

# A Survey Of Zechariah

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## Words Of Comfort

(Zc 1:17)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
  - a. I'm so blessed to be here this evening and thankful for this congregation hosting such a wonderful set of needed lessons.
    - i. "A Survey Of The Minor Prophets"
  - b. The little I have gotten to know Brother Hinton, I have come to appreciate him and his dedication to the Lord.
2. The topic for tonight is a "Survey of Zechariah."
  - a. Zechariah's genealogical background.
    - i. Zechariah is the son of Berechiah (Behr-uh-kigh-uh).
      1. **Zc 1:1** "In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying"<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. His is also the grandson of Iddo which means two things...
      1. First Zechariah is fairly young.
      2. Second Zechariah is both a prophet and priest.
        - a. **Ne 12:1-7** "These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah...4 Iddo...Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua."
  - b. Zechariah's historical dates.
    - i. We know he was a prophet during the time when the Jews were returning from captivity.
      1. **Ne 12:1** "These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbable..."
    - ii. We know he was a contemporary with Haggai.
      1. **Er 5:1** " Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them."
    - iii. This would put Zechariah's preaching at 520 B.C.
      1. At the time of the "rebuilding" of the temple.
  - c. Zechariah's preaching style VS Haggai's preaching style.
    - i. There is an old saying concerning the "preacher's job."
      1. His job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.
    - ii. Haggai was the one that afflicted the comfortable.
    - iii. Zechariah was the one that comforted the afflicted.
      1. Thus we find a need for "both" with the people and a lesson for any preacher.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- d. The book of Zechariah's content and context.
  - i. The book breaks down into two basic sections.
    1. Comfort from the Lord's present concern for His people (1-8)
      - a. There are eight visions that help to make up these chapters.
      - b. Brother Roper summed them up thusly, "The temple was to be completed, the nations which had destroyed Judah would be destroyed, and Jerusalem was to be inhabited again, with God caring for her. The priesthood was to be purified, sin would be punished, and wickedness would be sent away, demonstrating God's control over all the earth." (Truth For Today Magazine on Minor Prophets, 9 "A God Of Hope" Vol. 32, No 12 by Roper, Coy pg. 5)
    2. Comfort from the Lord's future victories for His people (9-14)
      - a. You have two basic oracles presented here 9-11 & 12-14.
      - b. The focus of both are that even though God's people would face a great deal of problems that were both external and internal they would ultimately be blessed.
  - ii. The book deals with one main people.
    1. The Jewish remnant that was expected to rebuild the temple.
  - iii. This great book is second only to Isaiah in prophecies concerning the Messiah. Jesus is identified as...
    1. The Angel of the Covenant.
    2. The Righteous Branch
    3. The High Priest
    4. The Ruler
    5. The Good Shepherd
    6. The One who would make the atonement.
    7. The Champion of His people & frustration of His enemies.
3. With this now in mind let us examine some practical lessons from the magnificent book.

### I. Comfort In God's Promises

- A. The remnant that had returned had a comfort that was not found with their forefathers
  1. There was a continuous revolution of faithfulness to unfaithfulness back to faithfulness back to unfaithfulness...these people's fathers were unfaithful.
    - i. **Zc 7:9-14** "Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, 10 do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart." 11 But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. 12 They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of hosts. 13 "As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the LORD of hosts, 14 "and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate."

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2. This remnant could find comfort in the Lord's promises they just had to do what their forefathers were unwilling to do...return to Him.
    - i. **Zc 1:3** "Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts."
    - ii. **Zc 3:9** "For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day."
    - iii. **Zc 8:14-15** "For thus says the LORD of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts, 15 so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not."
  3. Great comfort could be found for this remnant that had come back to not only their home town, Jerusalem, but also their God, The LORD of hosts if they were willing to work toward the promise of comfort.
- B. We too can find great comfort and "fear not" knowing the blessings we have through the Lord's promises
1. Unfortunately today God's people are no different than they were then.
    - i. We too, in the church, have this revolving faithfulness to sinfulness cycle that we engage in regrettably.
      - a. Biblical examples:
        1. **Jd 3** "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."
        2. **Ga 1:6-7** "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ."
      - b. Modern examples:
        1. All over we find this to be the case unfortunately where congregations have given up on teaching "all" the truth for part of it.
          - a. Divorce & Remarriage
          - b. Fellowship with denominationalism...
        - ii. In fact there are so many unfaithful congregations it is hard to take, and brings tears to my eyes and makes me sick to the stomach.
    2. Today every faithful congregation and child of God can have comfort in the same promises this remnant had.
      - i. **He 13:5-6** "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?""
      - ii. **Ps 118:6-7** "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man

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do to me? 7 The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me."

