

Introduction
to
Zechariah

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Zechariah:

- His name means "The Lord remembers"
- His ministry: 50 years, 520-470 BC
- Only one author = Zechariah
 - Dead Sea Scrolls: one scroll
 - Ch 1-8 written earlier
 - Ch 9-14 written later in his ministry

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Zechariah:

- One of 12 books that is referred to as a "minor prophet."
- The longest of the minor prophets; second only to Isaiah in Messianic prophecies, prophecies about Jesus.
- Called the "apocalypse of the OT"
- Quoted 71 times in the NT:
 - 1/3 of those are in the gospels
 - 31 times in Revelation

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What we learn about God in the minor prophets:

1. We learn about God's sovereignty in the affairs of men and nations.

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God's sovereignty:

- "God is the sovereign Lord of history, and nothing happens, either to Israel or to the gentile nations, that is not the result of His direct determination."

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What we learn about God in the minor prophets:

1. We learn about God's sovereignty in the affairs of men and nations.
2. We also learn about God's holiness.

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God's Holiness:

"An awareness of holiness was the driving force behind their sharp denunciation of sin. It made no difference where the sin was found, whether in foreign lands...or among God's people — it was still an offense to God and called for judgment."

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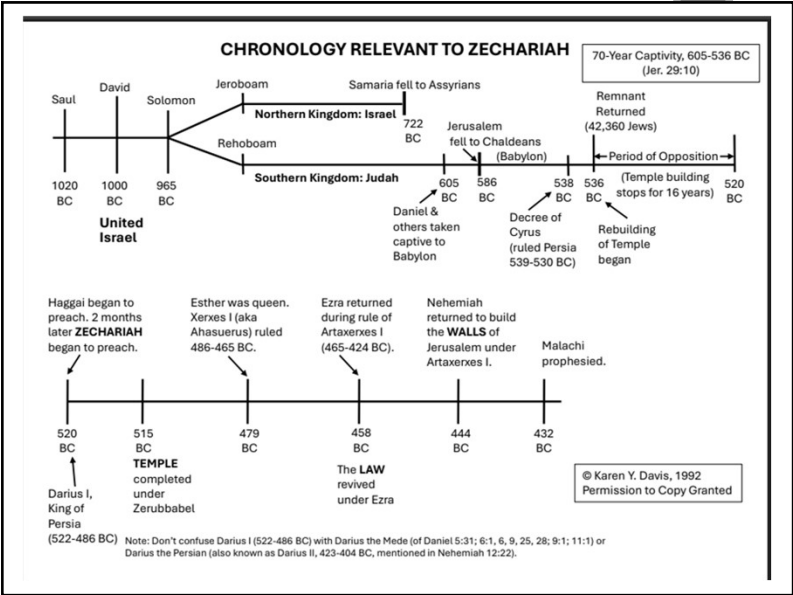
What we learn about God in the minor prophets:

1. We learn about God's sovereignty in the affairs of men and nations.
2. We also learn about God's holiness.
3. The minor prophets highlight God's love.

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God's Love:

“God’s love....is not incompatible with justice. On the contrary, it is because of God’s great love for his people...that He sends prophets with the message of judgmentHe judges sin...to turn them back from sin to Himself....”



“The LORD...sent word to them again and again by His messengersbut they continually mocked...and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose....”
II Chr 36:15-16

The Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria in 722 BC.

The Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to Babylon in 586 BC.

"This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

Jer 25:11

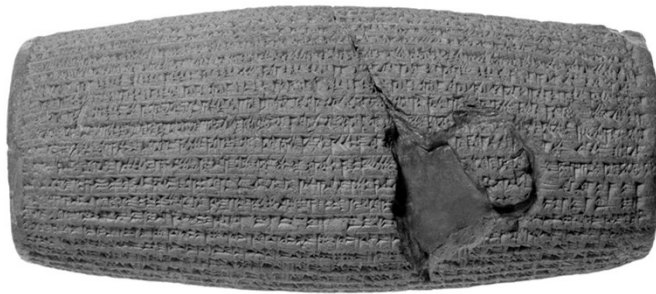
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Prophecy regarding Cyrus:

"It is I who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.'"

Isaiah 44:28

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Cyrus Cylinder, British Museum

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"Then the work on the house of God in Jerusalem ceased, and it was stopped until the second year of Darius king of Persia."

Ezra 4:24

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“When the prophets, Haggai the prophet and Zechariah ... prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem ... then Zerubbabel...and Jeshua...arose and began to rebuild the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them supporting them.” Ezra 5:1-2

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“And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah....And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.” Ezra 6:14

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“The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turns it wherever He will.” Proverbs 21:1

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