

MICAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
735 - 710 BC	Micah 7 Chapters	Destruction of Israel and Judah destruction Predicted.	Destruction is coming since Judah ignored God. Despite religious idolatry and hypocrisy, God will keep His promises.	Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.	Jesus casts our sin into the sea of forgetfulness

MICAH

OUTLINE OF MICAH

- I. **The Superscription, 1:1**
- II. **A Message of Destruction for Samaria and Judah, 1:2-2:13**
 - A. The Revelation of the Coming Judgment, Micah 1:2-16
 - B. The Reasons for the Coming Judgment, 2:1-13
- III. **A Message of Doom and Deliverance, 3:1-5:15**
 - A. Doom: The Coming Judgment, 3:1-12
 - 1. Judgment on the leaders, 3:1-4
 - 2. Judgment on the false prophets, 3:5-8
 - 3. Judgment on Jerusalem, 3:9-12
 - B. Deliverance: The Coming Kingdom, 4:1-5:1
 - 1. The glories of the kingdom, 4:1-8
 - 2. The suffering that precedes the kingdom, 4:9-5:1
 - C. Deliverance: The Coming King, 5:2-15
 - 1. His first coming, 5:2-3
 - 2. His second coming, 5:4-15
- IV. **A Message of Denunciation, 6:1-7:10**
 - A. God's First Indictment, 6:1-5
 - B. Israel's First Reply, 6:6-8
 - C. God's Second Indictment, 6:9-16
 - D. Israel's Second Reply, 7:1-10
- V. **Epilogue: Blessings for Israel, 7:11-20**

MICAH

Micah ("Who is like God?") shows the Lord coming in judgment, not only of Israel, but of all the nations.

Micah prophesied concerning judgment on the kingdoms of Israel and Judah for their sins. He also prophesied about the kingdom of Jesus.

The condition of Judah and Israel is seen to be an indication of the condition of all the peoples, the earth, and all that is therein. So that, if in Amos, God must judge Israel when once He begins to judge the nations; in Micah, He must judge the nations if Israel must be judged.

Israel is but a sample of all mankind: now that she is proven guilty, this is proof of the guilt of all the world (Rom. 3: 19). God can therefore alone execute judgment, and He is infinitely capable of doing so.

MICAH

In the book of Micah, we see the prophet Micah prophesying judgment against Samaria and Jerusalem for their sins and declaring future promises, such as a time where the Lord himself will rule from Zion.

The prophet Micah identified himself by his hometown, called Moresheth Gath, which sat near the border of Philistia and Judah about twenty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem.

Micah stated in his introduction to the book that he prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah and Pekah in Israel.

The book of Micah provides one of the most significant prophecies of Jesus Christ's birth in all the Old Testament, pointing some seven hundred years before Christ's birth to His birthplace of Bethlehem and to His eternal nature.

Micah 5: 2

2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.*”

MICAH

There shall be a glorious church for God set up in the world in the days of the Messiah. Christ himself will build it upon a rock.

The people will cleave to the Lord with full purpose of heart, and delight in doing his will.

Micah 4: 3-4

3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.

4 Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make *them* afraid, For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

MICAH

Surrounding Micah's prophecy of Jesus's birth is one of the most lucid pictures of the world's future under the reign of the Prince of Peace - Jesus.

Micah 5: 5

5 This One will be *our* peace. When the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.

MICAH

The prophet condemns the rulers, priests, and prophets of Israel who exploit and mislead the people. It is because of their deeds that Jerusalem will be destroyed.

The prophet Micah proclaims the deliverance of the people who will go from Jerusalem to Babylon and concludes with an exhortation for Jerusalem to destroy the nations who have gathered against her.

The ideal ruler would come from Bethlehem to defend the nation, and the prophet proclaims the triumph of the remnant of Jacob and foresees a day when Yahweh will purge the nation of idolatry and reliance on military might.

Micah 6: 8

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

This scripture applies to Christians as it did to people during Micah's time.

MICAH

The message of the Book of Micah is a mixture of judgment and hope.

The prophecies announce judgment upon Israel for social evils, corrupt leadership and idolatry. This judgment was expected to culminate in the destruction of Samaria and Jerusalem.

Micah proclaims not merely the restoration of the nation, but the transformation and exaltation of Israel and Jerusalem.

The messages of hope and doom are not necessarily contradictory, however, since restoration and transformation take place only after judgment.

MICAH

1. Rebellion will be punished

God does not look the other way when people are living in sin. He will hold them accountable, often using destruction and disaster in the process (Micah 1:1-7).

