

The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi

Prophetic Ministry: 800 – 430 B.C.

Zechariah

“Do Not Despise the Day of Small Things”

Setting: (same as Haggai)

- 520 B.C.; a remnant has returned from exile to Judah; they have neglected building the temple for 16 years
- As the result of Haggai’s ministry, they have begun work on the temple on the 24th of the sixth month

Zechariah

“Do Not Despise the Day of Small Things”

Purpose: (same as Haggai)

- to encourage this remnant people to finish the temple and to do so with right hearts
- they needed encouragement; the future looked bleak and uncertain
 - experienced continual frustration
 - relatively small and poor; enemies were stronger
 - under foreign domination

Zechariah

“Do Not Despise the Day of Small Things”

Structure:

1. Chapters 1-8

- Spans two years (520 – 518 B.C.)
- Focuses on the immediate situation of building the temple with the promise of a glorious future

2. Chapters 9-14

- No reference to the immediate situation
- Focuses completely on the future kingdom with a unique emphasis on the Messiah

Chapters 1-8: Finish the Temple

1. Eleventh month of 520 B.C. (chpts. 1-6)

- eight visions given to Zechariah
- intended to encourage the people to build the temple with right hearts

2. Ninth month of 518 B.C. (chpts 7-8)

- Question about fasting; fasting will be turned to joy because of what the Lord will do for Jerusalem
- Key text – Zechariah 8:9-15

Chapters 1-8: Finish the Temple

Eight Visions

1. Four horsemen on patrol (1:7-17)

- time is ripe for God to act on behalf of Jerusalem

2. Four horns and four craftsmen (1:18-21)

- the nations who have oppressed and now threaten Judah will be destroyed

3. The man with a measuring line (2:1-13)

- Jerusalem will be inhabited and even more glorious than in her past

4. Joshua and Satan before the Lord (3:1-10)

- removal of Joshua's sin which leads the way to cleansing the nation's sin

5. The Golden Lampstand and Two Olive Trees

6. The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)

- purging the land of evildoers

7. The Woman in the Ephah (5:5-11)

- all wickedness removed from the land

8. The Four Chariots (6:1-8)

- God's overthrow of Judah's enemy nations

Word to Zerubbabel (4:1-14)

1. The Vision

- lampstand represents God's people whose purpose is to give light; the oil is God's Spirit (power)
- inexhaustible supply of power

2. The Significance

- God's Spirit, not human resources, will accomplish this task of building the temple
- every obstacle will be removed
- two branches are Joshua and Zerubbabel – channels of divine grace

Principles

1. God's work is achieved by God's strength

- Ultimately not by human resources or ability
- No obstacle too difficult

2. The danger of despising the day of small things

- Tasks that seem insurmountable or insignificant will destroy our vision of what God could do

3. God delights in using human vessels

- He strengthens our hands for the task