

- 1  The Book of Zechariah  
**Men of Grace**  
Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
May 20, 2008

Scott Carpenter

- 2  Zechariah—Overview
- Mid-Point of Scripture**
  - Mid-Point of Israel's History**
  - "Apocalypse" of the Minor Prophets**
  - Prophecy: Past—Present—Future**

- 3  The Covenants—Key to the Structure of the Bible

1. **Abrahamic Covenant (2000 B.C.)**
  - LSD: Land, Spiritual Blessings, Descendants
2. **Mosaic Covenant (1400 B.C.)**
  - LLC: Law, Levitical System, Consequences
3. **Davidic Covenant (ca 1000 B.C.)**
  - FFC: Forever King, Forever Kingdom, Children
4. **New Covenant (ca 600 B.C.)**
  - FGH: Forgiveness, Gentiles, Heart/Holy Spirit

- 4  History Books—Israel in the Promised Land

Patriarchs: Abrahamic Covenant (2000 BC)  
Exodus: Mosaic Covenant (1400 BC)  
Conquest: Joshua takes the Land  
Judges: No King...Chaos (1350-1050)  
United Kingdom: Davidic Covenant (1000 BC)  
Divided Kingdom: Judah and Ephraim (950-722 BC)  
Surviving Kingdom: New Covenant (722-605 BC)  
Babylonian Exile: 70 years  
Return and Rebuild: Zechariah (ca. 520 BC)

- 5

- 6  New Covenant—History Summary 1000-600 B.C.
- King, Law failed to bring Israel peace**
  - Kingdom divided (922 BC)**
    - **Israel: 19 Kings, all bad**
    - **Judah: 19 Kings, half bad**
  - Assyria destroyed Northern Kingdom**
    - **722 BC**
  - Babylon destroyed Southern Kingdom**

- About 600 BC
  - Jewish leaders exiled to Babylon
- 7
- 8  Return & Rebuild—ca 530-516 BC
  - 70 years of Captivity in Babylon
  - Ezekiel and Daniel written in Captivity
  - 3 Groups Return, 536-516 BC
    - Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah
  - Post-Exilic Bible Books
    - History: Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther
    - Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
    - 400 Silent Years Until Christ
- 9  Who was Zechariah?
  - Began prophetic ministry weeks before Haggai stopped
  - People were discouraged by lack of resources and loss of former glory
  - Jerusalem was still a vassal of the Medo-Persian Empire
  - Called the people to persevere in finishing the temple
- 10  Zechariah—Historical Setting 520 B.C.
  - Temple not finished 16 years after the first return of exiles from Babylon
  - How to get the people to rebuild the temple?
  - How can the Jews clean up their act and stay true to God's law?
  - What happened to God's promises of blessing and peace?
- 11  Zechariah 1:1—What's in a Name?
 

"In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo." (Zech. 1:1)

  - Zechariah: "God remembers"
  - Father—Berekiah: "God blesses"
  - Grandfather—Iddo: "At the appointed time"
  - Theme: God will remember to bless his people at the appointed time.
- 12  Zechariah 1:2-3—An Outline of the Book
 

1:2 The LORD was very angry with your forefathers.

1:3a Therefore, tell the people what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty,

1:3b 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty.
- 13  Outline of Zechariah (1:2-3)
  - God's name repeated three times: "Jehovah of Hosts"
  - Meaning: "Lord of all powers or armies"

- Translated: "The LORD Almighty"**
- Emphasis: God's sovereign power**

- 14  Zechariah 1:2-3—An Outline of the Book
1. "The LORD was very angry with your forefathers." (1:2)  
THE PAST—1:1-6: Call to Repent
  2. "Return to me." (1:3a)  
THE PRESENT—Chapters 1-6: Call to Persevere
  3. "And I will return to you." (1:3b)  
THE FUTURE—Chapters 7-14: Call to Hope

- 15  Zechariah—Part One  
**A CALL TO REPENTANCE**

- 16  Zechariah 1:1-6—The Past
- "Do not be like your forefathers: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. Where are your forefathers now? And the prophets, do they live forever? But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your forefathers?"

Zechariah 1:4-6

- 17  Zechariah 1:1-6—The Past
- What did their forefathers do?**
- Rebellion—Divided Kingdom**
  - Idolatry—Worshiped Baal and idols**
  - Disobedience—Did not obey the law**
  - Result: Babylonian Exile**

- 18  Zechariah 1:1-6 The Way of Repentance
- John the Baptist: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near...Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River...Produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matt. 3:2, 5, 8)**
  - Jesus: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." (Matt. 4:17)**
  - John: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)**

- 19  Zechariah—Part Two  
**A CALL TO PERSEVERANCE**

- 20  Zechariah 1:7-6:15—Eight Visions in One Night
1. **Four Horsemen**
  2. **Four Horns and Four Craftsmen**
  3. **Man with a Measuring Line**
  4. **Joshua Accused and Cleansed**
  5. **The Lampstand and the Olive Trees**
  6. **The Flying Scroll**
  7. **Woman in the Measuring Basket**
  8. **Four Chariots**

