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# Church in Campbell Weekly News

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## MESSAGE ONE

### AN INTRODUCTORY WORD

With this message we begin the Life-study of the Minor Prophets (except Zechariah, which we have covered in a separate series of messages). The burden of these messages on the Minor Prophets can be expressed in the following four statements:

- 1) From Bethlehem will come forth the Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from the days of eternity (Micah 5:2).
- 2) The Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights (implying resurrection) for the salvation of God to all the sinners (Jonah 1:17; 2:10; Matt. 12:40-41).
- 3) Christ is the Desire of all nations and will come as the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings (Hag. 2:7; Mal. 4:2).
- 4) Christ will dwell in the holy mountain of Zion, to be a shelter and a stronghold to Israel, and rule among them from Jerusalem (Joel 3:16-17; Micah 4:7).

Micah 5:2 says, "You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, / So little to be among the thousands of Judah, / From you there will come forth to Me / He who is to be Ruler in Israel; / And His goings forth are from ancient times, / From the days of eternity." "The days of eternity" refers to Christ's eternity. Christ is the eternal One, but in His incarnation He became a man in time by being born in the small town of Bethlehem.

Matthew 12:40 and 41 say, "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. Ninevite men will stand up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something more than Jonah is here." As typified by Jonah, Christ, the Son of Man, was in the heart of the earth three days and three nights (implying resurrection) for the salvation of God to all the sinners. At the time of Jonah, God's redemption and salvation spread from Jerusalem to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. It was a surprise to the Jewish prophet Jonah that God would care for the Gentiles and send him to Nineveh, an evil city built by Nimrod (Gen. 10:9-11). The significance of the type of Jonah is that Christ died, was buried, and was resurrected to spread God's redemption and salvation to the far away Gentiles. Haggai 2:7a says, "I will shake all the nations, and the Desire of all the nations will come." Malachi 4:2a declares, "Unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings." Today all the nations are full of darkness and unrighteousness. On earth there is darkness upon darkness, and there is unrighteousness upon unrighteousness. Who can deal with this situation? No one can. Our only hope, our only expectation, is that Christ is coming as the Sun to shine and to swallow the darkness and also as righteousness to be the righteousness to the nations. He will come with healing in His wings to heal the nations from darkness and unrighteousness. We

are waiting for Him as the Desire of the nations and as the Sun of righteousness.

Joel 3:16 and 17 and Micah 4:7 speak of the millennium, the time of restoration. Joel 3:16b and 17a say, "Jehovah will be a shelter to His people / And a stronghold to the children of Israel. / Thus you will know that I am Jehovah your God, / Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain." Micah 4:7b says, "Jehovah will reign over them in Mount Zion / From then on, and even forever." These verses reveal that in the millennium Christ will dwell in the holy mountain of Zion to be a shelter and a stronghold to Israel and will rule among them from Jerusalem. In the time of the restoration Christ will not remain in the heavens but will come physically to the earth, to the Jewish land, to the city of Jerusalem, to Mount Zion, to dwell there and to be a shelter and a stronghold to Israel. This is Christ's future.

In these verses we see many things concerning Christ: His eternity, His incarnation in time, His death, burial, and resurrection for the spreading of God's redemption and salvation to all the nations on earth, His coming as the Desire of nations and as the Sun of righteousness, and His being the One dwelling on Mount Zion to be a shelter and a stronghold to God's elect. As He rules among them, Christ will rule the whole earth from Jerusalem. In this introductory word, let us now go on to consider the composition, the contents, and the central thought of the Minor Prophets.

#### I. THE COMPOSITION

The Minor Prophets are composed of twelve books, from Hosea to Malachi. In ancient times these books might have been considered one book. "The book of the prophets" mentioned by Stephen in Acts 7:42, in his quoting of Amos 5:25-27, might refer to this collective book. Although these books are minor, they complete the divine revelation concerning God's economy in His dealings with His elect—Israel—and the nations, which is covered in detail in the books of the Major Prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. All the books of both the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets were called by the Lord Jesus "the Prophets," in which things concerning Him were written (Luke 24:44). This indicates that the central point of all the prophets is not chastisement or judgment but Christ. When we come to the books of the prophets, we should care mainly for Christ.

#### II. THE CONTENTS

The contents of the Minor Prophets include God's economy in His loving chastisement of Israel, Christ as the centrality and universality of God's economy, and a number of crucial points.

**A. God's Economy in His Loving Chastisement of Israel**  
God's economy in His loving chastisement of Israel, in His governmental dealing with Israel, and in His judgment upon the nations issues in the manifestation of Christ as the centrality and universality in God's economy to bring in the restoration. According to Psalm 2, Christ, God's King, is the Lord, the Possessor, of the earth. The entire world is under Christ as the

"General Manager." He is not only the Lord but also the Manager, managing the entire world situation. At present this is somewhat hidden, but one day He will be manifested. God's economy on this earth will eventually issue in the manifestation of Christ. When this manifestation takes place, all people will see that Christ is the centrality and universality of God's economy to bring in the age of restoration. This is the first aspect of the contents of the Minor Prophets, an emphasis which is also found in the Major Prophets.

