

The background features a vibrant sunset with a gradient of orange, red, and yellow. In the foreground, an open Bible is visible, with its pages showing some text. The main title is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline.

# Through The Bible

## Session 31

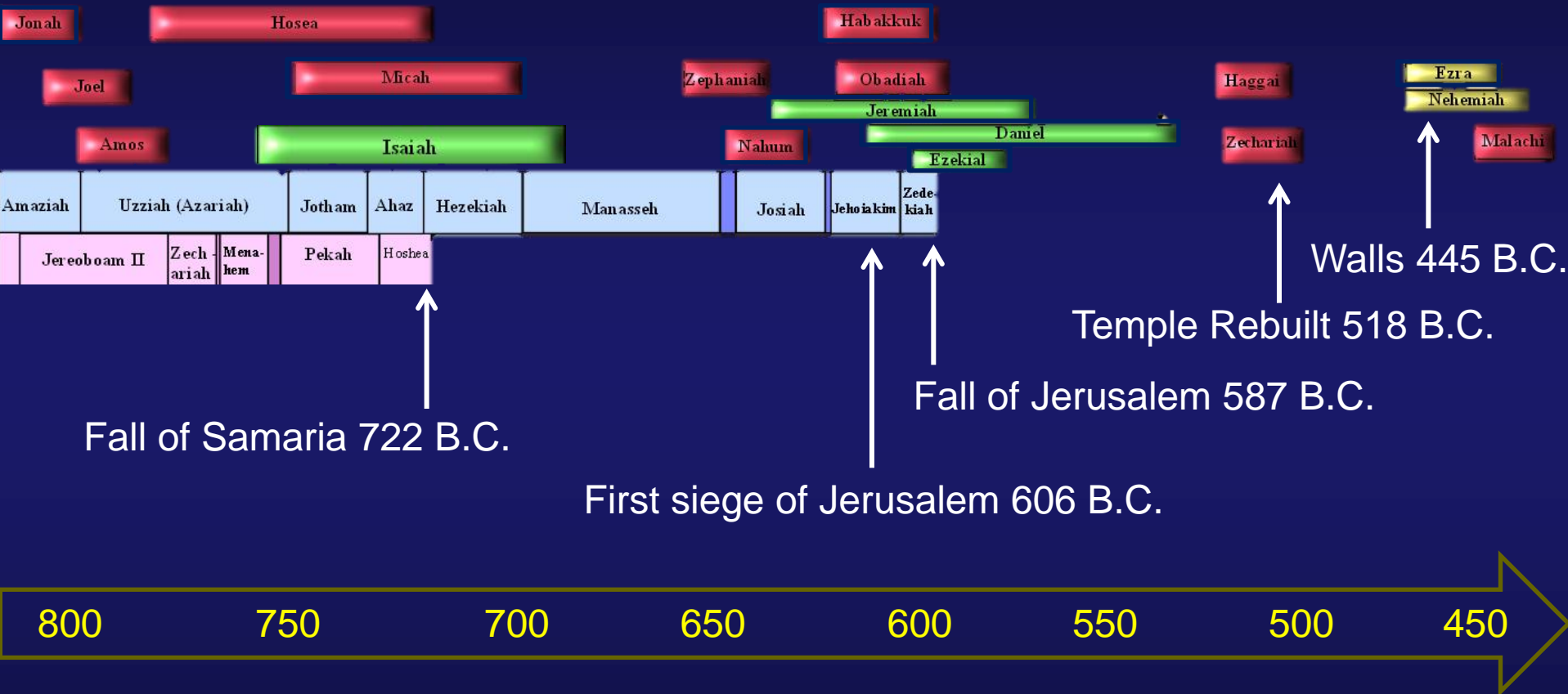
# The Minor Prophets

Zephaniah / Haggai

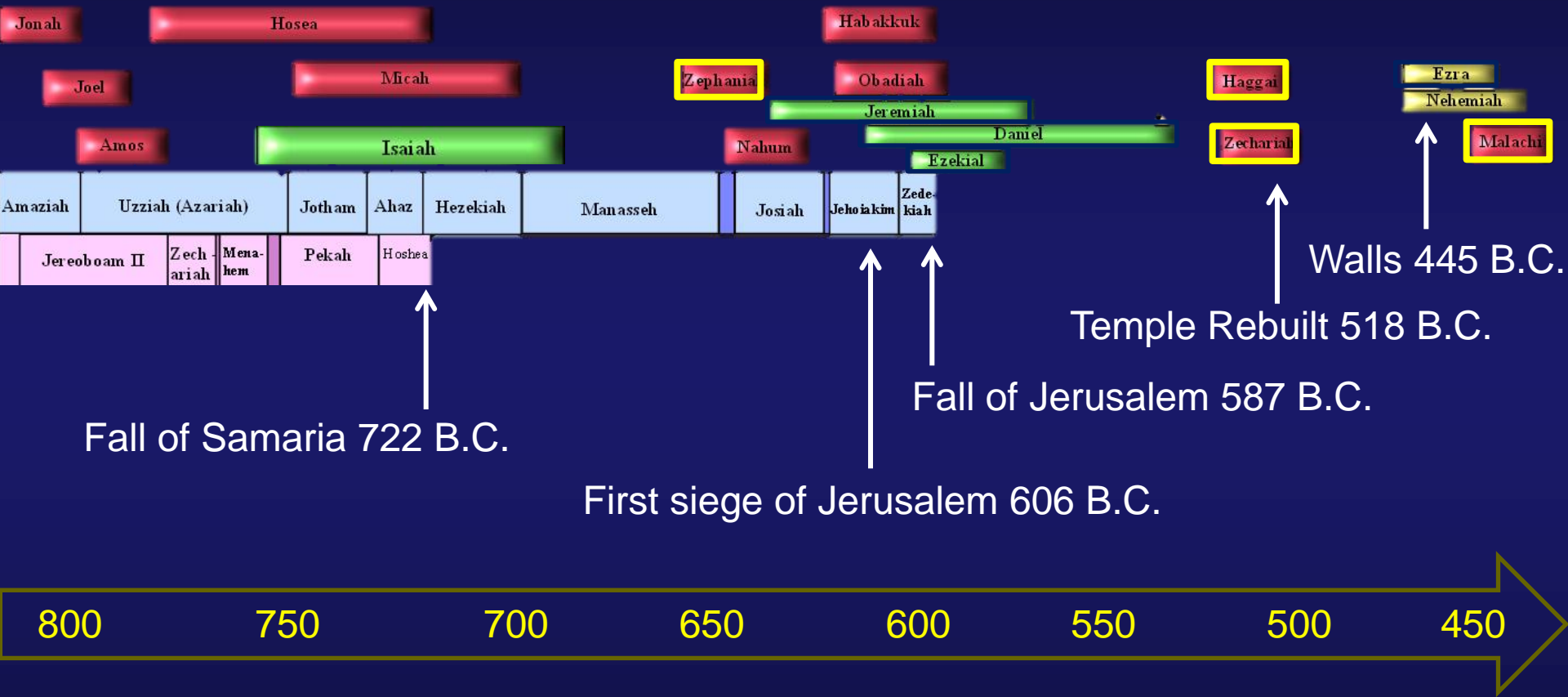
Zechariah / Malachi

*From the miracle of our origin to the mystery of our destiny*

# Timeline of the Minor Prophets



# Timeline of the Minor Prophets



## Judah

### The Southern Kingdom

Rehoboam	17
Abijam	3
Asa	41

Jehoshaphat	25
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1<sup>st</sup> Kings

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings

Jehoram	8	
Ahaziah	1	
Athaliah	6	
Joash	40	Joel
Amaziah	29	
Azariah (Uzziah)	52	Amos

Jotham	16	
Ahaz	16	Isaiah
Hezekiah	29	Micah
Manasseh	55	
Amon	2	
Josiah	31	Zephaniah
Jehoahaz	(3 mos)	
Jehoiakim	11	Jeremiah
Jehoiakin	(3 mos)	Habakkuk
Zedekiah	11	Obadiah

Babylonian Captivity  
Daniel  
Ezekiel

## Israel

### The Northern Kingdom

Jeroboam	22
Nadab	2
Baasha	24
Elah	2
Zimi	(1 wk)
Omri	12
Ahab	22

1<sup>st</sup> Kings Ahaziah 2 Elijah

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Jehoram 12 Elisha  
Jehu 28

Jehoahaz	17	
Jehoash	16	
Jeroboam II	41	Hosea
Zechariah	1/2	Jonah
Shallum	(1 mo)	
Menahem	10	
Pekahiah	2	
Pekah	20	
Hoshea	9	

Assyrian Captivity

Nahum



## The Southern Kingdom

### Minor Prophets

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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles

Jehoram	8	
Ahaziah	1	
Athaliah	6	
Joash	40	
Amaziah	29	Joel
Uzziah	52	
Jotham	16	Isaiah
Ahaz	16	
Hezekiah	29	
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**Babylonian Captivity** Daniel  
Ezekiel

## The Northern Kingdom

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings

Jehoram	12	Elisha
Jehu	28	
Jehoahaz	17	
Jehoash	16	
Jeroboam II	41	
Zechariah	1/2	
Shallum	(1 mo)	
Menahem	10	
Pekahiah	2	
