

**Summary Chart of Old Testament Prophets  
(Exilic and Post-Exilic)**



Book	Ezekiel	Daniel	Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi
<b>Date</b>	593-570BC	The time period in the book covers 68 years. It appears that the dates covered are 605-537BC. And it appears that it is written shortly after 536/5BC.	520BC	520-480BC	It is uncertain but internal evidence seems to support a date of 432-425BC. <sup>9</sup>
<b>Author</b>	Ezekiel	Daniel	Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi. There is much debate whether this is the case.
<b>Recipient</b>	All Israel, but locally to the exiles. <sup>1</sup>	Not clear. Although it does appear that it is for the Israelites in captivity in Babylon and the Jewish remnant.	First message is directed to the political leaders, Zerubbabel and Joshua. Second message also to Zerubbabel and Joshua but adds the remnant people. The third message is directed to the high priest and the remnant of the people. The fourth message was directed to Zerubbabel. <sup>5</sup>	The Jewish remnant who had returned to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon.	The Jewish remnant in Palestine.
<b>Theme</b>	When will you acknowledge God?	God is sovereign over all things.	Do not let the urgent take the place of the important in our lives. Our focus should be on God's desires and not our own.	Look at the present and future in the light of God's plan and purpose. <sup>7</sup>	Turn away from the ways of the world and return your hearts to God and his decrees as the Day of the Lord is coming.
<b>Purpose</b>	To serve as a reminder of the sins that brought them into exile and to assure them of God's future blessing in fulfillment of His covenant.	To show that God is sovereign and that He will deliver his people from under the hands of foreign rule by the coming of His son.	To encourage the remnant people to rebuild the Temple.	To rebuke the remaining remnant and to motivate them to rebuild the temple.	To rebuke the sin of the Jewish people who had lost hope in the covenant promises of God and to exhort them to faithfulness while waiting on the Day of the Lord.
<b>Message</b>	Don't believe the lies because Yahweh's just and deserved judgment is imminent. However, Yahweh's grace and compassion gives true hope for the restoration of the nation.	God will divinely protect His remnant of people that have fallen into captivity. The gentiles will dominate his people until the time comes until He sends his son to usher in the kingdom age.	Obedience to God's commands is necessary to enjoy His blessings.	God has a purpose for Judah's enemies, her leaders, and the worshipping community.	Don't let the ways of the world pull distract from God's desires. Remain faithful and hopeful until the Day of the Lord.
<b>Meaning behind Authors Name</b>	God strengthens	God is my judge	Festival; in my feast; festival of Yahweh	God remembers	My messenger
<b>Author Background</b>	He was about 25 years old when he was taken into Babylonian captivity with 10,000 others in 597BC. He was from a priestly family and was called to minister to the exiles. It is clear that he was well educated.	From the royal family but it is unclear what position that he held.	Nothing is known about his background.	He was a priest. Son of Berekiah, son of Iddo.	Nothing is known of him. Jewish tradition says he was a member of the great Synagogue that collected and preserved the canon of revealed Scripture. <sup>10</sup>
<b>Unique Characteristic of Author</b>	He is not referenced in any other Old Testament book. People could not come to him to inquire of God.	One of the few well-known bible characters that only have positive reference. He does not hold the "prophetic office" by making public proclamations as the other prophets do. <sup>3</sup>	Nothing is known about him.	Like Ezekiel and Jeremiah, he was also a priest. He predicts more about the coming Messiah than any of the other prophets with the exception of Isaiah.	Nothing is known of him. Jewish tradition says he was a member of the great Synagogue that collected and preserved the canon of revealed Scripture. <sup>11</sup>
<b>Historical Context</b>	This was a time of great international upheaval. The Assyrians were falling to the Babylonians. The Egyptians under rule of Pharaoh Neco II tried to reassert its influence over the region by coming to the aid of the Assyrians. Judah's King Josiah tried to interfere and ultimately ends under control of the Egyptians. Babylonians overtake the Egyptians at Carhemish and subsequently Judean King Jehoiakim switches allegiances to Babylon. Just a few years later though, he rebels against Babylon and they move in and take the elite into captivity. The Israelites lived relatively peacefully in Babylon. <sup>2</sup>	Daniel was taken into captivity while in his teens in 605BC which was the first wave of exiles to head to Babylon. The second wave was 597BC and the third wave was 586BC. The captivity was to last 70 years. The book of Daniel ends just after the first returnees to Israel in 539BC. Daniel and his three friends were given positions of leadership under Nebuchadnezzar due to Daniel's God-given wisdom and ability to interpret the king's dreams. <sup>4</sup>	The Israelites captors, the Babylonians, fall to the Medo-Persians, lead by King Cyrus in 539BC. In 538BC, King Cyrus issues decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. They complete the foundation in 536BC but then meet opposition and progress is halted for 16 years. King Darius took over rule of Persia in 522BC and he along with Haggai and Zechariah encouraged them to finish. They temple was finished in 516BC. <sup>5</sup>	The Israelites captors, the Babylonians, fall to the Medo-Persians, lead by King Cyrus in 539BC. In 538BC, King Cyrus issues decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. They complete the foundation in 536BC but then meet opposition and progress is halted for 16 years. King Darius took over rule of Persia in 522BC and he along with Haggai and Zechariah encouraged them to finish. Before the temple was finished in 516BC Zechariah has his visions and urges repentance. His final prophecy is offered after the temple is complete. <sup>8</sup>	The returned exiles had been exhorted to rebuild the temple by Haggai and Zechariah and they finished in 516BC. Persian King Artaxerxes encouraged them to return to Mosaic law and sent Nehemiah back to rebuild the walls in 444BC. While there, he spearheaded reforms but he returned to serve the Persian King the Jews fell further into sin. <sup>12</sup>
<b>Outline</b>	Ch. 1-24 - Oracles of judgment against Israel Ch. 25-33 - Judgment on the nations Ch. 34-48 - Restoration of God's People	Ch. 1 - The Backdrop Ch 2-7 - The Plan for the Gentiles Ch. 8-12 - The Plan for Israel	Ch. 1 - Rebuild the Temple Ch. 2:1-9 - Encouragement to finish the Temple Ch. 2:10-19 - Instruction on Holiness Ch. 2:20-23 - Declaration of Zerubbabel as God's servant.	Ch. 1:1-6 - Call to Repentance Ch. 1:6-6:15 - God's purposes for Jerusalem Ch. 7-8 - Why Fast? Ch. 9-14 - Two prophetic oracles	Ch. 1:1-5 - God's unconditional love for his people Ch. 1:6-2:9 - Charges against the priests Ch. 2:10-3:15 - Charges against the people Ch. 3:16-4:6 - Hope for the faithful remnant