2. The Regathering of Israel

A day is coming when Israel will be gathered together with God as their King and Leader (Micah 2: 12-13) and it will be a time of peace and prosperity and rule by the Lord (Micah 4:1-5).

MICAH

3. Leaders are accountable

Micah is careful to call out the leaders for their sin of leading people astray. He accuses them of hating what is good and loving evil and taking advantage of the people (Micah 3: 1-2). These false prophets will be judged (Micah 3: 5-7).

4. The Role of the Word of God

Micah was emotionally involved in his message, lamenting and wailing (Micah 1: 8). God's Word came to him (Micah 1: 1), he was filled with power by the Spirit of the Lord (Micah 3: 8) to bring this important message.

MICAH

God pardons iniquity because He delights in mercy.

He turns His people to Himself and forgives all their sins when they repent.

The blessing of Israel will mean great blessing also for the nations, who will find delight in the mountain of Jehovah at Jerusalem.

Micah shows that God is the eternal Rock.

NAHUM TO MALACHI

Lenny D'Ambrosia

Nahum

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
650 BC	Nahum 3 Chapters	Nineveh doomed	Nineveh to be destroyed because 125 years after Jonah, its children have rejected Jonah's warning.	Sin results in God's wrath.	Jesus proclaims future peace we cannot even imagine

Nahum

Outline of Nahum

Chapter 1: God's judgment on Nineveh.

God's supremacy and power (verses 1-7).

Judgment pronounced (verses 8-15).

Chapter 2: Siege and capture of Nineveh.

Siege and capture described (verses 1-8).

The city plundered (verses 9-13).

Chapter 3: Utter ruin of the city.

Her cruelty, harlotry and witchcraft (demonic worship) (verses 1-7).

Perpetual desolation predicted (verses 8-19)

Nahum

Nahum ("Comfort") is a vigorous prophecy of the judgment of Nineveh.

Nahum focuses on God's pending judgment against Nineveh in Assyria. Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh in 780 BC. They did not repent.

125 years later they continue to worship idols. The Ninevites violently invaded the Northern Kingdom and tormented the Kingdom of Judah.

Nahum preached during the reign of King Manasseh of Judah.

Nahum

Nahum's singular focus on the impending judgment of Nineveh offers a continuation of the story that began in Jonah. Sometime around 760 BC, God sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach repentance and hope to the Assyrian people, a message they heard and adopted—at least for a time.

125 years later, during the time of Nahum, the Assyrians had returned to their bullish ways, conquering the northern kingdom of Israel and lording their power over Judah in the south (2 Kings 17:1–6; 18:13–19:37).

Nahum reminded the people of Judah: God's justice is always right and always sure. When God grants mercy for a time, that good gift will not compromise the Lord's ultimate sense of justice for all in the end.

Nahum

God announced through Nahum His plans to judge the city of Nineveh. While the book of Nahum, clearly shows God's concern over sin, His willingness to punish those guilty of wickedness, and His power to carry out His desire for judgment. It also contains rays of hope shining through the darkness.

The people of Judah took hope in the idea that Nineveh, their primary oppressor for generations, would soon come under judgment from God.

A small but faithful remnant in an increasingly idolatrous Judah, were comforted by God's slowness to anger, His goodness and strength and His restorative power.

Nahum

Nahum 1: 3

3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, And the Lord will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

Nahum 1: 7

7 The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Nahum 2: 2

2 For the Lord will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though devastators have devastated them And destroyed their vine branches. 18

Nahum

Paul uses shades of the imagery of Nahum 1:15 in Rom. 10:15 with respect to the ministry of the Messiah and the apostles.

Nahum 1: 15

15 Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; Pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; He is cut off completely.

Rom. 10: 15

15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”

Nahum

God has made peace with sinners by the blood of Christ and has given to His people the peace that “transcends all understanding”.

Phil. 4: 7

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The preacher’s work is also to “bring glad tidings of good things”, such as reconciliation, righteousness, pardon, life, and eternal salvation through a crucified Christ.

Nahum

1. Wickedness will be judged.

God judges evil. He is against those who do not trust Him and are full of violence, lies, lust and stealing (Nahum 3:1-6). His longsuffering has limits.

2. God is both good and full of wrath.

Although the Lord is slow to anger, He is still angry! For those who trust in Him, He is a refuge; for those who are evil, He is a source of vengeance and wrath.

3. People and nations can become extremely vile.

Nineveh was a wicked place; sin was running rampant. Their hearts were hard, they showed no evidence of remorse, even priding themselves on how evil they were.

Nahum

God is patient and slow to anger. He gives every country time to repent of sin and follow Him as Lord. He is not mocked. Any time a country turns away from Him and rejects righteousness, evil results, and He steps in with judgment.