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Hoshea	9	

Nineveh

**Assyrian Captivity**

## The Southern Kingdom

2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles		
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<b>Babylonian Captivity</b>	Daniel
	Ezekiel

## The Northern Kingdom

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<b>Assyrian Captivity</b>	
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<b>Nineveh</b>
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### Minor Prophets

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

**Hosea** – The loving Prophet – Israel’s call to repent and return

## The Southern Kingdom

	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles		
Minor Prophets	Jehoram	8	
	Ahaziah	1	
	Athaliah	6	
Hosea	Joash	40	
Joel	Amaziah	28	→ Joel
Amos	Uzziah	52	
Obadiah			
Jonah			
Micah			
Nahum			
Habakkuk			
Zephaniah			
Haggai	Jotham	16	Isaiah
Zechariah	Ahaz	16	
Malachi	Hezekiah	29	
	Manasseh	55	
	Amon	2	
	Josiah	31	Jeremiah
	Jehoahaz	(3 mos)	
	Jehoiakim	11	
	Jehoiakin	(3 mos)	
	Zedekiah	11	

**Babylonian Captivity** Daniel  
Ezekiel

## The Northern Kingdom

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Jehu	28	
Jehoahaz	17	
Jehoash	16	
Jeroboam II	41	Hosea
Zechariah	½	
Shallum	(1 mo)	
Menahem	10	
Pekahiah	2	
Pekah	20	
Hoshea	9	

Nineveh

**Assyrian Captivity**

**Joel** – The Day of the LORD – Earliest of the writing prophets

## The Southern Kingdom

## The Northern Kingdom

Minor Prophets

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

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Jehoash	16	
Jereboam II	41	Hosea Amos
Zechariah	1/2	
Shallum	(1 mo)	
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Pekahiah	2	
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Nineveh

Assyrian Captivity

Babylonian Captivity Daniel  
Ezekiel

**Amos** – The Shepherd Prophet – Judgment of the nations



## The Southern Kingdom

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<b>Babylonian Captivity</b>	Daniel
	Ezekiel

