

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

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Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Class Schedule

Lesson	Date	Title	Teacher
1	Sunday, Aug 2 nd	Class Introduction	Sam
2	Wednesday, Aug 5 th	Introduction to Haggai	Sam
3	Sunday, Aug 9 th	The Book of Haggai	Sam
4	Wednesday, Aug 12 th	Introduction to Zechariah	Erik
5	Sunday, Aug 16 th	Zechariah 1-2: Visions 1-3	Erik
6	Wednesday, Aug 19 th	Zechariah 3-4: Visions 4-5	Erik
7	Sunday, Aug 23 rd	Zechariah 5-6: Visions 6-8	Erik
8	Wednesday, Aug 26 th	Zechariah 7-11: The Two Burdens: Part 1	Erik
9	Sunday, Aug 30 th	Zechariah 12-14: The Two Burdens: Part 2	Erik
10	Wednesday, Sep 2 nd	Introduction to Malachi	Sam
11	Sunday, Sep 29 th	Malachi 1-2	Sam
12	Wednesday, Sep 6 th	Malachi 3-4	Sam
13	Sunday, Sep 9 th	Application	Sam

Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Lessons 8-9: Zechariah 7-14, The Question Concerning Fasting and The Two Burdens

Here in chapter 7 begins another division of the prophecy. In the first portion of the book, Zechariah pleaded for the nation of Israel to repent and turn to the Lord for his blessings. Then he received eight night visions to help encourage God's people to rebuild the temple. It is now 518 B.C. in the month of Chislev that Zechariah receives a revelation from God:

Eight Night Visions		The Completion of the Temple
520 B.C.	518 B.C.	516 B.C.

The Question Concerning Fasting

Zechariah 7-8

The citizens of Bethel inquired concerning whether they should continue to observe the time of fasting and mourning in the fifth month (July/August) as they had for seventy years. Apparently when the captivity had come nearly seventy years before, the Jews had established a number of days of fasting to commemorate some of their national calamities. These days of fasting included:

- 1. On the ninth day of the fourth month to commemorate the final breaching of the walls of Jerusalem by the Babylonians (Jer 39:2; 52:6-7)**
- 2. On the tenth day of the fifth month to remember the destruction of the Temple (Jer 52:12-13)**
- 3. On the third day in the seventh month to remember the murder of Gedaliah, the governor of Jerusalem, placed in power by Nebuchadnezzar after the final deportation of the Jews (2 Kings 25:25, 26; Jer 41:1)**
- 4. On the tenth day of the tenth month to memorialize the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:1; Jer 39:1)**

Questions

Zechariah 7-8

1. Who instituted each of the fasts listed above?
2. What were all of the fasts focused on?
3. How is Bethel's question answered in chapter 7?
4. How is Bethel's question answered in chapter 8?
5. Does chapter 8 fit Zechariah's message of encouragement?

The Two Burdens

Zechariah 9-14

These chapters are considered to be some of the most difficult in the Old Testament; they are highly prophetic, stretching over a period between the fall of the Persian Empire and the appearance of Jesus. In chapter 9 and again in chapter 12, Zechariah delivered a burden, or oracle, against specific nations. Several of the New Testament writers relied upon these chapters for information which they used in their own writings:

Reference in Zechariah	Occurrences in New Testament
Chapter 8:16	Ephesians 4:25
Chapter 9:9	Matthew 21:5; John 12:15
Chapter 11:12-13	Matthew 27:9-10
Chapter 12:10	John 19:37
Chapter 13:7	Matthew 26:31; Mark 14:27

The use of chapters 9-14 by the New Testament writers suggests that Zechariah was looking beyond the immediate historical situation to events associated with the life, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. This *doesn't* mean that Zechariah ceased to address specific historical situations and circumstances in his own day. Rather, the implication is that the prophetic messages referred to more than just the events and conditions existing in the day of the prophet.

