



a study through the book of

Zechariah



Background

- “Then the prophet **Haggai** and **Zechariah** the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who *were* in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, *who was over them*” (Ezra 5:1).
- “So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of **Haggai** the prophet and **Zechariah** the son of Iddo. And they built and finished *it*, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia” (Ezra 6:14).

Overview

- Haggai's message was pretty simple and straightforward; Zechariah's was not.
- Zechariah's prophecies consist mainly of visions which he saw, visions filled with highly figurative and symbolic language.
- The visions themselves are sometimes difficult to interpret, at least in every detail, but the main points are usually very clear. We'll do our best to concentrate on the simple lessons communicated through these visions.
- Key phrase: "In that day" —20 times in 19 verses. This book is filled with references to the time of Christ.

Outline and Discussion

- First message, delivered in the 8th month of the 2nd year of King Darius (2 months after Haggai's first message, and after the people had resumed work on the temple) (1:1-6).
 - Return to Me, and I will return to you. Don't be like your ancestors who refused to repent. I did to them what I said I would do, so learn from their example.
 - And what was their response?
 - "So they returned..."



A series of visions, delivered on the 24th day of the 11th month, 5 months after they had resumed work on the temple.

1:7-6:15

Outline and Discussion

- Vision #1: The Horsemen (1:7-17)
 - A man riding on a red horse, standing among the myrtle trees, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses (perhaps with riders on them, too).
 - “We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly” (v. 11).
 - I know everything that’s going on, and so I know what’s going on with you. I know what the nations have done to you, but I will show you mercy. My house will be built, and Jerusalem and the surrounding cities will prosper again.

Outline and Discussion

- Vision #2: Four Horns and Four Craftsmen (1:18-21).
 - The **Horns**: “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem...these are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift his head” (1:19, 21).
 - The **Craftsmen**: “The craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it” (1:21).
 - So the message is simple: God is going to bring judgment against the nations who scattered His people.

Outline and Discussion

- Vision #3: A Man with a Measuring Line (2:1-5)
 - “To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length” (2:2).
 - “Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, because of the multitude of men and livestock in it” (2:4).
 - Without walls? Makes the city vulnerable, right?
 - “For I will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst” (2:5).
 - Is this a description of a physical city? See also 9:10.

Outline and Discussion

- A Call to Flee from Babylon (2:6-13)
 - “Flee from the land of the north...escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon” (2:6-7).
 - Of course, some had already left Babylon, while others remained. But is this simply a call for physical captives to leave the land? See Revelation 18:4.
 - “He who touches you touches the apple of His eye” (2:8).
 - “In that day,” who would become His people?

Outline and Discussion

- Vision #4: Cleansing of the High Priest, Joshua (3:1-10)
 - Notice Satan’s role in this vision.
 - “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes” (3:4).
 - Joshua and his fellow-priests were a symbol, or type of whom?
 - The BRANCH referred to here is the Christ (Isa. 4:2; 11:1-10; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 6:12-13).

Outline and Discussion

- Vision #5: The Lampstand the Olive Trees (4:1-14)
 - A gold lampstand with a bowl on top, pipes which fed oil to the lamps, and two olive trees which provided the oil.
 - Zerubbabel would succeed, because the LORD would provide the power (4:6-9).
 - “Who has despised the day of small things?” (4:10).
 - Who do the two olive trees represent?



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Outline and Discussion

- Vision #6: A Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
 - 20 cubits long, ten cubits wide (10 yards by 5 yards).
 - Written on both sides of the scroll—curses against those who do evil (thief, perjurer, or one who swears falsely by My name).
 - God will not tolerate wickedness.
 - “I will send out the curse...it shall remain in the midst of his house, and consume it, with its timber and stones” (5:4).

