
Zechariah

I. An Introductory Prophecy Regarding Spiritual Restoration to God (1:1-6)

Chronological Note (1:1)—2nd Year, 8th Month

A. An Invitation to a Restored Relationship with the Lord (1:2-3)

1. Because of God's anger with the Jews' forefathers He had withdrawn His blessing (1:2).
2. The Lord promised to return to the current generation of His people if they would first return to Him (1:3).

B. A Warning about the Past Generations' Rejection of the Lord (1:4-6)

1. Past generations rejected God's warning through His prophets (1:4).
2. Past generations suffered the consequences of their rejection of God (1:5).
3. Past generations learned too late the importance of repentance (1:6).

I I. Eight Night Visions Regarding the Physical Restoration of Jerusalem (1:7—6:15)

Chronological Note (1:7)—2nd Year, 11th Month, 24th Day

A. The First Vision: A Rider on a Red Horse (1:8-17)

1. Zechariah saw a rider on a red horse to whom others reported that the whole world rested in a false sense of security (1:8-11).
2. The Lord proclaimed that He was angry with the nations and that He would rebuild the Temple and cause Jerusalem to prosper (1:12-17).

B. The Second Vision: Four Horns and Four Craftsmen (1:18-21)

1. Zechariah saw four horns which represented four nations that had scattered God's people (1:18-19).
2. Zechariah saw four craftsmen who represented four leaders who would overthrow the oppressing nations (1:20-21).

C. The Third Vision: A Man with a Measuring Line (2:1-13)

1. Zechariah saw a man with a measuring line who was going to measure Jerusalem's dimensions (2:1-2).

2. An angel announced the Lord's promise to protect and prosper Jerusalem (2:3-5).
3. The Lord called His people to return from their captivity and warned that He would judge the oppressing nations (2:6-9).
4. The Lord promised that He would one day come and live among His people and include other nations among His people (2:10-13).

D. The Fourth Vision: Joshua the High Priest (3:1-10)

1. Zechariah saw Joshua the high priest, Satan accusing Joshua, and the angel of the Lord rebuking Satan (3:1-2).
2. The angel of the Lord replaced Joshua's filthy clothes with rich, priestly garments (3:3-5).
3. The angel of the Lord promised Joshua a place of leadership in the Temple contingent upon his obedience to God (3:6-7).
4. The angel of the Lord predicted the coming of the Messiah, the instant removal of sin, and the assurance of lasting prosperity (3:8-10).

E. The Fifth Vision: A Gold Lamp Stand and Two Olive Trees (4:1-14)

1. Zechariah saw a gold lamp stand with an olive tree on either side (4:1-3).
2. In response to Zechariah's inquiry, an angel explained that Zerubbabel, the governor of Judea, would experience success through the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit (4:4-7).
3. The word of the Lord came to Zechariah, informing him that Zerubbabel would complete the work of rebuilding the Temple (4:8-10).
4. In response to Zechariah's second inquiry, the angel explained that the two olive trees represented God's two anointed leaders, likely Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor, through whom God would channel the Spirit's power (4:11-14).

F. The Sixth Vision: A Flying Scroll (5:1-4)

1. Zechariah saw an enormous scroll flying over the land of Israel (5:1-2).
2. The angel explained that the flying scroll represented a divine curse that would convict every thief and liar in the land (5:3-4).

G. The Seventh Vision: A Woman in a Measuring Basket (5:5-11)

1. Zechariah saw a measuring basket that represented the full measure of the iniquity of God's people (5:5-6).
2. A woman inside the basket, who personified wickedness, was restrained and confined in the basket with a lead cover (5:7-8).
3. Zechariah saw two winged women who carried the basket away to Babylon (5:9-11).

H. The Eighth Vision: Four Chariots (6:1-8)

1. Zechariah saw four chariots, each with different colored teams of horses (6:1-3).
2. The angel explained that these four chariots represented four spirits going out from the Lord's presence to the four compass points on earth (6:4-7).
3. The angel told Zechariah that the chariot going to the north had given rest in that land (6:8).