3. Brethren what a comfort it is to know that we have a God that will never leave us nor forsake/neglect us if we seek after Him.
  - i. That is not to say we will be perfect though we are to strive for it.
    - a. **Ro 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
    - b. **Mt 5:48** "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
    - c. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (NKJV)

### II. Comfort In God's Clean High Priest

- A. The Jews needed the priests to be in good standing with God especially the high priest
  1. It was the priest who offered the sacrifices for the people.
  2. It was the high priest who offered up the sin offering.
    - i. Whether it was for the personal sin.
      - a. **Lv 4:3-12**
    - ii. Or the sin offering for all the people on the Day of Atonement.
      - a. **Lv 16:1-34**
    - iii. The priest were needed.
  3. As you can image having your intercessor corrupt would be of an utmost problem.
    - i. This is exactly what the Jews had before going into captivity.
  4. God being the great, merciful, and just God He is gives the people some comfort confirming He has cleaned up the high priest.
    - i. **Zc 3:1-7** "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" 3 Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. 4 And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." 5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by. 6 And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, 7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here."

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- B. We too can find comfort in knowing our High Priest is perfect and clean
  - 1. Remember Jesus is the perfect High Priest.
    - i. **He 7:26** "For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens."
  - 2. In the same way the Jews could have comfort in a clean, up right High Priest (**He 5:1-4**) we can find comfort in the greatest of High Priests our Lord and Savior.
- C. We can find comfort in a perfect High Priest knowing He...
  - 1. Knows our weaknesses.
    - i. **He 4:15** "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."
  - 2. Knows our weaknesses and intercedes on our behalf.
    - i. **He 7:25** "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."
    - ii. **Ro 8:34** "Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."
  - 3. Brethren is there a greater comfort than knowing we have God the Son who knows our weaknesses and is willing to be our advocate for us to the Father.
    - i. **I Jn 2:1** "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

### III. Comfort In God's Rebuilt Temple

- A. There was comfort that came from knowing the temple would be rebuilt
  - 1. God not only tells them it will get built He tells them He will be there helping them.
    - i. **Zc 1:16a** "Therefore thus says the LORD, "I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it..." (NASB95)
    - ii. **Zc 4:6, 9** "Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts...9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you."
  - 2. With all the difficulties there had been with trying to build the temple one can see why the Jews would have been discouraged.
    - i. Yet they receive a guarantee that it would be completed and that God would be the one helping them.

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- B. Today we have a temple not built with hands and what a comfort it is
1. The church is the temple of God.
    - i. **Ep 2:19-22** "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
  2. We have a guarantee that...
    - i. It will be everlasting. We don't have to worry about it ever being destroyed.
      - a. **Da 2:44** "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever"
      - b. **Lk 1:32-33** "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
    - ii. It is lead by the Savior.
      - a. **Ep 5:23b** "...Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior."
      - b. **Ep 1:22-23** "And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."
    - iii. It is the family that has the eternal inheritance of heaven.
      - a. **Ep 1:13-14** "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."
  3. Brothers and sisters let us know, understand, and hold great comfort in this temple which was built by our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.
    - i. **Mt 16:18** "And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (ASV)

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## IV. Comfort In God's Holy Nature

- A. The Lord of Hosts told Zechariah that the Jews would completely be holy
  - 1. "Zechariah was predicting a time when every aspect of Jewish life—not just the temple and its environs—would be "holy to the LORD," set apart or dedicated to the Lord's use." (Truth For Today Magazine on Minor Prophets, 9 "A God Of Hope" Vol. 32, No 12 by Roper, Coy pg. 50)
    - i. **Zc 14:20a-21a** "And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD."...21 And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts..."
  - 2. There is no doubt that the faithful Jews would have looked forward to this and found great comfort from it would be eagerly awaiting this great responsibility.
- B. We too have been told to find comfort in being holy
  - 1. Comfort from holiness is seen in the peace we have on earth.
    - i. **Ro 5:1** "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
    - ii. How can we be so peaceful in Christ?
      - a. **Ro 8:38-39** "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (NKJV)
  - 2. Comfort from holiness is seen in the confidence we have in truth.
    - i. I don't have to worry about if I'm doing the right thing I can know if I am or not.
      - a. **Jn 8:32** "and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
      - b. **I Jn 5:13** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."
    - ii. This idea that we are simply to "hope" we are getting it right, that is found today in the church all over, is ludicrous and crazy.
      - a. Our confidence and faith in God and His Word is not based on some leap in the dark but on facts, evidence, and substance.
        - 1. **He 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
    - iii. Brethren you can be confident when being holy because you know you are doing the right things.
      - a. Be not a part of this world but be set apart from this world in holiness.
        - 1. **I Pt 1:15-16** "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (NKJV)

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## CONCLUSION

1. The LORD spoke with good and comforting words to the angel which Zechariah took note of and was expected to speak in the same manor.
  - a. **Zc 1:13** "And the LORD answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words."
  - b. **Zc 1:17** "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."'" (NKJV)
2. My hope this evening is that we you have found some comfort in the words of Zechariah who was inspired by our great and awe inspiring God.
  - a. There is no greater we can find comfort in than He is our God.
3. Challenge: To find comfort in every situation, trial, or tribulation you are in, in God.
  - a. Let the God was and is and will always be, be your comfort.
4. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**