



# MISSION UPDATE

MAY 2018

## RESCUED IN CHRIST—PART 2

JAMES RAFFERTY

**HAS JESUS GIVEN ETERNAL** life to every person? What we can say with biblical clarity is that the life and death of Jesus purchased temporal life for everyone. This is Paul's argument to the Athenians in Acts chapter 17:

*"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring" (Acts 17:24-28, KJV).*

Paul is emphatic that it's only through Christ that we live, move, and are alive. His application of that truth is not just to believers—it's to everyone. Never one, saint or sinner, eats daily food but they are nourished by the body and blood

of Christ. The cross of Calvary is stamped on every loaf, reflected in every water spring.

The wages of sin is death, immediate permanent death (Romans 6:23). The only reason why anyone has life is because of Jesus—the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). Therefore, we understand that our present temporal life cost God Calvary.

Both eternal and temporal life cost the cross of Christ. The difference between the two is our choice.

Yet we also recognize that Calvary is the price paid for eternal life. Both eternal and temporal life cost the cross of Christ. The difference between the two is our choice. We didn't have a choice to be born the first time. We didn't choose to come into this world. But it is our choice to be born again. God has given us this life. We choose eternal life. Both required Jesus' perfect life and substitutionary death. One requires our response in the form of appreciation, an acceptance of the gift given, an RSVP to the love bestowed. Amen. 



# THE MINOR PROPHETS

## A FEAST IN JULY

JAMES RAFFERTY & TY GIBSON

**LIGHT BEARERS CONVOCATION IS** right around the corner, July 3-7. If you've never attended, you're missing out. "Convocation" is a big, old word. We don't necessarily like big words, but we do like old words with big meaning. This word basically means, *A called assembly for a purpose*. The purpose of our convocation is to spend some concentrated time in the Word of God. It's an annual event best characterized as a spiritual feast, and you are hereby invited to the table. This year, seven on-fire preachers will delve into a segment of Scripture that is rarely considered.

Twelve books, twelve men, one message of hope written over a 400-year period. The Minor Prophets cover the history of Israel from pre-exile in Babylon to the return to Jerusalem

(about 800 BC to 400 BC). With the exception of Jonah, Nahum, and Obadiah, these prophets spoke to the tribes of Israel. They brought God's people messages of judgment, hope, and salvation.

The Minor Prophets spoke not only *for* God, but *of* God. Glimpses of Calvary, promises of salvation, and proclamations of God's everlasting love are contained in every book.

Hosea presents Messiah as the Savior-husband of His people, as the One who will ransom us from the dead, as the One who loves with great compassion and will heal those who return to Him.

Joel describes Christ as the One who is the hope and strength of His people.

Amos reveals Him as the One who will restore His people.

In Obadiah, the Messiah is the Deliverer of His people.

Through Jonah, Christ's resurrection is heralded, and He is shown to be the Savior of the nations.

Twelve books, twelve men, one message of hope written over a 400-year period.

Micah declared that God Himself, the One "from everlasting," would be born in the humble, little town of Bethlehem.

Nahum promised that Christ, the Lord, who is a stronghold in trouble, will one day make an utter end of evil.

Habakkuk also points us to our Savior and the gift of salvation. In Habakkuk 3:13 and 18, the Hebrew word for "salvation" is the root word from which the name "Jesus" is derived (Matthew 1:21). In Habakkuk 2:4 and 14, the Savior's salvation justifies the righteous by faith and will someday fill the earth "with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Messiah is powerfully proclaimed in Zephaniah as the righteous One within the nation of Israel, the One who "never fails" to bring justice to light and who casts out the enemy of His people.

Haggai heralds Messiah as the Desire of all nations, the Restorer of the temple's glory, and the One who will overthrow the kingdoms of the world.

Perhaps no Old Testament book is more messianic than Zechariah. In it, Christ is the faithful opponent of Satan, the Branch who builds the Lord's temple and reigns graciously as King and Priest, fully establishing God's covenant of peace. He sets prisoners free from the awful pit of sin. God calls Him "My Shepherd" and "Companion" against Whom was brought the divine "sword."

And finally, Malachi, the prelude to 400 years of prophetic silence, describes Messiah as the Lord's Messenger, the "Sun of righteousness," Who comes with healing in His wings.

The rich prophetic pictures of God's gracious loving heart from the Minor Prophets beckon us forward. Their solemn warnings, merciful judgments, and loving calls to repentance are inextricably blended with prophetic images of Jesus.

We're going to have a feast in July, and we hope you'll join us. 🍷



#### LET'S STUDY TOGETHER!

(Re)discover the gospel in story. Join us here in Oregon, or online from July 3-7. Learn more at [lightbearers.org/convocation/](https://lightbearers.org/convocation/)



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# SPEAKING SCHEDULE

## MAY 18-20

Digging Deeper Young Adults Retreat  
Camp MiVoden, Hayden, ID  
Ty Gibson  
diggingdeeperretreat.com

## MAY 27-31

Carolina Conference of Seventh-day  
Adventists  
Lake Junaluska, NC  
Ty Gibson  
www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting

## JUNE 1-3

Maritime Conference of the Seventh-  
day Adventist Church  
Pugwash, Nova Scotia  
James & Risë Rafferty  
www.maritimesda.ca

## JUNE 6

3ABN Spring Camp Meeting  
West Frankfort, IL  
James Rafferty  
www.3abn.org

## JULY 3-7

Light Bearers Convocation  
Jasper, OR  
www.lightbearers.org/convocation/

see more events at [lightbearers.org](http://lightbearers.org)

## COME STUDY THE MINOR PROPHETS WITH US!

*Light Bearers Convocation | July 3-7, 2018 | Jasper, OR*

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