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Nineveh

**Assyrian Captivity**

Minor Prophets

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

**Obadiah** – The judgment on Edom

## The Southern Kingdom

2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles		
Jehoram	8	
Ahaziah	1	
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<b>Babylonian Captivity</b>	Daniel
	Ezekiel

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<b>Assyrian Captivity</b>	Nineveh
	Jonah

Minor Prophets

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

**Jonah** – Mercy for repentant Gentiles declared by one risen

## The Southern Kingdom

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles

Jehoram	8	
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**Babylonian Captivity**

Daniel
Ezekiel

## The Northern Kingdom

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings

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**Assyrian Captivity**

Nineveh
Jonah

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

**Micah** – The LORD is coming to rule

## The Southern Kingdom

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Babylonian Captivity	
Daniel	
Ezekiel	

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Nineveh	
Jonah	
Nahum	

**Assyrian Captivity** →

- Minor Prophets
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
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- Nahum
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# Nahum – The judgment of Nineveh

## The Southern Kingdom

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Babylonian Captivity	
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Assyrian Captivity	
Nahum	

Assyria falls to Babylon



Minor Prophets

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

Nineveh  
Jonah  
Nahum

**Habakkuk** – The just shall live by faith

## The Southern Kingdom

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Babylonian Captivity	
Daniel	Ezekiel

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Hosea  
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Assyrian Captivity	
Nineveh	Jonah
Nahum	

Assyria falls to Babylon

**Zephaniah** – Last of the pre-exile prophets - The coming judgment



## The Southern Kingdom

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles

Minor Prophets

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
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**Babylonian Captivity** Daniel  
Ezekiel

Ezra  
Zerubabel  
Nehemiah  
Esther

## The Northern Kingdom

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**Assyrian Captivity**

Nineveh  
Jonah

Nahum

**Assyria falls to Babylon**

Post-Exile

## The Southern Kingdom

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles

Minor Prophets

Hosea  
Joel  
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Nineveh

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**Assyrian Captivity**

Nahum

**Assyria falls to Babylon**

Post-Exile

## The Southern Kingdom

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**Babylonian Captivity** Daniel  
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Nineveh

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**Assyrian Captivity**

Nahum

**Assyria falls to Babylon**

Post-Exile

## The Southern Kingdom

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings & 2 Chronicles

Minor Prophets

Hosea  
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**Babylonian Captivity** Daniel  
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**Assyria falls to Babylon**

Post-Exile



# The Book of Zephaniah

# Zephaniah

- Written during the reign of Josiah
  - c.640 B.C. - 609 B.C.
- Last of the pre-exile prophets
- His name means “*Jehovah hides*”
  - i.e., “protects” or “treasures.”
- 17x “I will” statements of the LORD
- Key phrase: “the day of the LORD” 7x
- Thus we see his prophecies span history, speaking to the then current situation in Israel...(the sin of Israel & judgment on it's neighbours)
- ...but also speaking with clarity into our days



# Zephaniah

- Zephaniah was the great grandson of king Hezekiah, so a distant cousin of Josiah
  - He traces his genealogy back through four generations to king Hezekiah (Ch1 v1).
    - Possibly to demonstrate his right to speak and understanding of the corruptness of Judah's kings?
- Hezekiah & Josiah were Godly kings, but between their reigns there had been over half a century of evil rule by Amon and Manasseh.

# Overview

- Judgment on Judah foretold Ch 1
- Judgment on the Gentiles forewarned Ch 2
  - Specifically judgment for their treatment of ‘God’s people’ (cf Matt 25 “Sheep & Goats”)
    - “My people” x4 / “God of Israel” / “The people of the LORD of hosts” / “The LORD their God”
  - A way of escape from God’s wrath promised!
- The National re-gathering and restoration of Israel promised Ch 3
  - “her God” / “the King of Israel” / “The LORD thy God”

# Zephaniah Chapter 1

- ***I will consume*** (1–7).
  - God’s wrath will consume His creation (vv. 2–3) and the hypocrites in the land (vv. 4–6). It will be a sacrificial feast, prepared for Babylon (v. 7; Jer. 46:10; Rev. 19:17–21).
- ***I will punish*** (8–11).
  - Starting at the royal palace, he walked through the city and invited the people to lament with him. The merchants would be especially grieved because their ill-gotten wealth would be seized.

# Zephaniah Chapter 1

- ***I will search*** (12–13).
  - The people of Jerusalem would try to hide, but the invading soldiers would find them and slay them. The complacent would discover that their theology was all wrong. What a rude awakening!
- ***I will bring distress*** (14–18).
  - The words that describe this day are *bitter, trouble, devastation, darkness, and alarm*. People will be treated like refuse!

# Zephaniah Chapter 2

- Judgment on the Gentiles
  - Because of their sins, the nations around Judah would also feel the wrath of God. The other prophets had warned them that judgment was coming (Isa. 14–20; Jer. 46–49; Amos 1–2), but the Gentiles did not repent.
  - God would punish their mistreatment of His people (v. 8; Gen. 12:1–3), their pride (v. 10), and their worship of false gods (v. 11).
  - In His mercy, God calls them to repent

# Zephaniah Chapter 2

- Gentile Remnant Saved
  - The meek ones (God's remnant; 3:12) would be hidden in God and cared for during the day of wrath (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9–10; Rev. 3:10).

<sup>3</sup> Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

Zephaniah 2:3



# Zephaniah Chapter 3

- ***The rebellious*** (1–7).
  - The leaders in Jerusalem would not listen to God's servants or heed God's warnings. When God corrected them, they only committed greater sin. The time had come for God to judge them.
- ***The restored*** (8–13).
  - The prophet looked ahead to the last days when the people would be regathered and restored to their land. They would call on Him, serve Him, and have nothing to fear.

