

Zechariah - Overview

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, and now 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."

Chapter 1: "The House Will Be Rebuilt."

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

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

- The Word of the LORD came to Zechariah:

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: 4 Do not be like your fathers... they brought destruction upon themselves.

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.

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." He still is!

V: 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.

Chapter 2: "The Apple of His Eye."

V: 4-5 Context: the craftsmen come and drive the 4 horns away from Jerusalem - and now a man with a measuring line begins to measure the width and length of the city.

- When you get out your maps and diagrams of Jerusalem - we always look at the old city, which is very small, then eventually the walls that are added to include more of it, then more after that - it seems like it's always expanding. 
- The historian Josephus tells us that Jerusalem was overflowing with inhabitants that extended beyond its walls and that Herod extended its walls. Today Jerusalem is like LA, constantly pushing outward and expanding - a city without walls.

Ezekiel 36:10-11 “¹⁰I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. ¹¹I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.”

- 1950 population of Jerusalem was 120,800 people.
- 2025 population of Jerusalem is 996,800 people.
- All I can say is that it's happening before our very eyes!

V: 8 God's eye is focused on Israel in whom He delights.

Psalm 121:4 “Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”

Chapter 3: “New Garments.”

V: 3-5 Like us, because of our faith in Jesus, our filthy rags are replaced with His righteousness:

Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...”

V: 8 There will be a wondrous sign; God says He's going to bring forth the BRANCH - the root or offspring of Jesse, that descendant of king David!

Jeremiah 23:5-6 “⁵Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgement and righteousness in the earth. ⁶In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (Yahweh, Jehovah Tsidkenu)

Chapter 4: "Golden Lampstand & Two Olive Trees."

V: 2-3 He sees a golden menorah, the difference being that this one has a golden bowl on top of it that collects the oil, then 7 pipes that distribute the oil to the seven lamps.

- The priests would enter into the Holy Place daily to trim the wicks and fill the lamps with the Holy Oil to keep the lamps burning continuously.
- This is describing that the lampstand is no longer maintained by human effort; the priests coming in regularly trimming the wicks and replenishing the oil to fuel the lamps.
- In this vision the lamps are replenished continually by the two olive trees emitting the olive oil - symbolic of the Holy Spirit replenishing the lampstand.

V: 6 (read)

V: 11-14 What are these two olive trees on either side of the lamp stand and the branches that drip into the golden bowl at the top of it?

- These are the two anointed ones: anointed by the Holy Spirit - who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.... that's fine and dandy, but who are they?
- In the context of Zechariah it would seem that Zerubbabel and Joshua fit the bill.
- When it comes to the prophetic fulfillment, speculation continues.
- In Revelation 11 we have the two witnesses:

Revelation 11:3-4 ³And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.
⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth."

- We know the identity of one of those witnesses is Elijah.
- Who is the 2nd witness? Speculation abounds. Enoch? Moses? Elijah? Joshua? John the Baptist, perhaps some NT figure? Zerubbabel?

Chapter 5: "The Flying Scroll."

V: 1-5 Another vision this time of a flying scroll, 20 cubits X 10 cubits. (30' X 15')

- At times the prophets were told to write down the things they were speaking of, as if to better inform the recipients, in this case of the judgment to come upon thieves and liars.

- It's a flying scroll, indicating it will be swift judgment.

Chapter 6: "Four Chariots, a Crown, and the BRANCH."

V: 1 Another vision four chariots come from from between two bronze mountains. Bronze is the metal of Judgment.

- Chariots and horses. Chariots and horses are generally weapon of war and symbolic of power, or in this case judgment. War, famine, power, strength.
- Red (war), black (famine), white (power), "dappled" horses. "Grisled" in KJV. Referring to something mottled, spotted, speckled, dappled (strength).

V: 11 **Zechariah 3:5** Joshua has already been equipped with a clean turban, now add to the an elaborate crown made up of gold & silver.

V: 12-13 Read.

Chapter 7: "Mercy Instead of Fasting."

- In the past they had made a show of fasting, but now:

V: 8-10 (Read)

Chapter 8: "The Glory of the LORD Will Return."

