

"MAJORING IN THE MINORS: EXPLORING THE MINOR PROPHETS" FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE: "THE PROPHETS' PROPHETIC POINTING"

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of All, your prophets often brought reproof and a call to repentance to your people. Even though they strayed, your desire was for them to return and live in a faithful relationship with you. Throughout your Word we see your divine design of love and redemption that points us to Jesus the Messiah and prepares us to recognize and welcome him as our Savior. So, we will shout and be glad, for you are coming, and you will live among us. (Zechariah 2:10). All thanks and praise in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

In matters of faith, what did you inherit from your ancestors? How are you passing it on?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Aloud & Meditate on God's Word: Zechariah 1:1-6; 9:9-10, 16-17; Matthew 21:1-11

WATCH VIDEO

Video Presenter: Tara Wolf

EXPLORE THE TEXT

Invite the Holy Spirit to lead as you work through the questions in this guide. Cover what your time allows and encourage everyone to finish the guide on his or her own.

Zechariah, whose name means "The Lord remembers," testified about God's faithfulness to the remnant of Jews who returned to rebuild Jerusalem. Along with Haggai, he served to enliven the faith and confidence of God's people as they rebuilt the temple. Zechariah's prophecies also included messianic predictions and the future glory of Jerusalem.

1. (Optional: Note Zechariah texts in the New Testament: Zechariah 9:9 in Matthew 21:5 and John 12:15; Zechariah 11:12-13 in Matthew 27:9-10; Zechariah 12:10 in John 19:37 and Revelation 1:7; Zechariah 13:7 in Mark 14:27. How do these scriptural threads between the Old and New Testaments illustrate a cohesive view of history and theology emphasizing God's sovereign plan and purpose throughout human history?)
2. Why was the Lord angry with Israel's forefathers? (Zechariah 1:2-6) What was God offering them? (verse 3) and how did they respond (verse 6)?
3. What do you discover about returning to God in the following: Isaiah 44:21-23; Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 24:6-7; James 4:8. Has there been a time in your life when the Lord invited you to return to him? If you are comfortable, please share details of your journey.

4. Read Zechariah 9:9-10. What qualities will Zion's king possess? Who does this prophecy refer to? (See Matthew 21:1-11 and John 12:12-16). Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, the mount of one who comes to bring peace. How is Jesus different than earthly kings? (See Jeremiah 23:3-6; Zephaniah 3:14-17; Philippians 2:5-8.)

5. What protection and promises are offered in Zechariah 9:9-10, 16-17? Observe the New Testament references of this in Romans 8:38-39; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 Peter 1:5. What freedom and hope do they offer? What do these promises mean personally to you?

6. The Minor Prophets pointed the way to Jesus. How were the prophecies fulfilled in the following verses - Micah 5:2 in Matthew 2:6; Hosea 11:1 in Matthew 2:15; Joel 2:28-32 in Acts 2:17-21. What does this reveal to you about the validity of God's Word? How does that impact your faith?

PROPHETS POINTING THE WAY

"The Old Testament is the book Jesus read, quoted, obeyed, and fulfilled. It isn't simply that the Old Testament predicts Jesus; it's rather that Jesus completes the Old Testament." (N.T. Wright)

Though Zechariah told the people the Messiah was to come, the Jews failed to connect the prophetic dots. Jesus said in John 5:39-40: "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

What or who has pointed you to Jesus? How are you pointing others to Jesus?

What are you most looking forward to when Jesus comes again? Ask God to give you hope, peace, patience, and joy as you wait for him.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that we can look above the chaos of this world, and hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May we hear your call to be faithful today and to walk in your ways, as we look forward with anticipation to what you have promised. Thank you that in many and various ways you spoke to your people of old through the prophets, but now in these last days you have spoken to us by your Son." (Hebrews 1:1) In the living Name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Our Father...

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