**B. Christ as the Centrality and Universality of God's Economy**  
 In the Minor Prophets Christ as the centrality and universality of God's economy is emphatically unveiled. In the Minor Prophets (not counting Zechariah, which reveals other aspects of Christ) this unveiling, this revelation concerning Christ, has sixteen points. We will now briefly consider these points according to the sequence of the facts.

1. In His Eternal Origin

We have pointed out that Micah 5:2c says that Christ's "goings forth are from ancient times, / From the days of eternity." This refers to Christ's eternal origin.

2. In His Human Birth in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2a says that from Bethlehem would come forth the One who would be the Ruler in Israel. This is the only verse in the entire Old Testament which tells us that Christ was to be born in Bethlehem.

3. In His First Coming as the Messenger of God

Malachi 3:1-3 reveals that in His first coming Christ came as the Messenger of God. As God's Messenger, He brought people God's word, God's message. This word, this message, is actually Christ Himself. We may say that He is the letter sent by God to us.

4. In His Union with Israel as the Son of God

Loved by God and Called Out of Egypt by God  
 Hosea 11:1 says, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, / And out of Egypt I called My son." This speaks of Christ in His union with Israel as the Son of God loved by God and called out of Egypt by God. The fulfillment of this prophecy is in Matthew 2. Not long after Christ was born, while He was still in His babyhood, Herod tried to kill Him. But according to the word of an angel, Joseph took Jesus and His mother and departed into Egypt and remained there "until the death of Herod, in order that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 'Out of Egypt I called My Son'" (v. 15).

5. In His Death and Resurrection for the Salvation of God to Sinners

A further aspect of Christ is typified by the prophet Jonah. Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and was vomited out of it for the spreading of God's salvation to the Gentile Ninevites (Jonah 1:17; 2:10). This is a type of Christ in His death and resurrection for the salvation of God to sinners, even to the Gentiles (Matt. 12:39-41).

6. In His Being the Desire of All the Nations

In Haggai 2:7 we see that Christ is the Desire of all the nations. Even though the nations do not know Christ, they still desire to have Christ. All the nations desire to have peace and a good life, but the situation in the world is the opposite of this. Christ is peace; Christ is also the good life. For the nations to desire these things means that they actually desire Christ. He is the Desire of all the nations.

7. In **Elijah's Being Sent before Him** to Prepare the Way for His Coming Back  
 Elijah will be sent before Christ to prepare the way for His coming back (Mal. 4:5-6; 3:1a; Rev. 11:3-4).

8. In His Being Sent by God the Second Time with His Overcomers

"There cause Your mighty ones to descend, / O Jehovah!" (Joel 3:11b). This reveals that Christ will be sent by God the second time with His overcomers. Today Christ is making overcomers, those who will be with Him in His coming back. When Christ comes back, He will come with His overcomers to fight against Antichrist. In the universe there are two sources: God and Satan. God is embodied in Christ, and Satan will eventually be embodied in Antichrist. Both Christ and Antichrist will have an army. In His coming back Christ will descend with His army, composed of the mighty ones, the overcomers. This indicates that at the time of His coming back, Christ and His army will defeat Antichrist and his army.

9. In His Arising as the Sun of Righteousness with Healing in His Wings

As we have seen, according to Malachi 4:2 Christ will arise as the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings.

10. In His **Going Forth as the Dawn** and Coming as the Rain, as the Latter Rain Which Waters the Earth

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**Burdens for Church Prayers**

- Pray Labor Day Conference and the blending and one accord among the churches.
- Pray for the English-speaking testimony and gospel preaching on West Valley College campus.
- Pray for the burden of raising up next generation for building up of the body of Christ.
- Pray for YP that they will be companions with one another to pursue the Lord together.
- For GOW training: Vital groups be raised up, attending prayer meeting, prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth.

**Announcement**

- Morning Revival: 2012 Summer Training Msg #1.
- Bible Reading Schedule, Book of Hosea: S.1:1-11. M.2:1-10, T.2:11-23, W.3:1-5, Th.4:1-10, F. 4:1-19, S.5:1-15.
- Tuesday (9/11) prayer meeting at brother Tien's house.
- 9/22 GOW training at Santa Clara meeting hall.
- 2012 Summer Video Training, registration fee \$75. Every Saturday 8:30am-9:15pm

Message	Date	Notes
Message #1 and #2	9/15/2012	Combine
Message #3 and #4	9/29/2012	Combine
Message #5 and #6	10/6/2012	Brothers
Message #5 and #6	10/13/2012	sisters
Message #7 and #8	10/27/2012	Combine
Message #9 and #10	11/3/2012	Brothers
Message #9 and #10	11/10/2012	sisters
Message #11 and #12	11/24/2012	Combine