V: 2-5

V: 14-15 Just as God determined to punish His children for their disobedience and rebellion - that is now passed and He is just as determined to do them good and to bless them.

Jeremiah 31:28 "And it shall come to pass, that as I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to throw down, to destroy, and to afflict, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD."

V: 23

Chapter 9: "Judgment of Israel's Enemies."

V: 1-2, 5-6

V: 9 Prophecy fulfilled in Jesus' Triumphant entry.

Chapter 10: "Judgment Against the Bad Shepherds, Blessing Upon Judah."

V: 3 God will deal with the bad shepherds, the false prophets, and with the false teachers of our day as well.

Ezekiel 34:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, "thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves!" Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

V: 6 God will strengthen Judah, the Southern kingdom, and save the house of Joseph, meaning Ephraim and Manasseh, speaking of the Northern kingdom - combined He will strengthen and save the nation of Israel.

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Chapter 11: "A Broken Staff, Judging the Foolish Shepherd."

V: 1-2 The armies that invaded Israel and Judah usually came down from Lebanon. The Roman army came in through Lebanon into the upper Galilee region, conquering the Galilee with a great slaughter. They then moved to lay siege to Jerusalem in 70 AD.

V: 12-13 Zechariah speaks out a very specific prophecy that would be fulfilled in another 550 years.

[Judas Iscariot:](#)

Matthew 26:15 "and said, what are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver."

Matthew 27:3-10

V: 17 Describing the "foolish shepherd" - who is the Anti-Christ.

- The Bible uses different names to describe this person: the Anti-Christ, the Beast, the Son of Perdition, the man of sin.

Chapter 12: "A Cup of Trembling & Jewish Eyes Opened."

V: 2-3 Jerusalem will be a cup of drunkenness / trembling to all the surrounding peoples - and we're seeing that today. The whole world is focused on Israel and Jerusalem, the majority of United Nations proclamations are about Israel.

Psalm 75:8 "For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down."

- "When (not if) they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem" - at one point the whole world will come against Israel, Jerusalem, and our Lord Jesus.

V: 10 The day of recognition! The day their eyes are opened!

Ezekiel 39:29 "And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel, says the Lord GOD."

Romans 11:25 "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

Chapter 13: "The Cleansing Fountain of His Blood."

V: 1-2 The fountain that is opened for the house of David is the fountain of our Lord Jesus' shed blood that cleanses away our sin and uncleanness.

1 Peter 1:18-19 "¹⁸Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

V: 7 Describes the crucifixion of our Lord.

V: 8-9 The holocaust and refining during the time of Jacob's trouble.

- $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Jews will perish, only $\frac{1}{3}$ will be left.
- They will be brought to that place, finally of recognizing and identifying with their Messiah.

Psalm 50:15 "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Chapter 14: "The Day of the LORD."

V: 1-2 The city taken, Jerusalem taken.

V: 3 As the Lord returns He will fight against those nations and vanquish them!

Isaiah 66:15-16 “¹⁵For behold, the LORD will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many.”

Revelation 19:11 “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.”

V: 4 Upon His return He stands upon the mount of Olives and it divides in two from East to West creating a large valley.

V: 9 The Lord will establish His Kingdom over all the earth. This is the beginning of the 1,000 year Millennial reign of our Lord.

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

V: 12 Describing the judgment against those nations and people that come against Jerusalem - describing the effect of a neutron bomb

V: 16 During the Millennium there will be enforced righteousness.

- Those that survive this judgment of the Lord will repent and worship the Lord and keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- Whoever won't come up to worship the Lord & keep the feast of Tabernacles will be judged with no rain, which means no crops, which means famine.

Psalms 29:2 “Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

V: 20-21 “**HOLINESS TO THE LORD.**” - Priests had this inscription on the mitre worn over their foreheads meaning that their mind was to be “Holiness to the Lord” - consecrated unto Him.

- In the same way the horses, the pots, the bowls before the altar and in Jerusalem shall be dedicated to the LORD.
- Every vessel will have the name of God / the mark of God upon it.

[Writing to the church in Philadelphia:](#)

Revelation 3:12 “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.”

- Zechariah’s prophecy begins with a call to repentance, but it ends with a vision of a holy nation and a glorious kingdom