



HAGGAI

Background

The remaining three prophets are part of the postexilic group of prophets, meaning these books were written after the 70 years of captivity in Babylon.

GROUP	BOOK	Approximate Dates
PROPHETS OF ISRAEL	Jonah Amos Hosea	784-772 B.C. 765-755 B.C. 755-713 B.C.
PROPHETS OF JUDAH	Micah Nahum Zephaniah Habakkuk Obadiah Joel	750-686 B.C. 663-612 B.C. 640-615 B.C. 609-598 B.C. 605-586 B.C. 605-586 B.C.
POSTEXILIC PROPHETS	Haggai Zechariah Malachi	520-516 B.C. 520-516 B.C. 433-390 B.C.

Date	Persian King	Biblical Prophet, Book, Event
550 B.C.	<i>Cyrus the Great</i>	536 – 1 st year of Cyrus over Babylon/Judah. Ezra 1:1 – 3:7. First exile from Babylon. Foundation of Temple is laid in 2 nd year. Ezra 3:8
540 B.C.	550-530 B.C.	
530 B.C.	<i>Cambyses</i>	Work on Temple ceases until the 2 nd year of Darius I. Ezra 4:5, 24
520 B.C.	530-522 B.C.	
510 B.C.	<i>Darius I</i>	520, 2 nd year of Darius, Haggai and Zechariah begin to prophesy. 516, 6 th year of Darius, Temple is completed. Ezra 6:15
500 B.C.	522-486 B.C.	
490 B.C.		
480 B.C.	<i>Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)</i>	486-465 Book of Esther fits here.
470 B.C.	486-465 B.C.	
460 B.C.	<i>Artaxerxes I</i>	458 – In the 7 th year of Artaxerxes, a decree is issued. This is the second return from exile – under Ezra . Ezra 7:1ff 445 – 20 th year of Artaxerxes is the record of Nehemiah (Neh 2:1). This is the third return from exile to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. 433 – 32 nd year of Artaxerxes. (Neh 13:4-31). Malachi here? 
450 B.C.		
440 B.C.	465-425 B.C.	
430 B.C.		
420 B.C.	<i>Xerxes II</i> – 425-224 B.C.	
410 B.C.	<i>Darius II</i>	
400 B.C.	423-404 B.C.	
390 B.C.	<i>Artaxerxes II</i>	Book of Malachi fits somewhere in here? 
380 B.C.	404-359 B.C.	
370 B.C.		
360 B.C.		

The Twelve

In 586 B.C., the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, and the remaining Judeans were carried away into captivity to Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah had prophesied that after 70 years they would return to their land. The book of Ezra records the first return of exiles to Jerusalem under King Cyrus of Persia. Cyrus defeated the Babylonians in 536 B.C. In the first year that Cyrus ruled over Babylon, he issued a proclamation to rebuild the house of Yahweh in Jerusalem.

The Return under the Decree of Cyrus

Ezra 1:1-8

Ezra 2:1-2

Zerubbabel was the governmental leader of Judah, and Jeshua was the high priest.

Ezra 2:64

42,360 returned from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

Ezra 3:1-2, 4-6

In the seventh month, they built an altar, sacrificed to Yahweh, and celebrated the Feast of Booths.

Ezra 3:8-13

The foundation for the Temple is laid, and there is great rejoicing and praise to Yahweh.

Ezra 4:1-5, 24

The enemies of Judah rise up, discourage the people, frighten them, hire counselors against them, and frustrate the building of the Temple.

(Ezra 4:6-23 lists other times when people wrote letters to Persian kings in an attempt to frustrate God's plans. Those listed here, Ahasuerus [Xerxes] and Artaxerxes are Persian kings that followed after Cyrus and Darius until the time in which Ezra was writing.)

Ezra 4:24 – So, work on the Temple ceased until the second year of Darius – about 15 years.

Ezra 5:1-2

After the prophets Haggai and Zechariah prophesied, the construction of the Temple started again. This construction started in the 2nd year of Darius.

Ezra 6:14-15

The elders of the Jews were successful in building the Temple through the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah! The Temple was completed in the sixth year of King Darius, in the Hebrew month Adar. The Hebrew month, along with the day of the month, and the year of the reign of King Darius are provided in both Haggai and Zechariah, showing when they prophesied (Haggai 1:1; 2:1, 10; Zechariah 1:1, 7; 7:1).