# Zephaniah Chapter 3

- ***The rejoicing*** (14–20).
  - The people will rejoice and sing because their discipline is ended, the enemy has been defeated, and the Lord is King over Israel.
  - The Lord will also sing (v. 17)! Like a loving Father, He takes His fearful children in His arms and quiets them with His love.

8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

Zephaniah 3:8-9

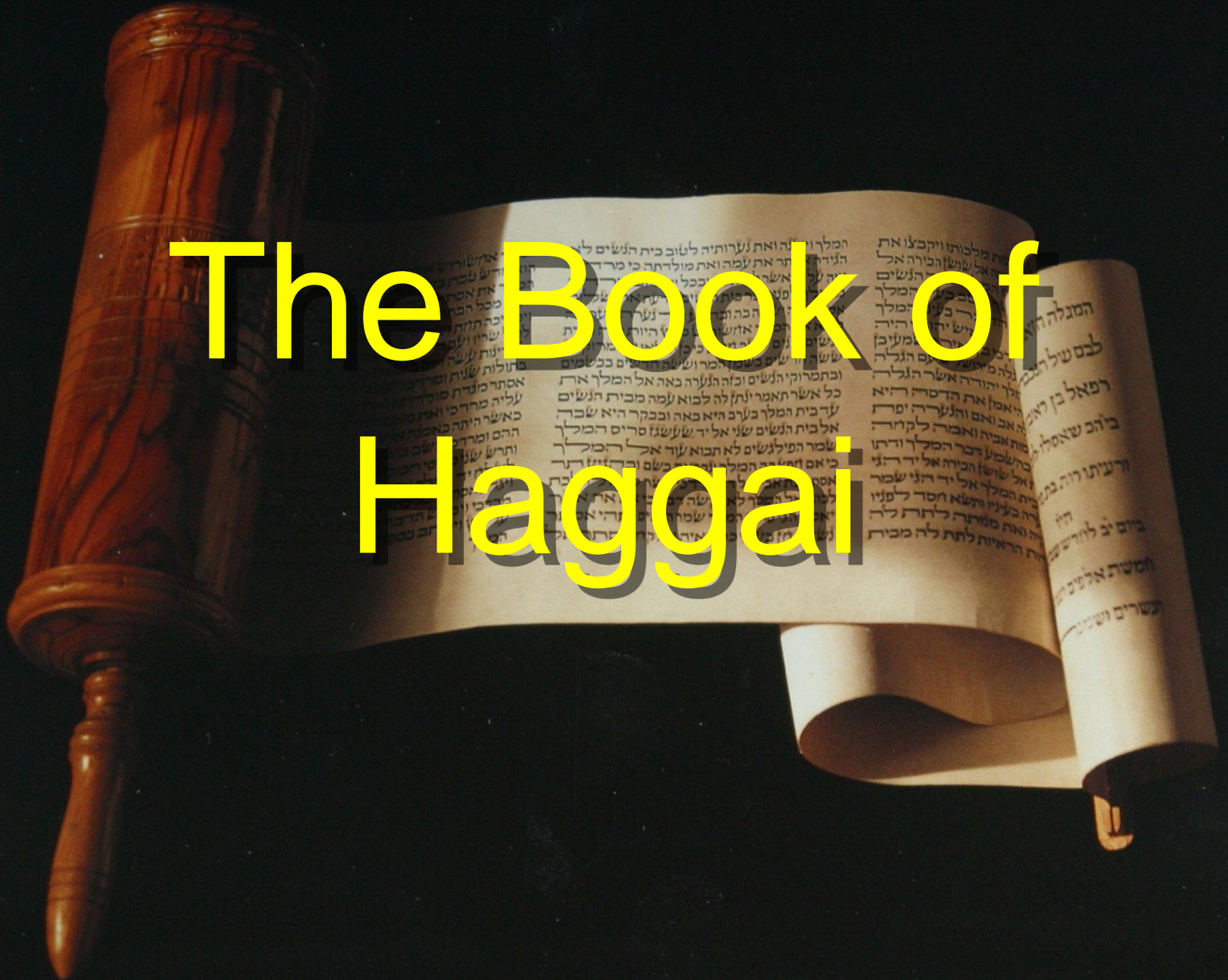
*20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.*

