

C. The Message of the Exilic Prophets (Ezekiel and Daniel)

1. The great theme of the exilic prophets is that God has not forgotten his covenant with their fathers despite exile, but will bring about restoration at the appointed time.
2. Moreover, the restoration will far exceed what the Israelites were given in the past (e.g., temple, glory of God, rule, etc.).
3. Despite the apparent authority that other nations possess, God promises that he will in fact restore his people, bring about his kingdom, and crush all other global powers.
4. One day, Israel will be restored and exalted and the glory of the Lord will return to his people.

Ezekiel

1. Ezekiel primarily speaks about the glory of the Lord leaving his people (Ezek 10:4; 10:19; 11:23; cf., 8:1-11:25; Psa 137). Just as much as the glory of the Lord leaving is a major theme in Ezekiel, so is his return (Ezek 11:14-25).
 - a. God will be a shepherd to them and Israel will be a branch in which every kind of bird will find nesting. God will appoint his servant David to care for them (Ezek 17:22-24; 34:11-31).
 - b. God will enact a new covenant and restore the people (Ezek 36:22-38, 37:1-28; 38:1-39:29).
 - i. The restoration of God's people will be characterized by the giving of the Spirit (Ezek 36:26-27; 37:14; 39:29; cf., 11:19).
 - ii. God will reunite Israel and Judah as one (Ezek 37:15-23).
 - iii. With the restoration of God's people and the giving of the Spirit will come the establishment of David's throne forever (Ezek 37:24-28).

- iv. God will set his sanctuary in their midst and dwell with them forever (Ezek 37:24-28).
 - v. God will destroy his enemies as characterized by Gog and the land of Magog (Ezek 38:1-39:29).
- c. God will rebuild the temple and his glory will return (Ezek 40-48; cf., 28:13; 31:8). The temple represented several things.
- i. It represented God's presence with his people, but this time with all people, not merely in the holy of holies (Ezek 43:2-7; 44:4; 48:35).
 - ii. It represented life from God (Ezek 47:1-12).
2. God will perform another exodus. He will bring them from a foreign land, he will give them a new covenant, and he will dwell with them.

Daniel

1. The book of Daniel is predominately about God's sovereign rule over the nations and his establishment of his forever king and kingdom.
2. In Daniel two, seven, and nine we find a symbolic representation of the world's superpowers and their eventual demise to one final king and kingdom.
 - a. The Image (Dan 2:31-45).
 - b. The Beasts (Dan 7:1-14).
 - c. The Messiah (Dan 9:24-27).

3. Daniel 9:24-27 is divided up into four sections.
 - a. Daniel 9:24: An overview of the entire period (70 weeks).
 - b. Daniel 9:25: A division of the 69 sevens.
 - c. Daniel 9:26: A description of the final seven in indefinite terms.
 - d. Daniel 9:27: A description of the final seven in more definite terms.

4. Several things will take place at the end of the seventy weeks.
 - a. Finish transgression.
 - b. Make an end to sin.
 - c. Make atonement for iniquity.
 - d. Bring in everlasting righteousness.
 - e. Seal up the vision and prophecy.
 - f. f.) Anoint the most holy.

5. At the end of the 70th week these things will be accomplished and the day of the Lord will come.

6. For Daniel the end of the 70 years of captivity is the end of exile, but an introduction to a new exile, an exile which will only end with the coming of God's anointed.

7. God, in this passage, is not trying to convey a strict literal time pattern, but a theological and redemptive point that the end of all things comes with his anointed one.

8. As the Israelites were preparing to return to the land, God reminded them that he was in control and was going to establish his forever king and kingdom. He assured them that despite the various nations that would rise up, his plans will not be disturbed.

