

May

[Zephaniah](#), [Haggai](#), [Zechariah](#), [Malachi](#)

May 1 - background: read 2 Kings 22-23 – Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah. What do we know about this time in Israel's history? What would we expect God's prophets to be writing / saying?

May 2 - Zephaniah 1:1-13 - The Day of the Lord is near! – What promise had God made after the flood? How does this fit with Zephaniah's message? What examples of idolatry was Judah guilty?

May 3 – Zeph. 1:14- 2:3 – The Day of God's wrath! – What is "the day of the Lord"? How does this point to the Babylonian exile? Good Friday? Judgment Day?

May 4 – Zeph. 2:4-15 – God's judgment on the nations – How would Judah feel about the judgement on these enemy nations? But their judgment is the same as for Judah! What is God's message?

May 5 – Zeph. 3:1-20 – The future of Jerusalem – Why the "woe" on Jerusalem? Note the message to the officials, rulers, prophets and priests compared to the LORD. What is the promise of hope?

May 6 – background: read Ezra 5 & 6 – Haggai wrote during the reign of Darius. What do we know about this time in Judah's history? What was so important about the rebuilding of the Temple?

May 7 - Haggai 1 – Build the House of the Lord! – What "careful thought" were they to be doing? What does this mean for us today? For what did Haggai condemn his listeners? What is the message of hope?

May 8 – Haggai 2 – The Desired of all nations will come – How does this point to Jesus? (e.g. "desired of all nations" / the glory of the coming "house" will be greater than the present "house" – see Jn. 2:19-22)

May 9 – Zechariah 1:1-17 - The first vision – What was Zechariah to "tell the people"? What question was asked? (v.12) What was the answer? (v.14-17)

May 10 – Zech. 1:18-21 - The second vision - 4 horns were 4 rulers or nations and the 4 craftsmen were 4 other nations – what is the comfort of this vision? How many "horns" and "craftsmen" do we have in our lives? What is God's promise to us?

May 11 – Zech. 2:1-13 - The third vision - What will be rebuilt after 70 years? Why? What will be the wall that protects it? Not only that but what other promise? (v.10) How was this literally fulfilled?

May 12 – Zech. 3:1-10 - The fourth vision– Who is in the "courtroom"? Who is the accuser / who is the defendant? How are our "filthy clothes" taken off and what "rich garments" do we wear? When was the "single day" in v.9?

May 13 – Zech. 4:1-14 - The fifth vision – Note the great abundance of oil for 7 lamps! What is the meaning of this vision? (v.6 – what is the source of might and power?) What "mountains" were they facing? What "mountains" do we face in our lives? Note, the "two" are Zerubbabel (royal line of David) and Joshua, the high priest (ch. 3) – frail humans to accomplish God's will! Same for us today!

May 14 – Zech. 5:1-4 - The sixth vision – Why such a large scroll? Note – the 10 commandments were written on both sides (Ex. 32:15) What was the purpose of this scroll? What is the "scroll" for us today?

May 15 – Zech. 5:5-11 - The seventh vision – Like the scroll – a large basket, with what inside? What is the meaning of this? (Note – the Hebrew word for "wickedness" is feminine in gender. See also Rev. 17:3-6 – and the association of adulteries and idolatries in the OT). But also note – the 2 women who carry it away – remove the wickedness from among God's people.

May 16 – Zech. 6:1-15 - The four chariots – symbolic of God's divine judgment – why 4? (see also Rev. 6:1-8) Note how God is in control of them – Babylon had come from the North – what comfort is in v.8? What enemies are in our "North" that God has completely conquered? Why is Joshua to be crowned? (see again Zech. 3:8) Note the harmony between priest and king (crown) – how does this point us to Jesus?

May 17 – Zech. 7:1-14 – Justice, mercy, compassion – What was the purpose of "fasting" and "mourning"? What is the accusation? (v.5-6) Why do we do the "religious" things we do – going through the motions or for changing

ourselves? What was more important than the “fasting”? (v.9) Why had the land of Israel been so desolate? (v.13) What message is this for us today?

May 18 – Zech. 8:1-23 – Blessings to Jerusalem! What does it mean that God is “jealous for Zion”? With the promises of restoration and blessings how were the people to respond? Why will 10 men (symbolic number for large and complete) from all languages want to go with the Jews? What is it that draws people to Christ and His Church today?

May 19 – Zech. 9:1-17 – “Your king comes to you!” The Lord promises to conquer those who had conquered them. (beginning in the N and ending in the S – prophecy fulfilled by Alexander the Great) How is it comforting and encouraging to know that the Lord punishes evil? When was v.9 literally fulfilled? How is the Lord like a warrior with bow and arrow? What will He do? What does He continue to do?

May 20 – Zech. 10:1-12 – “From Judah will come the cornerstone” – What are the promises to Judah? How are these literally fulfilled? What does it mean to “walk in the name of the Lord”?

May 21 – Zech. 11:1-17 – Two shepherds - wicked (v.4-5) and the Lord (v.7-8) but how did the people respond to both of them? (v.8)

May 22 – Zech. 12:1-14 – Weeping in Jerusalem – Why will God do this for Jerusalem (Israel and Judah)? Why the weeping and mourning? (see John 19:37)

May 23 – Zech. 13:1-9 – “Strike the Shepherd” – What is the “fountain”? (note: what cleanses from sin?) What do these verses foretell about Jesus?

May 24 – Zech. 14:1-21 – The Lord reigns! – What is the message of warning? The message of comfort? How will the original purpose of Israel finally be realized? (v.20 – see also Exodus 28:36-38)

May 25 – Psalm 139 – “You know me, O LORD!” – How is this Psalm threatening? How is this Psalm a great comfort? (like Zechariah’s last chapters) Note the prayer for God to “search me and know my heart” – what does He find when He does this? What has He / does He do about it?

May 26 – Malachi 1:1-5 – God’s covenant love – why would Israel question God’s love? What does it mean “I have loved Jacob but Esau I hated”? (see also Rom. 9:10-15; Lk. 14:15-26)

May 27 – Mal. 1:6- 2:9 – Unfaithful priests – how is the lack of love demonstrated? What are the “sacrifices” that we bring to God? What would God say about our “sacrifices”? Why is God’s “name” so very important?

May 28 – Mal. 2:10-16 – Unfaithful people – In what two ways had the people been “breaking faith”? Note the covenant of marriage – how had they been “breaking the covenant”? What does God say about marriages today?

May 29 – Mal. 2:17-3:5 – “I will send My messenger” – How were they “wearying” the LORD? Who is “the messenger”? How does God “refine” His people?

May 30 – Mal. 3:6-18 – Faithful giving and service – Is the statement, “I the LORD do not change” Law or Gospel – or both? What does it mean to “return” / repent? Why all the references to “but you ask”? Since God does not need the remembrance, what is the purpose of “the scroll of remembrance”?

May 31 – Mal. 4:1-6 “leap for joy”! – What will the “day of the LORD” be like? Note the play on words: fire that burns with sun of righteousness; calves leaping with being trampled underfoot. Why mention Moses and Elijah? Note how Malachi ends and the Gospel according to Mark begins...