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Review & Evaluation

Nahum‑Malachi

Instructions: This is an open Bible, open note review. Do what you can from memory, and the rest with you Bible and notes. The objective of this exercise is to provide a learning experience through review and formulation of theological thoughts.

Matching the Prophets (Match the prophet with the quote. The names can be used more than once.)

1.\_\_\_Daniel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_"The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes."

2.\_\_\_Zephaiah\_\_\_\_\_\_\_"Near is the great Day of the Lord."

3.\_\_\_Haggai\_\_\_\_\_\_"Go up . . . and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified."

4.\_\_\_Habakkuk\_\_\_\_"For, behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans!"

5.\_\_\_Zechariah\_\_\_\_\_"And the Lord will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again chose Jerusalem."

6.\_\_\_Ezekiel\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_"Then you will know that I am the Lord."

7.\_\_\_Nahum\_\_\_\_\_\_\_"Woe to Nineveh the bloody city."

8.\_\_Malachi\_\_\_\_\_"I am going to send Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord."

9.\_\_\_Jeremiah\_\_\_"I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah . . ."

10.\_\_Zechariah\_\_\_\_"Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, there was . . ." [5 times in this prophet]

Essays

1. List the prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi in their chronological order and write a paragraph about the basic message of each book.

**Ans:**

Nahum: Ihe prophet prophesized the destruction of Nineveh, the capital of Assyrian Empire which was the enemy of Israel. The destruction came as a result of God’s judgment. The book highlighted the unrighteous acts and cruelty of the people in Nineveh which brought about God’s judgment. Though Nineveh was considered to be an unbeatable city at that time, the prophet described it as ripen fruit that were ready to be shaken off the tree, meaning destruction would come any time, bringing relief to many peoples.

Zephaniah: The prophet prophesized the coming of the Day of Yahweh which was actually a season of God’s universal judgment on Judah and other nations for their idol worshipping, social injustice, pride, and their thinking that God wouldn’t judge. However, the prophet also conveyed a hope that Jerusalem would be re-built and the humble and righteous remnants would be preserved.

Jeremiah: The prophet bluntly announced the unavoidable judgment on unrepentant Judah as punishments for breaking God’s covenant and worshipping idols. He predicted and eventually witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Babylonian King. The King of Judah and many Israelites would be taken captives and exiled to Babylon. However, he predicted also their returning to their land and rebuilding the place. The book also included messages regarding the coming of the New Covenant.

Habakkuk: The prophet highlighted the point that the Holiness of God was demonstrated through His judgment on Judah. God would use the Chaldeans to punish Judah, which caused the prophet to raise a question, “How a holy God could remain silent when a wicked nation devoured a people more righteous than itself?” In the face of this moral dilemma, the prophet demonstrated unwavering faith to God and delivered God’s message on the principle of “faith righteousness”.

Daniel: The book presented a message that God was still in control though the people of Israel lost their nation and some were taken into captivity. Through the stories of Daniel and his three friends, the book encouraged the Jews in Babylon to believe that God’s name would be exalted if they remained faithful to Him in a pagan culture and environment. Through all the dreams and visions the book also conveyed the message that God had sovereignty over the affairs of the nations even till the last days.

Ezekiel: The book predicted the destruction and the future restoration of Jerusalem and the temple. Through a number of God-commanded symbolic actions, the prophet intended to show that Jerusalem’s destruction was the result of the sins of the nation. He also pointed out repeatedly that the purpose of such discipline was to bring them to the knowledge that Yahweh is God. The visions recorded in the book also served a purpose of opening readers’ eye to the glory of God. From this perspective, we can say that the book presented messages regarding the contrast between God’s glory and man’s rebellion, the departing of God’s glory from Israel, and the returning of God’s glory to Israel.

Haggai: The book tried to call Israelites to recognize that rebuilding the temple of the Lord was their number one priority. They had started something but failed to follow through. The prophet acknowledged the presence of difficulties and oppositions but he delivered the message that God was with them and they should not fear. He also tried to explain to the people that if they didn’t pay attention to God’s agenda, they would not experience those physical blessings they wanted.

Zechariah: The book delivered the message that God would restore God’s people through the redeeming and delivering work of Messiah. The Prophet called the people to repent and return to the Lord for cleansing and blessing, and it also encouraged the Israelites by showing the future glory, the overthrow of their enemies and the appearance of the Messiah’s Kingdom.

Malachi: The prophet preached the necessity of repentance as a prerequisite for blessing and the withholding of His judgment. The book rebuked the people and their priests for their loss of enthusiasm toward God and accused them of their religious indifference, hypocrisy and moral corruption.

1. Define and describe the New Covenant. State its provisions and explain its relationship with (1) the Abrahamic Covenant, and (2) New Testament believers. Provide biblical references.

**Ans**: The New Covenant refers to the covenant predicted by some prophets (Jer. 31, Ezek. 36) and eventually enacted by Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:16-18) in replacement of the Old Covenant, i.e. the Mosaic Covenant (Heb 8:13).

