INTRODUCTION

A. Zechariah is the eleventh of the Twelve Minor Prophets we have been examining.

B. The Man.

1. His name means: “God Remembers”.

2. Like Ezekiel, he was a priest and prophet.

C. The Message.

1. The date: 520 to 518 b.c.—1:1, 7; 7:1.

2. The date makes this a sequel to Haggai’s book.

3. This book is among the most difficult to understand in the O.T. because of the apocalyptic language it uses.

4. The basic message, however, is found in 1:14.

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF APOCALYPTIC LANGUAGE.

A. “Code Talkers’ was a term used to describe people who talk using a coded language.

B. The Bible had its own “Code Talker’s”. They didn’t use the Navajo language, but instead wrote in “Apocalyptic” language.

1. The word in Greek means “unveiling” or “disclosing”.

2. It refers to making use of symbolic language to convey a message.

C. Apocalyptic language was used during times of political stress due to Israel’s captivity or persecution.

1. The secret code was understood by the Hebrews but not by their enemies.

2. Old Testament books using this language include Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah.
3. The New Testament example is **Revelations**.


D. Characteristics of Apocalyptic Language.

1. The **Kingship** of God.

2. Conflict between good and evil.

3. Divine **judgment** on evil.

4. God works through **history** to accomplish His will.

5. **Historical** background necessary to understand.

6. The historical background of Zechariah is **Babylonian Captivity**.

II. **ZECHARIAH’S FIRST MESSAGE: A CALL TO REPENTANCE.**

A. Date of his first message.

1. Date: 1:1.

2. Historically this places his message between Haggai’s **second** and **third** message.

3. Both prophets called on Israel to **repent** and rebuild the Temple.

B. Outline of his first message.

1. God has been **angry** with Israel—1:2.

2. Israel needs to **return** to God—1:3.

3. Don’t follow in your rebellious ancestor’s steps—1:4.

4. Learn from their **bad** example—1:5-6.
III. MESSIANIC PROPHECIES IN ZECHARIAH.


2. Jesus betrayed for thirty pieces of silver which was used to buy a potter’s field--11:12-13.