Outline and Discussion

- Vision #7: A Woman (Wickedness) In a Basket (5:5-11)
 - A woman called wickedness sitting inside a basket. A lead disc is lifted up, the woman is thrust down into the basket, and the lead disc is thrown on top of the basket as a cover.
 - Sees two women with wings like a stork lifting up the basket between heaven and earth. Where do they plan to take this basket?
 - “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base” (5:11).
 - Lesson: Sin may be in the world, but I don’t want to find it in you. Put a lid on it!

Outline and Discussion

- Vision #8: The Four Chariots (6:1-8)
 - 4 chariots coming out from between 2 mountains of bronze. Red horses pulling the first one, black horses the second, white horses the third, and dappled (speckled) the fourth.
 - “These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth.” Black and white “going to the north country”; dappled “toward the south country.”
 - Notice their eagerness to go (v. 7).
 - “Those who go to the north country have given rest to My Spirit (“appeased my wrath” —NAS) in the north country” (v. 8).

Outline and Discussion

- Joshua is crowned with a double crown (6:9-15)
 - The word for “crown” in v. 11 is plural (both ASV and KJV have “crowns”).
 - Take silver and gold from those who returned from captivity, make this double crown, and sit it on the head of Joshua, the high priest.
 - Notice what is said to Joshua in vv. 12-13.
 - Joshua was then a symbol of whom?
 - “Those from afar shall come and build the temple” (v. 15).



7:1-8:23

Questions about Fasting; God's Answer

The Fasts They Were Observing

- “The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth...” (8:19; see also 7:5).
 - 4th month—when the Babylonians broke through the wall of Jerusalem (Jer. 52:6-7).
 - 5th month—when the temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25:8-9).
 - 7th month—when Gedaliah, the governor of the land, was killed (Jer. 41:1-2).
 - 10th month—when the siege of Jerusalem began (2 Kings 25:1).

Key Points

- These fasts—you didn't do them to please Me; you did them to please yourselves (7:1-7).
 - “Should I weep?”—see anything wrong with that question?
- You should have listened to the former prophets, and you wouldn't need to weep and fast. You were scattered, and the land made desolate, because you would not listen (7:8-14).
 - Instead of fasting over all these events, just do the will of God.

Key Points

- Hear what the present prophets are saying, especially about all the good I intend to do for you—IF you will be faithful to Me. The fasts you've been observing will be turned into joy and gladness and cheerful feasts (ch. 8).
 - Learn from the past, but don't live in it. Let's move on to a brighter future.
 - “In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you’” (8:23).

Overview of Chapters 9-14

- “in that day,” or, “on that day”—19 times in these six chapters.
 - 92 times in Isaiah through Malachi. “Latter days” (10 times).
- So we need to think in terms of the “Jerusalem above” (Gal. 4:26), the “heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb. 12:22), the “new Jerusalem” (Rev. 21:2).
- And also in terms of the “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16), which includes Jews and Gentiles, all those who are joined to Christ and have become the “seed of Abraham” (Gal. 3:26-29).
- “Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold *these days*” (Acts 3:24).

Fulfilled Prophecies from Zechariah

- “TELL THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, ‘BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, LOWLY, AND SITTING ON A DONKEY, A COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY’” (Matthew 21:5). See 9:9.
- “And he came and preached peace...” (Eph. 2:17). See 9:10.
- “And again another Scripture says, ‘THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED’” (John 19:37). See 12:10.
- “Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I WILL STRIKE THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK WILL BE SCATTERED’” (Matthew 26:31). See 13:7.
- Matthew 27:3-10 tells about what Judas did with the 30 pieces of silver. See ch. 11.

Chapter 9

- **Destruction of the surrounding nations (9:1-7)**
 - Hadrach (? Some say representative of Medo-Persian Empire?)
 - Damascus (capitol of Syria)
 - Hamath (territory bordered Damascus)
 - Tyre and Sidon (chief cities of Phoenicia, located on northern Med. Coast)
 - Philistia (4 cities named: Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, Ashdod)
 - “But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea” (Acts 9:40).