This was true for Assyria, and it will be true for any nation today.

As Christians, it is our duty to stand up for biblical principles and proclaim Christ, for it is only in repentance and the life-changing message of the gospel that any one can find hope.

Nahum

God is good and knows all who trust Him, and He knows His enemies, who will be destroyed.

The first few verses of the Book of Nahum describe the indignation and fierceness of His anger. This is followed by the comfort of verse 7. He is slow to anger, perfect in calm deliberation; for He does not desire to condemn.

God will judge evil, whether by whirlwind or storm. The wisdom of "His way" will be seen.

Nahum shows both the awful strength of God's wrath, and the blessed strength of His protection.

HABAKKUK

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
515 - 605 BC	Habakkuk 3 Chapters	Our holiness is utmost to God	Judah will be destroyed by those who are more wicked. The just shall live by faith.	Be patient and Trust in God	Jesus crushes injustice.

HABAKKUK

OUTLINE OF HABAKKUK

I. Introduction, 1:1

II. Habakkuk's Problems, 1:2-2:20

- A. Problem #1: Why Does God Allow Wicked Practices to Continue in Judah? 1:2-4
- B. Answer #1, 1:5-11
- C. Problem #2: Why Will God Use Wicked People to Punish Judah? 1:12-2:1
- D. Answer #2, 2:2-20

III. Habakkuk's Praise, 3:1-19

- A. Praise for the Person of God, 3:1-3
- B. Praise for the Power of God, 3:4-7
- C. Praise for the Purpose of God, 3:8-16
- D. Praise because of faith in God, 3:17-19

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk ("Ardently embraced") is a prophecy that deals with the deep exercises and sorrows of a godly Israelite in considering the shame and degradation of his own nation and with their being taken captive by "the Chaldeans, that bitter and impetuous nation."

Habakkuk complained to God about violence, bribery and injustice in the Jewish nation. God promises to send the Babylonian invaders to punish the Jews. Habakkuk complains again to God concerning their wickedness.

HABAKKUK

As the prophet Habakkuk stood in Jerusalem he pondered on the state of his nation, Judah. So much evil thrived, completely in the open, but God remained strangely silent.

Hab. 2: 2-3

2 Then the Lord answered me and said, “Record the vision And inscribe *it* on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.

3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

Another nation, the Babylonians, would come and execute justice on the Lord’s behalf. The wicked in Judah, those who thought they would get away with their evil deeds forever, were soon to be punished.

HABAKKUK

The book of Habakkuk offers us a picture of a prideful people being humbled, while the righteous live by faith in God.

Hab. 2: 4

4 “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

Prophesying just prior to Nebuchadnezzar’s first invasion of Judah (605 BC), Habakkuk found himself with questions for God concerning the nature of divine justice.

King Josiah had reigned in Judah for a number of years and successfully removed the pagan shrines and statues from the land (2 Kin. 23:4-20). Josiah put to death the pagan priests who had perpetuated false religion. What he could not do was put to death the idolatry that still existed in the people’s hearts.

After his death, his sons Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim led the nation of Judah right back into its former abominations. These wicked kings actually prospered (Jer. 22:13-14).

HABAKKUK

The prophet Habakkuk was deeply concerned about the moral degeneration around him. He went to the Lord to lay this issue before him, seeking intervention.

Hab. 1: 2

2 How long, O Lord, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, “Violence!” Yet You do not save.

Hab. 1: 12

12 Are You not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O Lord, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct.

It seems that when Habakkuk first began to pray, he supposed that God would act immediately. The matters he was raising with God were serious.

God, unlike us in our fast-paced-instant-everything world, seems to prefer to do things the old fashioned way. His purposes unfold slowly, but surely. His promises are usually fulfilled in long time periods. They always come to pass.

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk describes the sins of Judah but grapples with the fact that God's chosen people will suffer at the hands of enemies even more wicked than they.

God answers Habakkuk's questions, resulting in his continuing faith in God's wisdom, sovereignty, and salvation.

Habakkuk channeled his frustration into prayers and eventually praise to God.

HABAKKUK

We have all seen the evidence of evil in our lives. We've all been touched by it. And we bear scars at various stages of healing. We are often downtrodden by our poor choices and our fallen world.

Habakkuk reminds us that no place is too dark and no wall too thick for God's grace to penetrate in a powerful and life-affirming way.

The Book of Habakkuk affirms that God is sovereign and omnipotent, and He has all things under control. We need to be patient and know He is at work.

God keeps His promises. He will punish the wicked. Even when we cannot see evidence of His dominion, God is still on the throne of the universe. We need to stay focused.

