Haggai- Introduction

- Haggai
 - 520 B.C. - A time of discouragement
 - life after returning from exile was difficult
 - rebuilding was hard work, often facing of opposition
 - there had been drought, crop failures, economic hardship
 - work on the Temple had stopped ~15 years earlier
 - initially due to opposition, but never resumed, as people tried to eke out an existence
 - the people were concerned with providing for their own houses
 - » no longer cared for building God's house (the Temple)

Haggai – Summary

- 4 messages
 - I. A call to rebuild the Temple (1:1-11)
 - II. The promised glory of the new Temple (2:1-9)
 - III. Blessings for a defiled people (2:10-19)
 - IV. A promise to Zerubbabel (2:20-23)

Haggai – Summary

I. A call to rebuild the Temple (1:1-11)

– the people's lame excuse:

"These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." (1:2)

– God's revealing answer:

"Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?" (1:4)

Haggai – Summary

I. A call to rebuild the Temple (1:1-11)

- the people's economic hardships were God's judgment for neglecting His house (1:5-6, 9-11)

- the people respond and resume work on the Temple, under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua (1:12-15)

Haggai – Summary

II. The promised glory of the new Temple (2:1-9)

– An encouragement to those working on the Temple to be strong and to work

- God is with them
- Though the present Temple might seem like nothing, God would fill the House with glory
- The glory of this Temple would surpass that of the previous one

Haggai – Summary

- III. Blessings for a defiled people (2:10-19)
 - God promises to bless His people, though they have been unclean
- IV. A promise to Zerubbabel (2:20-23)
 - God has chosen Zerubbabel and would honor him
 - would make him like a signet ring
 - a reversal of the curse King Jehoiachin (Jer. 22:24)

Haggai – Major Themes

- God
 - His glory
 - He takes pleasure in being glorified by His people (1:8)
 - He (not the building itself) is the glory of His Temple
 - His faithfulness to His people, in spite of their unfaithfulness
 - faithful also to discipline them so that they will return to Him and be blessed

Haggai – Major Themes

- God's people

- the consequences of disobedience

"Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the LORD, how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail...." (2:15-17)

- the blessings of obedience and of honoring God first

Haggai – Glimpses of Christ

- the greater glory of the new temple
 - would not come from the building itself, but the from coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to it
 - (cf. Malachi 3:1)

"For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts.... The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts." (2:6-7,9)

Zechariah - Introduction

- Zechariah, son of Berechiah, son of Iddo
 - from a priestly family (Nehemiah 12:16)
 - contemporary with Haggai, but may have ministered for much longer
 - starts prophesying ~October 520 B.C., to at least December 518 B.C. (and likely beyond)
 - encouraged the people to rebuild the Temple
 - his prophecies also go further, with more emphasis on the future glory of God's Kingdom (chapters 9-14)

Zechariah - Summary

- Two major sections:
 1. Chapters 1-8
 - prophecies regarding issues of more immediate relevance to the post-exilic community
 2. Chapters 9-14
 - two oracles concerning future events - the coming King and His Kingdom

Zechariah - Summary

- Chapters 1-8

- I. Introduction to Zechariah (1:1)

- II. A call to repentance (1:1-6)

- “Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. 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.’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.” (1:3-4)

Zechariah - Summary

- Chapters 1-8

- III. 8 visions in the night (1:7-6:8)

1. A horseman and horses of different colors (1:7-17)
2. Four horns and four craftsmen (1:18-21)
3. A man with a measuring line (2:1-13)
4. A change of clothes for Joshua the high priest (3:1-10)
5. A golden lampstand (4:1-14)
6. A flying scroll (5:1-4)
7. A woman in a basket (5:5-11)
8. Four chariots (6:1-8)

Zechariah - Summary

- Chapters 1-8

III. 8 visions in the night (1:7-6:8)

– the visions deal with several inter-related issues

- God will punish the nations for Jerusalem's distress
- God will be with His people
 - to bless, uphold, and prosper them
- God will purify His people
- God will again bless Jerusalem

Zechariah - Summary

- Chapters 1-8

- IV. A crown for Joshua, the high priest (6:9-15)

- Zechariah instructed to make a crown for Joshua

- promise of a coming kingly priest who would build God's temple

Zechariah - Summary

- Chapters 1-8

- V. A question about fasting (7:1-8:23)

- the people ask about whether to continue observing a fast started during of the exile

- God calls the people to "true fasting"

- practicing justice, kindness, and mercy

- Jerusalem to be restored, so that the fasts would become times of joy and feasting

Zechariah - Summary

- Chapters 9-14

VI .Oracle 1: The coming King and Shepherd of the sheep (9:1-11:17)

- the King comes and saves His people (9:1-17)

- judgment on Judah's shepherds, but the flock saved (10:1-11:3)

- the shepherd rescues the flock but is rejected (11:1-17)

Zechariah - Summary

- Chapters 9-14

- VII. Oracle 2: Restoration and exaltation of God's people (12:1-14:21)

