

I. NAME AND PERSONALITY OF THE PROPHET.

- A. The name *Zechariah* means "Jehovah remembers" or "whom Jehovah remembers."
- B. Zechariah was not only a prophet but also of a priestly family (1:1).
- C. He was a young man (unlike Haggai) with zeal and energy.
- D. His ministry covered at least 2 years and probably more.
- E. Zechariah has more to say about Christ than any other of the "minor prophets."
- F. Zechariah's preaching closely follows the work of Haggai. Approximately 2 months apart.
Compare Haggai 1:1 and Zechariah 1:1.

II. DATE OF THE BOOK AND THE PROPHET.

- A. From 520BC to 516BC and Zechariah preaches when the temple is finished and continues his preaching after that!
- B. Zechariah is the longest of all of the "minor prophets" (Hosea through Malachi).
- C. This book is designed to encourage the people to keep building the temple and look ahead to many future blessings.
- D. The temple was not yet built when Zechariah began his ministry; Jerusalem and its walls were in ruins and the people were discouraged.

III. OUTLINES OF THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH.

- A. The book may be outlined as follows:
 - 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 (7:8-14).
 - C. The second half of the Lord's answer (8:1-23).
 - 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).
 - a. Conflict (12:1-9).

- b. Grace (12:10-14).
 - c. Redemption through Christ (13:1-9).
- 2. Final Triumph (14:1-21).
- B. The book has four main sections, listed as follows;
 - 1. First section (1:1-6) is a call for the people to turn to God in sincere repentance.
 - 2. Second section (1:7-6:15) is a series of night visions and their explanations.
 - 3. Third section (7:1-8:23) serves to drive home a fundamental point concerning man's relationship to God.
 - 4. Fourth section (9:1-14:21) is designated to reassure the people of God concerning the future.

IV. THE THEME AND MESSAGE OF THE BOOK.

- A. The theme of Zechariah is two-fold:
 - 1. **Build the temple and God will bless you** (Chapters 1-8).
 - 2. **The Messiah is coming** (Chapters 9-14).
- B. The message of the book (for Christians) is **the nature of the New Kingdom to come**. The last six chapters (9-14) are totally Messianic in content.
- C. Zechariah is the most difficult to understand of all of the "minor prophets."
- D. Pictures of Christ found in the book are;
 - 1. The Messianic king (9:9-10).
 - 2. The rejected Shepherd (11:4-7; 13:7-9).
 - 3. Christ's divine sovereignty (14:9).
- E. The king is coming. Chapter 3:8 through chapter 14 gives us 10 attributes of Jesus:
 - 1. Christ the branch (3:8).
 - 2. Christ the servant (3:8).
 - 3. Christ's triumphal entry on a colt (9:9).
 - 4. Christ the good shepherd (9:16; 11:11).
 - 5. Christ the smitten shepherd (13:7).
 - 6. Christ betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (11:12-13).
 - 7. Christ's hands pierced (12:10).
 - 8. Christ's people saved (12:12; 13:1).
 - 9. Christ wounded in the house of His friends (13:6).
 - 10. Christ will come in judgment upon Israel (14:1-21).
- F. The blessings of the kingdom of Christ are:
 - 1. The extent of the kingdom, all the earth (14:9).
 - 2. Abundant material blessings (10:1).
 - 3. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (12:10).
 - 4. Revelation of the pierced Messiah (12:10; 13:7).
 - 5. Kingdom set up on earth (14:9-11).
 - 6. Gospel will go to the Jew first, then the Gentile (12:7).
 - 7. Everything and everyone will be holy (14:20-21).

V. THE EIGHT VISIONS OF ZECHARIAH.

From: <https://www.gotquestions.org/visions-in-Zechariah.html>

- A. One, The horseman among the myrtle trees (1:7-17):
 Zechariah sees a man and horses among the trees. The man explains that they had gone throughout the whole earth and found peace. An angel then tells the prophet that God still loved Israel and would restore Jerusalem.
 Verse 17 summarizes: "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.'"

