

The Book of Zechariah

The Spiritual Temple

“Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD.’” (6:12)

Background

- **Zechariah had returned with Zerubbabel from Babylonian captivity. (Nehemiah 12:4,16)**
- **He was a priest from the house of Levi.**
- **God chose him to help Haggai stir up the people to rebuild the temple and restore true worship. (Ezra 5:1,2; 6:14,15)**

Background

- Zechariah means “**whom the Lord remembers.**”
- He began prophesying in 520 B.C.
- Possibly, **chapters 1-8** were spoken at that time, while **chapters 9-14** contain prophecies spoken later in his life.
- **Main theme—God’s remembering love and providential care for His people.**

Background

- **Zechariah differs from other Minor Prophets in several aspects:**
 - It contains many visions through which God taught the prophet and the people.
 - Angels played a large part in the early chapters. An “interpreting angel” and “the angel from the Lord.”
 - Zechariah is the most strongly Messianic book of the 12 Minor Prophets.
 - He spoke of the Kingdom to come under “the Branch.”

Keys to Zechariah

- **Key words**
 - Remember and obey
- **Key phrase**
 - “The Lord of hosts”
- **Key chapter**
 - Chapter 14
- **Key verses**
 - 1:3; 3:2

- *“Therefore say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts: Return to Me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.”*
- *“And the LORD said to Satan, the LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”*

The Book's Message

- **Eight Night Visions:**
 - Concerning rebuilding the temple
 - Encouraging the governor--Zerubbabel
 - Regarding the evil heathen nations
 - Regarding God's love and care for them
 - Need to overcome their complacency and complete the temple

The Book's Message

- Vision 1—The rider on the red horse (1:7-17)
 - The earth appears to be at rest, but God's eyes are on the other nations.
 - God had not forgotten His people.
 - He has heard their cry; will enable them to rebuild Jerusalem and punish the heathen.
 - *“I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees in the hollow; and behind him were horses: red, sorrel, and white.” (1:8)*

The Book's Message

- **Vision 2**—The four horns and four carpenters (or smiths): 1:18-21
 - God will break the power of Israel's oppressors
 - Horns are symbols of power and here represent the rulers that scattered Judah.
 - The carpenters symbolize the destruction of those powers.
 - *“And I said to the angel who talked with me, ‘What are these?’ So he answered me, ‘These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.’ Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.” (1:19,20)*

The Book's Message

- Vision 3—The man with the measuring line:
2:1-13
 - God stopped the young man from laying out the city walls.
 - Jerusalem, a city without walls
 - God would protect her with “*a wall of fire about her.*”
 - “*For I, says the LORD, will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.*” (2:5)

The Book's Message

- **Vision 4—Joshua, the high priest, appears in filthy garments: 3:1-10**
 - Satan accuses Joshua
 - Replace the filthy garments with clean clothes, signifying the priesthood would be cleansed and forgiven.
 - Changed priesthood becomes perpetual in “my servant the Branch.”
 - ***“...Take away the filthy garments from him. And to him He said, See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.” (3:4)***

The Book's Message

- Vision 5—The golden candlestick with seven lamps and two olives trees: 4:1-14
 - The seven candlestick lamps represent the Lord's word.
 - Two olives trees may be Joshua and Zerubbabel (civil and religious leaders).
 - Temple will be rebuilt, but not without God's help.”
 - *“So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.” (4:6)*

The Book's Message

- Vision 6—The flying scroll: 5:1-4
 - This vision answers the question, how will crime be removed?
 - The scroll flies over the land, and its curse destroys the houses of those who steal and swear falsely.
 - ***“...This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according to this side of the scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according to that side of it.” (5:3)***

The Book's Message

- **Vision 7—The woman sitting in a basket: 5:5-11**
 - This too shows God's condemnation of wickedness among the people.
 - The woman represents wickedness. She is borne, in large dry measure, to Shinar.
 - With the rebuilt temple, evil will be removed from the land.
 - *“Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket; then he said, ‘This is wickedness!’ And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.” (5:7,8)*

The Book's Message

- **VISION 8—The four chariots and two mountains: 6:1-8**
 - The four chariots between the bronze mountains go forth to patrol the earth.
 - The mountains could be Sinai and Calvary.
 - God's protecting providence--“the four spirits of the heavens” --bring peace to the earth's four corners.
 - *“Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze.” (6:1)*

The Book's Message

- **The Messiah and His kingdom**
 - Interspersed throughout the book, especially the latter part; constant pointing to coming kingdom and its King.
 - God gave Zechariah special insight into this glorious hope.
 - The prophet describes the symbolic crowning of Joshua, as he looks forward to the coming of the Messiah, our High Priest.
 - *“Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.” (6:11)*

The Book's Message

- **The Branch:**
 - The LORD would bring forth a servant—the Branch.
 - The Branch would build Jehovah's spiritual temple.
 - He would set and rule upon the throne as both “King and Priest.”
 - ***“Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD; yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.’” (6:12,13)***

The Book's Message

- **The King:**
 - The King's entrance into the city.
 - Riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
 - His rule will be a rule of peace.
 - ***“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (9:9)***

The Book's Message

- **The Shepherd:**
 - Foresaw the shame in selling Jesus, the good shepherd, for 30 pieces of silver.
 - Paltry price for a wounded slave.
 - Saw the great insult that would come upon the Lord.
 - ***“Then I said to them, ‘If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.’ So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.” (11:12)***

The Book's Message

- **He Who Was Pierced:**
 - In piercing Jesus at the crucifixion, they pierced God.
 - Jesus was the divine Son of God.
 - *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (12:10)*

The Book's Message

- **The Fountain for Sin Opened:**
 - The sacrifice of the one who was Son to both God and David opened the fountain for sin.
 - Salvation came through Christ's blood.
 - Wonderful things were coming!
 - *“In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.”*
(13:1)

The Book's Message

- **Rejected and Smitten Shepherd:**
 - His death would be a rejection of His care.
 - His death would cause the sheep to be scattered.
 - *“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion, says the LORD of hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones.” (13:7)*

Lessons for Us

- **In all that God did throughout the Old Testament, He was looking to greater work under Christ.**
- **The spiritual temple surpasses the old temple.**
- **God will restore the stream of blessing on people who build HIS HOUSE.**
- **A House of Worship is necessary for the proper development of spiritual religion.**
- **In God's plan true religion is destined to become universal.**