Chapter 9

- But God will camp around His people and protect them (9:8).
- Your King is coming, but NOT with great pomp and ceremony (9:9-10). Upon what does He come riding?
- Under His reign (9:11-17), He will...
 - Set their prisoners free (v. 11).
 - Equip them to overcome their foes (v. 13).
 - Lead them to great victories (vv. 14-15).
 - Richly bless His people, to the extent that others will see the glory of the Lord in them (vv. 16-17).

Chapter 10

- Ask ME to renew you! (v. 1).
- The people from whom you have sought guidance before have led you astray—idols, diviners, false prophets, foreign rulers, etc. (v. 2).
- I will punish *those* shepherds and I will become your shepherd. I will gather My scattered sheep, and I will be to you everything they were not (3-12).

Chapter 10

- Key Verses

- v. 4: From Judah comes the cornerstone (Eph. 2:20), the tent peg (Isa. 22:23-24), the battle bow (Psalms 45:5-6), every ruler.
- v. 6: “I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside.”
- v. 10: “Until no more room is found for them”
- v. 12: “So I will strengthen them in the LORD, and they shall walk up and down in His name”

Chapter 11

- Think about when Jesus came to the earth, and the conflict between Him as the good shepherd (Jesus), and the shepherds of Israel.
- As a whole, this chapter pictures God's offer of His Son, His rejection at the hands of the Jews, and the consequences of this rejection.

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever”
(Daniel 2:44).

Chapters 12-14

**Holy And Indestructible Nature of Spiritual
Jerusalem**

Chapter 12

- What Jerusalem and Judah would face “in that day”
 - “When they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem” (v. 2).
 - “Though all nations of the earth are gathered against it” (v. 3).
 - “All the nations that come against Jerusalem” (v. 9).

Chapter 12

- **What the LORD would do about it**
 - “I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness...” (v. 2).
 - “I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone...” (v. 3).
 - “I will strike every horse with confusion...rider with madness” (v. 4).
 - “I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan...” (v. 6).
 - “Save the tents of Judah first...” (v. 7).
 - “The LORD will defend...feeble...shall be like David” (v. 8).
 - “I will seek to destroy all the nations...” (v. 9).

Chapter 12

- But whom would the LORD save?
 - Those who mourn for the one whom they pierced (vv. 10-14).
 - Those on whom is poured the “Spirit of grace and supplication” (v. 10).

Chapter 13

- “In that day a fountain shall be opened...for sin and for uncleanness” (v. 1).
 - Matt. 26:28; Acts 22:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26; Titus 3:5; 1 John 1:9.
- The LORD will cut off from the land evils that had led people away from Him—idols, false prophets, and the unclean spirit (vv. 2-6).
 - Note the degree of devotion to the LORD in v. 3.
 - False prophets will be brought to utter shame (vv. 4-6).

Chapter 13

- The Shepherd will be struck and the sheep scattered (vv. 7-9).
 - Two-thirds will be cut off and die (v. 8).
 - One-third will be left, and they will be tested and refined (vv. 8-9).
 - To this last group, the LORD will say, “This is my people,” and they will say, “The Lord is my God.”

Chapter 14

- The siege against Jerusalem is continued (vv. 1-2).
 - “All the nations to battle against Jerusalem” (v. 2).
 - Once again, we see a remnant preserved (v. 2).
- The LORD would then fight for His people, making for His people a way of escape. This day would begin in darkness, but end in light (vv. 3-7).
- Living waters will flow from Jerusalem; the LORD shall be king over all the earth; the people will dwell securely in Jerusalem (vv. 8-11).

Chapter 14

- The LORD will strike with a plague all the people who fought against Jerusalem. Joined by Judah in this fight, they will gather great wealth from all the surrounding nations (vv. 12-15).
- People from all nations will come to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts (16-19).
- They will be a holy people (20-21).