

## Basic Training in the Bible

Andrew Stepp | Prophets (Haggai, Joel, Zechariah, Malachi)

Pre-Exilic (Israel)	Pre-Exilic (Judah)	Exilic	Post Exilic
Jonah Amos Hosea	Isaiah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah	Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Obadiah	<b>Haggai</b> <b>Joel</b> <b>Zechariah</b> <b>Malachi</b>

### Historical Context:

- Babylon wipes out Jerusalem 586BC.
- Israel is in exile in Babylon for 70 years
- Babylon (who defeated Assyria) is defeated by Persia – 539BC
- God moves King Cyrus to send Israelites back to Jerusalem to restore the temple and Jewish worship

**Wave One:** In 537 BC, a remnant returns to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel as their leader to rebuild the temple. It's completed in 516 BC. (Haggai 2:1-9). Roughly 42,000 people returned

**Wave Two:** In 458 BC, Ezra is sent to Jerusalem by Artaxerxes I, king of Persia. Ezra was a priest and scribe, an expert in the law of Moses and the covenant. (Ezra 7:25-26). Another 5,000 returned with Ezra.

**Wave Three:** Nehemiah leads a remnant back under Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem's walls and infrastructure. (445 BC) He also repopulated the city, built a governor's house, created administrative infrastructure, and restored the city in general.

Defeat of Israel by Assyria:	<b>722 BC</b>
Assyria falls to Babylon:	<b>612 BC</b>
Babylonian Exile #1:	<b>605 BC</b>
Babylonian Exile #2:	<b>598 BC</b>
Fall of Jerusalem & Exile #3:	<b>586 BC</b>
Babylon Falls to Persia:	<b>539 BC</b>
First Wave of Exiles return:	<b>537 BC</b>
Second Wave (Ezra):	<b>458 BC</b>
Third Wave (Nehemiah):	<b>445 BC</b>

## JOEL

"A devastating locust plague sets the stage for a twofold summons to repentance, to which God responds with a promise of mercy and an outpouring of his Spirit, with a day of judgment on the nations."

"The Day of the Lord" → A Good Day or a Bad One?

## HAGGAI

Four oracles encouraging God's people to rebuild the temple

Directly addressed Zerubbabel the governor, Joshua the priest, and the people in Jerusalem.

Ezra 1-6 Provides the Historical Background

## ZECHARIAH

"Visions aimed at encouraging the post-exilic community, especially the leadership, to rebuild the temple, plus oracles about the future coming King who would be slain and eventually triumph."

### **Two Parts:**

Ch. 1-8 – A Series of Eight Night Visions

Ch. 9-14 – Two oracles about God's glorious future for his people and his judgment on the nations

## MALACHI

"Through 6 disputes, Yahweh warns his people of future judgments and promises redemption to the faithful"

"...a graphic indicator of the moral and spiritual apathy of the time, which expressed itself in various forms of contempt for Yahweh and the covenant."

### **This Week's Readings:**

Joel 1-4 (1 day)

Haggai 1-3 (1 day)

Zech. 1-14 (2 days)

Malachi 1-4 (1 day)