**Zechariah I The Messiah Is Coming: Get Your House In Order**

**Or… Repent, Return, Restore, Rebuild.**

Dated prophecies: Nov. 520 BC – Dec 518 BC

Contemporary of Haggai

Zechariah is apocalyptic—vivid symbolic visions.

Zechariah has many predictive prophecies, both messianic and kingdom prophecies as well. More per verse than any in the Bible except Daniel.

Context: Jerusalem is in ruins. Judah has been punished for her idolatry and God is trying to restore them to their past glory. The foundation for the temple has been built. But the exiles who returned from the captivity have stopped work on the temple to build their “paneled houses.” (Haggai) There is serious need for a revival.

Put yourself into this situation personally and put us there as a church post-Covid.

Theme of Zechariah: The Messiah is coming; get your house in order.

Message of Zechariah: It is time to build the temple. Repent, Return, Restore, and Rebuild God’s kingdom a constant theme.

Similar to Haggai, but the style is very different. Haggai: Practical In-your-face.

Go out into the hills, bring down wood and build my house. Repent. Get off your butt and build the temple, you lazy, thankless people.

Zechariah: much more subtle.

Q: Is your (spiritual) house ready for guests right now? If Jesus knocked on your spiritual door, would you secretly be scurrying around, putting everything which is out of order into order so as to create the (false) impression that everything is in order?

What if your spiritual mother-in-law showed up unexpectedly? Zechariah: Are you ready for Jesus to come back?

**Outline of Zechariah:**

I. 1:1-6 Prologue: Repent, Return, Restore and Rebuild

II. 1:7-6:8 Eight visions. Highly apocalyptic, not so prophetic

III. 6:9-15 Coronation of Joshua/Jesus A prophetic apocalyptic vision.

IV 7:1-8:23 Two Sermons

V. 9:1-14:21 Two Oracles concerning Jerusalem. More prophetic, messianic, less apocalyptic.

**I. Prologue**

Zechariah 1:1 November, 520 BC

The situation: The temple lies in ruins because the people had sinned. They had lost their place with God. The temple—the means by which God dwelt among you, has been destroyed.

The situation: Your life lay in ruins because you had sinned. You had lost your place with God.

1:2-6 Repent!

v. 2 God so angry with their forefathers. When he called them to repent, they stubbornly refused to do so.

V. 3 What is the solution? Repent and return Return to me so I can return to you.

Then I will restore you to me and your life/temple will be rebuilt. (prodigal son)

Q: Do you need to repent and return? How so? If you do, you will be restored to God and he will rebuild your life.

v. 4 Do not be like them… turn

v. 4-6 What is God saying here? These faithless Jews are no longer around, but my Words are still around and what I decree will happen, will happen.

I didn’t move, you did!

v. 6 Whether we repent and return to God or not, one thing will never change—the Word of God.

v 6. Good news. They repented and rebuilt the temple. What about you? Are you building God’s temple? The temple was actually completed in April, 516 BC. They repented, returned, were restored and were rebuilt.

Zechariah 1:1-6 tells us the end of the story before it tells us the story. The rest of the book is like a flashback.

**II. Eight Visions**

We will cover visions # 1,2,4,5 today.

Zechariah 1:7-17 The first vision: A messenger on a red horse. (very similar to Revelation Ch 6)

v. 11 The world is at peace. A good thing? Not in this case. Jews are in captivity to Persia.

v. 12 How long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem? When will you restore my people to you? You have withheld your mercy for 70 years! (as prophesied in Jeremiah 25:8-15, Jeremiah 29:10-14. God has great plans for you personally, individually, and for us as a church, but if we continue in sin, he will bring judgment on us. For them it was 70 years.

Zech 1:14-17 God is upset. Why? because Jerusalem is still not restored.

God is jealous for you.

God, jealous? You bet. If you go after other gods, he is very jealous. He is angry at what Satan has done to enslave you.

v. 16-17 This, in essence, is the theme of Zechariah. God is restoring his kingdom. A kingdom prophecy.

Jews: He will rebuild the temple, and, later the city in safety (measuring line)

For us: The Messiah is coming: Get your house in order!

v. 16 God: I will return to Jerusalem and rebuild my house! Do not look at outward appearances. Wherever the church or your life is at. God will return with mercy.

