

Major Issues in the Minor Prophets

“The just shall live by his faith”

The Later Years of Judah (BC)

Josiah (640-609)

Jehoahaz (609)

Jehoiakim (609-597)

Prophecy through Habakkuk

[605 – Battle of Carchemish – Daniel & friends to Babylon]

Jehoiachin (597)

[597 – Jerusalem taken – many Jews exiled]

Zedekiah (597-587)

[587 – Fall of Jerusalem]

The coming Babylonian Captivity

- “Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away ...” (Isaiah 39:6,7).
- “Thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the LORD shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies” (Micah 4:10).

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The Gentile Oppressor (1)

- “Then shall he sweep by as a wind, and shall pass over, and be guilty: even **he whose might is his god**” (1:11, RV).
- The mighty among men almost always suffer from pride (see Dan. 4:30; Ezek. 28:2; 2 Thess. 2:4).

The Gentile Oppressor (2)

- “Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever?” (Habakkuk 1:17, ESV).
- Having accepted that his people were to be punished, though not utterly destroyed, Habakkuk wants to know what will happen to this Gentile power that conquers nations and overruns the Land of Israel.

The Gentile Oppressor (3)

- “Then shall he sweep by as a wind, and shall **pass over**, and be guilty: even he whose might is his god” (1:11, RV).
- Daniel 11:40 uses the same term about the King of the North at the time of the end: He “shall overflow and **pass over**”.

The Glory of the Lord

- Numbers 14:21 – “All the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD”.
- Isaiah 11:9 – “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea”.
- Habakkuk 2:14: “The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea”.
- 2 Corinthians 4:6: “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”.

Living by Faith

Notice the verbs in Hebrews 11

- v.4: Abel “offered” his sacrifice
- v.5: Enoch “pleased” God
- v.7: Noah “prepared” an ark
- v.8: Abraham “obeyed” and “went out” from Ur
- v.17: Abraham “offered up” Isaac
- v.24: Moses “refused” to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, “choosing” (v. 25) to suffer affliction
- v.27: Moses “forsook” Egypt
- v.28: Moses “kept” the Passover
- v.29: Israel “passed through” the Red Sea etc.

“Looking unto Jesus” (Hebrews 12:2)

- The word translated “looking” only occurs in this place in the New Testament. It has an adverbial prefix (*apo*) signifying “away” or “off”. Thayer, in his lexicon, says that the word means “to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something”.
- Rotherham's *Emphasised Bible* translates the beginning of verse 2 like this: **“LOOKING AWAY UNTO OUR FAITH'S PRINCELY-LEADER AND PERFECTER JESUS”**.
- However fine the witness of these great people of old, recorded in chapter 11, we have to look away from them, and fix our gaze on the Lord Jesus. Their lives of faith were not free from failure; but he never failed.

“The author and finisher of faith”

- The Greek for “author” (*archegos*) indicates “leader” or “captain”. The same word occurs in Hebrews 2:10, Acts 3:15; 5:31. In the LXX the word is used of the chief of a tribe or family (see Numbers 13:2,3; 14:4).
- He is also the “finisher” or perfecter of faith. The reference is not primarily to *our* faith, but to *his*. Here the Writer declares the Lord Jesus to be, as Rotherham puts it, the “Princely-leader and perfecter” of faith. He is the perfect example of faith. He has the pre-eminence; he stands at the head of the line of faith's heroes. He is our supreme example of faith.