

## ***Zechariah Chapter 1***

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### **Introduction:**

**Authorship: Zechariah;** 30 other men in the Bible had the same name, which means **“Remembered of the LORD.” - “Jehovah Remembers.”**

- Zechariah was contemporary with Haggai. Haggai was an old man who had seen the first Temple, Zechariah was a young man, the grandson of Iddo who had returned to Jerusalem 16 years prior. (**Nehemiah 12:4**)
- He was probably born in Babylon and brought to Jerusalem as a child.
- Zechariah’s grandfather Iddo was a priest, which meant that his father Berechiah was a priest, meaning that Zechariah was also a priest, a prophet like Ezekiel and like John the Baptist, both were prophets and priests.
- Haggai’s ministry lasted for about 3 months, Zachariah’s would last for about 2 years.
- Genesis, Psalms, and Isaiah are the most quoted books in the NT, which considering their length and crucial content is not surprising.
- Zechariah is quoted about 40 times in the NT. This is because it is so Messianic in nature, and is one of the most Christ centric of the minor prophets.
- The Bible doesn’t tell us much about Zechariah other than that he was eventually murdered by the religious leaders of the day as described by our Lord Jesus.

**Matthew 23:35** “that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.”

**Written to: The returned exiles, in a series of 8 visions.**

- Chapters 1-8 deals with the restoration of the Temple.
- Chapters 9-14 deal with the kingdom of Christ.

**Time:** during the rebuilding of the Temple around **520 BC**.

**Theme: Focus on eternity.**

- Zechariah has the clearest insight concerning the coming of Jesus Christ than any of the other minor prophets.
- Zechariah prophesies of both the first and the second coming of our Lord Jesus.

- The prophet Haggai explained that their hard times were the result of placing God second, placing their own interests ahead of God's.
- Zechariah picks up the same theme, encouraging the people to rebuild the house of God. Whereas Haggai was more work oriented, Zechariah has his eyes on heaven and the future.

**Key verse: Zechariah 1:14** "So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "proclaim, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal."

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V: 1 Time stamp: 8<sup>th</sup> month, (Marcheshvan, Oct / Nov) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius. Two months after Haggai started.

- **Zechariah:** "Jehovah Remembers."
- **Berechiah:** "Jehovah will Bless."
- **Iddo:** "At The Appointed Time."

**Jeremiah 29:11** "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope / to bring you to an expected end."

- The Word of the LORD came to Zechariah:

**Ezra 5:1** "Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them."

**2 Peter 1:20-21** "20Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

V: 2 That is not a good place to be. They have suffered greatly because of this.

**Jeremiah 21:5** "I Myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger and fury and great wrath."

- Israel revered their fathers, the patriarchs. Abraham who was the friend of God, and Isaac, and Jacob - the fathers. There was Moses, Joshua, and David that followed and served God. These men were good examples to follow, but they were the minority. As Stephen pointed out to the Sanhedrin before his stoning, "the fathers" were generally a stiff necked bunch who missed the will of God and by and large rejected God's Word in favor of their own traditions and paid a heavy price for doing so.

**Mark 7:6-9** “6... Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. 7And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. 8For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. 9He said to them, All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep; your tradition.”

- As we see in this verse, God is not pleased with “the fathers.”
- There were reasons why God sent the Babylonians to conquer and destroy Jerusalem, why so many were killed or taken prisoner. That didn’t happen because He was so pleased with them.

**Jeremiah 2:13** “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns - broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

- They turned away from the True and Living God, they rejected His Word and counsel, they embraced idolatry, and the immorality that went with that.
- He’s forcing them to remember their past and how they got to where they are.

**Psalms 60:1** “O GOD, You have cast us off; You have broken us down; You have been displeased; Oh, restore us again!”

- I believe that their prayer is about to be answered.

V: 3 “*Return to Me and I will return to you...*”

- Haggai had pointed out that the people were not yet totally committed, they hadn’t yet consecrated themselves totally to the LORD. And Zechariah is calling them to it.

**2 Chronicles 7:14** “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

- God has given the invitation; now the ball is in their court:

**James 4:8** “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

The Word spoken to King Asa by the prophet Azariah:

**2 Chronicles 15:2** “... The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.”

This offer has been made before:

**Isaiah 55:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

“*LORD of hosts*” - 3 times in this verse, 53 times in Zechariah.

V: 4 Do not be like your fathers... the problem is most children are like their fathers. That can work for you or against you.

Hezekiah broke away from his father Ahaz's ways, keeping the Passover:

**2 Chronicles 30:6-9** “<sup>6</sup>Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: “Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. <sup>7</sup>And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, also that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. <sup>8</sup>Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. <sup>9</sup>For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.”

V: 5 How did it work out for your fathers? Captivity, death, desolation. Sword, famine, pestilence, and fire...

- The prophets were faithful to warn the people, it's just that the people, the fathers were not faithful to listen or to take heed.
- The prophets won't be around forever, they've got a limited “best used by” date.

**Psalms 90:10** “The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

V: 6 God's Word overtook the fathers in that they have passed from the scene, yet God's Word continues on, it endures forever.

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever.”

- Picture of an anvil, that represents the Word of God that had endured over time with all the broken hammers, the attempts to discredit Gods Word, laying in a pile beneath it.

