

Zechariah 1-3

Introduction

- Read Zechariah 1:1, Haggai 1:1, and Ezra 5:1. Zechariah and Haggai were contemporaries. Haggai started two months earlier but only prophesied 4 months, but Zechariah was much younger (Zechariah 2:4) and prophesied for many years (two at least).
- Read Nehemiah 12:1-4,12-16. Zechariah was both a prophet and a priest. Per tradition Zechariah, was a member of the Great Synagogue, the ruling body of the Jews set up by Nehemiah and the predecessor to the Sanhedrin (and took over for his grandfather because his father had already died).
- The name Zechariah means “The Lord remembers”, and he is referred to as the “prophet of hope”.
- Zechariah has the most varied prophecies on the messiah of all prophets except for Isaiah.

Call To Repentance

1. Why was the Lord angry? What did the Lord call both them and their forefathers to do? Read Jeremiah 3:6-7. How had their forefathers reacted? Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-21, Amos 9:9-10. How does this section set the real background for the situation the Jews were in?
2. We can see why God points out that the forefathers died, but why does He point out that the prophets died? Read Isaiah 40:6-8, Deuteronomy 28:1-2,15. Both Zechariah and Haggai pointed the people to the warnings God gave the people before they entered the land. Why?
3. How did the people react? Read Lamentations 1:18, 2:17. Why the call to repent if there was recognition of guilt already?

Visions

1. What are the horses? Why in Myrtle trees? Read Isaiah 55:12-13, Nehemiah 8:13-15. Who is the Angel of the Lord? Read Genesis 22:8-19, Exodus 3:1-6. Note that the angels report to the Angel of the Lord and read Joshua 5:13-15. What is the significance of accepting worship? Read Revelation 19:10. What does the Angel of the Lord do? Read 1 John 2:1-2. What is the Lord’s response?
2. What are the horns? Read Daniel 7:24, 8:20-22. There have been six world empires per the Bible: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Most commentators view the horns as a reference to a subset of these, either the first four (they had occurred by this point), or the last four (they are the four mentioned in Daniel), or Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Rome (they are the four that scattered Israel). The other view is that it represents all the enemies of God’s chosen from the North, South, East, and West. What are the four craftsmen? What is the point of this vision in the context of the first vision? How is this like the vision in Habakkuk 2:8?
3. What is the third vision? Why is the city to be without walls? Read Isaiah 26:1-6, 2 Kings 18:28-35, 19:35-37. Did God need walls to defend Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah? What are modern day walls? Who is the audience of verse 6? Why had they not returned? Who is the Lord of Hosts? How can God send Himself out? Read John 3:13-17. What is the “apple of His eye”? The Hebrew word rendered apple, is *babah*, and it means “hollowed out”, thus the pupil. What is the purpose of this section? What do verses 10-13 point to? It is interesting to note that the term Holy Land appears only here in the Bible! Why would the land be holy? Recall the passages dealing with the Angel of the Lord.
4. What is the fourth vision? Where does the scene take place? Compare this with Job 1:6-12. What was Satan doing? Ref. Psalm 109:6. What does Satan mean? Who rebukes Satan and how? Read Jude 8-10. How does the rebuke of Satan, show how Joshua is accepted? Read Ephesians 2:4-10. What do the dirty clothes symbolize? Read Revelation 3:4-5. Why does it put emphasis on the turban? Read Exodus 28:36-38. Why does the Angel of the Lord admonish Joshua? Read John

15:9-11. Who is the Branch? Read Isaiah 11:1-2. What is the stone? Read Psalm 118:21-24. Since the messiah has come, do we have the peace promised in verse 10? Read Philippians 4:6-7.

