

ZECHARIAH

Written at the same time as Haggai

-same topic, same location, same mission: Rebuilding the temple

Zechariah was one of the people brought back from exile by Zerubbabel

-his job is like Haggai's; to encourage the people to finish rebuilding the temple

Written at two different times

-Ch. 1-8 written around 520 BC

Written to encourage the people to finish the temple

-Ch. 9-14 written about 40 years later in 480 BC

-written after the completion of the temple

-looking forward to the coming Messiah

Like the name "Habakkuk" was unusual, "Zechariah" was the opposite

-at least 29 people in the Old Testament shared this name

This book is more in the style of the popular Prophets

-filled with visions and messages from the Lord

The book starts off with a call to repentance

Zec 1:1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo saying,

Zec 1:2 "The LORD was very angry with your fathers.

Zec 1:3 "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Return to Me," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I may return to you," says the LORD of hosts.

Then God gives him a series of 8 visions in the next 6 chapters

-horsemen patrolling the earth

-four horns representing oppressive world powers

-a man measuring the city of Jerusalem

-the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the Lord

-And Satan standing next to him

-God commands that Joshua's filthy robes be replaced with festal ones (Satan's accusations rejected by God)

-a lampstand and two olive trees (representing the Word of the Lord and the 2 anointed ones (possibly two witnesses in Revelation))

-a flying scroll (God's curse)

- a wicked lady in a basket (removal of evil)
- four horses and chariots representing God's judgment

-don't have time to examine these but they are all symbols of judgment, redemption and the kingdom of peace

-I do want to look at the striking similarities between Zechariah's last vision and one of John's visions

Zec 6:1 Now I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming forth from between the two mountains; and the mountains *were* bronze mountains.

Zec 6:2 With the first chariot *were* red horses, with the second chariot black horses,

Zec 6:3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot strong dappled horses.

Rev 6:2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

Rev 6:3 When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come."

Rev 6:4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that *men* would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

Rev 6:5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

Rev 6:6 And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

Rev 6:7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come."

Rev 6:8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

-the only difference is the description of the last horse

- Zechariah describes it as spotted or grisdled (no color mentioned)

- John describes it as a greenish pale color

-Zechariah's vision represents God's Judgment

-John's vision represents God's wrath

Ch 8

-describes the renewal and restoration of Israel and a renewed relationship with God

Ch. 9 begins the message after the building of the temple

- the rest of the book is filled with prophecies and references to the coming Messiah
- it is believed that the book of Zechariah contains more descriptions about Jesus than all the other minor prophets combined
- it is fitting that it is so close to the end of the Old Testament

More prophecies of what God will do the enemies of Israel

- promises of the deliverance and blessings for His people

Ch. 11

-God illustrates His relationship with His people through shepherds and flocks

- The shepherd takes his 2 staffs and breaks them, symbolizing the broken covenant between God and His people and to illustrate the break between Israel and Judah

Ch. 12 Prophecies of Jerusalem

- Why are Israel and the Middle East in the news every day?
 - Israel (less than 8,000 sq. miles)
 - compared to US (about 3.5 million sq. miles)

Zec 12:2 "Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

Zec 12:3 "It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

-we may not be officially there yet, but we are getting close

- every nation, including the US, will turn against Israel

But we don't need to worry about them

Zec 12:6 "In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

Zechariah closes with God promising to fight for His people

- and allusions of the end times
- and that He will be king over all the Earth

Jesus Types:

Zec 6:12 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD."

Zec 6:13 "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices."

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zec 9:10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zec 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Zec 13:6 "And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will say, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

Zec 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

Zec 11:11 So it was broken on that day, and thus the afflicted of the flock who were watching me realized that it was the word of the LORD.

Zec 11:12 I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages.

Zec 11:13 Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

The law said that if someone's ox killed your slave, you owed them 30 shekels of silver

The sad thing is that Jesus was sold for 30 shekels of silver

-the priceless King who paid for us with His blood was sold for the price of a slave