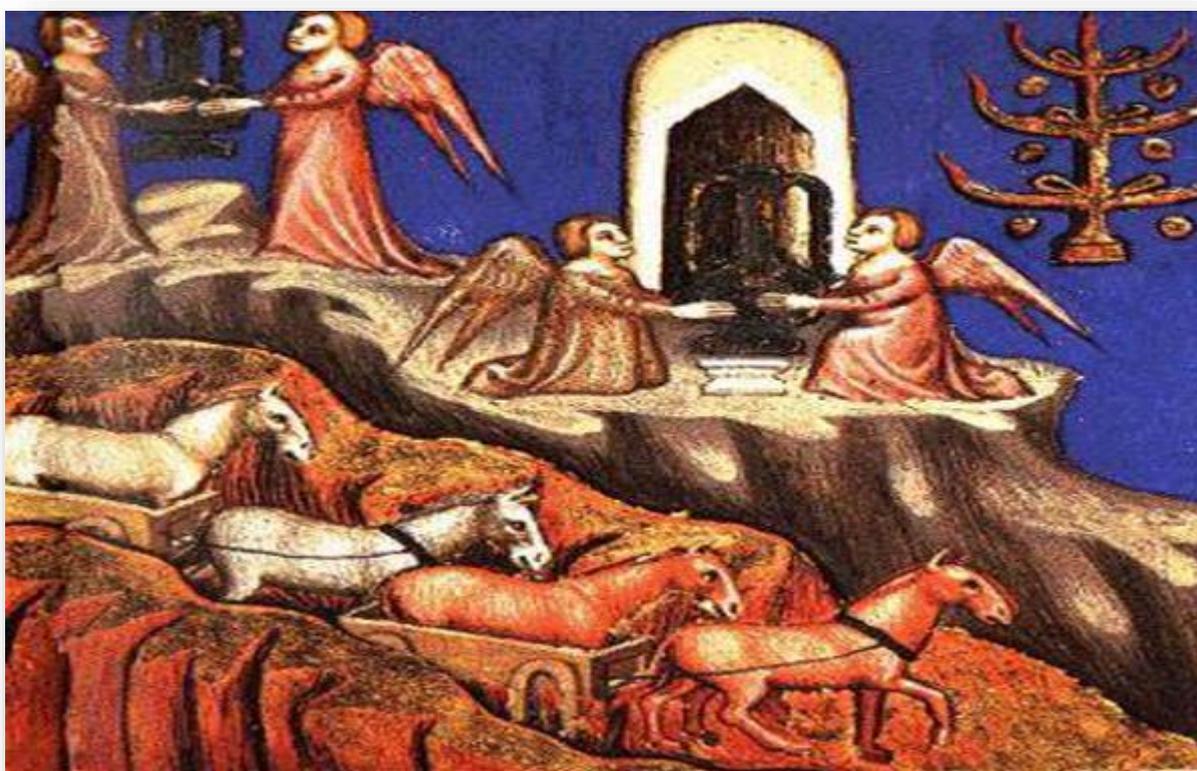


Book of Zechariah

Study BIBLE



Introduction

Book No	38
Name	Zechariah
Written By	Zechariah
Testament	Old
Category	Minor Prophets
Date Written	Approx. 520 - 480BC
Place Written	Jerushalem
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To give hope to God's people by revealing God's future deliverance through the Messiah
History Covered	520 - 480 BC
Chapters	14
Verses	211
Key Verse	<p>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.</p> <p>And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth. (9:9, 10)</p>
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Zerubbabel ❖ Jeshua

Key Places	❖ Jerusalem
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Purpose of the Book

A prophet's primary task was to proclaim the word of the Lord, pointing out sin, explaining its consequences, and calling men and women to repentance and obedience. Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Amos stand with scores of others who faithfully delivered God's message despite rejection, ridicule, and persecution. And at times they were given prophetic visions foretelling coming events.

Nestled near the end of the Old Testament, among what are known as "minor prophets," is the book of Zechariah. As one of three postexilic prophets, along with Haggai and Malachi, Zechariah ministered to the small remnant of Jews who had returned to Judah to rebuild the Temple and their nation. Like Haggai, he encouraged the people to finish rebuilding the Temple, but his message went far beyond those physical walls and contemporary issues.