The expression “new covenant” occurs only one time in the O.T. (Jer. 31:31) but similar expressions like “everlasting covenant” and “covenant of peace” can be seen in 16 or 17 major passages in the O.T. If we summarize the main points of all these texts, we can list the following provisions of the New Covenant as seen by the prophets: (1) God’s law will be put into the minds and hearts of the Israelites (Jer. 31:33a); (2) Israelites will become the people of God again (Jer.31:33b); (3) All Israelites will spontaneously know God (Jer.31:34a); (4) Israelites’ sins will be forgiven once and for all (Jer. 31:34b); (5) Israelites will be able to live a holy life (Ezek. 36:27).

The Mosaic Covenant was the first covenant to be actualized and experienced by the nation Israel and therefore was considered to be first covenant or the old covenant. Unfortunately, the Israelites were not able to obey the law and hence broke the covenant and lost the blessings accordingly (Deut. 30:1-10). God might as well say, “Well, that’s it! They are not my covenant people any more.” However, God honored the Abrahamic Covenant that He had made with Abraham even earlier than the Mosaic one (Gen 12:1-3, Heb. 6:13-14) and so God established the New Covenant through Jesus Christ so as to keep the promise made to Abraham that his descendants would form a nation would become a great blessing to the whole world.

As a matter of fact, the individual prophets saw only scattered pieces of the New Covenant and they didn’t have the whole picture of how the whole thing would happen. After Jesus came and enacted the New Covenant, everything came together and the New Testament believers could see clearly how the New Covenant enabled them to be grafted into the covenant community by faith and secure the blessings through the descendants of Abraham. From the perspective of New Testament believers, the New Covenant is the covenant that God made through Jesus’ death (Luke 22:20-21, 1 Cor. 11:25) first with elected Jewish believers (John 15:16) and then all those who are called from all nations (1 Peter 2:9-10) to believe in Jesus through their words (John 17:20). Regardless of their ethnic backgrounds (Israelites or gentiles) (Eph. 2:11-22), the New Testament believers are able to inherit all the 5 covenant provisions mentioned above (2 Cor 3;3, John 1:12, 1 Cor. 2;10-12, Heb. 10:17, Rom. 8:3-4).

1. What does Ezekiel reveal about the eschatological future for the people of Israel? List chronologically and briefly describe these events. Refererence your list with Scripture.

**Ans**: Ezekielrevealed about the eschatological future for the people of Israel and now let me list them chronologically:

* 1. Restoration of the nation of Israel: Israel would be restored as a nation and brought back to their land (Ezek. 37:12). Actually this event has already happened as of now. On the 14th of May 1848, Israel was given back their land and was recognized as a nation by the United Nations. That is why many Christians believe that we are now at the end of the age.
  2. The Invasion of Gog: Ezekiel predicted this will happen during a period of time when Israel seems to be enjoying peace and security with no need to be heavily armed (Exek. 38:8, 11). Most probably it refers to the period when Israel makes a covenant with the Antichrist and a false sense of security is all over the nation. (Dan.9:27) Then Gog, the “king of the north” took advantage of this situation (Ezek. 38:11) and invaded Israel. Around this time, the Antichrist broke the covenant with Israel and moved into the Holy Land (Dan. 11:41-45) Most likely, because of this dire situation, Israel turned to the Lord and the king of the north is destroyed on the mountains of Israel (Ezek. 39:1-4).
  3. The Tribulation and the Cleansing of Israelites: Alongside with the above mentioned invasion, Israel will experience a time of tribulation with “earthquake” (Ezek.38:19), “mountains being thrown down” (38:20), “pestilence” (38:22), and “hailstones, fire and brimstone” (38:22). During this time, as a result of the repentance of the people, their spiritual life will be restored (Ezek. 37:14). Their sin will be forgiven and cleansed (36:25); they will given new hearts and spirits (36:26); the Holy Spirit will dwell in them (36:27); they will be empowered to live a Holy Life (36:27b); and their relationship with God will be renewed (36:28).
  4. The Fulfillment of the Physical Blessings of the Messianic Kingdom: Ezekiel predicted the actual fulfillment of the physical blessings for Israel. We believe it will gradually happen after Christ removes the Antichrist and the followers from the earth. Ezekiel predicted that there will be no harmful animals (34:25); the land will be extremely livable with fertile soil and good weather (34:27, 47:1-20); and there will be no more threat from other nations (34:28-29) and different parts of the land will be assigned according to God’s instructions (chapters 45-48).
  5. A Temple will be Built in Jerusalem: We believe this will happen in the early years of the millennium (Rev. 20:4-6). The temple will be built exactly according to the blueprint revealed by God (40:5-42:20). It will become the place for the Messiah’s throne (43:7) and for the priests to make sacrificial offerings (43:27, 45:13-17). The glory of God will be visible there (43:1-12, 44:4) and most importantly, true worship will be restored according to the ordinances revealed by God (chapter 46).