

## Zechariah 1-4 Visions in the Night LifeChanges 2/25/16

Zechariah is similar to Revelation in the New Testament – visions that need interpreting. Written around 520 BC when work on the temple was renewed.

Zechariah 1-8 – while rebuilding Temple      Zech. 9-14 – after completing the Temple

605 BC	Daniel taken to Babylon;	586	Jerusalem falls
539	Babylon overthrown by Cyrus		
538	Cyrus decrees to allow the exiles to return to Israel		
536	Temple construction begins		
530	Temple work halted		
520	Zechariah a prophet; Temple work renewed		
516	Temple completed		
458	Ezra to Jerusalem;	445	Nehemiah builds wall in Jerusalem

Zechariah's visions:

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|--------------------------------|--|
| • Judgment of enemies          | I will return to Jerusalem with mercy 1:16       |
| • 4 horns, 4 powers            | punish the people, then punish 4 nations         |
| • Measuring Jerusalem          | the city will be restored and filled with people |
| • Joshua – from dirty to clean | our clothes replaced with pure clothes too       |
| • Lampstand burning            | God's Spirit accomplishes much                   |

What does this mean for them and for us?

- Need for purity; avoid hypocrisy, superficiality and sin
- Provide hope for the people in that time – and ours
- God's people would face sorrow and disappointment before the Messianic kingdom would come
- "...walk in my ways and keep my requirements..." Zech. 3:7

For us...We too desire God's blessing. We want God to be jealous for us.

We are called to have more pure lives – see Matthew 5 and 7. Be pure, seek righteousness, hunger and thirst for it, stay on the narrow road.

We need hope for our city, nation. We can pray for it. God calls us to be a light, salt.

We too face sorrow, disappointment, and hard times before God's kingdom comes.

What to do:

Help God's kingdom to come by living kingdom lives. Pray for that – Lord's Prayer.

Learn from Zechariah: pray, seek blessings, put hope in God, and seek God first.

***"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." Zech. 4:6***