With spectacular apocalyptic imagery and graphic detail, Zechariah told of the Messiah, the one whom God would send to rescue his people and to reign over all the earth. Zechariah is one of our most important prophetic books, giving detailed messianic references that were clearly fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. The rebuilding of the Temple, he says, was just the first act in the drama of the end and the ushering in of the messianic age. Zechariah proclaimed a stirring message of hope to these ex-captives and exiles—their King was coming!

Jesus is Messiah, the promised "great deliverer" of Israel. Unlike Zechariah's listeners, we can look back at Christ's ministry and mission. As you study Zechariah's prophecy, you will see details of Christ's life that were written 500 years before their fulfillment. Read and stand in awe of our God, who keeps his promises. But there is also a future message that has not yet been fulfilled—the return of Christ at the end of the age.

Zechariah challenges his contemporaries and he challenges us to complete the task God has given us. This entails repentance for neglecting the building up of the house of God. Under the New Covenant, we are to give ourselves to the restoration and cleansing of the temple of God individually and corporately in the church. The glory of God emanating from a restored Zion is not the result of human ingenuity but rather the renewing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Many Bible students believe the promises of a restored Zion are to apply primarily to a cleansed, invigorated church. A fountain of cleansing is opened to all who repent and look to the One who was pierced for them. William Cowper received the inspiration for the hymn “There Is a Fountain” from this beautiful truth in 13:1.

As we live in harmony with God’s purpose to restore what has lain desolate, we rest in the assurance that God sovereignly governs the affairs of Earth. The smitten Shepherd will be worshiped as King, and Israel will receive her Messiah. The task of world evangelization will be accomplished. Jesus shall reign.

As you read Zechariah, think through the implications of this promised event. Your King is coming, and he will reign forever and ever. God knows and controls the future. We may never see more than a moment ahead, but we can be secure if we trust in him. Read Zechariah and strengthen your faith in God—he alone is your hope and security.

Overview

- ❖ 38th book of the BIBLE, Old Testament, 11th of the 12 minor prophets and 16th of the 17 prophetic books
- ❖ No fewer than 29 Old Testament characters shared the name “Zechariah.”
- ❖ Zechariah:
 - Was of the priestly lineage.
 - Was the son of Berechiah.
 - Was the grandson of Iddo.
 - Was born in Babylon and brought to Jerusalem by his father in the return by Zerubbabel.
 - Was called to prophesy at a young age in 520 B.C.
 - Was member of the Great Synagogue, according to Jewish tradition.
 - Was murdered “between the temple and the altar,” according to Matthew 23:35.
- ❖ As was the case with Haggai, God commissioned Zechariah to urge the people to complete the construction of the Temple.
- ❖ Zechariah was a younger contemporary of:
 - Haggai the prophet.
 - Zerubbabel the governor.
 - Joshua the high priest.
- ❖ To portray God’s future plans for His people, Zechariah uses a series of:

- 8 visions
 - 4 messages
 - 2 burdens
- ❖ The first 8 chapters were written to encourage the people while they were rebuilding the Temple.
 - ❖ The final six chapters were written after the completion of the temple and anticipate Israel's coming Messiah

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Zechariah

❖ BRANCH

❖ KANNA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Zechariah is sometimes referred to as the most messianic of all the Old Testament books. Chapters 9–14 are the most quoted section of the Prophets in the passion narratives of the Gospels. In the Revelation Zechariah is quoted more than any prophet except Ezekiel.

Zechariah prophesies that the Messiah will come as the Lord's Servant the Branch (3:8), as the Man the Branch (6:12); as both King and Priest (6:13), and as the True Shepherd (11:4–11). He bears eloquent testimony to Christ's betrayal for thirty pieces of silver (11:12, 13), His crucifixion (12:10), His sufferings (13:7), and His Second Advent (14:4).

Two references to Christ are of profound significance. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is described in detail in 9:9, four hundred years before the event (see Matt. 21:5; Mark 11:7–10). One of the most dramatic verses of prophetic Scriptures is found in 12:10 when in the majority of manuscripts the first person is used: "Then they will look on Me whom they pierced." Jesus Christ personally prophesied His eventual reception by the house of David.

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The most often quoted Old Testament verse in reference to the work of the Holy Spirit is 4:6. Zerubbabel is comforted in the assurances 1) that the rebuilding of the temple will not be by military might or human prowess but by the ministry of the Spirit of

God; 2) that the Holy Spirit will remove every obstacle that stands against the completion of God's temple.

