

38 – Zechariah: Apocalypse of the Old Testament

- **Zechariah** = “Whom Yahweh Remembers.” **Son of Berechiah** = “Yahweh Blesses.” **Son of Iddo** = “The Appointed Time.” God remembers and blesses at the appointed time. What a lesson just in these names! Zechariah would have been born in Babylon, and returned to Israel with the remnant that came back from Babylon. Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai the prophet, Zerubbabel the governor, and Joshua the high priest (Ezra 5:1-2; Zech 3:1; 4:6; 6:11). There are 29 “Zechariahs” in the OT; at least 30 total.



- Zechariah is known as the **apocalypse of the Old Testament**. Apokalupsis = the unveiling, revelation. This is probably the **most Messianic book of the OT**, and second only in Messianic importance to Isaiah. Zechariah contains more Messianic prophecies than all of the other “Minor” prophets put together. It is the longest of these 12 books of prophecy and it is the most frequently quoted: 71 quotes or allusions in NT; 1/3 of these in the Gospels; 31 in Revelation; 20 from Chapters 1-8; 8 from Chapters 9-14. It presents information about the coming Messiah: ***The Branch who will remove iniquity; The Stone; His Throne; His Temple; The Coming King; The Shepherd; The Triumphal Entry, on a donkey; His Betrayal for 30 pieces of silver; His Crucifixion, and His Second Coming: “look upon me whom they pierced.”***
- This book also focuses on the **Day of YHWH**, the **return of Israel in unbelief**, and their passing through the **Great Tribulation**; the **siege of Jerusalem** by the confederated Gentile powers, and **their deliverance** by King Messiah.
- Zechariah gives us what might be the only **physical description of the Antichrist in the Scripture**. It also has graphic passages that seems to suggest a **neutron bomb** (or similar) in chapter 14. It also may hold the solution to the **enigma of “Mystery Babylon”** and its relation to literal Babylon in prophecy.
- The text suggests that Zechariah was a young man when he received his visions in Chapters 1-6. Chapters 9-14 were probably written much later, in Zechariah’s old age. If Zechariah was 30 years old when he wrote the 1st eight chapters, he must have been 70 when he wrote the last six chapters. His age, and the changes in political circumstances (the revolt of Egypt in 486 B.C. and death of Darius in 485 B.C.) account for the differences in style, outlook, and themes between Chapters 1-8 and 9-14. The Greek manuscript found in the **Dead Sea Scrolls** contains the end of Zechariah 8 and the beginning of Zechariah 9, with no gap or space between the two chapters.
- Zechariah continued to minister long after Haggai’s brief ministry. Zechariah’s ministry may have stretched as long as 50 years, from about 520 B.C. to 470 B.C.
- **Jesus referenced Zechariah and his martyr’s death** in Matthew 23:31-36. He speaks to the Jewish leaders here: ***“Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.”***

Highlights

Chapters 1-6 Visions and Dreams	Chapters 7-8 Religious Ritual – God’s Plans	Chapters 9-14 Prophecies about Coming Messiah	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction and warning (1:1-6) ▪ 10 visions all in one night (1:7-6:15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rightness of ritual ▪ God’s overriding plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First Coming (ch 9-11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Second Coming (ch 12-14)

Who is Speaking? Adonai Tsavaot—52X (Lord of Hosts) THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY AND POWER

Chapter 1: Visions Begin—Plan for Israel (History in Advance)

- Call to Repentance
- **Rider on red horse** among the Myrtle Trees AND Re-Con Angels
God has promised destruction of Israel's enemies and glory to be returned to Jerusalem, but it's not happening yet (at that time in their history, after return from exile). God (Jesus) is always watching over Israel. God is jealous over Israel, and will do what He said He would do.
- **4 Horns** = 4 world powers (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome). Gentile domination, Jews scattered
A history lesson in a nutshell. There will be 4 main powers that will persecute and scatter Israel. Aligns with Daniel 2, 7 (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome....). At this time in their history, they are under the dominion of the 2nd horn (Persia). God reveals that world powers will continue to scatter Israel.
- **4 Craftsmen** (Carpenters?) = each world power will destroy the one before it. Persia, Greece, Rome...Jesus?
The history lesson continues, very broad overview of Israel's persecution, and God's plan for history. God will use each of the 4 powers to destroy the one before it. Israel's enemies will be destroyed, but by another power that will rise up to replace it. (Persia conquers Babylon, Greece conquers Persia, Rome conquers Greece....then 4th Carpenter conquers revived Roman empire (Jesus is 4th Carpenter)

