

Subject: Know Your Bible – Part 11

Scripture: Zephaniah 1:14-18

Zephaniah: Judgment and Restoration in the Day of the Lord

Zephaniah was the only prophet from a royal family. His great-great-grandfather was King Hezekiah (Zeph. 1:1). He was apparently a resident of Jerusalem (“this place” 1:4).

This book predicted the day of the Lord as a time of great judgment followed by great blessing. Zephaniah’s prophecy points to a near fulfillment when Babylon conquered Judah and a distant fulfillment which involves the whole earth.

God instructed the people to be meek (2:3), so they would have refuge in the midst of judgment. The word “meek” means to be afflicted or bowed down. This was a clear call to faith in God and submission to His will.

Like most of the prophets, Zephaniah’s warnings fell on deaf ears. The ministries of the prophets remind us that God requires faithfulness rather than success.

The people who ignored God could not ignore God’s judgment.

Zephaniah 1-3:8 The Lord’s judgment

Zephaniah 3:9-20 The Lord’s blessing

God promised to restore a pure language (3:9). This refers to pure speech and cleansing from sin (Isa. 6:5-7; Hos. 2:17) rather than the restoration of a universal language as in the days before Babel (Gen. 11).

Key verses: Zephaniah 1:14-18; 2:1-3

Haggai: Put First Things First

Temple construction stopped while the Jews rebuilt their own houses. The building process began 16 years earlier, but the people did not finish the temple because their own affairs took priority over God’s business. Haggai urged the people to put God first and get back to work. He prophesied around 520 BC to Jews who had returned from captivity to their homeland.

Haggai confronted the problem of procrastination

Haggai called the builders to:

- Rebuild God’s temple
- Reorder their spiritual priorities

Key verses: Haggai 1-1-5, 13-14; 2:4-5, 23

The “desire of all nations” (Hag. 2:7) refers to Christ. He is the Deliverer whom all the nations ultimately desire.

Zechariah: Preparation for the Messiah

The prophet encouraged the Jews to finish the temple construction. Haggai and Zechariah have the same historical setting. God used their ministries to spur the people to action. The effect of their prophecies was like a coach's halftime talk that sparks his team to victory.

Like Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Zechariah was both prophet and priest (Neh. 12:12-16).

The New Testament states that Zechariah was murdered (Mt. 23:35) as the last martyr of the Old Testament.

The prophet described Christ as both humble and triumphant (Zech. 3:8; 6:12-13; 9:9-10; 12:10; 14:3-4). Christ is portrayed in His two comings as both Servant and King. He is revealed as the One sold for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave, the pierced One, the cleansing fountain, the smitten Shepherd who is abandoned, and the coming Judge and King.

Key verses: Zechariah 4:6; 8:3; 9:9-10; 14:3-4

Malachi: Will a Man Rob God?

The name "Malachi" means my messenger (Mal. 3:1). This is an appropriate name for any prophet because his primary duty was to deliver God's message directly and accurately.

Malachi was one of three post-captivity prophets (along with Haggai and Zechariah). These prophets should be linked with the three post captivity historical books (Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther).

The prophet addressed the issues of empty religion and compromise. The nation's spiritual and moral decline made their worship unacceptable to God. The people were guilty of cheating on their tithes and bringing defective animals as sacrifices in worship. Even the priests were wicked and corrupt in their practices.

Malachi presented his message as a series of questions and answers. In each case God's accusations were denied by the people.

Israel's only hope was in God's unchanging character (Mal. 3:6)

Malachi urged the people to keep the Old Covenant and to anticipate a new a better covenant. This book ends with a bitter word, "curse" (Mal. 4:6). Persistent sin and depravity highlights the urgent need for the coming Messiah.

Malachi 1:1-5 The privilege of the nation

Malachi 1:6-3:15 The pollution of the nation

Malachi 3:16-4:6 The promises to the nation

Key verses: 1:6; 3:6-10, 16-17; 4:1-6

Know Your Bible – Part 11

Zephaniah through Malachi

Zephaniah: Judgment and Restoration in the Day of the Lord

Zephaniah was the only prophet from _____
His great-great-grandfather was King Hezekiah (Zeph. 1:1).

This book predicted _____ as a time of great judgment followed by great blessing. Zephaniah's prophecy points to a near fulfillment when Babylon conquered Judah and a distant fulfillment which involves the whole earth.

God instructed the people to be _____ (2:3), so they would have refuge in the midst of judgment. This was a clear call to faith in God and submission to His will.

Like most of the prophets, Zephaniah's warnings _____
The ministries of the prophets remind us that God requires faithfulness rather than success.

The people who ignored God could not _____

Zephaniah 1-3:8 The Lord's _____

Zephaniah 3:9-20 The Lord's _____

God promised to restore a _____ (3:9)
This refers to pure speech and cleansing from sin (Isa. 6:5-7; Hos. 2:17) rather than the restoration of a universal language as in the days before Babel (Gen. 11).

Key verses: Zephaniah 1:14-18; 2:1-3

Haggai: Put First Things First

Temple construction stopped while the Jews _____
Haggai urged the people to put God first and get back to work. He prophesied around 520 BC to Jews who had returned from captivity to their homeland.

Haggai confronted the problem of _____

Haggai called the builders to:

- Rebuild God's _____
- Reorder their _____

Key verses: Haggai 1-1-5, 13-14; 2:4-5, 23

The "desire of all nations" (Hag. 2:7) refers to _____
He is the Deliverer whom all the nations ultimately desire.

Zechariah: Preparation for the Messiah

The prophet encouraged the Jews to _____
Haggai and Zechariah have the same historical setting. God used their ministries to spur the people to action.

Like Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Zechariah was both _____
(Neh. 12:12-16).

The New Testament states that Zechariah was _____ (Mt. 23:35)
as the last martyr of the Old Testament.

The prophet described Christ as both _____
(Zech. 3:8; 6:12-13; 9:9-10; 12:10; 14:3-4). Christ is portrayed in His two comings as both
Servant and King.

Key verses: Zechariah 4:6; 8:3; 9:9-10; 14:3-4

Malachi: Will a Man Rob God?

The name “Malachi” means _____ (Mal. 3:1).
This is an appropriate name for any prophet because his primary duty was to deliver God’s
message directly and accurately.

Malachi was one of three _____ prophets (along with
Haggai and Zechariah). These prophets should be linked with the three post captivity
historical books (Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther).

The prophet addressed the issues of _____
The nation’s spiritual and moral decline made their worship unacceptable to God. The people
were guilty of cheating on their tithes and bringing defective animals as sacrifices in worship.

Malachi presented his message as a series of _____
In each case God’s accusations were denied by the people.

Israel’s only hope was in _____ (Mal. 3:6)

Malachi urged the people to _____ and to
anticipate a new a better covenant. This book ends with a bitter word, “curse” (Mal. 4:6).
Persistent sin and depravity highlights the urgent need for the coming Messiah.

Malachi 1:1-5 The _____ of the nation

Malachi 1:6-3:15 The _____ of the nation

Malachi 3:16-4:6 The _____ to the nation

Key verses: 1:6; 3:6-10, 16-17; 4:1-6