Application: If your situation or church seems stagnant, do not look at the outward appearance. God can and will work in your life.

Will you let God in? Will you repent and return, so he can restore and rebuild. The Messiah is coming. Time to get your house in order.

1:18-21 Vision #2: The vision of four horns.

The four horns are four nations which scattered Israel. Assyria, Egypt, Babylon and Persia. The message: God used these nations to judge his people. Now they will get their come-uppance: God will judge these nations. Trust in God.

Skipping Vision #3 for now. We will do kingdom prophecies next week.

3:1-10 Vision #4 Joshua (the high priest) accused by Satan and exonerated.

3:1-2 Q: Who does Joshua represent here? Joshua = Jeshua in Hebrew = Jesus in Aramaic. This is a vision concerning Jesus himself.

Zech 3:3-10 The symbolism could be a bit confusing here.

Is this about Joshua and Judah in the year 520 BC? Yes

Is this about the Messiah? Yes

Is this about us and about the church? Yes

In case you were not sure: The branch (3:8,9) is Jesus. (Jeremiah 23:5, Jer 33:15-16) The Messiah is coming to Jerusalem!!!

v. 2 What do we see about Satan here? He is trying to prevent you from repenting and returning so that God cannot restore and rebuild. He is trying to discourage you.

Are you accused (Zech 3:2, Rev 12:10) Or are you the deceived type (Jn 8:44)?

Rev 12:10 “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them day and night has been hurled down.”

Q: What would Satan say to you? What would he accuse you of? What would he deceive you about?

It is too hard.

You can’t do it.

You have failed again and again. Your time is up.

God does not really love you. He is trying to use you.

You are a failure. God cannot love you.

Everything you start, you fail to finish. It is better to not even try.

v. 2 God’s response: The Lord Rebuke you!

Let’s say that together!!!

v. 3-5 I have good news for you. God will take off your filthy clothes when you are baptized and clothed with Christ (Gal 3:27 For all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ)

v. 4 fine garments. A wonderful life A great ambassador for Christ.

v. 5 I am not so sure about a clean turban…

v. 6-7 God: But this will only happen if you will repent and return, I will restore and rebuild.

v. 8-9 The Messiah is coming. Get your house in order.

3:10 Have you invited your neighbor to sit under your vine by sharing your life and faith with him yet?

4:1-16 Vision #5 My personal favorite of the eight.

4:1-6 What is he seeing? The golden lampstand with a bowl and seven lamps and the two olive trees.

He is seeing, figuratively, the Mehorah in the temple, with an olive tree on either side.

Oil = the Spirit of God = Holy Spirit (Heb 1:9, etc)

Memory verse: Zechariah 4:6. Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts.

The twin olive trees represent the permanent, unending, river of power which can flow into our lives if we remain tapped into God.

If we live out vision #4, then we will experience vision #5 When we repent and are baptized, God gives us the Holy Spirit.

How does this make you feel? John 7:37-39 “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me (whoever repents and returns), as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

Streams of living water!

Get the picture.

What Scripture is Jesus talking about here? Zechariah 14for one!!!! (Ezek 47)

Vision #5 is how God will complete what he promised in vision #4.

But will you do your part?

Zechariah 4:7-14

v. 7 The capstone is Jesus Christ (Acts 4:10,11)] Jesus will do this.

v. 8 the work will be completed under governor Zerubbabel.

4:10 Do not worry about small beginnings. Got it!!!

Stressed? Harried? Worried? Think about the two olive trees and the seven lamps!!!

4:12-14 The two trees, are symbolically, the priesthood and the kingship/governorship, which were combined forever in Jesus Christ. Jesus is priest and king! (Messiah is Hebrew for annointed).

Summary:

The Messiah is Coming: Get your house in order.

God wants to rebuild the temple.

The key? Repent and Return and God will restore and rebuild.

He will make your garments spotless—as white as snow.

But you need to repent and return.

He will fill you with an endless supply of oil—the Holy Spirit.

Will you not repent and return so that you can get your spiritual house in order?