Hab. 3: 19

19 The Lord God is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*, And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk embraces the promises of God. They lead him to a thorough confidence in God's sovereign power and grace.

He recognizes that God created everything.

This is a book that helps those who are faced with evil and trying conditions.

HABAKKUK

The book of Habakkuk teaches us to:

1. Be patient.

God is in control. He will respond in His own time.

2. Employ biblical lament when the wait feels frustrating.

Deep and honest lament is a great grace that God avails to every Christian.

HABAKKUK

The book of Habakkuk teaches us to:

3. Not doubt God's goodness.

Actively fight rising notions that call God's goodness, wisdom, and love into question.

4. Reflect on those who went before us.

Read passages about the saints of old who also waited patiently on God. Draw encouragement from them.

5. Lean on other Christians.

Let them pray with you, and for you.

6. Trust God's Sovereign and Wise care.

Put your trust and faith in God's Sovereign wisdom and care

ZEPHANIAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor				
635-525 BC	Zephaniah 3 Chapters	Day of the Lord	The Day of the Lord is described as an awesome day of destruction for all nations.	God's Wrath will bring great destruction, but His mercy always remains with the meek.	Jesus is the Warrior who saves

ZEPHANIAH

Outline of Zephaniah

Chapter 1 - Desolation and discipline on Judah

Chapter 2 - Desolation on the surrounding nations

Chapter 3A - The Lord's remnant from the nations (Zep 3:1–11)

Chapter 3B - The Lord's remnant from Israel (Zep 3:12–20)

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah ("Treasured of Jehovah") prophesied in the days of Josiah, a godly king, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah.

The book of Zephaniah follows a pattern of judgment on all people for their sin, followed by the restoration of God's chosen people.

Zephaniah's primary target for God's message of judgment, the nation of Judah, had fallen into grievous sin under the reign of their king, Manasseh.

Zephaniah's prophecy shouted out for godliness and purity in a nation sinful to its core. The people of Judah had long since turned their backs on God, not only in their personal lives but also in their worship.

His prophecy reflected the depth of their sin and the deep need for God's people to be purged on their path to restoration.

ZEPHANIAH

God had already ruled that His judgment would go out in every direction, Judah and Jerusalem being clearly the center of it.

The book also shows how the effects of these judgments would produce a great blessing in a coming day.

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah's message of judgment and encouragement contains three major points:

1. God is sovereign over all nations.
2. The wicked will be punished. The righteous will be vindicated on the day of judgment.
3. God blesses those who repent and trust in Him.

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah pronounces the Lord's judgment on the whole earth, on Judah, on the surrounding nations, on Jerusalem, and on all nations. This is followed by proclamations of the Lord's blessing on all nations and especially on the faithful remnant of His people in Judah.

Zephaniah had the courage to speak bluntly because he knew he was proclaiming the Word of the Lord. His book begins with "The word of the Lord" and ends with "says the Lord." He knew that neither the many gods the people worshiped nor even the might of the Assyrian army could save them.

Zep. 1: 2

2 "I will completely remove all *things* From the face of the earth," declares the Lord.

ZEPHANIAH

God is gracious and compassionate, but when all His warnings are ignored, judgment is to be expected. God's day of judgment is frequently mentioned in the Scriptures.

The prophets called it the "Day of the Lord." They referred to various events, such as the fall of Jerusalem, as manifestations of God's Day, each of which pointed toward the Day of the Lord.

ZEPHANIAH

Lessons in Zephaniah:

1. Judgment

Zephaniah warns them that their next period of apostasy would bring judgment. The biggest issue throughout the history of Israel was idol worship. They worshiped false gods, along with Jehovah, the true God.

Zep. 1: 5-6

5 “And those who bow down on the housetops to the host of heaven, And those who bow down *and* swear to the Lord and *yet* swear by Milcom,

6 And those who have turned back from following the Lord, And those who have not sought the Lord or inquired of Him.”

Today, we face the same issues. Too often, we go and worship God on the weekend and then forget about him throughout our busy weeks. The demands and enticement of our culture get too much of our attention.

ZEPHANIAH

Lessons in Zephaniah:

2. Repentance

Repentance is an opportunity for everyone to leave a futile life for an abundant life. Repentance must be a consistent theme and attitude among God's people.

Zep. 3: 8-10

8 "Therefore wait for Me," declares the Lord, "For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

9 "For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

10 "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings.

ZEPHANIAH

Lessons in Zephaniah:

3. Pride brings destruction

God desires humility. When we consider who He is and who we are, it is the only thing that makes sense. He loves us and makes a way for us to have a relationship with Him.

Zep. 3: 11-12

11 “In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain.

12 “But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the Lord.