- B. Two, The four horns and four craftsmen (1:18-21):
Zechariah is shown four horns and four craftsmen. The angel tells him that the horns are four kingdoms that opposed Israel (Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, and Medo-Persia).
And the craftsmen are coming to “throw down these horns”; i.e., God would defeat Israel’s enemies.
- C. Three, The surveyor or the plumb line (2:1-13):
Zechariah sees a man holding a measuring line. When the prophet asks the man where he is going, the man says he is going to measure the city of Jerusalem.
This vision represents God’s promise that Jerusalem will be expanded and its people will one day live in safety as the Lord judges Israel’s enemies.
- D. Four, The vision of Joshua the high priest (3:1-10):
Zechariah sees Joshua the high priest standing in filthy clothes; he is before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan stands to the side. Satan is rebuked, and Joshua is given rich, clean clothes.
God Himself explains the vision: Joshua will be blessed in his service to the Lord. The vision is also symbolic of Israel’s restoration as God’s “priestly” nation (cf. Exodus 19:6).
This vision of Joshua ends with a prediction of the ultimate high priest—the coming Messiah, symbolized by a Branch and an all-seeing Stone (see 3:8-9).
- E. Five, The golden lampstand and two olive trees (4:1-14):
An angel shows Zechariah a golden lampstand being fed oil from two olive trees. The two olive trees are symbolic of Zerubbabel the governor of Judah and Joshua the high priest. The golden lampstand represents the temple and temple-worshiping community.
God was making the point that He would once again work through His people to lay the foundation of the temple and finish the work. Important verse in 4:6.
- F. Six, The flying scroll (5:1-4):
Zechariah sees a large scroll, written on both sides, flying over the whole land.
This vision speaks of God’s judgment upon those who disobeyed His law.
- G. Seven, The woman in the basket (5:5-11):
The angel shows the prophet a basket that could hold an ephah (three-fifths of a bushel). On the basket is a lead cover. The angel opens the basket to reveal a woman sitting inside. The angel says, “This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land,” and seals the basket again with the heavy lid. Two other women appear with stork-like wings; they pick up the basket and carry it to Babylon.
This strange vision pictures suppressed wickedness to be banished to Babylon where it would eventually be freed (cf. Revelation 17).
- H. Eight, The four chariots (6:1-8):
Zechariah sees four horses of different colors pulling four chariots. They quickly run through the entire earth, with the result that God’s Spirit has “rest.”
This vision represents a judgment upon the enemies of Israel. After the judgment, God’s wrath will be appeased, and “rest” ensues.
This final vision brings the series of visions full circle: the first vision had pictured these horses at the end of their mission. A similar vision of judgment, also using the imagery of horses, is found in Revelation 6:1-8.

VI. PRACTICAL LESSONS OF PERMANENT VALUE.

- A. A high regard for God’s purpose in the world.
- B. The world-wide reach of God’s kingdom.
- C. The eternal glory due the Messiah, Christ.
- D. God does and always will rule.
- E. Because of Jesus’ death and God’s judgment, everything in the kingdom is holy.
- F. True obedience to God’s physical commands guarantees future spiritual blessings.
- G. It is important for Christians to maintain a hopeful, optimistic outlook—knowing they cannot fail.

- H. The conflict going on in our world is really between God and Satan, and the victory will assuredly belong to God and His people in the end.

VII. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

- A. Zechariah's mission was to call the people to repent and to assure them of God's personal concern. Why is it important that the people receive both emphases?
- B. Why is it important to call people to repentance?
- C. When your circumstances look hopeless, what do you need to be reminded of?
- D. What can you learn from Zechariah's night visions in chapters 1-2?
- E. How are the priest, the branch and the stone all images of the coming Messiah? How do these images of the Messiah affect you?
- F. What small things have you seen God use to accomplish his plans?
- G. How does the word *diligently* add substance to the requirement that the people "diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Zech. 6:15)? How can you diligently obey the Lord?
- H. Why aren't material blessings necessarily a sign of God's favor?
- I. When people don't look to the Shepherd, what other sources do they look to for guidance, comfort, and peace?