- God will judge the nations and save Judah (12:1-9)
 - God's people will mourn for their sin (12:10-14)
 - the people and the land will be cleansed (13:1-6)
 - the coming Day of the Lord (14:1-21)
 - judgment followed by transformation of the land
 - Jerusalem exalted, with the nations brought into submission

Zechariah – Major Themes

- God
 - His faithfulness
 - to be with His people
 - to save and deliver His people
 - to cleanse and restore His people
 - His sovereignty over the nations and the events of history

Zechariah – Major Themes

- God's people
 - their utter dependence on God
 - a call to repent and return to God
 - “Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.” (1:3)

Zechariah – Glimpses of Christ

- the Branch - A Kingly Priest

Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. And say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord. It is he who shall build the temple of the Lord and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”’ (6:11-13)

- Joshua as a type of Christ - a king and a priest

Zechariah – Glimpses of Christ

- the King, coming to reign, riding on a donkey

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth." (9:9-10; cf. Matt. 21:1-5)

- 30 pieces of silver (11:12-13; cf. Matt. 27:9-10)

Zechariah – Glimpses of Christ

- mourning for the one they pierced

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn." (12:10; cf. John 19:34-37)

Zechariah – Glimpses of Christ

- a fountain for cleansing of sin

"On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness." (13:1)

- the Shepherd struck, the sheep scattered

"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the Lord of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." (13:7; cf. Matt. 26:31)

Malachi - Introduction

- Malachi
 - Name most likely means "my messenger"
 - Date uncertain
 - after the completion of the second Temple (516 B.C.)
 - during a period of spiritual decline
 - likely early (or late) 5th century, before (or some time after) the reforms of Ezra & Nehemiah
 - shares some similar concerns as Ezra/Nehemiah
 - » e.g. lack of tithing, intermarriage with non-Jews

Malachi - Summary

- Book is structured around six "disputes" that God has with His people
 - God states a complaint against His people
 - e.g. "'I have loved you', says the LORD." (1:2)
 - the people respond by (cynically) questioning God's statement: "How have we ___?"
 - e.g. "But you say, 'How have you loved us?'" (1:2)
 - God responds with further details

Malachi - Summary

I. God's love, unappreciated by His people (1:2-5)

- God's love shown in His choosing to bless Israel (Jacob) over Edom (Esau)

II. God dishonored by His people and priests (1:6-2:9)

- God is their Father and master (1:6), and a great King (1:14)
 - yet the people and priests were profaning His Name
 - offering second-rate animals (blind, crippled) as sacrifices

Malachi - Summary

III. Judah's unfaithfulness to the covenant (2:10-16)

- marrying daughters of foreign gods
- divorcing wives to marry younger women
- God calls His people back to faithfulness
 - He hates divorce
 - He desires godly offspring from marriages among His people

Malachi - Summary

IV. God's justice questioned by His people (2:17-3:5)

- "Where is the God of justice?"
- God promises
 - to send His messenger to purify His priests
 - to draw near to judge the wicked

V. God robbed by His people (3:6-12)

- holding back on tithes and offerings
- God calls on them to bring their full tithes
 - that they might live under His blessing

Malachi - Summary

VI. God's people's harsh words against Him (3:13-4:6)

- the people were saying that it was futile to serve God
- God promises a day when
 - justice will be done, and will be seen to be done
 - the arrogant and evildoers will be burned up
 - the righteous will be spared and will tread down the wicked
- the coming Day of the LORD to be preceded by the coming of Elijah the prophet

Malachi – Major Themes

- God
 - His greatness and worthiness of honor
 - the LORD of hosts (or the LORD Almighty)
 - the name used for God 24 times in this book
 - He is our father, our master, our King (1:6,14)
 - He is not to be trifled with or dishonored

"For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts." (1:11)

Malachi – Major Themes

- God
 - His love for His people, and His faithfulness to them
 - His justice
 - justice deferred is not justice denied - the Day of the LORD is coming
 - “Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.” (3:18)

Malachi – Major Themes

- God's people
 - their contempt towards God
 - in offering contemptible sacrifices
 - in questioning God's justice
 - in speaking harshly of God
 - in ignoring His design for marriage
 - in neglecting the tithe

Malachi – Major Themes

- God's people
 - their unfaithfulness to the covenants
 - to God's covenant with Levi (the priests) (2:4-8)
 - to God's covenant with their fathers (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) (2:10)
 - to their covenants with their wives (2:14)
 - their need for repentance and return to God

Malachi – Glimpses of Christ

- The coming of the Lord, preceded by His messenger

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.” (3:1-2)

– fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ, preceded by John the Baptist (cf. Matt. 11:10-11)

Malachi – Glimpses of Christ

- The coming of the Lord, preceded by the prophet Elijah

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. (4:5-6)

– John the Baptist as Elijah, coming before Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 11:13-14; 17:10-13)

Next class

- 1 & 2 Chronicles

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