We must remind ourselves that God is God and we are not. He knows what is best, right and true for us. We are foolish to rebel against that.

ZEPHANIAH

Lessons in Zephaniah:

4. Judgment and repentance yield joy

When we realize what a difference the absolute standards of God can mean to our lives, we can rejoice with a genuine expression of worship.

Zep. 3: 14-15

14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away *His* judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more.

When we are reconciled to God:

- A. Our lives are filled with rejoicing.
- B. We can enjoy all of His great promises.
- C. We will have God's protection, power and presence in our lives all of the time.

HAGGAI

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
520 BC	Haggai 2 Chapters	Rebuild My temple	The Jews are rebuked for not completing the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. They are urged to finish.	It is time to do God's work and trust Him for the result	Jesus restores our worship

HAGGAI

OUTLINE OF HAGGAI

- I. A Call to Construction of the Temple, 1:1-15
 - A. Introduction, 1:1-2
 - B. The Reprimand, 1:3-6
 - C. The Remedy, 1:7-8
 - D. The Rebuke from God, 1:9-11
 - E. The Reaction of the People, 1:12-15
- II. A Call to Courage in the Lord, 2:1-9
- III. A Call to Cleanness of Life, 2:10-19
- IV. A Call to Confidence in the Future, 2:20-23

HAGGAI

Haggai ("My feasts") was written after the Jews' return to Jerusalem from the captivity.

God tells the people through Haggai to rebuild the temple first. It would keep them from falling back into sin. This would bring unity, faith and strength back to them.

The prophet, Haggai, delivered his message to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah (Southern Kingdom, including Jerusalem) encouraging the rebuilding of the Temple.

HAGGAI

Four distinct messages are given in the book.

The first is in chapter 1 and gives solemn reproofs. Thankfully these produced good effects in leaders and people, in their being stirred to build.

The second (ch.2: 1-9) gives refreshing encouragement in its precious prophetic vision of Christ.

The third (ch.2:10-19) insists upon the purity and separation becoming to God's house and urges godly consideration.

The fourth (ch.2:20-23) is prophetic of the overthrowing of all oppressing kingdoms, and of blessing established in the person of Jehovah's Servant, the Messiah, typified by Zerubbabel, ruler of Israel.

HAGGAI

The people of Judah listened to Haggai's message to rebuild the temple. His message was passionate, simple, and straightforward.

They had forgotten their God, choosing instead to focus on their own interests. Nothing was more important for the Jews than to show that the Lord was at the center of their thoughts and actions, so Haggai directed them to finish rebuilding God's temple.

Haggai 1: 7-8

7 Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Consider your ways!

8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the Lord.

Through the physical act of rebuilding the temple, the people began to indicate a shift in their **spiritual lives**: **from devotion to self toward devotion to God.**

HAGGAI

Haggai sought to challenge the people of God concerning their priorities. He called them to reverence and glorify God by building the Temple in spite of local and official opposition.

Haggai called them not to be discouraged because this Temple would not be quite as richly decorated as Solomon's. He exhorted them to turn from the uncleanness of their ways and to trust in God's sovereign power.

The Book of Haggai is a reminder of the problems the people of God faced at this time, how the people courageously trusted in God, and how God provided for their needs.

HAGGAI

Haggai's encouragement to rebuild the temple in the face of the Jews' is similar to the apostle Paul's exhortation to Christians to build their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3: 10-17

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

HAGGAI

The Book of Haggai draws attention to common problems most people face even today.

Haggai asks us:

1. To examine our priorities to see if we are more interested in our own pleasures than doing the work of God;
2. To reject a defeatist attitude when we run into opposition or discouraging circumstances;
3. To confess our failures and seek to live pure lives before God;
4. To act courageously for God because we have the assurance that He is with us always and is in full control of our circumstances;
5. To rest secure in God's hands knowing that He will abundantly bless us as we faithfully serve Him.

HAGGAI

Lessons from the book of Haggai:

1. God is always with us.

Even though His people had not obeyed Him, He had not abandoned them or left them alone.

Haggai 1: 13

13 Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke by the commission of the Lord to the people saying, “‘I am with you,’ declares the Lord.”

Haggai 2: 4-5

4 ‘But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of hosts.

5 ‘As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!’

HAGGAI

Lessons from the book of Haggai:

2. The trials and tribulations in our lives are an invitation and an opportunity to turn to God.

Haggai reminds us we need to turn to God when we experience difficulties.

Haggai 2: 17

17 'I smote you *and* every work of your hands with blasting wind, mildew and hail; yet you *did not come back* to Me,' declares the Lord.

