
Zechariah

Author

Zechariah the prophet urged the Jews to finish rebuilding the Temple. The name Zechariah means the Lord remembers.

Book Background

In 539BC, the Persians began to allow exiles to return to their homelands. About 50,000 Israelites chose to return to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel was the political leader who led them back. Joshua was the religious leader. They rebuilt the altar, and laid the temple foundation around 536BC ([Ezra 6:3-5](#)). Most of those that returned were priests, Levites, and the poor among the people. Once the foundation was in place, the work halted. God used Haggai and Zechariah as prophets to encourage the people to press on in their relationship with God.

Outline

[Zech 1-8] during rebuilding	the chosen people and the Temple
[Zech 9-14] after temple rebuilt	Messiah and His Kingdom

Key Verses

Zech 4:6 ...This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. (NKJV)

Zech 8:3 Thus says the Lord: 'I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' (NKJV)

Compare the Prophets

<i>Haggai</i>	<i>Zechariah</i>
older	younger
spoke first, August 520BC	spoke second, October 520BC
rebuke	encouragement
practical	poetic
4 months	3 years
msg = restart the rebuilding project	msg = look ahead as you rebuild

Book Highlights

Zechariah tells what God can accomplish through obedient and committed individuals (Zechariah the prophet, Joshua the priest, and Zerubbabel the governor).

Zechariah's many visions and images foreshadow the **cross** of Christ (His first coming) and the **crown** of Christ (His second coming).

The 8 Visions

1-horsemen	earth at ease
2-horns	Israel delivered
3-measuring line	Jerusalem inhabited
4-Joshua's attire	Israel cleansed
5-olive trees	temple finished
6-scroll	wicked judged
7-basket	wicked removed
8-chariots	earth subdued

When considering the visions, remember that they tell of future events and that they tell of good news.

Predictions of Christ

Zechariah is packed with predictions related to Christ. Here are some:

- Christ entering Jerusalem on a donkey [[Zech 9:9](#), [Mat 21:4-5](#)]
- Judas betraying Christ for 30 pieces of silver [[Zech 11:12-14](#), [Mat 27:3-9](#)]
- Christ's hands pierced [[Zech 12:10](#)]
- Christ's people saved [[Zech 13:1](#)]
- Christ returning to stand on the Mount of Olives [[Zech 14:3-8](#), [Acts 1:9-12](#)]

Personal Reflection and Application

If you ever waver in your faith, read the book of [Zechariah](#) and notice how God gave Zechariah a vision of both Christ's first and second coming.

Look at the list "Predictions of Christ" earlier in this document. Which are most helpful in reinforcing your faith?

Small Group Conversation Guide

Sometimes we wonder if we have the strength and ability to continue. As a group, read the following passage aloud.

Zech 4:6 ...This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. (NKJV)

- In what way does knowing this help you keep things in perspective?
- What can we do to make sure we operate under the strength of the Spirit instead of our own strength?

Discuss the importance of obeying God's Word rather than focusing on religious rituals [[Zech 7:4-10](#)].

Leadership Principles from Zechariah

Encourage Like Zechariah

People look to leaders for encouragement. Consider [Zechariah 2:3-13](#) for an example. In your role as leader, when you seek to encourage others, are you as specific, personal, hopeful, sincere, and results-focused as Zechariah?

Be a Glove

Secure leaders realize that their own strength is limited. They understand they are like a glove. A glove does nothing without a hand inside. Without the Holy Spirit inside, leaders do nothing of value ([Zech 4:6](#)).

Higher Standard

God holds leaders to a higher standard. Because they have influence, their behaviors affect the behaviors of many others. See the caution in [Zechariah 10:1-3](#). What will you do to be sure that God is pleased with your level of commitment and your example to others?

Look to the Future

Leader, when you get discouraged, look toward the future ([Zech 14](#)). Look around to see others who may be discouraged. Help them get a vision of the future also.

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

01. How God vowed to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple	02. What kind of wall God promised to protect Jerusalem
03. How Joshua's cleansing was a sign of future cleansing	04. What was to enable Zerubbabel to finish the temple
05. What two sins were cursed on the flying scroll	06. How "the Branch" (Messiah) would be king and priest
07. How people prayed and fasted but did not obey God	08. How God promised to bless a rebuilt Jerusalem
09. How the King was to enter Jerusalem	10. How God promised to return Israel from dispersion
11. How 30 pieces of silver pointed to Jesus	12. How Israel will mourn how they treated the Messiah
13. What happens when a shepherd falls	14. How all nations will someday worship at Jerusalem