**Zephaniah 3:20**

- National re-gathering and restoration



# The Book of Haggai

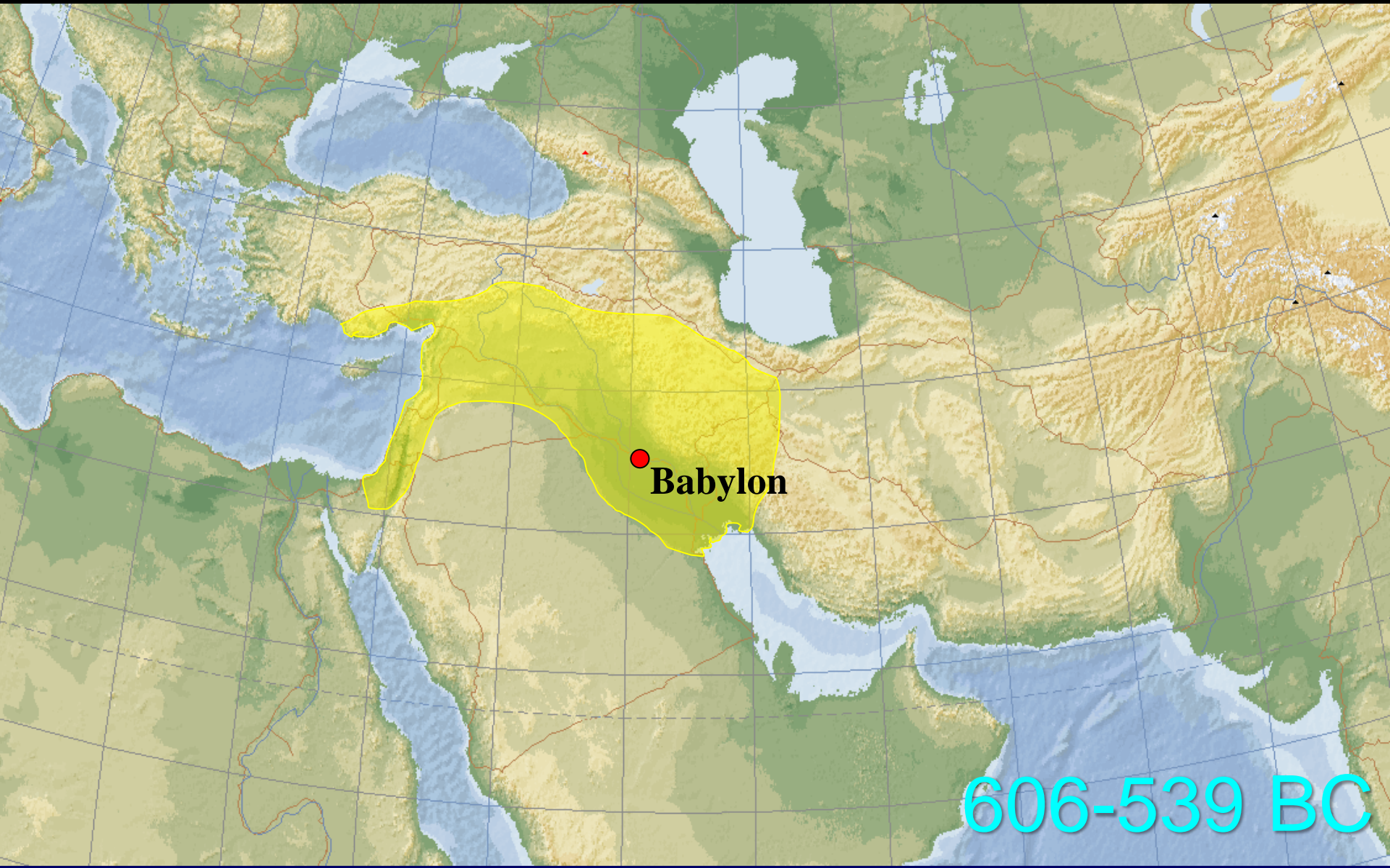


# Setting The Scene

- Haggai – 1<sup>st</sup> of the post-exile prophets
  - Zechariah
  - Malachi
- Name means ‘my festival’
  - short celebration
- Short prophetic career – 4 months
- Profound impact on the Nation
- He comes onto the scene at the right time and in the right place.