HAGGAI

Lessons from the book of Haggai:

3. God blesses us not because we deserve it but because He chooses to.

Haggai 2: 19

19 'Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree, it has not borne *fruit*. Yet from this day on I will bless *you*.' ”

Every good and perfect gift comes from God.

James 1: 17

17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

The only thing we deserve is death but instead, we receive mercy, love, grace, and goodness. He gives us everything we need.

Rom. 6: 23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HAGGAI

Lessons from the book of Haggai:

4. The Lord keeps His promises.

When He says He will do something, He does it. He may not do it in the timing we expect it or in the way we would have chosen but His timing is always perfect.

Haggai 2: 5

5 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

Haggai 2: 23

23 'On that day,' declares the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make you like a signet *ring*, for I have chosen you,' " declares the Lord of hosts.

ZECHARIAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
480 - 470 BC	Zechariah 14 Chapters	Messiah is coming	The Jews are encouraged to complete the rebuilding of the temple. The promise of Messiah is repeated.	We must prepare for the coming of the LORD.	Jesus is prophesied as the Messiah pierced for us

ZECHARIAH

Outline of the Book of Zechariah

Introduction (1:1-6).

Zechariah's eight visions in the night (1:7 - 6:8).

Zechariah crowns Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest (6:9-15).

God rules on fasts, promises blessing for Jerusalem (7:1 - 8:23).

The Messiah is coming but will be rejected (9:1 - 11:17).

The Messiah will come again, be accepted, and will rule (12:1 - 14:21).

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah ("Jehovah remembers") writes at the same time as Haggai, but he deals with the city Jerusalem.

He reminds the people of God's displeasure with their fathers as the reason for former inflictions and bondage, an evident warning of what the city would yet suffer if they were "as their fathers."

His book reinforces the Jews with the hope that God would remember His promises to His people, even after all the time they spent outside the land.

ZECHARIAH

The prophet, Zechariah, delivered his message to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah (Southern Kingdom, including Jerusalem) encouraging the rebuilding of the Temple.

Zechariah emphasized a tone of encouragement to the struggling Israelites trying to rebuild their temple.

The prophet used a simple structure of eight visions (Zech. 1:1–6:15), four messages (Zech. 7:1–8:23), and two oracles (Zech. 9:1–14:21) to anticipate the completion of the temple and, ultimately, the future reign of the Messiah from Jerusalem.

ZECHARIAH

Visions of Zechariah

1. A vision of horses (Zechariah 1: 7–17), which teaches about the merciful way the Lord will deal with Jerusalem.
2. A vision of four horns and four carpenters (Zechariah 1: 18–21), which is about the powers (horns) that scattered Judah and what will happen to these powers.
3. A vision of the man with a measuring line (Zechariah 2), which testifies of the Lord's protective power over His people.
4. A vision of the high priest (Zechariah 3), which symbolizes how Judah can overcome Satan and be cleansed through the power of Jesus Christ ("the Branch" in v. 8).

ZECHARIAH

Visions of Zechariah

5. A vision of a lampstand and olive trees (Zechariah 4), which symbolizes how the Lord would give power to His people by His Holy Spirit
6. A vision of a flying scroll (Zechariah 5: 1–4), which taught that those who were dishonest in the land were condemned
7. A vision of a woman in a basket (Zechariah 5: 5–11), which testifies that wickedness would be removed from the people
8. A vision of four chariots (Zechariah 6: 1–8), which symbolizes spreading the Lord's power over the whole earth

ZECHARIAH

The 4 messages in Zechariah:

Chapter 7: 1–7 - Do you fast for yourself or for God?

Chapter 7: 8–14 - Do you listen to God? What happened when Israel did not?

Chapter 8: 1–17 - What God will do?; what they must do?

Chapter 8: 18–23 - Envision the future feasting.

ZECHARIAH

Oracles of Zachariah

1. The oracle concerning God's
Sovereignty (Zech. 9 - 14)

1a. Oracle concerning the nations
(Zech. 9-11)

1b. Oracle concerning Israel (Zech. 12-14)

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah told of his visions, some with Angels on horses, golden lampstands, and chariots. Zechariah said that the Lord is coming to earth from heaven (Zechariah 2:13), speaking of the "**last days**" -- the future around his time (or even possibly yet to come now):

1. "Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become My people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent Me to you." (Zechariah 2:11)
2. "On that day I will destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem...They will look on Me, the One they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child..." (Zechariah 12:9,10)
3. "A day of the Lord is coming...On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost...plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem..." (Zechariah 14:1,6,12)

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah refers to **the Messiah**:

1. "Listen, O high priest Joshua...I am going to bring My Servant, the Branch...seven eyes on that one Stone...I will remove the sin of this land in a single day." (Zechariah 3:8,9)
2. " ...Joshua ...Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Here is the Man whose name is The Branch, and He will branch out from His place and build the Temple of the Lord.'" (Zechariah 6:11-12)
3. "Rejoice greatly...your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zechariah 9:9)
4. "...for His flock, the house of Judah...will come the Cornerstone, from Him the tent peg, ...the battle bow, ...every ruler." (Zechariah 10:3,4)

ZECHARIAH

The Book of Zechariah teaches that salvation may be obtained by all. The last chapter depicts peoples from all over the world coming to worship God, who desires that all people follow Him.