The First Burden

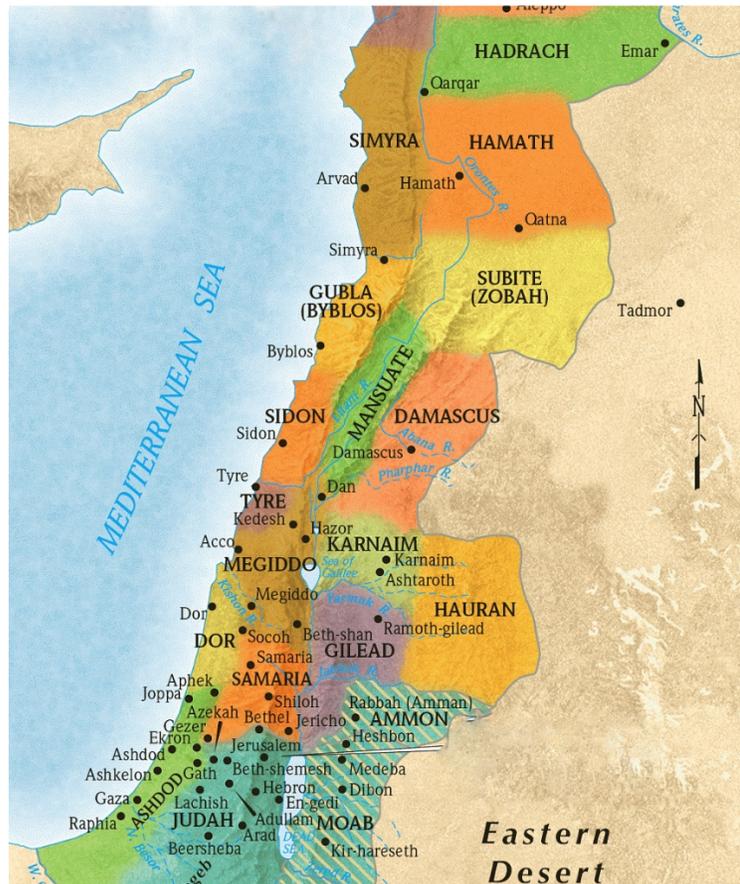
Zechariah 9-11

The Arrogant Nations Defeated Chapter 9:1-8

In chapter 8, God declared his wrath against the oppressors of his people. These oppressors are now mentioned specifically, and his judgment upon them is now proclaimed.

¹...the word of the Lord is against the land of **Hadrach** and **Damascus** is its resting place...²and on **Hamath**... **Tyre** and **Sidon**...⁵**Ashkelon** shall see it, and be afraid; **Gaza** too...**Ekron** also...the king shall perish from **Gaza**...⁶a mixed people shall dwell in **Ashdod**...the pride of Philistia.

Zechariah 9:1-6 (ESV)



Map Courtesy: 2007 Holman Bible Publishers

The King and Kingdom of Peace

Chapter 9:9-10

Tyre, Sidon, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and Ashdod all fell to the Greek General Alexander the Great. His methods were violent and ruthless, a stark contrast to the king coming in verse 9:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)

- **The King will come with salvation**
- **The King will be lowly**
- **The King will be riding a donkey**
- **The King is Jesus!**

The Uprising Against Greece

Chapter 9:11-17

“I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior’s sword.”

Zechariah 9:13 (ESV)

Verses 13-17 refer to the conflicts and victories of the Maccabean age (198 B.C. – 165 B.C.) when God’s people were successful against Antiochus Epiphanes in the second century B.C. God promises to protect them and give them victory over the sons of Greece.

- **His arrow will go forth like lightning**
- **The Lord God will sound the trumpet**
- **[Like] whirlwinds of the south**

The Restoration for Judah and Israel

Chapter 10

“I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.”

Zechariah 10:6 (ESV)

Rejection of the Messiah

Chapter 11

Chapter 11 is among the most difficult chapters in Zechariah. The Hebrew language is very vague in helping us understand the nature of the oracle so nailing down an interpretation is very hard to do. It seems though that the chapter can be divided into three parts:

The Coming Judgment

Vs 1-3

In chapter 10 we saw that God was very displeased with the civil leaders who were appointed over his people; they fed his people lies and left them with false hope. Here in 11:1-3 they are personified and their pride is brought down.

