



HOSEA: LOVE THAT NEVER DIES
A SURVEY OF HOSEA



The Heart of the Matter

With Hosea's story we begin the study of the twelve books commonly referred to as the Minor Prophets. They are "minor," not because they are insignificant but because their books are short compared to the Major Prophets. Hosea was a prophet to the ten northern tribes called Israel. His contemporaries were Amos, Isaiah, Jonah, and Micah. Hosea's was a pathetic, tragic life. Few men in Scripture inspire such pity as does Hosea. His book falls neatly into two parts: personal—a narrative of his life with an adulterous wife—and national—a series of sermons declaring God's holiness, justice, and love to an adulterous people.



Discovering the Way

1. What Was It Like in Hosea's Day?

Hosea lived at a time of political corruption, social compromise, and religious infidelity.

2. What Was It Like in Hosea's Home?

God commanded Hosea to marry a woman who would later prostitute herself. They had three children together. Both his marriage and family served as a living illustration of God's faithfulness to an unfaithful nation.

3. What Was It Like in Hosea's Congregation?

Hosea delivered three messages to Israel: You are sinful but God is holy. Judgment is sure because God is just. You are rebellious but God still loves you.



Starting Your Journey

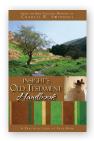
What is it like in our lives today? If you are like Israel—unfaithful, rebellious, and sinful—you need to repent. If you are like Hosea—betrayed, wronged, and mistreated—you need to allow God to turn your scar into a message of grace.



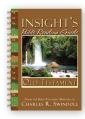
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HOSEA

	PERSONAL The Agony of an Unfaithful Mate		The Tra	NATIONAL The Tragedy of an Unfaithful People		
	Marriage ——— Children		1	Series of sermons declaring the sin of the people and the character of God		
	Separation Reunion CHAPTERS 1–3		Model of the message as Hosea remains true to his wife in spite of her infidelity CHAPTERS 4-14		ns in lity	
	Adulterous wife ye	t faithful husband	Adulterous nation yet faithful God			
	God: "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry." (1:2)	God: "Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress." (3:1)	y guilty. judgment. hope.			
Theme	God's faithful love toward His unfaithful people					
Key Verses	2:19–20; 3:1; 11:1–12					
Christ in Hosea	exodus from Egypt (11:	Christ's being "called out" from hiding in Egypt as a child is pictured in Hosea's record of Israel's exodus from Egypt (11:1; see also Matthew 2:15). In Hosea's redemption of Gomer from the slave market, Christ is pictured as the loving, faithful Redeemer of sinful humanity.				







Joel: Preparing for the Day of the Lord A Survey of Joel



The Heart of the Matter

The name Joel is a combination of two divine names in Hebrew: Jehovah and God. Together, they mean "Jehovah is God." And the prophet with this name believed Jehovah was God, without reservation. God called Joel to interpret the contemporary events of his nation as well as predict some cataclysmic events of the future. Joel knew that repentance must precede revival. In Judah (the southern kingdom), a plague of locusts had recently devoured every green thing, leaving only desolation in their trail. Joel announced his conviction that the plague had been sent by God because of the sin of His people, Judah. But Joel also announced hope beyond their present circumstance. His message is certainly needed today.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Basics about Joel

Joel is the anonymous prophet—little is known of his background. We do know that he ministered in Judah and preached a message of repentance.

2. A Look into His Book

The book of Joel divides nicely into three sections: a message of devastation and warning (1:1–2:11), a message of supplication and repentance (2:12–17), and a message of restoration and hope (2:18–3:21).



Starting Your Journey

Three lessons linger from the book of Joel. First, disaster and calamity often carry messages directly from God. Second, it often takes a variety of divine "attacks" to get our attention. Third, when God restores the afflicted, He does so abundantly.