Zechariah teaches that God desires that all people worship Him and accepts those who do, regardless of their national or political expressions.

Zechariah preached that God is sovereign over this world, any appearance to the contrary notwithstanding. His visions of the future indicate that God sees all that will happen.

The depictions of God's intervention in the world teach that ultimately He will bring human events to the end He chooses. He does not eliminate the individual's freedom to follow God or rebel, but holds people responsible for the choices they make.

The last chapter, even the forces of nature respond to God's control.

ZECHARIAH

Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

1. God is faithful

People give up on marriages and relationships. We give up on our dreams and on our resolutions. We give up on our work and sometimes on our faith.

God never gives up on us!

He is ready to bless us again with His presence when we begin to seek Him.

Zech. 1: 3

3 “Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Return to Me,” declares the Lord of hosts, “that I may return to you,” says the Lord of hosts.

ZECHARIAH

Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

2. What God requires from his people

Sometimes, we get a little consumed with what God can do for us. He does great things for us because he loves us so much. There is an expressed expectation of what he requires from his people.

Zech. 7: 9-10

9 “Thus has the Lord of hosts said, ‘Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;

10 and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’

ZECHARIAH

Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

2. What God requires from his people

2a. We are to render true judgment.

That means we examine all the facts — not just the ones we like.

2b. We are to show kindness.

That means we stop being so harsh with those whose viewpoints are different from ours and instead are always tender to everyone.

ZECHARIAH

Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

2. What God requires from his people

2c. We are to show mercy.

One of the most profound expressions of mercy is forgiveness.

2d. We are to avoid oppression.

- i. **Widows** and **orphans** have little power. They are often devalued and ignored.
- ii. **Strangers** are viewed with suspicion or distrust. We must be those who protect and help them.
- iii. The **poor** are all around us. They have always been ignored or blamed for their condition.

ZECHARIAH

Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

2e. We are never to conspire or dream of evil for one another.

It's easy to do and feels natural when we have been hurt or strongly disagree with someone but we must never do it. Asking God to help us overcome these feelings and thoughts is essential.

ZECHARIAH

1. God expects sincere worship and moral living of us in our Christian walk of life.
2. Zechariah's example of breaking through national prejudice reminds us to reach out into all areas of our society. We must extend God's invitation of salvation to people of all national origins, languages, races, and cultures.
3. Salvation is only available through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, who died in our place to atone for sin. If we reject that sacrifice, there is no other sacrifice through which we can be reconciled to God. There is no other name under heaven by which men are saved.

Acts 4: 12

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

4. There is no time to lose; today is the day of salvation.

2 Cor. 6: 2

2 for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"—

MALACHI

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
433 - 424 BC	Malachi 4 Chapters	Ritualism rebuked	The nation is rebuked for their lack of love for God and their coldhearted indifference to Him.	Serve God as if your life depended on it.	Jesus is the Son of Righteous who brings healing

MALACHI

OUTLINE OF MALACHI

I. God's Compassion for Israel, 1:1-5

- A. His Compassion Declared, 1:1-2a
- B. His Compassion Doubted, 1:2b
- C. His Compassion Demonstrated, 1:3-5

II. God's Complaint Against Israel, 1:6-3:15

- A. Cheating, 1:6-14
- B. Unfaithfulness, 2:1-9
- C. Spiritually Mixed Marriages, 2:10-12
- D. Divorce, 2:13-16
- E. Impiety and Impertinence, 2:17
- F. Parenthesis: The Coming of John the Baptist, 3:1-6
- G. Robbery, 3:7-12
- H. Arrogance, 3:13-15

III. God's Condemnation of the People, 3:16-4:6

- A. The Ungodly People, 3:16-18
- B. The Nature of God's Judgment, 4:1-6

MALACHI

First, Malachi wanted to affirm the Israelites that Yahweh's love for them and their covenant relationship with Him was still intact (Mal. 1:2–5).

Secondly, because this relationship was still intact, Malachi wants to call the Israelites into account for their violations of this relationship.

Third, Malachi's calling to account was intended to elicit repentance and obedience.

