

# SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: ZECHARIAH

## The Historical Background

*The prophet Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai (Ezra 5:1, Zechariah 1:1,7). Therefore, he too shared the task of stirring the people to get up and rebuild the Temple. His main call to the people is to return to the LORD (1:3), assuring that God is coming to meet them with mercy and power (1:3,16; 4:9).*

## The Book Zechariah

This book contains 8 visions, 2 sermons and 2 oracles, after the call to the people to return to the LORD:

1:1-6

[2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius, 8<sup>th</sup> month]

*“Return to me and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts (v3).*

8 Vision

[2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius, 11<sup>th</sup> month]

Vision of Horses (1:8-17)

Vision of Horns (1:18-27)

Vision of Measuring Line (2:1-13)

Vision of High Priest (3:1-10)

Vision of Lamp Stand and Olive Trees (4:1-14)

Vision of Flying Scroll (5:1-4)

Vision of Lady in Basket (5:5-11)

Vision of Four Chariots (6:1-8)

Explanation: ***Visions 4 & 5 concern the Messiah. Vision 4 is about the High Priest and how filth is removed. Vision 5 is about how God will come and dwell with His people again, in the Temple being rebuilt by Zerubbabel, who is the ruler in the Davidic line. Visions 4 & 5 forms the heart of this series of 8 visions, and is the focal point.***

*Vision 1 has 4 horses that go throughout the world. This is a time when the world remains in sin and God's judgment hasn't arrived. The peace seen is a false peace. Vision 8 also has 4 horses that go throughout the world. The peace reported is the peace that flows from the reign of the Messiah, after God's enemies defeated and God reigns over all.*

*Visions 2 & 3 portray how God has victories over the enemies of His people, while protecting them who lived among these enemies. Visions 6 & 7 show how God purged His people of their sins. So together, these 4 visions show how God defeat all and every opposition to His rule – both external and internal opposition.*

Special Note: *In all 8 visions, we are shown what God is going to do. There is no portion talking about what we are to do. In other words, the visions are all in the indicatives!*

## 2 Sermons

[4<sup>th</sup> year of Darius, 9<sup>th</sup> month]

- [1] This message looks **back** and explains why God sent the people of Judah into exile. It **interprets** their history and points to their **disobedience** to God's demands.
- [2] This message looks **forward** and describes what God will do for His people according to His **grace**. He will give them a **fresh** start!

*I will . . . . . therefore . . . . .*

## 2 Oracles

Oracle #1 (9:1 – 11:17)

- Judgment on Israel's enemies

Oracle #2 (12:1 – 14:21)

- Judgment on Israel's enemies

- The One who would come:  
# King, LORD, shepherd (9:9,14-16; 11:4-9)  
# Detested and rejected by the flock (11:8)
- The One who would come:  
# Shepherd, one they have pierced (12:10, 13:7)

*In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.*

**Zechariah 13:1**

*They will call on My name, and I will answer them.*

*I will say, 'This is My people';  
and each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"*

**Zechariah 13:9**

*And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.*

*In that day it shall be — "The LORD is one," and His name one.*

**Zechariah 14:9**

*How does this message of Zechariah (8 visions, 2 sermons, 2 oracles) encourage and stir up people who are indifferent and living indulgent lifestyles to get up and get on with God's work?*

*Ultimately, it is to point them to Jesus, preach the Gospel to them, tell them what God has done and will do for them, and tell them that fall in line with what God is doing is the only life that worth living!!*