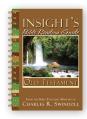




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JOEL

	The Plague of Locusts	The Call to	Th	e Future of Judah
	The past plague	Repentance "Return to Me"	One of the greatest	Concerning the Spirit of God
	The future invasion	The character of God KEY: 2:13	promises of hope in all	Concerning the judgment of God
	Historic Day of the Lord	The universal appeal	the Old Testament	Concerning the kingdom of God
	Imminent Day of the Lord			Ultimate Day of the Lord
	CHAPTERS 1:1-2:11	CHAPTER 2:12–17	CHAPTER 2:18-27	CHAPTERS 2:28-3:21
Emphasis	Desolation	Exhortation	F	Restoration
Emotion	Mourning now —		—	Rejoicing later
Parallel Verse	"For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; / Weeping may last for the night, / But a shout of joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).			
Theme	Repent, for the day of the Lord is near.			
Key Verses	2:12–14, 18, 25–27			
Christ in Joel	<u> </u>	oly Spirit, who applies Christ's one who judges nations but		







AMOS: FROM FIG-PICKER TO PROPHET-PREACHER
A Survey of Amos



The Heart of the Matter

Israel, the northern kingdom, was steeped in religiosity, immorality, compromise, and complacency. The same evils plague much of our world today. As is true today, a strong voice was needed—a determined, disciplined, courageous man of God to proclaim the truth and denounce the sins of Israel. Amos was just the man! Born of humble means, raised to work with his hands, rugged and unflappable, Amos became one of the most colorful personalities among the prophets. God's severe predictions of judgment had to be delivered by a man who modeled that message. Like Elijah and John the Baptizer, Amos fearlessly stormed the king's palace. With relentless zeal, he stayed at the task, refusing to be intimidated by insults and threats. Sin always brings judgment. There was no way that Amos was going to let that message be muffled or changed.



Discovering the Way

1. Amos, the Man

Amos was from the backcountry of Judah, a shepherd and farmer by trade until God called him to preach.

2. Amos, the Book

The overall theme is found in Amos 4:9-12. The general outline of the book is divided into oracles (1:3-2:16), sermons (3-6), visions (7:1-9:10), and promises (9:11-15).



Starting Your Journey

Two broad applications come from the book of Amos. First, if you're like Amos, speak. Second, if you're like Israel, repent.

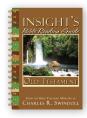




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Amos

	A sheepherder's vision	Oracles against the Nations Damascus Gaza Tyre Edom Ammon Moab Judah Israel	Sermons against Nation of Israel Hear this word sons of Israel (3:1) you cows of Bashan (4:1) house of Israel (5:1)	Visions of Judgment Locusts Fire Plumb line Ripe fruit The Lord by the altar	Promises of Hope "In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David I will also plant them on their land." (9:11,15)
	CHAPTER 1:1-2	CHAPTERS 1:3-2:16	CHAPTERS 3-6	CHAPTERS 7:1-9:10	CHAPTER 9:11–15
Theme		Israel's coming judgn	nent for treating other	ers with injustice	
Key Verses	3:1–2; 4:12; 5:15, 24				
Christ in Amos	Jesus Christ,	who has all authority	to judge, is also the	One who restores Hi	s people.







OBADIAH: STRONG WARNING TO THE PROUD A Survey of Obadiah



The Heart of the Matter

In that section of the Bible known as the Prophets, there are four points of interest that are interwoven together: (1) the prophet's own times—his particular situation; (2) the imminent threat of the nations' captivity by Assyria and Babylon as well as the nations' eventual restoration; (3) the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ; and (4) the literal, millennial reign of Messiah as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Obadiah's major message is related to the *first two historical periods*. Except in his case, Obadiah's message was not to Israel or Judah but to Edom, and there was no hope of restoration for them.



Discovering the Way

1. A Helpful and Necessary Orientation

The history and background to the vision of Obadiah is foreign to modern readers, but his message drips with personal and current relevance.

2. A Careful and Direct Examination

Obadiah's vision is divided into three sections: Edom's humiliation and destruction (1:1-9); Edom's cruelty and crimes (1:10-14); and Edom's judgment and doom (1:15-21).



Starting Your Journey

Three practical and convincing applications are found in the book of Obadiah. First, if you hold grudges, take revenge, or continue in feuds and fights, your own failure is certain. Second, if you are proud and find pleasure in another's calamity, your own success will be diminished. Third, if you think you are secure in what you earn and erect, your own situation is sure to change.