# The Babylonian Empire

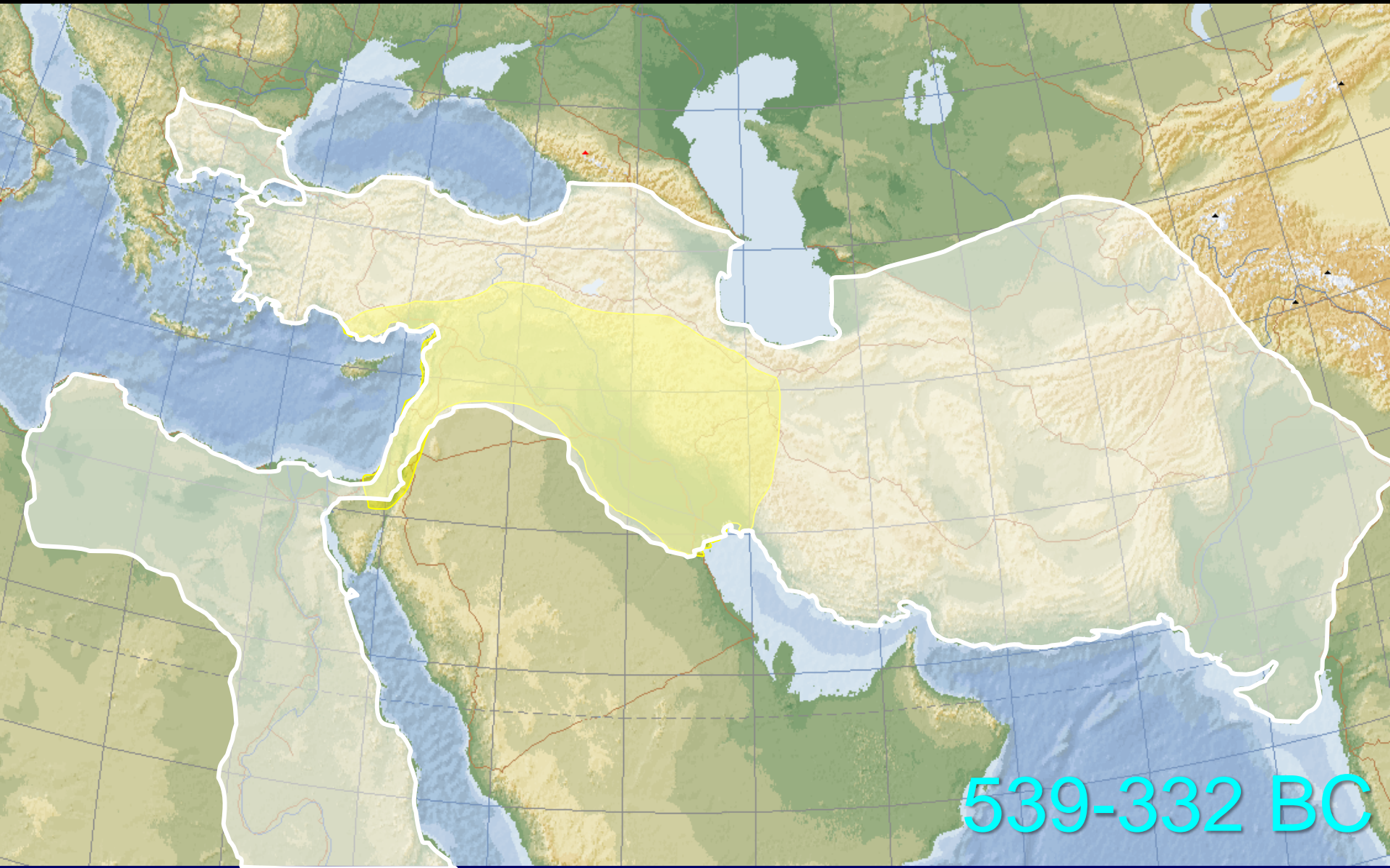


Babylon

606-539 BC



# The Persian Empire



539-332 BC

# Meanwhile... back in Israel

- Cyrus signs decree in 537 B.C.
- Jews return home (c. 50,000)
- Nothing is done regarding the temple c.2yrs

<sup>8</sup> Now in the **second year** of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD.

# Meanwhile... back in Israel

- Cyrus signs decree in 537 B.C.
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- Nothing is done regarding the temple c.2yrs  
– c.535 B.C.
- The next 5 years are 'troublous times'

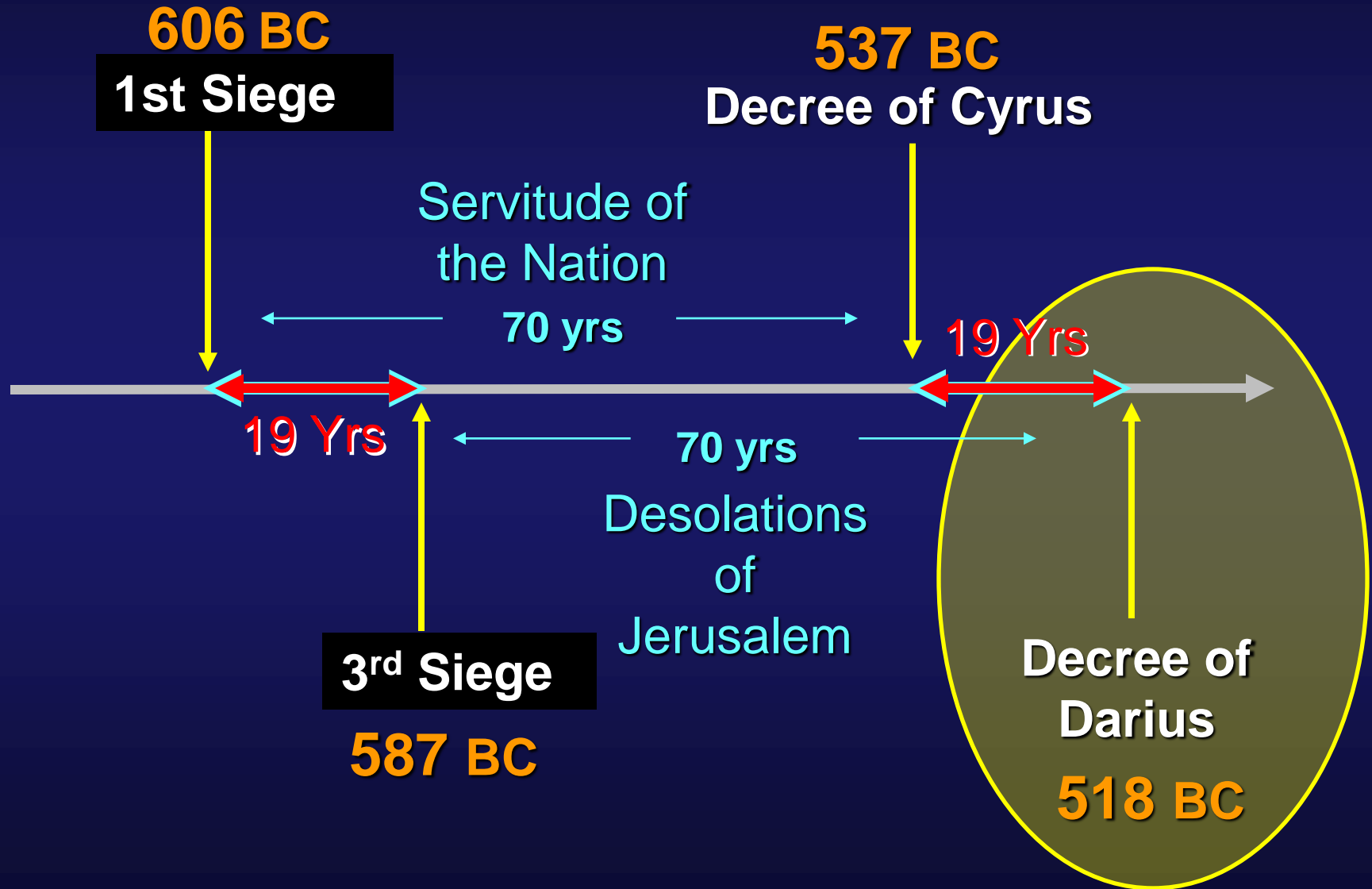
*4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,  
5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.*

# Meanwhile... back in Israel

- Cyrus signs decree in **537 B.C.**
- Jews return home (c. 50,000)
- Nothing is done regarding the temple **c.2yrs**  
– **c.535 B.C.**
- The next **5 years** are 'troublous times'
- Cyrus's son Cambyses > king **530 B.C.**
- The Samaritans seize the opportunity...
- They petition Cambyses regarding the Jews
- Cambyses calls a halt to the work (Ezra 4:21)
- This lasts for another **12 years** – to **518 B.C.**
- **19 years** from the decree to return home



# Precision of Prophecy



*I In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,*

**Haggai 1:1**

- Zerubbabel = “sown in Babylon”;
  - Grandson of Jehoiachin (royal line) (1 Chr 3:16-19)
  - Appointed by Cyrus to be governor of Judah.
- Joshua was son of Josedech, (high priest at the time of the Babylonian invasion - 1Chr 6:15).

