

Remnant Community

Major Dates

537 B.C.

c. 160 B.C.

Major Events

Israelites in Babylon are permitted to return to Palestine

Maccabees revolt

Major Characters

Ezra & Nehemiah

- priest and descendant of Aaron
- Ezra was a scribe who was the final editor of the Torah
- cupbearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes (465-424 B.C.)
- visited Jerusalem to assist with the Temple's restoration
- his narrative contains stirring accounts of conflicts with enemies who plot against rebuilding the city's walls.
- Temple reconstruction is completed and the people enter into a covenant to observe God's law as given by Moses
- Nehemiah tells of Ezra reading the Mosaic Law to a great assembly of the people, while the Levites interpret the laws to them after which Ezra leads the assembly in a confession of sin and in the worship of God

Haggai

- Haggai encouraged the Hebrews to rebuild the temple and permission was given to rebuild the temple to find blessings from the Lord
- Haggai urges the leaders of the Judean community to take personal charge, in order to hasten completion.
- He called for the priests to purify the cultic worship, and he links earlier Israelite traditions with the promise of a coming messianic age

Zechariah

- By recording 8 symbolic visions around 519 B.C. consist of God and an interpreting angel, Zechariah encouraged the rebuilding of the temple and the return of the exiles, especially their leaders Joshua and Zerubbabel
- The description of the triumphant coming of the humble king was taken by New Testament writers as prefiguring Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

Malachi

- name means "my messenger" but is not the actual name of the prophet
- Malachi criticized priests and rulers who dishonored God by giving blemished sacrifices and marrying pagans
- Malachi gave hope to the people that the day of God's justice was coming
- In the New Testament this prophecy is taken by the Gospels as fulfilled in John the Baptist

Maccabees

- The Maccabees revolted against Antiochus who was persecuting the Jews in Palestine in the 2nd century B.C.
- Their victory and rededication of the temple is remembered in Hanukkah
- The doctrine expresses is the customary belief that the people of Israel have been specifically chosen by God as his covenant partner, and they alone are privileged to know and worship him but the people must follow the law he gave them

Other Important Events

Where is this in the Bible?

Ezra 1,1-10,44
Nehemiah 1,1-13,31

Haggai 1,1-2,23

Zechariah 1,1-14,21

Malachi 1,1-3,24

1 & 2 Maccabees

Key Themes or Ideas