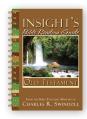




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OBADIAH

	Edom's Humiliation and Destruction	Edom's Cruelty and Crimes	Edom and the Day of the Lord		
ı	VERSES 1-9	VERSES 10-14	VERSES 15-21		
Portent	Prediction	Denunciation	Consummation		
Event	What will happen	Why it will happen	How it will happen		
Content	"The arrogance of your heart has deceived you I will bring you down." (1:3-4)	"Because of violence to your brother Jacob" (1:10)	"As you have done, it will be done to you." (1:15)		
Theme	The coming judgment of Edom				
Key Verse	1:10				
Christ in Obadiah	God's judgment of Edom and deliv	verance of Israel prefigure Christ's s	alvation and end-times judgment.		







Jonah: The Prodigal Prophet A Survey of Jonah



The Heart of the Matter

Who hasn't heard of Jonah? The brunt of numerous jokes and the classic example of a rebel, Jonah stands as the best known of all the prophets. His story—familiar to young and old alike—has been proclaimed, analyzed, criticized, and assaulted for centuries. Viewed by critics as something between parable and fable, the veracity of Jonah's book has suffered greatly. To most scholars, it's merely a myth, little more than a humorous legend that originated in the mind of some creative soul in antiquity. Nevertheless, it remains preserved by God . . . because it was inspired of God. From the account, we find extremely practical food for thought. And to the surprise of many Christians, the book of Jonah is the clearest revelation in all the Old Testament of the missionary heart of our God. Jonah is not the story of a whale but of a nation in desperate need of deliverance . . . and a messenger who was reluctant to go and announce the truth.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Helpful Information about Jonah

Jonah, the "dove," was a prophet who resided in the Galilean town of Gath-hepher. But he was a merciless man called to deliver a message of mercy to a merciless people.

2. An Overview of the Book

Jonah's four chapters provide a simple structure to the book. In chapter 1, Jonah ran from God. In chapter 2, Jonah ran to God. In chapter 3, Jonah ran with God. And in chapter 4, Jonah ran against God.



Starting Your Journey

Two direct applications come from the book of Jonah. First, it is utterly impossible to escape from God. Quit trying! Second, it is absolutely essential to submit to God. Quit resisting!



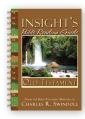
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JONAH

	Running from God	Running to God	Running with God	Running against God		
	First commission of Jonah	Prayer of Jonah	Second commission of Jonah	Prejudice of Jonah		
	Results of disobedience	Communication with the Lord	Results of obedience	Lessons from the Lord		
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTER 4		
Theme	God's infir	God's infinite mercy for all people; our reluctance to share His mercy				
Key Verses		2:9; 4:11				
Christ in Jonah		Jonah's three days in the fish anticipates Christ's death and resurrection. The Ninevites' salvation represents the salvation available to all people in Christ.				







MICAH: ADVOCATE FOR THE POOR A Survey of Micah



The Heart of the Matter

It is doubtful that the poor peasants of Judah ever had a stronger champion than their countryman Micah, the powerful preacher. Though not as intellectually gifted as his contemporary, Isaiah, nor as popular as Hosea, his peer to the north, Micah nevertheless defended the downtrodden with vigilant zeal. He cared for his people and warned them of certain punishment if they refused to repent. For this reason, we should not minimize Micah's importance or regard him as a mere shadow of the great Isaiah. No way! With a simple—yet courageous—style, Micah shouted out God's strong reproofs to the rich, offered sympathy to the poor, predicted judgment upon all the ungodly, and told the truth—with the unflinching severity of the prophet Amos plus the deep compassion of the prophet Hosea.



Discovering the Way

1. An Understanding of the Man

Micah was from the Judean backcountry, called to minister to the rich and powerful on behalf of the poor and downtrodden, even though Isaiah was already ministering in Jerusalem and Hosea in Samaria.

2. A Survey of His Message

Micah declared doom in chapters 1 and 2, exposed sin in chapters 3-5, and offered hope in chapters 6 and 7.



Starting Your Journey

Three lasting lessons emerge from Micah's book. First, a messenger may be unsophisticated, but God's power will give him the clout that's needed. Second, in times of greatest need, a nation is given God's best spokesmen. Third, living a godly life is simple, not complicated.

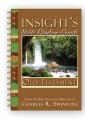




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Місан

	An Announcement of Judgment	A Contrast of Kingdoms	A Case against Sin and a Promise of Restoration	
	Hear, O peoples / Listen, O earth. (1:2) The capitals will be destroyed	"Hear now, heads of Jacob / And rulers." (3:1) Human corruption	Hear now what the LORD is saying. (6:1) God's indictment	
	Reasons for judgment	Divine restoration	Authentic spirituality Judah's sins Messianic mercy	
	CHAPTERS 1-2	CHAPTERS 3-5	CHAPTERS 6-7	
Theme		hip with God is inextricably linked to kingdom with God's righteous and		
Key Verse	6:8			
Christ in Micah		Bethlehem is predicted in 5:2; His rearth is described in 2:12-13; 4:1-	<u> </u>	







NAHUM: THE CONSEQUENCES OF NEGLIGENCE A Survey of Nahum



The Heart of the Matter

Next to nothing is known of Nahum. Like his three-chapter book, the man is obscure. And that is unfortunate, especially since his message is so directly linked to the most popular of the minor prophets: Jonah. Nahum's message is addressed to the descendants of the same people who had been evangelized as a result of Jonah's ministry—the people of Nineveh. One hundred years after Jonah's visit, Nahum wrote to the next generation living in Nineveh, announcing judgment because those who had been converted in Jonah's time had refused to pass on to their children and grandchildren (the people of Nahum's day) the knowledge and fear of the true God. Negligence led to this terrible consequence. The result? God had to destroy such an apostate people.



Discovering the Way

1. The Prophet of God

Nahum's name means "comfort" or "consolation," but he delivered a message that was anything but a comfort to the citizens of Nineveh.

2. The Character of God

With poetic language, Nahum described God as jealous and wrathful, holy and just, omnipotent, good, immutable, and thorough.

3. The Judgment of God

The judgment of God was predicted and described in Nahum 2:1–10, justified and defended in 2:11–3:10, and inevitable and inescapable in 3:11–19.

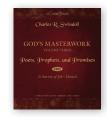


Starting Your Journey

The book of Nahum leaves us with two truths about God. First, because of God's awesome character, we are to take Him seriously. Second, because of God's almighty power, we are to fear Him reverently.



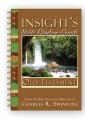
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Nahum

	The Character and Power of God	The Judgment of God		
	His majestic attributes and abilities in contrast to humanity's schemes	Predicted and described Justified and defended Inevitable and inescapable		
ļ	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTERS 2-3		
Content	Theological	Prophetical		
Emphasis	The majestic character of our sovereign God qualifies Him to be the Judge over all.	Nineveh's willful and heartless decline justifies the judgment of almighty God.		
Theme	The impending doom of N	inevah, capital of Assyria		
Key Verses	1:3; 3:1			
Christ in Nahum	Christ will judge the nations, freeing His pe	eople once and for all from their enemies.		







Habakkuk: Wrestling, Waiting, Praying, Praising

A Survey of Habakkuk



The Heart of the Matter

We have often commented on how up-to-date Scripture really is. There is no doubt that it is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). The book we are considering in this message is a perfect example of biblical relevance. Time and again, you will find yourself in the verses of Habakkuk! The ancient prophet, witnessing the evils around him, wrestled with God's seemingly indifferent attitude. It was an offensive contradiction to His holy nature. But when God revealed His plan, an even *greater* problem arose. So Habakkuk decided to get alone and wait for his mind to clear. God gave him a fresh vision . . . hope beyond his despair, which resulted in a time of meaningful prayer as Habakkuk praised the awesome Lord of heaven and earth.



Discovering the Way

1. The Burden

Habakkuk had a complaint to bring against the Lord (1:1-4). The Lord heard Habakkuk's complaint and answered (1:5-11). But Habakkuk couldn't believe his ears and reacted (1:12-17).

2. The Watch

Habakkuk waited for the Lord to help him understand God's ways (2:1).