- 21  Zechariah 1-6—The Present
- Eight Visions like scenes in a play**

- All Visions come in a single night
  - Visions are accompanied by lessons
  - Think Scrooge in Christmas Carol
- 22  Zechariah 1:7-17—First Vision
  - Four Horsemen and a Man Among the Myrtle Trees
  - “What are these, my Lord?...’The are the ones the Lord has sent to go throughout the whole earth.”
  - God’s patrol keeping watch over Jerusalem
- 23  Zechariah 1:7-17—The First Vision
  - “LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these 70 years?” (1:12)
  - “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, but I am very angry with the nations that feel secure.’” (1:14)
  - “I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem...and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.” (1:16-17)
  - Lesson: Persevere, Almighty God is on your side
- 24  Zechariah 1:18-21—The Second Vision
  - “...there before me were four horns!...’These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.” (1:18-19)
  - “Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen...the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people.” (1:20-21)
  - Lesson: Amid worldly challenges God will empower his people to build his kingdom
- 25  Zechariah 2:1-13—The Third Vision
  - Vision: A man with a measuring line who went out to measure the city of Jerusalem (2:1-2)
  - Jerusalem had no walls or temple—since Babylon
  - “‘Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of men and livestock in it. And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will be its glory within.’” (2:4-5)
  - “‘Come! Come! Flee from the land of the North,’ Declares the LORD, ‘for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven,’ declares the LORD.” (2:6)
- 26  Zechariah 2:1-13—The Third Vision
  - “‘Shout and be glad, O daughter of Zion. For I am coming and I will live among you,’ declares the LORD. ‘Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you, and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem.’” (2:10-12)
  - God is coming to establish his permanent Messianic reign among the Jews, and the gentiles will be joined in God’s kingdom
- 27  Zechariah 2:1-13—The Third Vision
  - Abrahamic Covenant: LSD, whole earth blessed
  - Davidic Covenant: Forever King, Kingdom
  - New Covenant: New relationship to God, Gentiles joined in Messiah’s kingdom
  - Lesson: “Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.” (2:13)
  - Lesson: Worship and be encouraged, because God’s kingdom is coming.
- 28  Zechariah 3:1-10—The Fourth Vision
  - Joshua, the High Priest, standing before God and accused by Satan; “Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes.” (3:1-3) [our sin accuses us before God]

□ **The angel: "Take off his filthy clothes...See I have taken away your sin and I will put rich garments on you." (3:4) [The Advocate: Grace]**

29  Zechariah 3—The Fourth Vision

- "Listen O High Priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to send my servant, the Branch." (3:8)
- "Joshua" symbolic—a type of Christ, Yeshua
- "the Branch" = the Messiah
- Jeremiah 23:5-6: "The days are coming declares the LORD, 'when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King...In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD our righteousness.'"

30  Zechariah 3—The Fourth Vision

- "...says the LORD Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.'" (3:8-9)
- "remove sin...single day": Salvation—Hebrews 9
  - Mosaic Covenant: "...the High Priest the Most Holy Place every year with blood not his own..." (Hebrews 9:25)
  - New Covenant: "...Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:28)
- Lesson: Be encouraged, Messiah is coming
  - "Return to me": Cleansing comes from Christ; We are saved by God's grace

31  Zechariah 4—The Fifth Vision

- The Vision: Golden Lampstand with 7 lights together with two olive trees; permanent light
- Interpretation:
  - "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,' declares the LORD Almighty..." (4:6)
  - "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it." (Zech. 4:8)
  - "Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel." (4:10)

32  Zechariah 4—The Fifth Vision

**Lesson:**

- God will strengthen Jerusalem to finish the work on the temple
- "'Not by might, nor by power, but my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty."
  - Take responsibility to do God's work
  - But Trust in God's power and rely on his Spirit to lead and strengthen
  - God is working in the 'small things'

33  Zechariah 5:1-4—The Sixth Vision

- Vision: Flying Scroll with one of the 10 Commandments on each side, 30 feet long and 15 feet wide (5:1-2)
- Interpretation: "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land..." (5:3-4)
- Lesson: Despite sin, God's truth prevails; the Day of Judgment is coming

34  Zechariah 5:5-11—The Seventh Vision

- Vision: Woman in an ephah, or measuring basket, carried away to Babylon
- Interpretation:
  - The basket is "the iniquity of the people"
  - The woman is "wickedness"
  - The iniquity will be carried away

**Lesson: God will punish and banish sin and wickedness**

35  Zechariah 6:1-8—The Eighth Vision

- Vision: “Four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze!” [four horses of different colors] (6:1-4)
- Interpretation: “These are the four spirits of heaven going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world....Go throughout the earth!” (6:5-8)
  - Chariots: instruments of God’s judgment
  - Bronze: like cover of altar of sacrifice
  - Lord of the whole earth: 4 chariots/horsemen
  - Sent to judge the earth (like Revelation)

36  Zechariah 6:1-8—The Eighth Vision

**Lesson:**

- God is “Lord of the whole earth”
- God will judge the earth
- God will accomplish his purpose of “returning” and “blessing” Israel

37  Zechariah 1-6—Summary of the Eight Visions

- 4 Horsemen: Persevere—God Almighty is on your side
- 4 Horns & 4 Craftsmen: God will build his temple despite worldly challenges
- Measuring Line: Messiah will bless and protect Jerusalem
- High Priest Accused & Cleansed: Messiah will cleanse sin and bring righteousness

38  Zechariah 1-6—Summary of the Eight Visions

- Lampstand and Olive Trees: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit”
- The Flying Scroll: Despite sin, God’s truth prevails
- Woman in Measuring Basket: God will punish and banish sin
- Four Chariots: God is “Lord of the whole earth”—Trust in God to show mercy and build his Kingdom

39  Zechariah 7:1-14:21—The Future

...Coming next week

40  Our Questions of the day...

1. God declared that he is “very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.” (Zech 1:14.) How does God show his “jealously” for Christians and the Church?
2. What does the practice of “returning to God” look like for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians? (Zech. 1:3.)
3. How can we accomplish great things for God without “might” or “power”? (Zechariah 4:8)

41  The Book of Zechariah

**Men of Grace**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
May 20, 2008

Scott Carpenter

42  The Book of Zechariah