

ZECHARIAH

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KFIR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY - SESSION I
INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 1



INTRODUCTION

ZECHARIAH

- The most Messianic book in the Old Testament. Zechariah contains more Messianic prophecies than all of the other "Minor" prophets put together. It is the longest book of the 12 "Minor" prophets, and it is the most frequently quoted: 71 quotes or allusions in NT.
- Gives the following descriptions of Jesus as: The Branch, the Stone, The Coming King, The Shepherd, The Triumphal Entry on a donkey, His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver, His crucifixion and His second coming.
- It also focuses on the Day of YHWH, the return of Israel in unbelief, and their passing through the Great Tribulation; the siege of Jerusalem by the confederated Gentile powers, and their deliverance by King Messiah.
- Zechariah also gives us the only physical description of the Antichrist in the Scripture.

INTRODUCTION

ZECHARIAH

The post-exilic Prophet Zechariah was a Levite born in Babylon (Nehemiah 12:1, 16).

Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai the prophet, Zerubbabel the governor, and Joshua the high priest (Ezra 5:1-2; Zechariah 3:1; 4:6; 6:11). Zechariah returned to Jerusalem from Babylon with just over 42,000 other Jewish exiles. He was probably a relatively young man at the beginning of his prophetic ministry (cf. 2:4) while Haggai might have been considerably older. Haggai preached four sermons in four months and then disappeared from the scene. Two months after Haggai delivered his first sermon, Zechariah began his prophetic

Jewish Targum states that Zechariah the son of Iddo was slain in the sanctuary and that he was both prophet and priest. (see Matthew 23:35) - ³⁵*that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.*

INTRODUCTION

ZECHARIAH

Haggai's task was to rouse the people to continue the task they had started 16 years earlier. Zechariah's task was to focus on a complete spiritual revival.

Haggai was the practical - kick you in the butt - Prophet, while Zechariah was more of a mystic ... much like Daniel.

"Thus saith the Lord of Hosts (Tsabaoth)" - 52X in this book (3X in this verse; 18X in Chapter 8). Lord of Hosts - the meaning of the title is that all created agencies and forces are under the leadership or dominion of Yahweh, who made and maintains them ([Genesis 2:1](#); [Isaiah 45:12](#)). It is used to express Yahweh's great power.

CHAPTER 1

ZECHARIAH

In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of **Iddo** the prophet, saying, ² **"The Lord has been very angry with your fathers."**

COMMENTS

Zechariah = "Whom Yahweh Remembers."

Son of Berechiah = "Yahweh Blesses."

Son of Iddo = "The Appointed Time."

This three names gives the perfect overview of this Book - "Who the Lord remembers". "Yahweh will Bless" at "The Appointed Time". In a day when Israel felt discouraged and forgotten, a young prophet whose name means "Yehovah Remembers" rose in their midst to declare a coming day of unparalleled glory.

Nehemiah speaks of an Iddo as one of the priestly families returning to Judah (Nehemiah 12:4, 16).

"Sore displeased" = lit. "Angry with anger"

³ Therefore say to them, **'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Return to Me," says the Lord of hosts, "and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts.** ⁴ "Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds." ' **But they did not hear nor heed Me,"** says the Lord.

COMMENTS

In all of Scripture, there is the one prerequisite to receiving any of God's blessings. Personal repentance is always a prerequisite for any fellowship with the Living Lord (1 John 1:9). **We must be responsive to the lessons of history if we do not wish to be destroyed.**

It is risky business to waste the lessons of previous generations. "History teaches that man learns nothing from history." Hegel

We must realize how brief the time and opportunities are if we wish to do anything positive.

⁵ "Your fathers, where *are* they?

And the prophets, do they live forever?

**⁶ Yet surely My words and My statutes,
Which I commanded My servants the prophets,
Did they not overtake your fathers?**

"So they returned and said:

'Just as the Lord of hosts determined to do to us,
According to our ways and according to our deeds,
So He has dealt with us.' " ' "

COMMENTS

The power and sustainability of the Word of God! We must count on the unchangableness of our Lord's Word if we wish to do anything that lasts.