3. The Vision

God spoke to Habakkuk and told him to write (2:2) and to wait (2:3-6) because woe would come to the Chaldeans (2:6-20).

4. The Prayer

Habakkuk composed a prayer/psalm praising God's person (3:4–7), God's Word (3:8–15), and God's help (3:16–19).

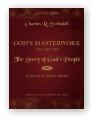


Starting Your Journey

The application from the book of Habakkuk is threefold. First, God can handle all our questions but will answer only a few. Second, waiting strengthens our patience and lengthens our perspective. Third, the bottom line of faith is not to remove all doubts but to be sure of God.



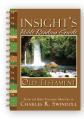
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HABAKKUK

	Haba	ıkkuk's Dialogue	with God	Habakkuk's Praise	
	The Burden	The Watch	The Vision	to God	
	Wrestling with: God's silence Judah's sinfulness God's character	Waiting for an answer	Record the vision! Wait for it! Woe to the Babylonians!	Lord, I've heardI stand in aweI waitI praiseI rejoice	
	Questions: How long? Why? Who?				
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2:1	CHAPTER 2:2–20	CHAPTER 3	
Confession	"Lord You confuse me."	"Lord	. I wait for You."	"Lord I praise You."	
Perspective	Horizontal		Vertical		
Direction	Looking around and worrying	Looking up and listening		Looking ahead and believing	
Theme	Habakkuk's wrestling wi	with God over His unfathomable ways and the prophet's resulting faith			
Key Verses		2:4; 3:17–19			
Christ in Habakkuk	Those who have been made right the earth will be filled / With the	•	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	9 1	







ZEPHANIAH: BRIGHT LIGHT IN A DARK DAY
A Survey of Zephaniah



The Heart of the Matter

The men who spoke for God during the centuries before Christ were remarkable mixtures of severity and compassion. These prophets were among the most respected (and yet hated) people of their times. Such was Zephaniah, a prophet who was a descendant of the royal line of David and probably had greater influence on King Josiah than either Nahum or Jeremiah. It is impressive that Zephaniah did not compromise his convictions even though he had access to the king. In the first major section of Zephaniah's book, with a simple yet forceful style, he announced sure judgment; then, in the second section, he tenderly prophesied that God would send relief and His best blessings on His people. Through it all, Zephaniah emerged as a choice prophet in a long line of tough-and-tender men.



Discovering the Way

1. Zephaniah's Background and Times

Zephaniah was in the kingly line, prophesying during the reign of evil Amon and the reign of righteous Josiah.

2. Zephaniah's Style and Book

Zephaniah delivered his prophecy in a straightforward manner, without mincing words. His book divides into two parts: judgment and doom (1:1-3:8) and joy and deliverance (3:9-20).



Starting Your Journey

Three applications come from the book of Zephaniah. First, God wants us to stay in touch. Second, God wants us to hold out hope. Third, God wants us to start today.

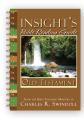




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ZEPHANIAH

:	Judgment and Doom "I will completely remove all things from the face of the earth," declares the Lord. (1:2)				
NTRODUCTIONS	DIVINE JUDGMENT ON JUDAH	INVITATION	SURE DOOM OF NATIONS	SURE DOOM OF JERUSALEM	
	CHAPTER 1:2-18	CHAPTER 2:1-3	CHAPTER 2:4-15	CHAPTER 3:1-8	CHAPTER 3:9-20
Scope	Jud	lah	Nation	ns	Remnant
Subject	Sin	Норе	Desola	tion	Restoration
Key Words	"The day of the LORD"	"Seek"	"Woe	e"	The Lord is with you
Theme	Judgment and doom are certain unless there is repentance before God. Only then can there be hope and restoration.				
Key Verses	1:14; 2:3				
Christ in Zephaniah		s us from God's wrath, and ing of Israel (Zephaniah 3:			·







HAGGAI: PERSUASIVE PROPHET OF PRIORITIES
A Survey of Haggai



The Heart of the Matter

The prophet Haggai is unique for two reasons: (1) he is the only person in all the Old Testament with the name Haggai; and (2) his is the only book in all the Bible containing only two chapters. But much more important, Haggai was God's spokesman sent to awaken and arouse the post-captivity Jews from their lethargy. He, with determined focus, pursued one major goal: to complete the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. He was a "get-it-done" leader, a highly motivated man who attacked indifference as the enemy it was. Haggai (and later Zechariah) was used by the Lord to afflict the comfortable, convincing them there was no excuse for delay. As all of us realize, Haggai's message is greatly needed in our me-first day of selfishness and indolence.



