

Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
Series #8: The Minor Prophets  
Session #16: Zechariah 1:1 – 6:8  
Tuesday, May 16, 2017

**Summary of Zechariah**

The enthusiasm of the Jews returning to Judah from their exile in Babylon was soon dampened by discouragement as they faced the pile of rubble that remained of the temple and the devastated land surrounding it. According to Ezra (5:1; 6:14), both Haggai and Zechariah prophesied about 520-516 B.C.E. With a series of visions and oracles Zechariah assures Zerubbabel, the governor, and Joshua, the high priest, that together they will finish rebuilding the temple, which they did accomplish.

The name Zechariah means “Yahweh remembered.” Remembering includes taking action. The content of the book illustrates and supports this testimony. Chapters 1-8 preserve reports of a vision and oracles given by the prophet in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of Darius, Emperor of Persia, nearly 70 years after Babylon conquered the kingdom of Judah in 587 BCE. These messages assure the people that God caused the migration of Jews from Babylon to the region around Jerusalem, the beginning of the temple rebuilding, and the reestablishment of the priesthood in the late 6<sup>th</sup> Century. The royal line of David is preserved in Zerubbabel, the Persian-appointed civilian leader. Chapters 9-14 incorporate undated sayings from other prophets that portray God’s involvement in the turbulent times between the “now” of 518 BCE and the ultimate establishment of the Lord’s reign over all the earth—the eschaton.

**When was Zechariah written and by whom?**

The Book of Zechariah was probably written by two, maybe more sources. The first eight chapters are attributed to Zechariah, son of Berechiah son of Iddo, and was written between Fall 520 and 518 BCE. The second part of the book (Chapters 9-14) are undated and difficult to date. Chapter 14 may have been written as late as the late-5<sup>th</sup> Century BCE.

**Major Theological Themes**

- 1) Faithfulness and restoration
- 2) Forgiveness
- 3) God as refiner
- 4) God of all, active in history, Lord of all the earth
- 5) King over all the earth
- 6) Ritual versus compassion
- 7) Leadership
- 8) Messiah
- 9) Satan

## **Outline of Zechariah**

- A. First Zechariah (Chapters 1-8)
  - 1. Superscription (1:1)
  - 2. Oracles and Visions (1:2 – 6:8)
    - a) Prologue: The First Oracle (1:2-6)
    - b) The First Vision: The Divine Horsemen (1:7-17)
    - c) The Second Vision: Four Horns and Four Smiths (1:18-21)
    - d) The Third Vision: A Wall of Fire (2:1-5)
    - e) The Second Oracle (2:6-13)
    - f) The Fourth Vision: Joshua and the Satan (Chapter 3)
    - g) The Fifth Vision: The Lampstand and the Olive Trees (Chapter 4)
      - (i) The Third Oracle (4:6-10a)
    - h) The Sixth Vision: The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
    - i) The Seventh Vision: A Woman in a Basket (5:5-11)
    - j) The Eighth Vision: Four Chariots (6:1-8)
  - 3. Other Oracles (6:9 – 8:23)
    - a) The Fourth Oracle: The Crowning of the Branch (6:9-15)
    - b) The Fifth Oracle: The Fallacy of Fasting (Chapter 7)
    - c) Seven oracles on the restoration of Zion (8:1-17)
    - d) Three oracles on the future joy of Judah (8:18-23)
- B. Second Zechariah (Chapters 9-14)
  - 1. The First Oracle: The Divine Warrior (9:1 – 11:17)
    - a) The approach of the Divine Warrior & fate of the nations (9:1-8)
    - b) Joy and protection for Judah and Ephraim (9:9-13)
    - c) The arrival of the Divine Warrior (9:14-17)
    - d) The Lord: a militant shepherd (10:1 – 11:3)
    - e) Two kinds of shepherds (11:4-17)
  - 2. The Second Oracle: The Victory of the Divine Warrior (Chapters 12-14)
    - a) The Purge of Jerusalem (12:1 – 13:6)
      - (i) The Day of the Lord (12:1-9)
      - (ii) Events on the Day of the Lord (12:10 – 13:6)
    - b) Textual Insertion: Continuation of Zechariah 11:15-17 (13:7-9)
    - c) The Apocalypse of Zechariah (Chapter 14)

## **Resource**

*Enterthebible.com*, <https://www.enterthebible.org/oldtestament>

Notes from The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 2010

Notes from HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV), 1989

Notes from *The CEB Women's Bible* (CEB), 2016