

ZECHARIAH

PART II

Introduction

1. Review

A) The historical background / context

- > Post exile – Zechariah is a contemporary of Haggai whose prophecies begin in 520 B.C.
- > The call to rebuild the temple – the abandoned foundation some 16 years

B) The book of Zechariah has two main sections – Chapters 1-8 and chapters 9-14

- > The first eight chapters relate primarily to contemporary issues – forthtelling
- > The last 6 chapters focus primarily on the future – foretelling

C) Interesting characteristics

- > Eight visions (chap. 1-6), four sermons (chap. 7-8), and two burdens / oracles (chap. 9-14)
- > Zechariah uses a particular name for God – The Lord of Hosts or Lord Almighty, 53 times

1. A major theme of Zechariah's prophecy is God's commitment to His people – Israel

A) In their present experience (Zech. 1:14-16; 8:1-3)

B) In the future (Zechariah 14:1-9)

- > In chapters 12-14 the phrase “in that day” is used 17 times and refers to the Day of the Lord
- > Zechariah speaks of a future “re-gathering” of God's people – Israel, to the land
Zechariah is not prophesying about the current “re-gathering” (Zechariah 10:6-12)
Zechariah speaks of the renewal of God's covenant with His people (Zech. 13:9)

C) It is this future place of prominence for Israel in redemptive history that is problematic for covenant theology

- > Explanation: covenant theology holds that the covenantal blessings promised to Israel were lost due to their persistent rebellion and that the promises made to Israel will be fulfilled “spiritually” in the church

- > Explanation: dispensationalism holds that the promises to Israel will be literally fulfilled

At the end of this age the Messiah will rescue Israel from the world's assault – the battle of Armageddon (Zech. 14:1-4)

The tribulation is Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:24)

This future purpose of God for Israel is the foundation for understanding the “rapture” of the church before the time of the great Tribulation (1 Thes. 4:13-19)

2. Zechariah prophecies concerning the coming Messiah in chapters 9-14

A) The first as the Suffering Servant (Zech. 9:9; 11:12-13)

B) The second as the Conquering King (Zech. 12:10; 14:1-4)

> The Conquering King – Messiah, will reign over a kingdom like none other

The absence of idols and false prophets (Zech. 13:1-6)

Jerusalem will be the central place of worship and everything will be “holy to the Lord” (Zech. 14:16-21)

> This kingdom is the one that the apostles looked forward to (Acts 1:4-8)

Even after the resurrection and spending time with Jesus they still anticipated a literal earthly kingdom

3. A Fascinating Prophecy

A) The prophecy (Zechariah 11:4-14)

B) The shepherd and the two staffs

> Zechariah breaks the staff called “Beauty” or “Grace”

A picture of God breaking His covenant with “all the peoples” (Zech. 11:10)

Could this be speaking of God breaking His covenant with Israel? (Zech. 8:11-15; 10:6-12)

Notice that God breaks His covenant with “all the peoples” – plural

> Zechariah breaks the staff called “Bonds” or “Unity”

A picture of God breaking the brotherhood between Judah and Israel (Zech. 11:14)

A relationship that will be restored in the future (Ezekiel 37:15-28)

This future restoration is spoken of in Revelation 7:1-8 and 21:9-14