A sad commentary in 7:12 reminds the people of their rebellion against the words of the Lord delivered by the prophets. These words were transmitted by His Spirit.

Although the reference to ruach (spirit/Spirit) in 12:10 is translated by some as God's disposition rather than as the Holy Spirit, others translate it as the Holy Spirit. As such it is one of the most beautiful titles for the Holy Spirit found in Scripture. God's promise is to pour on the house of David and Jerusalem's population "the Spirit of grace and supplication."

This immediately precedes their reception and mourning over the One they had pierced. The preparation of the heart by the Holy Spirit is always antecedent to conversion.

Mega Themes of Zechariah

GOD'S JEALOUSY

God was angry at his people for ignoring his prophets through the years, and he was concerned that they not follow the careless and false leaders who exploited them. Disobedience was the root of their problems and the cause of their misery. God was jealous for their devotion to him.

God is jealous for our devotion. To avoid Israel's ruin, don't walk in their steps. Don't reject God, follow false teachers, or lead others astray. Turn to God, faithfully obey his commands, and make sure you are leading others correctly.

REBUILD THE TEMPLE

The Jews were discouraged. They were free from exile, yet the Temple was not completed. Zechariah encouraged them to rebuild it. God would both protect his workmen and empower them by his Holy Spirit to carry out his work.

More than the rebuilding of the Temple was at stake—the people were staging the first act in God's wonderful drama of the end times. Those of us who love God must complete his work. To do so we must have the Holy Spirit's help. God will empower us with his Spirit.

THE KING IS COMING

The Messiah will come both to rescue people from sin and to reign as king. He will

establish his Kingdom, conquer all his enemies, and rule over all the earth. Everything will one day be under his loving and powerful control.

The Messiah came as a servant to die for us. He will return as a victorious king. At that time, he will usher in peace throughout the world. Submit to his leadership now to be ready for the King's triumphant return.

GOD'S PROTECTION

There was opposition to God's plan in Zechariah's day, and he prophesied future times of trouble. But God's Word endures. God remembers the agreements he makes with his people. He cares for his people and will deliver them from all the world powers that oppress them.

Although evil is still present, God's infinite love and personal care have been demonstrated through the centuries. God keeps his promises. Although our bodies may be destroyed, we need never fear our ultimate destiny if we love and obey him.

Life Lessons in Zechariah

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Growing in godliness is growing in Christ-likeness. Zechariah paints a beautiful, prophetic picture of Jesus, our Messiah. Take time to focus on these prophecies, allow them to permeate your spirit, and ask the Lord to conform you into the image of His glorious Son.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Look to Jesus, the Servant Branch. Jesus is the Branch, the King raised up from the Root of Jesse, from the line of David. He is also a servant. ❖ Follow Jesus' example of deliberate servanthood (Is. 11:1–10; Jer. 23:5; Mark 10:45). ❖ Look to Jesus who, as both Priest and King, carries God's glory. Understand that, as part of the body of Christ, you have been made a king and priest. As such, you have been called to rule and reign with Him and to carry the glory of God.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Look to King Jesus, who came humbly, riding on a donkey. He came to save, not to judge. ❖ Seek to be like Jesus; extend salvation to the world with humility and love (John 12:47). ❖ Make sure when you fast your motives are unselfish ❖ Accompany your fastings with attitudes and actions of righteousness and obedience ❖ Open your ears to prophetic or solemn warnings. ❖ Know that not to do so can result in calamity
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>We are able to love God because He first loved us. In Zechariah, we see the great depth of God’s love for His people.</p> <p>As His children, we are the focus of His compassion, His mercy, His restoration, and His provision. We are His inheritance and the apple of His eye. Let God’s love for you capture your heart and lead you to even deeper devotion to Him (1 John 4:19).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that New Testament believers are now the house of the Lord, the dwelling place of His Spirit. Receive God’s mercy and comfort. ❖ Have confidence that the Lord will complete the good work that He has begun in you. ❖ He will cause you to overflow abundantly (1 Cor. 6:19; Phil. 1:6). ❖ Be secure, knowing that God Himself is a wall of fire surrounding and protecting you individually and His church corporately. Pray that God’s glory will be manifest in you and in His church. ❖ Sing and rejoice, for you are God’s inheritance and He dwells in you. Receive God’s heart of love for you.