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the Word of God is quick and powerful / alive, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- It’s all happen’d to us just like God said it would. He has dealt with us in righteousness.

**Psalms 9:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. <sup>8</sup>He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.”

V: 7 Month of “Shebat” - January / February, or 3 months after the first message.

V: 8 A night vision - a man, horses - red, speckled, and white.

- “The Man” - referred to as “My lord” - “the angel” - and ultimately in both V: 11 & 12 as “the Angel of the LORD.” Which in many OT usages is another title describing a “Christophany” or a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus.
- Standing among the myrtle trees:
- Myrtle tree’s represented God’s restoration and redemption. Symbolic of God’s blessing and abundance. His comfort and assurance.

[Describing God’s restoration of Israel:](#)

**Isaiah 41:19** “I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine and the box tree together.”

**Isaiah 55:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

- There is the Man, the Angel of the LORD on a red horse, then behind him were horses: red, sorrel / speckled, and white.

V: 9-11 The prophets asks “... *what are these?*”

- So the angel starts to explain when the Man on the red horse, standing amongst the myrtle trees takes over and explains - referring to the other horses -

“<sup>10b</sup>These are the ones whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth.”

- Who observe and report that the earth is resting quietly, meaning they are at peace. They have caused much death and destruction, caused much suffering - but their conscience is not bothering them - they're at peace, resting.
- God's intent through the prophet and this vision is to impart something to the remnant there in Jerusalem, and I believe to us.
- The vision isn't obvious at first, but the prophet simply asks “<sup>9</sup>What are these?”

**James 1:5** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Example:

**Daniel 7:16** “I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:”

V: 12 The Angel of the LORD acting in an intercessory capacity asks the “LORD of hosts” - how long will you not have mercy on Jerusalem and Judah.

- God speaking to God, Jesus, God the Son speaking to God the Father interceding for man.
- This is actually a familiar scenario for us.

Describing the Messiah, our Lord Jesus:

**Isaiah 53:12** “Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

**Romans 8:34** “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

V: 13-14 So the LORD answered the angel / Angel of the LORD, with good and comforting words.

- He's told to proclaim the response - Thus says the LORD of hosts:

*“I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal.”*

- I'm betting that He still is!

V: 15 Continuing He says that He is angry with those nations that are at ease. When God was angry with Jerusalem He enlisted the Babylonians and other nations as His servants to chasten Judea and Jerusalem but they had an evil intent and went beyond what God wanted.

- This is why in each of the prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and most of the minor prophets it describes not only the judgment upon Jerusalem, but also on the nations all around her that participated in her destruction.

**Isaiah 47:6** “I was angry with My people; I have profaned My inheritance, and given them into your hand. You showed them no mercy; on the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily.” (He goes on to describe the judgment that will befall Babylon because of the cruelty they inflicted upon His people.)

V: 16 God is returning to Jerusalem, meaning His presence will dwell there, and He’s coming with mercy.

**Zechariah 2:10** “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst, says the LORD.”

- The children of Israel deserve judgment, but they’re not going to get what they deserve because God will be merciful to them.

**Isaiah 12:1** “And in that day you will say: “O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.”

- The surveyor’s line be stretched out over Jerusalem because they’re going to re-build it!

V: 17 Zechariah is called to proclaim - “*Thus says the LORD of hosts...*”

- Typically when a city prospers, it spreads out. One of the biggest challenges in Jerusalem today is housing. The fight has been the ever expanding presence of Jewish homes in Jerusalem - which the world is constantly trying to prevent - but under the present government it’s to no avail, they are expanding Jerusalem with Jewish homes and communities.

**Psalms 69:35** “For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah, that they may dwell there and possess it.”

- The Lord will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.

**Isaiah 40:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Comfort, yes, comfort My people! Says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.”

V: 18-19 Horns always speak of power, much like the horns of the altar, or the horns of a ram or male goat, or of a bull.

- In this case the 4 nations that conquered Israel, Judah, and Jerusalem - scattering them to the 4 winds.
- We're not told specifically but we could reasonably speculate a little.
- The Assyrians captured and deported the Northern kingdom, displacing them.
- The Babylonians did the same to the Southern Kingdom.
- We could say the same of Rome after 70 AD and the diaspora.
- If we throw the Medo-Persians, and the Greeks into the mix it completes the 4 world dominating empires described in **Daniel Ch. 7**. Each one conquering Israel in succession until the Kingdom of our Lord takes over.

**Jeremiah 50:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Israel is like scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away. First the king of Assyria devoured him; now at last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has broken his bones. <sup>18</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.”

**Lamentations 2:17** “The LORD has done what He purposed; He has fulfilled His word which He commanded in days of old. He has thrown down and has not pitied, and He has caused an enemy to rejoice over you; He has exalted the horn of your adversaries.” (Now it's their turn / **Genesis 12:3** still applies.)

V: 20-21 The craftsmen are coming to re-build the city. The four horns tore it down, the craftsmen are coming to drive the four horns away and rebuild the city.

- Craftsmen / carpenters - those skilled in a specific trade, artisans, engravers, stone masons, carvers. Gifted by God.
- It seems that there were a great many more horns than just four that came against Jerusalem.
- Babylonians, Assyrians, Moabites, Philistines, Tyre & Sidon, the Edomites, and more.

**Romans 12:19** “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath: for it is written, vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”