

Zechariah At A Glance

The Book of the Future

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The Man

The name Zechariah means “one whom Jehovah remembers.” He was the son of Berechiah, which means “Jehovah blesses.” Berechiah was the son of Iddo, which means “the appointed time.” Together the names seem to suggest that God will, in the appointed time, remember his righteous remnant and bless them. Often Zechariah is called the prophet of “final things.” He is also called the prophet of “restoration and glory.” His message is primarily spiritual, rather than a simple depiction of Israel’s situation at the time. He is visionary and sees the Royal Root and the Sovereign Stem of Jesse (Messiah) coming.

In addition to being a prophet, Zechariah was a priest (Neh. 12:16). Josephus and other writers say that he was slain in the temple. If so then this would identify him as the Zechariah that Christ spoke of in Mt. 23:35.

The date

1:1 makes this very clear for us. He was a contemporary of Haggai, prophesying after the Babylonian captivity (520-518 BC). His book should be read (chronologically speaking) between chapters four and five of Ezra

Theme – God’s unchangeable purpose in grace toward Jerusalem as His dwelling place among His people

Outline

- I. Introduction – a warning (1:1-7)
- II. Apocalyptic Visions (1:7-6:15)
- III. Interlude (7, 8)
- IV. Prophetic Burdens (9-14)

Lessons Learned

- God’s grace is great
- That grace sends for a son to teach, proclaim and cleanse
- Christ is known by many names and each reflect a complexity of His character
- There is no excuse for not doing His will
- God remembers
- God blesses the righteous who hold to his paths
- God will receive all who will return to Him
- The Messiah will come
- God’s sovereignty
- God desires true worship and worshippers

Keys to Zechariah

Key verse – 1:3

Key word – turn

Key phrase – I am jealous (1:14)

Key thought – God’s love and care for His people

Key Chapter – 14 the return of Christ

Summary

The aim of the preaching of Zechariah is to stir them up to build the temple. The returned exiles had begun this construction, but it had been blocked by the Samaritans for 16 years. As a priest his aim would have been to stir them to restore proper worship of sacrifices and feasts to the Lord. He also wrote to encourage their faith and hope in the coming of a messiah. The book itself consists of various visions and prophecies relating to their repentance and the messiah coming. This is the largest of all of the minor prophets and contains 14 chapters, with 211 verses and 6,444 words.

Christ in Zechariah

- Zechariah had a greater influence on the messianic picture of the NT than any other minor prophet.
- Christ is the “branch” (3:8; 6:2 – cf. Jer. 23:5; 33:15)
- King who rides on an ass (9:9; cf. Mt. 21:4; Jn. 12:15)
- Christ betrayed (11:12f; cf. Mt. 26:15; 27:9f) You will note that specifically mentioned are the 30 pieces of silver and potter’s field.
- Him who they pierced (12:10; cf. Jn. 19:37; Rev. 1:7)
- The Shepherd Smitten (13:7; cf. Mt. 26:31; Mk. 14:27)
- The King who reigns from sea to sea (9:10)
- The fountain for cleansing (13:1)
- Deserted by disciples (13:7; cf. Mt. 26:31, 56)
- Speaking peace to gentiles (9:10; cf. John 1:12)

Ties to Revelation (apocalyptic language)

- The four horsemen (ch. 1; cf Rev. 6:1-8)
- The two olive trees (Ch. 4; cf.Rev. 11:4)
- The candlestick and seven eyes (Ch. 4; cf. Rev. 1:12f)