<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>Through the Book of Zechariah, we are to understand clearly that our righteousness is not based on our own merit or strength to do good. Rather, it is through the Messiah, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that sin's filth is removed from us. In Jesus, we have a fountain that washes whiter than snow (Ps. 51:7; Rev. 21:5-7).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Stand firm against Satan's accusations, knowing that the blood of Jesus cleanses you. The Lord has both rebuked and defeated this lying accuser (Rev. 12:10). ❖ Acknowledge that all of us have sinned and are covered with filthy garments. Receive God's provision of forgiveness in Jesus Christ. ❖ Understand that God's forgiveness is given, not earned (Is. 64:6; Eph. 2:8, 9). ❖ Ask God to fill you to overflowing with His Holy Spirit. The picture given is one of an endless supply of oil, representing the Holy Spirit. ❖ Do all things by the power of the Spirit. ❖ Receive the Lord's forgiveness, and let Him cleanse you. ❖ Practice honesty, truth, integrity and justice in all interpersonal dealings ❖ Examine your heart and avoid any form of insincerity or hyphocrisy
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>Let faith arise in your heart, remembering that things are not always as they seem. Israel faithfully completed the second temple, but to them it seemed small. God, however, was looking ahead to His church, spread out among the nations and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Today, God's church is still being built. We must pray and work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do not resent the seemingly small beginnings. ❖ Give yourself wholeheartedly to the things that God is asking you to do, and trust that He will bless them and cause them to prosper and grow. Remember, as you are faithful with little, God will entrust you with more (Matt. 25:21). ❖ Ask God to pour out His Spirit so that the world would know that, out of His loving heart, Jesus died for their sins.

<p>in faith that all would come to know Jesus as Messiah, the One pierced for our sin.</p> <p>All the while, we are to look forward to the glorious return of our risen Savior.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Look in faith toward the Day of the Lord, when Jesus will come and all the saints with Him. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20). ❖ Understand that GOD’s refining works are to purify HIS people and to train them in righteousness ❖ Understand that JESUS CHRIST has committed Himself to building HIS church and to completing as a manifestation of HIS glory ❖ Remember that your gift is important to the task and that your privilege is to render all glory to HIM
<p>Steps to knowing GOD and HIS ways</p> <p>Anything that GOD has said HE will do, HE will do. HE does not make empty promises or vain threats. We must now interpret HIS patience and longsuffering toward disobedience as a failure to execute judgement. Rather HE desires our repentance and return. If we will return to HIM HE will complete the work of perfecting HE has promised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that GOD does not issue threats of judgement in vain and HE always keeps HIS Word ❖ Believe and understand that GOD fully intends to bring HIS people to the maturity and prosperity HE has always promised ❖ Believe and accept that GOD forgives the sins of all who repent and turn to HIM ❖ Be clothed with HIS righteousness
<p>A lesson for leaders</p> <p>Remember that GOD’s Word is always true. Teach GOD’s Word faithfully so that the long term result will be fruitfulness and well being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Leaders understand that false prophecies teaching that is erroneous or diluted and personal opinion taught as truth all result in a church that lacks power, stability and security

Praise Points in Zechariah

- ❖ His willingness to turn from his anger (1:15)
- ❖ The blessings of prosperity and fruitfulness (2:4)
- ❖ His provision of the branch, Jesus Christ, to remove our sins (3:8)
- ❖ His church of faithful worshipers, which encompasses the globe (6:15)
- ❖ His ability to do the impossible (8:6)
- ❖ The people who encourage us along our pilgrimage of faith (8:20-22)
- ❖ The fulfilled prophecies that testify to his faithfulness (9:9)
- ❖ The coming restoration and his eternal reign (14:9).

Worship Insights in Zechariah

Worship involves turning to God and celebrating his presence. Worship can take on new intensity and more vivid expression when we incorporate the fine arts in our praise. The arts can help draw people into God's presence, for they interpret and express our faith in a language that transcends words. Zechariah's vivid use of word pictures can be called artistic expression. Some of his most powerful images were later borrowed by the apostle John, the author of the New Testament book of Revelation, to convey the message of the Spirit of Christ.