Zechariah 4-6

Visions Continued

1. We did not finish the end of chapter 3 and there is a very important part in this section. Who is the Branch? Read Isaiah 11:1-2. What is the stone? Read Psalm 118:21-24. Since the messiah has come, do we have the peace promised in verse 10? Read Philippians 4:6-7.
2. What is the fifth vision? What is the significance of the vision? Read verse 6. Where is the seven branched lamp from? Read Exodus 25:31,37 (Reference Exodus 25:31-40). What does the Lord promise? What does verse 10 mean? Read Haggai 2:3-5. How did God view the temple? What are the two olive trees? How can they be poured into God's service? Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
3. How does the sixth vision start? Is there any significance to the size of the scroll being the same size as the holy place (not the Holy of Holies) in the tabernacle? What are phylacteries? Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Matthew 23:1-5. Phylacteries are boxes that contain scriptures, and are tied to the head or back of the hand. The point of the passage in Deuteronomy is that the people were to live Coram Deo - before the face of God- but unfortunately the people followed the form but never had God come in. What is written on the scroll? Is there significance to these two commandments? What is the significance to it coming into the houses after the people? Read Hebrews 4:12-13. Why is it called a curse? Read Galatians 3:10-14. How does the vision continue? What is an ephah? Is there significance to wickedness in grain? Read Luke 12:1-3. Why is wickedness female? One possible reason is the Hebrew word for wickedness is feminine, while others look to Revelation 17-18, where the harlot bears the name Babylon and gets the world drunk on her fornication. Why is there a lead cover? Read Galatians 5:7-10. Who are the women who carry the basket to Babylon (lit. Shinar, the region containing Babylon)? Were storks clean or unclean? Read Leviticus 11:13-19. The Bible often sets Babylon and Jerusalem as symbols of what?
4. What is the seventh vision? What was the first vision? There are two (main) views of the mountains: one that they are Mt. Moriah and the Mount of Olives, the other that they are the "external counsel and providence of God". The first cites this is where Jesus ascended and will return, and bronze to this view is for the judgment of the Lord. The second cites the sovereignty and unchangability of God in His counsel and providence. Irregardless of the view you take, this vision pictures God acting on behalf of His people by sending His messengers to deal with the world. Why do two go to the north? What was north? What is south? Where did the red one go? Babylon was already conquered peacefully, but the last verse seems to suggest God judging Babylon particularly in light of the first vision. What is up? Interestingly, Babylon rebels three years after this prophesy and is destroyed and depopulated by Darius!
5. The visions end with a command and symbol. What is it? Why a crown? The wording suggests a multiple crown, rather than a single ornate crown. Who does this prefigure? Read Revelation 19:11-16. Is Joshua to keep the crown and rule? What is done to the crown? While this has long been recognized as a Messianic passage, it is interesting to note that during Joshua's lifetime the priests became the rulers of the land, so we see an immediate fulfillment picturing the ultimate truth in Jesus.

Zechariah 7-8

Fasting

1. How long after the visions did this section take place? Was the temple finished? Where is Bethel? What was its significance during the divided kingdom? Read 1 Kings 12:25-33. What was the purpose of the fast the people are asking about? Read Jeremiah 52:12-27. What is God bringing to the people's attention by His first three questions? Were they doing it to honor God? How does one fast to honor God? Read Matthew 6:16-18.

Zechariah 9-14

Oracles of the Coming Messiah

The last section is composed of two oracles: chapters 9-11, and chapters 12-14. Since we don't have time to go over them in detail, I will concentrate on the key images of Christ in these chapters.

1. The section starts in chapter 9 by mentioning seven cities which God was angry with, and which God used Alexander to destroy in the order presented, but as verse 8 states, Jerusalem was spared. This punishment on the nations sets the stage for the next verses. Read Zechariah 9:9-10. What does this picture? Why does the king ride a donkey and not a war horse? Read Matthew 21:1-11. What did the verses in Zechariah point to? What did the people shout to Jesus? Why? What type of branches did they cut? Why? Note that Zechariah 9:13 pictures the Maccabees revolt against the Seleucids, and the victory of the Maccabees was celebrated by the people waving palm branches and casting them before the victors, as a sign of the Lord's favor. The Messianic nature of the passage was thus interpreted in terms of military conquest, not a savior coming to die for the peoples sins. How does Zechariah 9:10 refute this? When did Jesus enter the city? Read Exodus 12:1-11. Jesus entered on the day that the Israelites were to select their Passover lamb, but they did not want a savior. They wanted a military general. With this in mind read Luke 19:41-44. Why did Jesus cry? What was the result of the people's rejection of their savior?
2. Now read Zechariah 11:4-8. Who is the shepherd and who are the flock? Read John 10:7-18. Is the shepherd the same? Is the flock the same? Read Romans 9:6-8. What happens in Zechariah 11:12? Compare this with Matthew 26:14-16. What is the significance of thirty pieces of silver? Read Exodus 21:32. Now read Zechariah 11:13. Is the comment about the price paid serious or sarcastic? Compare v. 13 with Matthew 27:1-10. Why does Matthew say this is from Jeremiah? One view explains this by Matthew combining several quotes from Jeremiah (18:1-12, 19:1-13, 32:6-9) and Zechariah and attributes them to the more prominent one. A similar action is done in Matthew 2:6 (combining quotes of Micah and Samuel), and Mark 1:2 (from Isaiah and Malachi). Another view looks to Jeremiah as the first book of the Hebrew section of the prophets thus this is simply a reference to the section of prophets in the Old Testament. A final view looks to the fact that not all manuscripts have the prophet named and the similarity of the names Jeremiah and Zechariah (two letters in the Greek) could cause a scribal error.
3. Read Zechariah 12:7-13:1. What is the significance of the feeblest being like David? What about the house of David being like God, like the Angel of the Lord? How do the people come to mourn for the one pierced? Read John 19:31-37. What is the fountain to cleanse from sin and impurity? Read Zechariah 13:7 and compare with Mark 14:27-31.