

Zechariah 1-3—Rebuke & Encouragement

Introductory Information

- Author Zechariah
- Post-exilic Timeframe
- Purpose: encourage the rebuilding of the temple; encourage spiritual renewal; Messianic prophecies about the fulfillment—in Christ—of the old covenant
- Themes: call to repentance; apocalyptic sections with prophetic visions; oracles of judgment and salvation

Call to Repentance (Zechariah 1:1-6)

1. What was the chief point that the exile was meant to drive home to this new generation?
2. Zechariah's name means "the Lord remembers". This often refers to God remembering and fulfilling a promise that He had made. How do Jeremiah 14:10 and Jeremiah 31:34 show different aspects of the Lord remembering?

Zechariah had a series of 8 visions (not dreams) all in one night. "He learned of God's gracious purposes for His people, which were already taking effect at that time but would be fully realized in Christ and His kingdom" (ESV Study Bible).

Vision #1: The Man Among the Myrtle Trees (Zechariah 1:7-17)

3. Who does Zechariah see in this first vision, what are they doing, and what message do they deliver to the Angel of the Lord?
4. In the Old Testament, the "Angel of the Lord" is often (but not always) the pre-incarnate Jesus. Read Hebrews 7:23-25 and compare it to Zechariah 1:12. What similar action is happening back then and now?
5. God used other nations, such as Babylon, to chastise and scatter His people. Why is He then "very angry" with these nations? How have His actions toward Jerusalem changed?

Vision #2: Four Horns & Four Craftsmen (Zechariah 1:18-21)

6. Horns are a symbol of power. Who do these horns represent and how might Zechariah have initially reacted to them in verses 18-19?
7. What happened to these nations that had oppressed God's people?

Vision #3: Man with a Measuring Line (Zechariah 2:1-13)

8. The book of Nehemiah goes into detail about the necessary rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem after the exiles returned. According to verses 4-5, why would the man NOT need to measure Jerusalem?

"The prophet was granted a vision that rises above his own time and place. He beheld the universal Church, a city without walls, with inhabitants from every nation, from all tribes and people and languages."—from the ESV Study Bible

9. Verse 5 states that the Lord "will be its glory within" and in verse 10 He states that "I will live among you". How did this occur back in the time of Zechariah and how does that occur now (see John 1:14)?

Vision #4: Clean Garments for the High Priest (Zechariah 3:1-10)

10. The Hebrew word for Satan means "accuser". Why is Satan described as an accuser? See also Revelation 12:7-11a

"But then verse 2 comes! The great defense attorney rose. His words rung out loud and clear: 'The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you!' The cowering Joshua heard it, and he was glad."—from People's Bible Commentary, p. 52

11. What is the symbolism of the clothing? What does Joshua's change of clothes signify for him (see verse 7) and what does it symbolize for us now?
12. In Zechariah 3:8, there is a promise of the coming one called the Branch. Who is this Branch and how does He fulfill the prophecy? See Isaiah 4:2-3 and Isaiah 11:1.
13. Verse 9 says that "I will remove the sin of this land in a *single day*". On what day do we solemnly remember that our sins were taken away?

Bible Verses

Jeremiah 14:10 Thus says the Lord concerning this people: “They have loved to wander thus; they have not restrained their feet; therefore the Lord does not accept them; now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.”

Jeremiah 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Hebrews 7:23-25 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he [Jesus] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 12:7-11a Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “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 before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Isaiah 4:2-3 In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Resources:

- NIV and ESV Study Bibles
- People’s Bible Commentary on Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi
- LifeLight Leaders Guide and Study Guide on Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi