

ZECHARIAH

Chapters 1-8

Introduction:

Interesting characteristics

Eight visions (chapters 1-6), four sermons (chapters 7-8), and two burdens / oracles (chapters 9-14)

There is a strong “Messianic” emphasis (Zechariah 6:12-13; 9:9-10; 11:13; 12:10; 13:7; 14:4, 9)

Zechariah uses a particular name for God – The Lord of Hosts or Lord Almighty, 53 times

The book of Revelation ends the New Testament writings with a focus upon the coming day of the Lord and the end of this age ...

So Zechariah, at the end of the Old Testament writings, ends with a focus upon the coming day of the Lord and the end of this age (Zechariah 9-14)

1. A call to the exiles gathered in Jerusalem (Zechariah 1:1-6)

A) Learn a Lesson from History

> The Lord’s anger with their fathers (Zech. 1:2)

A truth that had impacted these “former exile’s” lives

B) Listen to God’s Voice

> Return to me and I will return to you (Zech. 1:3)

Key concept that we looked at in Haggai – the rebuilding of the temple involved much more than having a place to meet for worship

The temple represented God’s presence with His people

C) Heed the Lord of Host’s warning

> Don’t be like your fathers (Zech. 1:4)

They ignored my message delivered by the prophets (Zech. 7:8-12)

2. Eight Visions (Zech. 1:7 – 6:8)

A) The dangers associated with interpreting visions and apocalyptic literature

- > Danger on one side – a commitment to literalness that leads to endless speculations about details that result in missing the main point
- > Danger on the other side – a tendency to disregard such literature and say, “nobody can really understand it”

B) The eight visions – all given on a single night to Zechariah

- > The vision of four horses (Zech. 1:7-17)
- > The vision of the four horns and the four craftsmen (Zech. 1:18-21)
- > The vision of the Surveyor (Zech. 2:1-13)
- > The vision Joshua the priest being given new and holy garments (Zech. 3:1-10)
- > The vision of the golden lampstand and the two olive trees (Zech. 4:1-14)
- > The vision of the flying scroll (Zech. 5:1-4)
- > The vision of the woman in a basket (Zech. 5:5-11)
- > The vision of the four chariots (Zech. 6:1-8)

3. Four Sermons

A) Zechariah 7:1 – “The Word of the Lord came to me”

- > The question about fasting (Zech. 7:1-3)
- > What does God really want from His people? (Zech. 7:6-7)

B) Zechariah 7:8 – “The Word of the Lord came to me”

- > God’s desire for His people
 - Execute true justice (Zech. 7:9a)
 - To show mercy and compassion toward his brother (Zech. 7:9b)
 - Do not oppress the weak (Zech. 7:10a)
 - Do not plan evil against your brother (Zech. 7:10b)
- > The consequences of refusing to listen to God (Zech. 7:11-14)

C) Zechariah 8:1 – “The Word of the Lord came to me”

- > God’s passion / zeal for Zion / Jerusalem / His people (Zech. 8:2-3)
- > God’s promise to His people (Zech. 8:4-8)
- > God’s covenant with His people (Zech. 8:9-17)

D) Zechariah 8:18 – “The Word of the Lord came to me”

- > Fasts shall become feasts (Zech. 8:19)
- > All peoples / nations will seek the Lord of Hosts (Zech. 8:20-22)
- > God’s blessing upon His people – God is with them (Zech. 8:23)