<sup>2</sup> Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.

Haggai 1:2

- They had become victims of discouragement
- They were back in the Land, but had settled for something other than God's best
- The enemy had intimidated them into submission...
- Man's word had prevailed over God's Word



*3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,*

*4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?*

*5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*

**Haggai 1:3-5**

- Now God addresses the people:
- ‘Panelled walls’ - wood destined for the temple?
- ‘Set your heart on the way you should go’

<sup>6</sup> Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Haggai 1:6

- The consequence of misappropriated resources...
- Unexplained failure!
- Seek first....

*7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*

**Haggai 1:7**

- What on earth are you doing for Heaven's sake?
- What are you doing to build the house of the Lord?

*13 Then spake Haggai the LORD's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.*

**Haggai 1:13**

- The challenge to step out in faith with Him is so great we need His personal assurance
- For the Jews this meant facing the threat of their enemies head on
- What would happen?
- Without God they could be destroyed!
- God says: 'I am with you'

**18** Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid, consider it.

Haggai 2:18

- Why was this day so important?
- It was the day the 'desolations' ended

# The Desolations of Jerusalem

- At the very time the Babylonian army was surrounding Jerusalem, Ezekiel, hundreds of miles away in Babylon, is told to record,
  - 10<sup>th</sup> day of Tebeth, 587 BC

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  - 10<sup>th</sup> day of Tebeth, 587 BC
- Haggai, nails the date they ended,
  - 24<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev, 518 BC
- The interval is 25,200 days,
  - 70 years of 360 days each.

(Cf. 2 Kings 25:1; Jeremiah 52:4)





# The Book of Zechariah

# Zechariah

- Second of the post-exile prophets
  - Written around 518 B.C.
- He had returned from the Babylonian captivity as young man
- He was a contemporary of
  - Haggai the prophet,
  - Zerubbabel the governor, and
  - Joshua the high priest
- Zechariah was a Levite

# Zechariah

- Haggai had preached four sermons in four months and then disappeared from the scene.
- Two months after Haggai delivered his first sermon, Zechariah began his prophetic ministry (cf. Hag 1:1; Zech 1:1),
- He encouraged the people to spiritual renewal, helping to motivate them to rebuild the temple by revealing to them God's plans for Israel's future.

# Zechariah

- *“This most challenging little book is second only to Isaiah in its distinctiveness and importance as a Messianic prophet”*  
Chuck Missler
- *“The prophecy of Zechariah is profoundly precious to the Christian because of its unique Messianic emphasis and its panoramic unfolding of the events connected with the first and especially the second advent of Christ and the consequent millennial restoration of the nation Israel.”*  
Merrill F. Unger

# Zechariah

- The most Messianic of the minor prophets
- Often called the Apocalypse of the OT, it presents the Messiah as:
  - The Branch who will remove iniquity;
  - The Stone;
  - His Throne;
  - His Temple;
  - The Coming King;
  - The Shepherd;
  - The Triumphal Entry, on a donkey;
  - His Betrayal for 30 pieces of silver;
  - His Crucifixion, and
  - His Second Coming: “looking upon me whom they pierced.”

# Zechariah

- It also focuses on the “Day of YHWH”,
- The return of Israel in unbelief
- Their passing through the Great Tribulation
- The siege of Jerusalem by the confederated Gentile powers
- Their deliverance by King Messiah.
- Zechariah also gives us the only physical description of the Antichrist in the Scripture.
- It also seems to suggest a neutron bomb in Chapter 14



# Zechariah

- This book is the largest of the Minor Prophets (14 chapters)
- He is quoted or alluded to 71x in the NT
- Zechariah was a member of the 'Great Synagogue', a council originated by Nehemiah and composed of 120 members.
  - Ezra is said to have been the president of this council, which was later succeeded by the Sanhedrin

# Zechariah

<sup>1</sup> In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers.

**Zachariah 1:1-2**

- Zechariah = “Whom Yahweh Remembers.”
- Son of Berechiah = “Yahweh Blesses.”
- Son of Iddo = “The Appointed Time.”



# Zechariah - Overview

- Exhortation to repentance and obedience,
  - Don't repeat the mistakes of the past! 1:1–6
- Eight Visions
  - To encourage the rebuilding 1:7–6:8
    - A. Man Riding on a Red Horse 1:7–17
    - B. Four Horns and Four Craftsmen 1:18–21
    - C. Man with a Measuring Line Chap. 2
    - D. Joshua the High Priest Chap. 3
    - E. The Golden Lampstand & 2 Olive Trees Chap. 4
    - F. The Flying Scroll 5:1–4
    - G. The Woman in a Basket 5:5–11
    - H. The Four Chariots 6:1–8

# Zechariah - Overview

- Joshua crowned as high priest
  - Messianic type 6:9–15
- Jews from Bethel inquire re the fast Ch. 7, 8
  - In captivity they had fasted during the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> month
  - Should this be continued?
  - Zechariah challenges the motives

# Zechariah - Overview

- The first oracle or burden,
  - emphasizing Messiah's first advent Ch 9–11
    - Gentile Nations Will Be Judged 9:1–8
    - First Coming of Messiah to Zion 9:9
    - Disarmament and Universal Peace at the  
Second Coming of Christ 9:10
    - Return of Captives to Jerusalem from Exile 9:11,12
    - Triumph of All Israel over Greece 9:13
    - Intervention of Jehovah to Protect His People 9:14–17
    - People Exhorted to Ask for Rain from the Lord,  
Not from Idols 10:1, 2