Finally, Malachi sought to remind the people that their repentance and obedience were prerequisites to divine blessing and preparation for the coming of a divine messenger.

MALACHI

Malachi ("My messenger") shows us the miserably self - complacent condition of the Jews who had returned from the captivity.

Their energy had very soon deteriorated into a state of callous indifference to the claims of God, a state of self-pleasing. It is a deeply pleading word from God, in which He reproves their gross contempt for Him expressed in various ways.

MALACHI

God showed the people through Malachi they were falling short and in danger of hurting themselves and others because there was corruption in the priesthood and the people had become spiritually disinterested.

MALACHI

The people of Judah began to be exiled from the Promised Land in 605 BC, returning from Babylon seventy years later.

By the time of Malachi, they had been back in the land for more than a hundred years and were looking for the blessings they expected to receive when they returned. Though the temple had been rebuilt, the fervor of those early returning Israelites gave way to a thorough apathy for the things of God. This led to rampant corruption among the priesthood and a spiritual lethargy among the people.

Malachi came along at a time when the people were struggling to believe that God loved them. The people focused on their unfortunate circumstances and refused to account for their own sinful deeds. So God pointed the finger back at them, and through Malachi, God told the people where they had fallen short of their covenant with Him.

If the people hoped to see changes, they needed to take responsibility for their own actions and serve God faithfully according to the promise their fathers had made to God on Mount Sinai all those years before.

MALACHI

Throughout Israel's history, the nation failed and God called His people back to Himself. Each time, Israel would fail again, prompting the cycle to begin again.

God's final word of the Old Testament concerns judgment for sin and testifies to our inability to love Him without the help of His grace.

Malachi's call prompts us to live faithfully before God and offers hope that God is not yet through with extending mercy to His people.

Mal. 3: 1

1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear 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.

Mal. 4: 2

2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

Mal. 4: 5-6

5 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

6 "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

MALACHI

God's warning through Malachi tells the people to turn back to Him.

Mal.1: 1

1 The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.

Mal. 1: 6

6 “ ‘A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?’ says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’

MALACHI

Malachi wrote the words of the Lord to God's chosen people who had gone astray, especially the priests who had turned from the Lord.

Priests were not treating the sacrifices they were to make to God seriously.

Animals with blemishes were being sacrificed even though the law demanded animals without defect.

The men of Judah were dealing with the wives of their youth treacherously and wondering why God would not accept their sacrifices.

Also, people were not tithing as they should have been.

MALACHI

Mal. 3: 1-6

1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear 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.

2 “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 “He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine **them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.**

4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old **and as in former years.**

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the **sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn** aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts.

6 “For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Mal. 3: 1-6 is a prophecy concerning John the Baptist. He was the Messenger of the Lord sent to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. John preached repentance and baptized in the name of the Lord, thus preparing the way for Jesus’ first advent.

MALACHI

Lessons in the book of Malachi:

1. God is unchanging

Throughout the book, we can encounter God, going through a roller coaster of emotions. From love, to anger, to justice, God remains true to His character.

He begins on a note of how much He loves Israel. A love that caused Him to enter into a covenant relationship with them. He explains how he chose to love one of the sons of Isaac and thereby an entire line of people. He called them His own and set them apart. He loved them.

MALACHI

Lessons in the book of Malachi:

1a. He is a righteous God."

1b. He has loved you and me with an everlasting love...

Malachi is an exceptional book that brings out all the contrasting attributes of God, while presenting a God who remains true to the essence of His unchanging nature.

MALACHI

Lessons in the book of Malachi:

2. The names of God evoke different responses.

Throughout Malachi we read about different names given to God.

2a. Father (Mal. 1: 6)

2b. Master (Mal. 1: 6)

2c. Lord of Hosts (Mal. 1: 11; 2: 2)

2d. Great King (Mal. 1: 14)

2e. Messenger of the Covenant {This refers to Jesus} (Mal. 3: 1)

2f. Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4: 2)

MALACHI

Lessons in the book of Malachi:

3. God answers all our questions.

Malachi is written as a conversation between God and man. In those conversations, one of the strange things that recur is when God makes a straightforward statement followed by man's counter-argumentative question to which, most times, God responds.

They didn't honor or comprehend what God had done for them, nor had they looked at their own lives and reflected on God's accusations.

MALACHI

Lessons in the book of Malachi:

4. Pay attention to and obey God's word.

We must heed God's word. Listening involves both hearing and obeying.

Sometimes God uses His word to instruct and correct us. Be watchful for those moments and pay attention.

Let us pray and ask for God's help to stay away from empty questions and embrace His love and mercy.