

Snapshot of Zechariah

The Prophet:

The name Zechariah was a rather common name among the Jews and means “Jehovah remembers” or “whom Jehovah remembers.”

Zechariah was the son of Berachiah, the son of Iddo.

Zechariah was not only a prophet but also of a priestly family. He was born and reared in Babylon during Judah’s captivity there.

The Date:

Zechariah returned from Babylon under the leadership of Zerubbabel in 536 BC. He began prophesying in about 520 BC. He was then a contemporary of Haggai.

The Message:

Zechariah is the longest of the Minor Prophets and probably the most difficult of them.

The message was designed to encourage the people. The success of God’s purposes is assured. Man must therefore submit to the will of God.

The book of Zechariah is highly Messianic.

The Book:

The first section of the book (1:1-6) calls for the people to turn to God in sincere repentance. The prophet urges them to be better than their fathers had been.

The second section of the book (1:7—6:15) is a series of night visions. These visions are a comprehensive revelation concerning the future of the people of God and His kingdom among men.

The third section (7:1—8:23) serves to drive home a fundamental point concerning man’s relationship to God. Nothing can be substituted for complete and sincere obedience to the commands of God.

The final section of the book (9:1—14:21) is designed to reassure the people of God concerning the future. In the conflict between Jerusalem and the heathen nations Jerusalem was to be given the victory.

Outline of Zechariah

- I. A Call to Repentance (1:1-6)
- II. Eight Visions and Their Meanings (1:7—6:15)
 - A. Riders among the myrtles (1:7-17)
 - B. Four horns and four smiths (1:18-21)
 - C. The man with the measuring line (2:1-13)
 - D. Joshua tried and acquitted (3:1-10)
 - E. The golden lampstand and two olive trees (4:1-14)
 - F. The flying scroll (5:1-4)
 - G. The woman in the ephah (5:5-11)
 - H. The four chariots (6:1-8)
 - I. Climax of the visions in the crowning of Joshua (6:9-15)
- III. The Question of Fasting (7:1—8:23)
 - A. The fast days of Israel (7:1-7)
 - 1. Occasion for the prophecy (7:1-3)
 - 2. Fasting is useless without obedience (7:4-7)
 - B. The first half of the Lord's answer (8:1-23)
 - C. The second half of the Lord's answer (7:8-14)
- IV. Prophecies Concerning the Nations and The Kingdom Of God (9:1—14:21)
 - A. The first message (9:1—11:17)
 - 1. The heathen kingdoms to fall (9:1—10:12)
 - a. God's judgment on the nations (9:1-7)
 - b. The Messiah and His reign (9:8-10)
 - c. The redemption of His people (9:11—10:12)
 - B. The second message (12:1—14:21)
 - 1. Conflict and victory for God's people (12:1—13:9)
 - 2. Final triumph (14:1-21)

Lessons for Today:

1. There is a conflict going on between God and Satan, and the victory will belong to God.
2. Believers must always look to the final recompense of the reward and trust in God even in the midst of dire circumstances.
3. Fasting or other external forms will not do as a substitute for obedience.