D. Second Temple Judaism (Ezra, Nehemiah, 1-2 Chronicles)

Ezra and Nehemiah

1. Under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah the temple and walls are rebuilt.
2. The focal point of Ezra and Nehemiah (one book) is the renewal of the covenant with God's people and their requirement to keep it.
 - A. Zerubabbel's return and list of returnees (Ezra 1-2)
 - B. Building of temple and opposition (Ezra 3-6)
 - C. Ezra's return (Ezra 7-9)
 - D. Purification of the people (Ezra 10-11)
 - C. Nehemiah's Return (Neh 1-2)
 - B. Building of walls and opposition (Neh 3-7:3)
 - A. Zerubabbel's return and list of returnees, final reforms (Neh 7:4-13:31)

3. God had performed another exodus for the people and Ezra stands as their second Moses.

First Exodus

Moses

Leaves Egypt

Takes Egyptian gold

Covenant made

Builds the tabernacle

In the wilderness

Second Exodus

Ezra

Leaves Persia (Ezra 1:1-3)

Given Persian gold (Ezra 1:4)

Covenant renewed (Ezra 7:1ff; Neh 10:1ff)

Re-builds the temple (Ezra 3:1ff)

In the wilderness (exile under foreign nation)

4. Despite God's goodness to bring the people back to the land of their fathers, the promises remained unfulfilled in the final and ultimate sense (Ezra 3:8-13; cf., Hag 2:3). The people were still in exile.
5. The magnificent promises of restoration never seemed to reach its fulfillment even after the return from Babylon.

1-2 Chronicles

1. Chronicles records the history of David, Solomon, and their successor kings.

2. Though similar to Samuel and Kings, it is unique.
 - a. The genealogy of David is traced back to Judah, Abraham, and Adam.

 - b. It emphasizes the Davidic line in a favorable light.

 - c. It is the last book in the Hebrew canon.

E. The Message of the Post-Exilic Prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

Haggai and Zechariah

1. The final three prophets found in Scripture remind the people of God's promises. They emphasize the rebuilding of the temple, faithfulness to God, and anticipation of his coming.
2. Haggai and Zechariah are sent to encourage the builders of the temple.
3. The message of Haggai and Zechariah are very similar, but different. Haggai is rather straight forward; Zechariah shrouds his message in symbols.
4. There are four central themes that flow from Haggai and Zechariah.
 - a. God will rebuild Jerusalem and his temple (Hag 2:6-7; Zech 2:4-5).
 - b. God will return, live with his people, and fight for them (Hag 2:5; Zech 4:6; 12:1-12; 14:1-15, 20-21).
 - c. God will continue to bring his people back (Hag 2:7-9; Zech 2:6-7; 8:7-8; 10:10).
 - d. Sin will be removed in God's future city-temple and God's priestly-king will come (Hag 2:20-23; Zech 3:8-10; 4:8-14; 6:11-15; 9:9-10; 13:7).

Malachi

1. Despite the return of God's people to the land, their hearts remain unchanged and their deeds are wicked.
2. Malachi reminds the people that the Lord will return (i.e., the Day of the Lord). On that day he would send judgment, purification, and renewal.

3. He will send a messenger (Elijah) before him who will call the people back to the Lord (Mal 3:1-4; 4:1-6; cf., Isa 40:1-5). The promises of the future are described in ways that the people can understand God's plan.

4. Israel was not able to fully appreciate what these promises meant until the arrival of Christ.

Haggai 1:8 Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. ⁹ You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.

Zechariah 1:16 Therefore, thus says the LORD, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.

Ezra 6:14 And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia;

Haggai 2:4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. ⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. ⁹ The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah 2:4 and said to him, "Run, say to that young man, 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. ⁵ And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst.'" ⁶ Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the LORD. ⁷ Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: ² "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. ³ On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. ⁴ On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. ⁵ Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.' ⁶ "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem. ⁷ "And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. ⁸ On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them. ⁹ And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰ "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. ¹¹ On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹² The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and

their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;

Zechariah 14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴ On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵ And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. ⁶ On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. ⁷ And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. ⁸ On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. ⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. ¹⁰ The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹ And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security. ¹² And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. ¹³ And on that day a great panic from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised

against the hand of the other. ¹⁴ Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. ¹⁵ And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps. ¹⁶ Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷ And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ²⁰ And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

Zechariah 8:13 And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong."

¹⁴ For thus says the LORD of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts, ¹⁵ so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. ¹⁶ These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace;

Zechariah 10:10 I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them.

Zechariah 3:8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰ In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

Haggai 2:20 The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, ²¹ "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, ²² and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. ²³ On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah 4:8 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁹ "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ¹⁰ For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth." ¹¹ Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" ¹² And a second time I answered and said to him, "What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?" ¹³ He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." ¹⁴ Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

Zechariah 6:11 Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ¹² And say to

him, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. ¹³ It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." ¹⁴ And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. ¹⁵ "And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² ¶ But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Malachi 4:1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all

evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."