

An Introduction to Zechariah

The Man

- There are 29 men in the Bible with the same name
- This Zechariah was a priest *and* a prophet
- His name means “Yahweh remembers”
- He was born in Babylon during the 70 year captivity
- He prophesied between the years 520-515 B.C.
- He was a contemporary of Haggai
- He is often referred to as the grandson of Iddo. His father’s name was Berekiah but it is believed that he died very young. He was more influenced by his grandfather Iddo.
- In 2:4, an angel of the Lord calls him a “*young man*”
- One of the high marks of his ministry was encouraging the people to finish rebuilding the temple known as Zerubbabel’s temple. Haggai and Zechariah stirred up the people to return to their work. The temple was completed four years later. (515 B.C.)
- His primary motivation point was to focus the people on the coming of the Messiah. Of all the O.T. books, Zechariah focuses more on the coming of Jesus than any other book.

The Book

- It is the most messianic, prophetic, and apocalyptic book of the 39 books in the Old Testament
- The phrase “The Lord of hosts” is found 46 times in the book (only Isaiah and Jeremiah use it more)
- There are many other individual mentions of angels in the book

The Nine Visions

1. The Rider on a Red Horse (1:7-17)

In this vision, we see God's anger against the nations and God's blessings on restored Israel.

2. The Four Horns & The Four Craftsmen (1:18-21)

In this vision, we see that God punishes those who oppress His people.

3. The Man with the Measuring Line (2:1-13)

God's future blessing on restored Israel.

4. The Cleansing of Joshua, the High Priest (3:1-10)

The vision here is, God wants to forgive and purify His people and their leaders.

5. The Golden Candlestick and Two Olive Trees (4:1-14)

God exercises sovereign rule through His Spirit and His leaders.

6. The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)

God condemns the thief and the liar.

7. The Women in a Basket (5:5-11)

God removes wickedness from His people.

8. The Four Chariots (6:1-8)

God defeats the enemies of His people.

9. The Symbolic Crowning of Joshua (6:9-15)

God commissions leaders for His obedient people.