The Good Shepherd Rejected

Vs 4-14

Either symbolically or literally, Zechariah is commissioned to shepherd the flock of God. He was:

- Shepherd over all (7)
- Active (8)
- Rejected (8)
- Righteous (8-11)
- Treated unfairly (12)

The Evil Shepherd

Vs 15-17

As the prophet had represented the good shepherd in the former vision (4), he is summoned to personate the evil shepherd in this vision. God had determined to let Israel fall under the power of a shepherd who should not merely neglect the flock, but destroy it.

Questions

Zechariah 9-11

1. What does the donkey in 9:9 symbolize?
2. The descriptions in 9:11-17 produce striking images to the reader. Which image made the biggest impression on you?
3. Does chapter 10 fit Zechariah's message of encouragement?
4. Who does the good shepherd in 11:4-14 represent?
5. Who do you think the evil shepherd in 11:15-17 may be? Why? (There are many possibilities)

The Second Burden

Zechariah 12-14

These chapters should be considered as a single unit. They're linked by several key phrases and words that are used repeatedly:

"On that day" (ESV)	17 times
"Jerusalem"	23 times
The name of the Lord or other nouns and personal pronouns referring to the Lord	60 times

These chapters present a clear picture identifying a future day when the Lord will do something special for Jerusalem. He has not forgotten his people. Remember the very name of the book we're studying, Zechariah, means "God remembers."

In the previous chapter we were left with a bleak picture of Israel that left us with many questions concerning her future. Israel had rejected the Messiah, so the breaking of the staff paved the way for hostile powers to invade the land (v. 10) and for the nation to fall into the hands of the evil shepherd (v. 16). Now God declares his salvation and we see a change of heart in the Jewish people. While before they had rejected the Messiah, they now mourn for the one whom they pierced.

The Lord Will Give Salvation

Chapter 12:1-9

On that day...

Jerusalem will be a cup of staggering
Jerusalem will be a heavy stone
Enemies will be driven mad on blind horses
God will destroy all nations who are against Israel

Judah will devour
Jerusalem will be inhabited
The Lord will give salvation
The Lord will protect Jerusalem

The People Will Mourn Him Whom They Have Pierced

Chapter 12:10-14

“¹⁰And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”

Zechariah 12:10 (ESV)

Everyone will mourn...

- Each family
- The house of David
- The house of Nathan
- The house of Levi
- The house of the Shimeites
- And everyone else!

...like they mourned for Hadad-rimmon

The Shepherd Returns

Chapter 13

When Israel responds to the Messiah, understanding the suffering he went through, the restoration of Jerusalem will begin. Their sins will be forgiven (13:1), idolatry will cease (13:2), and prophecy will no longer be necessary (13:3-4).

The Coming Day of the Lord

Chapter 14

Possible Interpretations

- The time of the Maccabees
- Titus' conquest on Jerusalem in A.D. 70
- The end of the OT era and the beginning of the NT times
- The Millennial Kingdom established
- **Spiritual Jerusalem, the church.**

Lead in

Ch. 11 – The Good Shepherd takes charge of the flock who has rejected God



Ch. 12 – The divine Shepherd is pierced, God's purposes are hindered by the folly of men.



Ch. 13 – God is in control and his purposes will be fulfilled.

Summary

“In some ways, chapter 14 reflects the history of the church, the people of the new covenant who endure hostility (v. 1-2) yet enjoy God's protection (v. 3). They have a refuge in him (v. 4-5) and possess spiritual life (v. 8). As spiritual Jerusalem, they drink living waters (v. 8) and dwell securely (v. 10).”

McComiskey – *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*

Zechariah wrote his prophecy to encourage the building of the temple, the house of God. This house of God represented the place of worship for the true living God. However, in the day of the Messiah there will be no need for such a place for God will be worshiped by all nations and in every place. Jesus stated:

“Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:21, 24 (ESV)

Questions

Zechariah 12-14

1. Does chapter 12:1-9 fit Zechariah's message of encouragement?
2. For you, what was the most striking image from chapter 12?
3. Who were the people of Hadad-rimmon mourning in the plain of Megiddo (2 Chron 35:22-25)?
4. Where is 13:7b referenced in the New Testament?