Discovering the Way

1. Getting Acquainted with the Man

Haggai ministered in Jerusalem shortly after the Babylonian exiles returned to the land. He carried with him a burden for rebuilding God's temple.

Pre-Captivity	Captivity	Post-Captivity
1 /	1 /	1 /

2. Becoming Familiar with the Book

The book of Haggai divides nicely into two chapters. In chapter 1, Haggai delivered a message of reproof. In chapter 2, Haggai delivered a message of encouragement and hope. And in both chapters, Haggai told the Jews to "consider" their ways.

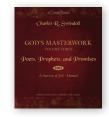


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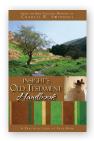
The timeless lesson of Haggai is expressed in a question: "What method does God use to arouse in His people a renewed interest in Himself?" The answer is fourfold: God uses spokespersons, God leads His people to personal evaluation, God allows His people to experience times of adversity, and God encourages His people.



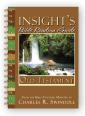
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HAGGAI

	First Message: Rebuild God's temple Reflection Divine discipline Repentant response "I am with you" CHAPTER 1	"Twenty-fourth day of the sixth month" (1:15)	"Twenty-first (day) of the seventh month" (2:1)	Second, Third, and Fourth Messages: Encouragement and Hope "Take courage!" "I will bless you!" "I have chosen you!" CHAPTER 2	"Twenty-fourth (day) of the ninth month" (2:10)
Time	Twenty-three days			Over two months	
Emphasis	Practical, negative, confronting		;	Spiritual, positive, comforting	
Scope	Present condition of Jerusalem temple			Future glory of God's house	
Theme	We must put God first in order to experience His blessings.				
Key Verses	1:4-5; 2:7-9				
Christ in Haggai	Christ's presence in this temple, which was further expanded and adorned by Herod, is "the latter glory greater than the former" (2:9). Jesus is "our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). His death on the cross has made us at peace with God now, and His future rule in His glorious kingdom will establish worldwide peace (Haggai 2:9). The righteous leader Zerubbabel is also a type of Christ and part of Jesus's genealogy.				







ZECHARIAH: MAN OF VISION AND FAITH A Survey of Zechariah



The Heart of the Matter

As one of the largest books of the Minor Prophets, Zechariah sets forth an encouraging word of assurance to a demoralized people. The prophet Haggai had led the way in rebuilding the temple . . . but the people lost focus during the process. Crop failures caused financial distress at home, and the work grew tedious at the construction site. The prophet Zechariah rolled up his sleeves and plunged with reckless abandon into the work of helping his great friend, Haggai. But Zechariah's style was very different. Rather than rebuking the workmen, he relied on words of inspiration and positive encouragement to motivate the people. The book of Zechariah is a refreshing change from the reproving style of other prophets. Both styles are needed, however, to get a job done.



Discovering the Way

1. Contrastive Styles of Motivation

Leaders come in two basic molds—especially when it comes to motivation: "extrinsic" types, who are like drill sergeants, and "intrinsic" types, who are like shepherds, gently and quietly inspiring.

2. Analysis of Zechariah

Zechariah was a friend of Haggai and ministered during the difficult days of rebuilding the temple. Zechariah's book, unlike Haggai's, is filled with gentle inspiration and prophecies of the coming Lamb of God.



Starting Your Journey

Three enduring lessons from Zechariah's life are revealed in his book. First, motivation can result from being *inspired* just as much from being rebuked . . . sometimes more. So, use inspiration! Second, to accomplish something God's way for God's glory, God's Spirit *must* be in control. Let Him be! Third, God's ultimate plan *cannot* be frustrated. Lean hard on it!