# Zechariah - Overview

- The first oracle or burden,
  - emphasizing Messiah's first advent Ch 9–11
    - God Will Punish the Leaders of Judah,  
Raise Up the Messiah,  
and Give Victory to the People 10:3–5
    - Israel and Judah Will Be Regathered and Restored 10:6–12
    - Unfaithful Rulers Will Be Punished 11:1–3
    - Messiah will be the true Shepherd 11:4–8a
    - Messiah will be Rejected by His people 11:8b–14
    - God Delivers them over to the Idol Shepherd  
(Antichrist) 11:15–17

# Zechariah - Overview

- The second oracle or burden,
  - emphasizing Messiah's Second advent Ch 12–14
    - Jerusalem will be a burdensome stone 12:1–3
    - The Lord will destroy the enemies of Judah 12:4
    - The Jews will know God as their strength 12:5
    - The victory of Judah over its enemies 12:6–9
    - National mourning over rejection of Messiah 12:10–14
    - Provision made for cleansing from sin 13:1
    - Idols and false prophets will be banished 13:2–6
    - Messiah will be slain and Israel scattered 13:7
    - A remnant of the nation will return to the Lord 13:8, 9
    - Gentiles will gather against Jerusalem 14:1, 2

# Zechariah - Overview

- The second oracle or burden,
  - emphasizing Messiah's Second advent Ch 12–14
    - The Lord himself will intervene 14:3–5
    - Changes in weather and in illumination 14:6, 7
    - River of living water 14:8
    - Christ will reign as king 14:9
    - Geographical changes in the land 14:10
    - Jerusalem inhabited and secure 14:11
    - Plague and panic will afflict the gentile foes 14:12–15
    - Gentile survivors will worship at Jerusalem  
or be under penalty of the plague 14:16–19
    - Merchants will not trade in the house of the Lord 14:20–21

# A Cup of Trembling

- <sup>2</sup> Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.
- <sup>3</sup> And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Zachariah 12:2-3



# Divine Assistance

- 8 In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.*
- 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*

**Zachariah 12:8-9**

# National Repentance

**10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Zachariah 12:10



# The Book of Malachi



# Malachi

- Third & last of the post-exile prophets
  - Written around 470-460 B.C.
- His name means ‘My messenger’
- Jewish tradition states that Malachi was a member of the “Great Synagogue,” and a Levite from Supha, in Zebulun
- Through Malachi God speaks one more time to the nation before the ‘big day’
- Israel had become apathetic, entering into mixed marriages & withheld that which should have been given to the LORD

# Malachi

- *“Over and over, the children of Israel saw that God stood by His Word. Just as Solomon wrote in Proverbs, the hearts of kings were in God’s hands, and He could turn them wherever He wanted. Why, then, did the remnant of Israel think that they could live and worship any way they wanted once they returned from their 70 years of exile and settled again in Israel?”*

Kay Arthur

# Malachi Speaks Today!

- God has delivered us from our captivity
- Do we now think we can just live and worship in the way we please?
- Have we become apathetic?
- Have we entered into mixed marriages with the things of this world?
- Have we withheld from God that which we should have given Him?
- Maybe God is speaking to us one last time before our 'big day'?

# Malachi

- Key phrase: “the LORD of Hosts” x24
- Key phrase: “you say...” x12
  - “how have you loved us” 1:2
    - Israel saw how God had dealt with Edom and questioned God’s goodness
  - “how have we despised Your Name?” 1:6
    - They had not shown due respect to His name
  - “how have we defiled You?” 1:7
    - They had offered despised offerings (things that did not cost them)
  - “how is giving best to God a good thing?” 1:7
    - ...then, because others had abused ‘offering to God’, you declared that it is just a farce

# Malachi

- Key phrase: “you say...” x12
  - “how tiresome and there’s no gain in it” 1:13
    - They were rejecting holiness because some had profaned it – do we see holiness as something to mock at or as something to give all we have for?
  - “why don’t we experience His blessing?” 2:14
    - They were living a casual life and then wept and groaned when the blessings didn’t come
  - “how have we wearied God?” 2:17
    - Their profession at the altar had been forgotten before they had got to the door
  - “evil is good...” 2:17
    - They had started to call evil good, it had become part of their lives, they saw nothing wrong with it



# Malachi

- Key phrase: “you say...” x12
  - “how shall we return to the LORD?” 3:7
    - They have become so absorbed into the world that they had forgotten their way home – even worse, they had made this world their home
  - “how have we robbed You?” 3:8
    - In tithes and offerings – that which should have been given over and consecrated to the LORD
  - “what have we said about God?” 3:13
    - They had been arrogant and presumed to speak about God – thinking they know Him
  - “It’s vain to serve God” 3:14
    - “You need to be sensible, God doesn’t expect you to do that... you should slow down...”

# Malachi - Overview

- Introduction 1:1
- God's unchanging love for His own 1:2-5
- The total failure of the priests 1:6-2:9
  - The priests should preserve knowledge!
- Their failure to value covenants 2:10-16
  - Their covenant with God, symbolised by the covenant of marriage
- The Messiah's coming in judgment 2:17-3:6
- Israel's sin yet future restoration 3:7-18
- The coming & mission of Elijah 4:1-5

# How much are you prepared to give?

**10** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

**Malachi 3:10**

# The Two Witnesses

*5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:  
6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*

**Malachi 4:5-6**

# Canon Complete?

- Old Testament
  - Unexplained ceremonies (sacrificial rituals)
  - Unachieved purposes (the covenants)
  - Unappeased longings (poetical books)
  - Unfulfilled prophecies ...

*“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

John 5:39



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chapel  
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