

ZECHARIAH

Author: Zechariah

Date: 520-518 BC

Zechariah means “The LORD (Yahweh) Remembers.” He was a younger contemporary of Haggai in the post-exilic period. He was commissioned by God to encourage the people to complete the important task of rebuilding the temple. Zechariah uses a series of eight visions, four messages, and two oracles to portray God’s future plans for His covenant people. The first eight chapters were written to encourage the remnant while they were rebuilding the temple; the last six chapters were written after the completion of the temple to anticipate Israel’s coming Messiah. Zechariah moves from gentile domination to messianic rule, from persecution to peace, and from uncleanness to holiness. Of all the Minor Prophets, this book is the most apocalyptic and messianic. Zechariah gives detailed messianic references five hundred years before Christ that were clearly fulfilled in the life of Jesus (3:8; 9:9; 9:16; 11:11-13; 12:10; 13:7). He also uses spectacular apocalyptic imagery and graphic detail telling of the Messiah’s return (6:12; 14:1-21). Zechariah proclaimed a stirring message of hope to his audience—their King is coming!

Theme: Zechariah offered a very positive theme—the temple must be rebuilt for someday the glory of the Messiah would inhabit it. God’s people must continue following God in faithfulness.

Key verses: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from river to the ends of the earth.” (9:9-10)

OUTLINE

- I. The Call to Repentance (1:1-6)
- II. The Visions of Zechariah (1:7 – 6:15)
 - A. The Horses among the Myrtle Trees (1:7-17)
 - B. The Four Horses and the Four Craftsmen (1:18-21)
 - C. The Man with the Measuring Line (2:1-13)
 - D. The Cleansing of Joshua, the High Priest (3:1-10)
 - E. The Golden Lampstand and Olive Trees (4:1-14)
 - F. The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
 - G. The Woman in the Basket (5:5-11)
 - H. The Four Chariots (6:1-8)
- III. The Crowning of Joshua (6:9-15)
- IV. The Questions of Fasting (7:1-8:23)
- V. The Two Oracles of Zechariah (9:1 – 14:21)
 - A. The First Oracle: The Rejection of the Messiah (9:1 – 11:17)
 - B. The Second Oracle: The Reign of the Messiah (12:1 – 14:21)

Application: God keeps His promises, and there is a future message that has not yet been fulfilled—the return of Christ at the end of the age. Think through the implications of this promised spectacular event. **YOUR KING IS COMING**, and He will reign forever and ever. God knows and controls the future. He alone is your hope and security.