"Did not my words overtake your fathers?" Like a highway patrolman pulling a speeder over, God's Word will nail us with precision for every infraction...

While there were external symbols of a turning back to God, such as sackcloth (Jonah 3:6,8; Neh 9:1; Dan 9:3; Joel 1:8; Isa 58:5) and ashes (Est 4:3; Dan 9:3; Isa 58:5), it is more important to rend our hearts (Joel 2:13).

INTRODUCTION TO VISIONS

ZECHARIAH 1

Now are a series of eight visions given in a single night, which bridge the centuries between the rebuilding of the Temple until the kingdom is restored to Israel under the Messiah (Acts 1:6, 15:16).

Each has a similar pattern: introductory words, a description of things seen, a question of the angel for its meaning, and an explanation by the angel.

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VISION OF THE HORSES

⁷ On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet: ⁸ I saw by night, and behold, **a man riding on a red horse**, and it stood among the myrtle trees in the hollow; and behind him were horses: red, sorrel, and white. ⁹ Then I said, "My lord, what *are* these?" So the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they *are*."

¹⁰ And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These *are the ones* whom the Lord has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth."

¹¹ **So they answered the Angel of the Lord**, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly."

Three subjects here: The angel who Zechariah is talking to, The man or ANGEL of the LORD on the Red Horse (which is Jesus) and those other angels who talk to Jesus.

Myrtle Trees - Modern Jews still adorn with myrtle the booths at the feast of tabernacles. Formerly, as we learn from Nehemiah, ([Nehemiah 8:15](#)) myrtles grew on the hills about Jerusalem.

THE LORD WILL COMFORT ZION

¹² Then the Angel of the Lord answered and said, "O Lord of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?"

¹³ And the Lord answered the angel who talked to me, *with good and* comforting words. ¹⁴ So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts:

**"I am zealous for Jerusalem
And for Zion with great zeal.**

¹⁵ I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease;
For I was a little angry,
And they helped—*but with evil intent.*"

COMMENTS

The focal point of the prophecy: is about the zeal of the Lord: (From the Arabic root, qana'a, "to become very red.)

Is He still angry today? God will judge these nations (Joel 3:1ff; Zech 6:1-8)

¹⁶ 'Therefore thus says the Lord:

"I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy;

My house shall be built in it," says the Lord of hosts,

"And a *surveyor's* line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem." '

¹⁷ "Again proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts:

"My cities shall again spread out through prosperity;

The Lord will again comfort Zion,

And will again choose Jerusalem." ' "

COMMENTS

The glory of the Lord (Shekinah) had departed: from the Holy of Holies, to the porch of the Temple, out to the eastern gate, finally up to the Mount of Olives, then ascended up to heaven (Ezekiel 10:18-19; 11:23).

The "second Temple" was only a partial fulfillment. The promise of a Temple (which had never before been seen, Ezekiel 40- 48) will be realized in the future. Zechariah will have more to say in Chapter 2.

"The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable" (Rom 11:29).

THE VISION OF THE HORNS

¹⁸ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were **four horns**. ¹⁹ And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What *are* these?"

So he answered me, "These *are* the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

²⁰ Then the Lord showed me **four craftsmen**. ²¹ And I said, "What are these coming to do?"

So he said, "These *are* the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but 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."

COMMENTS

The horns, the pride and symbol of strength of animals, are used figuratively to represent the nations that have plagued Israel. (Ps 75:4,5; 102:10; Jer 48:25; Amos 6:13-15. Cf. Mic 4:13; Dan 8:3- 4, 20-21.)

[The world would do well to learn the lesson that such action does not pass unnoticed by God; He is still awake to Israel's interests (Ps 121:4). God is not through with the nation Israel. When He says Israel, Judah, and Jerusalem, His geographic designations are not ambiguous or symbolic.]

DISCUSSION

ZECHARIAH 1

1. Why was the Lord ... "Sore displeased" = lit. "Angry with anger"
2. Comment on the following ... We must count on the unchangeableness of our Lord's Word if we wish to do anything that lasts.
3. What are your thoughts about Israel? Has God given up on them? Have they been replaced by the Church?



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