NOTE: Chapters 1 and 2 are a sort of "historical capsule" of the general plan (God's plan from current time after exile, until Jesus returns in glory)



Chapter 2: Visions Continue—Jerusalem Expanded

- A **Man with a Measuring Line** = Jerusalem expanded, no walls
- Get out of Babylon!
- Second Coming prophesied (before the first!)
- Millennial Kingdom, people from all nations will become God's people
- **GOD'S PLAN FOR THE JEWS IN A NUTSHELL** (Zechariah 1-2)
Jerusalem will be greatly expanded (near, far, FAR-FAR!) beyond city walls. Reminder that Israel's enemies are in the NORTH, and all of God's people should get out of the North (also stands for the world), as judgment is coming on them. Jesus will be sent "to the nations which plunder you" - He will bring judgment. City walls will not be necessary, as God will be her protection (a ring of fire around her). Jerusalem will be God's throne, many nations joined together as God's people.

NOW THE VISIONS ARE EXPANDED IN GENERAL SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATIONS OF HIS PLAN OF REDEMPTION, JUDGMENT AND FULFILLMENT OF PROMISES.

Chapter 3: Vision Continue—Courtroom Drama

- Joshua, High Priest, is "excrement bespattered" standing before Angel of the Lord (Jesus!) with the accuser pointing out his filth
- Joshua is symbolic for Israel, and all believers as priests of God
- God provides clean clothes for priest, for each of us (Jesus' atonement)
- Obedience still required...
- Messiah is coming (branch of Jesse)
- A stone with 7 eyes (all knowing God)
Joshua (each of us) is besmirched—dirty before a holy God. Satan accuses—he's right! God will save, ("pluck from the fire" of judgment). Messiah is coming, He will provide clean clothes for Joshua (and us). Accuser cannot accuse anymore, all iniquity removed (in one day—both His death and Second Coming)

- We are dirty before God but He will make us clean
- Nothing happens except by God's Spirit and His Power
- He has readied a plan, and all barriers will be removed
- His Word is alive, active and will judge
- Wickedness abounds, but is awaiting judgment
- Judgment of the Gentile Nations will come at Armageddon
- Jesus will be crowned and will reign over all the nations

Chapter 4: More Visions—Unusual Lampstand And 2 Olive Trees

- **Menorah** = symbol of nation of Israel, ALSO Messiah and branches
- Oil, most defined symbol in scripture = Holy Spirit
- God will do it all, by His Spirit, not by man's efforts
- All obstacles removed. Zerubbabel will begin AND finish temple
- The "seven" (eyes of Zechariah 3:9) rejoice
- **"Two Anointed Ones?"** Revelation 11, Two Witnesses?

Israel was to have been light bearer to nations, failed; will have opportunity to do so again. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts" - all these things, all history as planned by God, will happen not by man's power, but by God's Spirit—God will supply all that is needed. All obstacles will be removed by God (both for this rebuilding of Temple, and future events) Two anointed ones (perhaps witnesses of Revelation 11? Moses and Elijah?) (some think relates to Isaac and Ishmael for Jews and Gentiles united as one in Jesus). God's Spirit and His anointed ones are ready and unlimited in power and strength to do God's will.



Chapter 5: More Visions—A Flying Scroll and a Woman in a Basket

- **Flying Scroll** = Word of God
- Curse = the Law condemns to death, Judgment of Israel
- Leprosy a type for SIN
- **Woman in the Basket**—Harlot? Revelation 17
- WICKEDNESS = Everything opposed to God, Lawlessness, False Religion, things (material goods, power) more important than God
- Land of Shinar = Babylon (future rising, rebuilding?)

