

HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH & MALACHI

Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi are called 'post-exile' prophets because they prophesied after the Jewish remnant returned from Babylon captivity. Their books are placed as the last three in the Old Testament. Their period of ministry was roughly between 500 and 400 years before Christ.

Haggai and Zechariah both prophesied in the time shortly after Zerubbabel had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. Haggai was a realist; Zechariah was a visionary. Zechariah's was for three years. Haggai's ministry of three months dealt with the halfhearted obedience of the people and wrong priorities.

Consistent failure throughout Malachi's time cried out for the coming of the Saviour. The last verse of Genesis dealt with a coffin; the last word of Malachi is 'curse'. Both cry out for the coming of the Saviour. That is repeated by the final promise of the Old Testament (Mal.4). Until that promise is fulfilled God's people are encouraged to keep the commands of 'the book'. (Mal. 4:4)



STUDY GUIDES & VIDEOS

Can be downloaded and watched on the Newcraigs Website

Useful information:

Newcraigs Church are grateful for the resources of The Bible Project. The full program can be obtained from thebibleproject.org. We have made the monthly readings and videos alongside the study guides available at our website newcraigs.co.uk/the-bible-project.

	Date	Readings	Psalm	Video
M	2/10	Ezk 37-39	41	
T	3/10	Ezk 40-44	42	
W	4/10	Ezk 45-48	43	
CHAPTER 11 THE RETURN FROM EXILE				
T	5/10	Ezra 1-3	44	
F	6/10	Ezra 4-7	45	
M	9/10	Ezra 8-10	46	Ezra-Nehemiah
T	10/10	Neh 1-3	47	
W	11/10	Neh 4-7	48	
T	12/10	Neh 7-9	49	
F	13/10	Neh 10-11	50	
M	16/10	Neh 12-13	51	
T	17/10	Esth 1-5	52	Esther
W	18/10	Esth 6-10	53	
T	19/10	Dan 1-3	54	Daniel
F	20/10	Dan 4-6	55	
M	23/10	Dan 7-9	56	
T	24/10	Dan 10-12	57	
W	25/10	Haggai	58	Haggai
T	26/10	Zech 1-4	59	Zechariah
F	27/10	Zech 5-8	60	
M	30/10	Zech 9-14		
T	31/10	Mal 1-4		Malachi



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Ezekial 37– Malachi 4

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THE READ SCRIPTURE PLAN

This plan takes you through the Old Testament in one year. The Old Testament Scriptures are divided up into thirteen “chapters” and organized in semi-chronological order. You’ll read two or three chapters a day, and sometimes skim through larger portions that contain genealogies, census information, etc.

PSALMS of PRAYER

One Psalm is listed each day for you to slowly pray through, making its words your own. By the end you’ll have prayed through the book of Psalms 2.5 times.

VIDEOS

Each day you come to a new biblical book there will be a short animated video provided by ‘The Bible Project’ and available on our website www.newcraigs.co.uk. Each one is all about that book’s design and message and what to look for as you read.

You can also sign up to have those videos emailed to your inbox direct from thebibleproject.com. In addition to videos regarding books of the Bible, you will find theme videos relating to several topics that appear throughout Scripture.

Study guides and more information from thebibleproject.com. We also have our online bookstore at newcraigs.co.uk/book-shop.



Ezra deals with the return of the Jews from Babylon. It is the story of another ‘Exodus’. Two times in their history the Jews have returned to their land in the Old Testament:

- A) under Moses, when redeemed from Egypt
- B) with Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah, returning from captivity in Babylon under Persia.

Ezra is the first of three Old Testament history books that deal with the ‘post-exile’ period. The other two are Esther and Nehemiah.

Ezra and Nehemiah are the two books which deal with the restoration of the Jews to the land of Israel. Esther is the book that deals with the preservation of the Jews for the land of Israel. In order of time Esther should be placed between chapters 6 and 7 of the book of Ezra.

There are three stages of deportation into Babylon and there are three stages in returning to Jerusalem:

- A) with Zerubbabel, who rebuilt the Temple:
- B) with Ezra who reformed the people
- C) with Nehemiah who reconstructed the walls of Jerusalem.

The book of Ezra deals with the first two stages, with about 80 years (and the history of Esther) between them.



Esther nowhere uses the name ‘God’ directly. The reason may be that the book was written in a ‘pagan’ setting of the court of the empire of the Medes and Persians.

Esther is the Old Testament outworking of Romans 8:28. It is the ‘Romance of Providence’ or ‘God working in the shadows’. Matthew Henry said, ‘Though the name of God be not in it, the finger of God is’.

Esther records the multi-miracle of providential overruling, rather than one of supernatural intervention. ‘Providence’ is a providence where God rules; it is not fate but consists with prayer and resolve. Esther chose to pray; Haman gambled on luck (3:7).



Daniel, like Joseph in Genesis, was raised from the status of a slave, to help rule the land. He served in the courts of Babylon then the Medes and Persians. Jeremiah influenced the remnant at Jerusalem; Ezekiel influenced the Jews in captivity; Daniel influenced the Kings in the palace. The first six chapters are mainly historical; the last six chapters are mainly prophetic. The former contains the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar; the latter the dreams of Daniel.