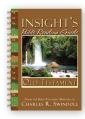
Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork
Volume Two
The Story of God's
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ZECHARIAH

	Call to Repentance	Encouragement and Motivation Visions Horses and riders Horns and craftsmen Surveyor and measuring line Joshua (the priest) and Satan Lampstand and seven lights Flying scroll and warning Woman and a basket Chariots and judgment	Questions Fasting Failure Future of Zion	Predictions First "Oracle": Rejection of Messiah Preservation of Israel Deception of false prophets Second "Oracle": Israel's final victory Messiah's final victory	
l	CHAPTER 1:1-6	CHAPTERS 1:7-6:15	CHAPTERS 7-8	CHAPTERS 9-14	
Time	Writter	n during the building of the templ	е	Written after completion of the temple	
Purpose	To motivate those working on the temple to continue in spite of their own crop failures and financial distress. Rather than rebuking or condemning, Zechariah inspired the people to work. To give the workers hope that there was a better day, a far more glorious day yet to come. Vivid scenes of Messiah are included. He is revealed as coming, rejected, returning, and conquering.				
Theme	Build the temple; build your future				
Key Verses	4:6; 8:3; 9:9-10				
Christ in Zechariah	Christ are the the cornerstone, t	Zechariah is second only to Isaiah in its number of messianic passages. Among Zechariah's explicit references to Christ are the angel of the Lord (3:1–2); the righteous Branch (3:8; 6:12–13); the King-Priest (6:13); the cornerstone, tent peg, and bow of battle (10:4); the good shepherd who is sold for thirty pieces of silver (11:4–13); the pierced One (12:10); and the coming Judge and righteous King (14).			







MALACHI: LAST CALL BEFORE SILENCE A SURVEY OF MALACHI



The Heart of the Matter

God's people didn't know it, but they stood on the brink of silence . . . God's silence . . . for the four hundred-year period between the Old Testament and the New. And Malachi was the last call of the Old Testament. Prophesying after the days of Nehemiah, Malachi witnessed the settled, stagnant, corrupt indifference of God's people, which the prophet deplored. The people's intermarrying with foreigners (non-Jews), neglecting to pay tithes, and offering blemished sacrifices at the altar caused Malachi to confront them and warn them of the consequences of such atrocities. Silence came soon after, but as long as Malachi was on the scene, the nation heard plenty!



Discovering the Way

1. Getting Acquainted with Malachi Personally

Malachi followed on the heels of Nehemiah and came to a nation in decline . . . spiritual and moral decline.

2. Becoming Familiar with Malachi Biblically

Malachi's book divides nicely into three sections. He delivered a message of love in 1:1-5, a message of rebuke in 1:6-3:18 (to the priests and to the people), and a message of hope in 4:1-5.



Starting Your Journey

Four practical and lingering lessons are found in Malachi. First, we tend to "cool off" or forget our promises when we begin to rationalize our sin. Second, those who are involved in vocational Christian service must be alert to the temptations of carelessness, cynicism, and corruption. Third, when the minister lowers his godly, biblical standards, many people suffer. And fourth, God never deals lightly with selfishness.

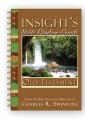




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MALACHI

	Love	Rebuke		Hope
		Against the Priests	Against the People	
	Unconditional	Irreverence	Intermarriage with pagans	Fire
	Almighty	Disobedience	Indifference	Healing
	Sovereign	Cynicism	Robbing God / no tithes	"Elijah"
		Hypocrisy	Blasphemy	Family
		Offense		
	CHAPTER 1:1-5	CHAPTERS 1:6-2:9	CHAPTERS 2:10 – 3:15	CHAPTERS 3:16-4:6
Content	Theological	Historical		Prophetical
Direction	Looking up	Looking in		Looking ahead
Theme	God cites the priest and the people with failure to keep His covenant but offers the hope of the Messiah, the messenger of the covenant who will bring justice and salvation.			
Key Verse	3:1			
Christ in Malachi	Malachi anticipates the first and second advents of Christ, who will fulfill God's covenant with the Jews (3:1), judge sinners (3:2–5), and bring healing to those who fear the Lord (4:2).			