Scroll is God's Word, alive, active, dynamic and moving. Word is also the Law, which will judge all men, beginning with House of Israel. (Tale of Two Cities, City of Man/Enemy-Babylon, and City of God-Jerusalem. Carried by "uncleanness" (storks were unclean to Jews, this means dirty in God's sight) False religion (harlotry), commercial system in opposition to God. Basket awaiting a place to settle, then ultimate judgment (perhaps speaks to rebuilding of Babylon so it can be finally destroyed?) God's people repeatedly told to "come out of her!" (Babylon, wickedness)



Chapter 6: Visions End, Future Prophecies

- The **Four Chariots** (horses of judgment, Revelation)
- Mountains of Bronze = judgment
- 4 Spirits of Heaven = angelic powers waiting for God's judgment signal
- *Foresees ultimate judgment of all Gentile powers, not just historical destruction of the 4 world powers. Looks ahead to Armageddon, "between the 2 mountains." Horses of judgment perhaps aligned with those in Revelation 6 (famine/inflation, war, conquest, disease and death) end time conditions. Israel's enemies (north and south) ultimately judged, God's Spirit then rests, promises are fulfilled. Vision ends here.*
- **Crowning of Joshua** (type for Jesus, Yeshua)
- Prophecy of the BRANCH = Jesus, Messiah, referred to as BRANCH
- "Peace" between the two positions of priest and king

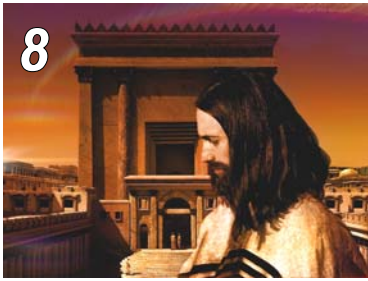
This event is the culminating conclusion of all containing in the visions: The crowning of High Priest Joshua which stands for the Messiah being crowned and serving dual roles of High Priest and King over His Millennial Kingdom. All promises to Israel will be met at this time.



Chapter 7: The Question about Fasting

- For God, or for us? About God, or about us? Not about ritual, but rightness of heart before God
- Warning not to fall in same trap as forefathers
- *When the heart is right, the ritual is right. When the heart is wrong, the ritual is wrong. God's purpose concerning Jerusalem unchanged by any ritual.*





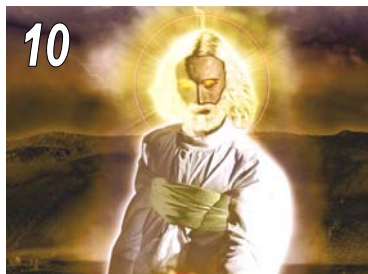
Chapter 8: God will Keep His Promises about Israel

- Continues answer—your rituals have no bearing on My promises!
- Promises of Millennial Kingdom, God will bring His people back to Israel
- Instructions for what to do
- God’s people will be exalted to their rightful place among the nations
- God’s people will be blessed during the Millennium



Chapter 9: The Imminent Destruction of Israel’s Enemies

- Remarkable prophecies about Alexander the Great (exact route!)
- Prophecy of the One coming on a donkey
- ISRAEL’S King is coming...first coming
- Future deliverance of Israel, Armageddon, God’s victory



Chapter 10: Future Strengthening of Judah and Ephraim

- Another scattering coming (Great Diaspora, 70 AD)
- But, a regathering, too!
- Victory for God’s people over their enemies
- God’s people will know Him and worship Him and find their strength in Him once again



Chapter 11: Good Shepherd Rejected, Foolish Shepherd Will Come

- Get ready for destruction! (Israel)
- Israel’s no-good “shepherds”
- God’s Two Staffs—“Beauty” and “Bonds” - Covenant Broken
- Prophecy about Judas’ betrayal
- The foolish shepherd = AntiChrist
- Possible physical description of the AntiChrist???



Chapter 12: Israel in the Last Days

- Jerusalem a “Cup of Trembling”
- National Conversion of Jews, Jews will call upon God
- Great mourning and grieving over former rejection of Messiah



Chapter 13: Israel Will be Cleansed, But in Hard Times

- National Conversion continues, No more false prophets
- Messiah’s death prophesied
- Then the scattering...and then a gap of time.
- Then the terrible times come: (“Time of Jacob’s Trouble,” Tribulation)
- The 1/3 Remnant will call on God

Chapter 14: The Culmination of Man’s History

- Battle for Jerusalem, Armageddon
- Return of Messiah, with the saints!
- Major cosmic/earthly events, changes in planet, curse ended (?)
- Judgment and Wrath
- Millennial Kingdom (Feast of Tabernacles fulfilled)
- HOLINESS will define God’s Kingdom

