

ZECHARIAH - 'The Lord Remembers'

MINISTRY: Zechariah was a priest (Neh.12:12 & 16) and prophet to the Jews after they returned from Babylonian captivity, and worked together with Haggai to help stir up the people to rebuild the temple, Ez.6:14-15. His name means "The Lord Remembers." Just as prophets often internalize their message in an exceptional way for the "word to be made flesh," even his name helped form his message, 1 Sam.25:25.

THEME: The Lord remembers His people, and has a wonderful future plan for them.

TIME: Chapters 1-8 were written before the completion of the Temple in 516 B.C. when Zechariah was a young man (Zech.2:4) while chapters 9-14 were probably written much later, perhaps 40 years later. (Zechariah's early ministry was to motivate God's people to present activity, to rebuild the Temple. As an older prophet his vision and burden was lifted higher, to see the final victory of Christ and His kingdom.)

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES: The Branch (6:12), Christ's entry into Jerusalem (9:9), Christ's betrayal (11:13), the crucifixion (13:6-7), the Second Coming (14:3-5), & the millennial reign of Christ: 14:9, 11, 16-21.

OUTLINE:

SECTION A: 8 VISIONS ENCOURAGING THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE, Chapters 1-6 (All 8 visions given on one night)

- Vision # 1: 4 Horsemen Patrolling the Earth (the nations quiet), Zech.1:8-12
- Vision # 2: The 4 Horns & 4 Craftsmen (Many Enemies, Many Deliverers), Zech.1:18-21
- Vision # 3: Man Measuring Jerusalem (The City will be Abundantly Restored), Zech.2:1-13
- Vision # 4: The High Priest & Satan Before the Angel (Cleansing the Nation), Zech.3:1-10
- Vision # 5: The Lampstand & 2 Olive Trees (God's Anointed Leaders will Prevail), Zech.4:1-14
- Vision # 6: The Flying Scroll (Sinners will be Judged), Zech.5:1-4
- Vision # 7: Basket Taken to Babylon (Sin Gathered in Babylon), Zech.5:5-11
- Vision # 8: 4 Chariots Sent (The Temple will be Rebuilt & the Messiah will Come), Zech.6:1-15

SECTION B: MESSAGES TO REBUKE AND ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE, Chapters 7-8. These were given two years after the first prophecies, and were to strengthen the Israelites who were rebuilding the nation.

SECTION C: TWO PROPHETIC BURDENS ABOUT THE FUTURE, Chapters 9-14

1. First Prophetic Burden: About Israel's future up to Christ's 1st Coming, chapters 9-11 . Alexander the Great would come and conquer Israel's neighbors, but will spare Jerusalem (9:1-8) which will be preserved for her King (9:9-10). Israel would later successfully revolt against Greece (9:11-17) and be regathered & restored from the nations, 10:1-11:3. Israel would reject her Messiah and be led astray by false shepherds, 11:4-17.
2. Second Prophetic Burden: Christ's Coming & His Millennial Reign, Chapters 12-14. The Lord will save Jerusalem & Israel (chapter 12), cleanse His people (chapter 13), and the Messiah will come in power to judge the nations and rule the world, chapter 14.