The Twelve

Three and A Half Years of Prophecy of Haggai and Zechariah and Rebuilding of the Temple												
Date - BC	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
521 BC	Nisan	Iyar	Sivan	Tammuz	AV	Elul	Tishrei	Cheshvan	Kislev	Tevet	Shevat	Adar
Darius	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	2nd year
520 BC	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	2nd year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
519 BC	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	3rd year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
518 BC	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	2nd year	3rd year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
517 BC	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	4th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
516 BC	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	3rd year	4th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
515 BC	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	5th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
514 BC	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	4th year	5th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
513 BC	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	6th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
512 BC	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	5th year	6th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
511 BC	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	7th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
510 BC	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	6th year	7th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius
509 BC	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	7th year	8th year
Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius	of Darius

} Construction continues

} 3 1/2 years

} Temple completed

2nd Year of Darius – 6th Month – Consider your ways!

Haggai 1:1-15

Haggai reproves the people for not rebuilding the Temple. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua, the work on the house of Yahweh continues on the 24th day of the 6th month – about 15 years after the foundation had been laid.

7th Month, 21st Day – Once More – I am going to shake heavens and earth!

Haggai 2:1-9

21st day of the seventh month is the last day of the seven day Feast of Tabernacles. When God brought them out of Egypt, His spirit was in their midst (Is 63:11). Once more, Yahweh will shake heavens and earth – all nations (Heb 12:25-29).

The Twelve

9th Month, 24th Day – I will take you, Zerubbabel, and make you like a signet.

Haggai 2:10-23

“My servant” – A term used of prophets, kings, and the Messiah.

“Signet ring” – is representing authority of the king (Genesis 41:42; Esther 8:8-10; Daniel 6:17; Jeremiah 22:24-30). The Davidic Kingdom, the promise of the coming king, would be restored through Zerubbabel (Matthew 1:11-12).

ZECHARIAH

Return to Me

Zechariah 1:1

The word of Yahweh came to Zechariah the son Berechiah, the son of Iddo in the eighth month of the second year of Darius. Perhaps this Zechariah is a descendent of Iddo listed with the priests and Levites that returned with Zerubbabel and Jeshua in records from Nehemiah 12:4, 16. Also, is this the Zechariah, son of Berechiah, that Jesus mentioned in Matthew 23:35?

Zechariah 1:2-6

Return to Me!

Zechariah 1:7

Eight Visions in the 11th month – 24th Day

	Verse Reference	Vision
1	Zechariah 1:7-17	Horsemen Sent to Patrol the Earth
2	Zechariah 1:18-21	Four Craftsmen (Carpenters) Defeating Four Horns
3	Zechariah 2:1-13	A Man with a Measuring Line
4	Zechariah 3:1-10	The Re-clothing of Joshua the High Priest
5	Zechariah 4:1-14	A Golden Lampstand Flanked by Two Olive Trees
6	Zechariah 5:1-4	The Flying Scroll—Wickedness Judged
7	Zechariah 5:5-11	A Woman in the Basket—Wickedness carried to Shinar
8	Zechariah 6:1-8	The Lord's Chariots Patrol the Earth

Horsemen Sent to Patrol the Earth

Zechariah 1:7-17

A measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem (Jeremiah 31:35-40; Ezekiel 40:3-5; Zechariah 2:1-2; Revelation 11:1; 21:15-17).

Four Horns and Four Craftsmen

Zechariah 1:18-21

The craftsmen (KJV – “carpenters”) will throw down the horns of nations who have lifted up their horns to scatter Judah. Many nations will join themselves to Yahweh in that day and will become “My people.”

A Man with a Measuring Line

Zechariah 2:1-13

Jerusalem will be rebuilt and will be inhabited.

The Twelve

Joshua (Yeshua) the High Priest

Zechariah 3:1-10

Joshua is a “symbol.” God is bringing “My servant the Branch.”

I will remove the iniquity of the land in one day.

The Golden Lampstand and Two Olive Trees

Zechariah 4:1-14

Zerubbabel laid the foundation, and his hands will finish it.

The two olive branches are the two anointed ones (Heb. - “sons of oil”) who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth. The two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah supported the rebuilding of the Temple at this time (Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14). In the future, two more witnesses will prophesy in the last days during three-and-a-half years before the seventh angel sounds (Revelation 11:1-19).

The Flying Scroll—Wickedness Judged

Zechariah 5:1-4

This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole earth

A Woman in the Basket—Wickedness carried to Shinar

Zechariah 5:5-11

An ephah is an amount of dry measurement or can be the container which holds this amount. ESV calls this a “basket.” The lid is opened, and there is a woman inside. “This is Wickedness!” The container is then carried to Shinar, Babylon, (Revelation 17:1-18).

The Lord’s Chariots Patrol the Earth

Zechariah 6:1-8