The arts in worship—music, interpretive readings, movement, visual arts, architecture—when combined with genuine commitment to serve the Lord can be an effective witness. They convey God's presence with his people, attracting others to the church. This resembles the way prophetic expression can compel unbelievers to fall down and worship God, saying, "God is really here among you" (1 Corinthians 14:25).

- ❖ God holds no grudges—he desires to reconcile with each new generation (1:2-4).
- ❖ The Lord always does what he says he will do (1:6).
- ❖ Even the angels intercede for us in prayer (1:12).
- ❖ Worship can be expressed in a variety of ways, from shouting to being silent (2:10-13).
- ❖ Honoring God includes sharing his blessings with others (3:10).
- ❖ The eyes of the Lord search the world for deeds of righteousness (4:10).
- ❖ Worship should be dedicated to pleasing God and not ourselves (7:6).
- ❖ Humility and peace will characterize the Lord's future reign (9:9-10).

An Outline of Zechariah

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I. Calling God's People to Repentance [Zec 1:1-6](#)

- A. We Must Repent if We Wish to Experience All of God's Blessings [Zec 1:3](#)
- B. We Must Be Responsive to the Lessons of History if We Do Not Wish to Be Destroyed [Zec 1:4](#)
- C. We Must Realize How Brief the Time and Opportunities Are if We Wish to Do Anything Positive [Zec 1:5](#)
- D. We Must Count on the Unchangeableness of Our Lord's Word if We Wish to Do Anything that Lasts [Zec 1:6](#)
- E. Conclusion

Eight Night Visions [Zec. 1:7-6:15](#)

II. Waiting in the Calm Before the International Storm [Zec 1:7-17](#)

- A. In Granting the Vision of His Plan for the Future [Zec 1:7-8](#)
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- C. Conclusion

IV. Expecting the Glory of God on Earth [Zec 2:1-13](#)

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E. Conclusion**VI. Receiving God's Spirit for Doing His Work [Zec 4:1-14](#)****A. God's Work Will Be Accomplished by God's Spirit [Zec 4:1-6](#)****B. God's Work Must Not Be Despised for Its Small Beginnings [Zec 4:7-10](#)****C. God's Work Values People More Than Institutions [Zec 4:11-14](#)****D. Conclusion****VII. Purging The Wicked from Israel****[Zec 5:1-4](#)****A. The Evil of the Wicked Unfurled [Zec 5:1-2](#)****B. The Evil of the Wicked Condemned [Zec 5:3-4](#)****C. Conclusion****VIII. Removing Wickedness from Israel [Zec 5:5-11](#)****A. Wickedness Will Be Placed Under Wraps [Zec 5:5-8](#)****B. Wickedness Will Be Housed in Babylon [Zec 5:9-11](#)****C. Conclusion****IX. Executing Judgment on the Gentile Nations [Zec 6:1-15](#)****A. By Appeasing God's Wrath Against the Gentile Nations [Zec 6:1-8](#)****B. By Installing God's Priest-King as Ruler Over All Nations [Zec 6:9-15](#)****C. Conclusion****X. What it Means to Be the People of God: Then and Now [Zec. 7:1-8:23](#)****A. Are We Serving Ourselves or God? [Zec 7:4-7](#)****B. Are We Listening to Ourselves or God? [Zec 7:8-14](#)****C. Are We Believing a Lie or the Truth? [Zec 8:1-17](#)****D. Are We Ready for the Future? [Zec 8:18-23](#)****E. Conclusion****Two Burdens Concerning Israel and the Nations [Zec. 9:1-14:21](#)****First Burden:****XI. Dispossessing the Gentile Powers of the Promised Land [Zec 9:1-8](#)****A. Winning Back the Northern Territory [Zec 9:1-4](#)****B. Winning Back the Southern Territory [Zec 9:5-8](#)**

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XII. Processing in with the Messianic King in Jerusalem [Zec 9:9-10](#)

- A. The Arrival of Our King [Zec 9:9](#)
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- A. His Authenticating Word [Zec 12:1](#)
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- A. The Removal of the False Prophets [Zec 13:2](#)
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- A. Jerusalem Will Serve as the Religious Center of the World [Zec 14:16](#)
- B. All Nations Must Come Annually to Jerusalem [Zec 14:17-19](#)
- C. Holiness to the Lord Will Dominate All Worship [Zec 14:20-21](#)
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