

All about Jesus

Small group questions

Where is hope? - Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Minor Prophets

Leaders - if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer - please contact

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What was the message about?

- How would you sum up Mark's message - what was the main point?
- Anything unclear - any questions?

Recap - how we got to where we are

1. Briefly, can someone summarise the journey of Israel as depicted in the Old Testament leading up to the exile?
2. How did Israel's relationship with God evolve throughout this historical timeline?
3. Can you identify any patterns in Israel's behaviour and God's responses throughout this period?

What happened then?

4. What were the significant and repeated themes in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Minor Prophets?
5. How did the actions and attitudes of Israel during the post-exile era mirror their previous behaviours?
6. Discuss the significance of Cyrus's proclamation in Ezra. What does it reveal about God's sovereignty and control over world events?
7. Why did the return to the promised land, fail to live up to expectations?

Where is hope?

8. In light of the repeated cycles of rebellion and return, where do we see glimpses of hope in the passages from Malachi?
9. How does the concept of a coming messenger or Messiah provide hope for Israel? And how does the concept of a Messiah who will one day come again, provide hope for us?
10. Discuss the implications of the statement: "The coming of the Lord will call people to account." How does this challenge and comfort you personally?
11. Can you identify moments in your life where, like Israel, you've felt distant from God, or indeed had been running from God? What helped you "return" to Him? Read James 4:7-10 and see the parallels.
12. How can we, as modern believers, anchor our hope firmly in Jesus amidst challenges, doubts, and waiting for him to return?

Pray together asking for the grace to remember God's faithfulness, to discern His continued work in our lives, and to anchor our hope firmly in Jesus. Pray for any among us who need to return to the Lord; asking for the courage and strength to flee evil and draw near to God.

See over for the slides Mark used in the video, which gave the Old Testament outline + the list of the Minor Prophets.

OLD TESTAMENT OUTLINE

- Creation
- Rebellion
- God's regret
- Abraham > all nations
- Joseph saves
- Moses saves
- Israel commissioned
- Law given - response
- Joshua saves
- The Judges save
- WE WANT A KING
- King David saves
- Failure of Kingship
- OUT!



THE MINOR PROPHETS

- Hosea - 755-715 BC
- Joel - maybe 9th BC
- Amos -760-755 BC
- Obadiah - 586 BC
- Jonah - 8th BC
- Micah - 740-700 BC
- Nahum - 7th BC
- Habakkuk - 7th BC
- Zephaniah - 640-609
- Haggai - 520 BC
- Zechariah - 520-518
- Malachi - 5th BC