I. A Prophecy Regarding the Crowning of the High Priest (6:9-15)

1. The Lord instructed Zechariah to fashion a crown and coronate Joshua the high priest (6:9-11).
2. The Lord informed Zechariah that the future messianic high priest would rebuild the Temple and rule on the throne (6:12-14).
3. The Lord promised to re-gather His scattered people to assist in rebuilding the Temple contingent on their obedience (6:15).

III. Four Revelations in Response to Questions about Ritual Fasting (7:1—8:23)

Chronological Note (7:1)—4th Year, 9th Month, 4th Day

A. A Question about Ritual Fasting (7:2-3)

1. The people of Bethel sent a delegation to seek the Lord's will regarding ritual fasting (7:2).
2. This delegation asked the priests and prophets whether they should continue a traditional fast in the fifth month each year (7:3).

B. The Proper Motivation for Fasting (7:4-7)

1. The Lord accused the people of fasting and feasting for their own benefit rather than His glory (7:4-6).
2. The Lord had previously issued these same accusations through the prophets during times of prosperity (7:7).

C. The Consistent Lifestyle for Fasting (7:8-14)

1. The Lord commanded His people to demonstrate justice and mercy toward one another (7:8-10).
2. Previously, God's people had hardened themselves against His commands and thereby incurred His anger (7:11-12).
3. God had judged His people who had previously refused to obey Him, scattering them among the nations (7:13-14).

D. The Divine Presence in Fasting (8:1-17)

1. The Lord expressed His burning jealousy over Zion (8:1-2).
2. The Lord promised to return to Zion and bless it (8:3).
3. The Lord promised that Jerusalem would again be inhabited by old and young alike (8:4-5).
4. The Lord explained that what seems marvelous to His people is commonplace with Him (8:6).
5. The Lord promised to gather His scattered people back in Jerusalem (8:7-8).
6. The Lord commanded the people to complete the rebuilding of His Temple, expecting His blessing (8:9-13).
7. The Lord promised to bless His people and expected them to obey His moral mandates (8:14-17).

E. The Expected Blessings of Fasting (8:18-23)

1. The Lord promised to bless His people's seasons of fasting with joy (8:18-19).
2. The Lord promised that other people and nations would one day go to Jerusalem to seek and honor Him (8:20-22).
3. The Lord promised that Gentiles would one day seek to be identified with Jews because of their reputation for a relationship with Him (8:23).

I V. Two Extended Oracles Regarding the Rejection and Reign of the Messiah (9:1—14:21)

A. The First Oracle: The Arrival and Rejection of the Messiah (9:1—11:17)

1. The Lord pronounced judgment on the prosperous, though ungodly cities, surrounding the land of Israel (9:1-8).
2. The Lord promised that Israel's King and Savior would enter triumphantly into Jerusalem riding on a donkey (9:9).
3. The Lord promised that Israel's King would bring victory and peace (9:10-17).
4. The Lord promised to judge the shepherds who led the people into idolatry by raising up a messianic leader (10:1-5).
5. The Lord promised to strengthen His people and re-gather them from their dispersion (10:6-12).
6. The Lord warned that His Messiah would be rejected and sold for thirty pieces of silver, bringing judgment on His people (11:1-17)

B. The Second Oracle: The Return and Reign of the Messiah (12:1—14:21)

1. The Lord promised to protect and empower Judah and Jerusalem when they are besieged by the nations (12:1-9).

2. The Lord promised to pour out a spirit of grace on His people so that they will recognize the Messiah whom they had pierced (12:10-13).
3. The Lord promised to cleanse His people from their sin and to cleanse His land from idolatry (13:1-6).
4. The Lord warned that His messianic shepherd would be killed, but a remnant of His people would be refined and survive (13:7-9).
5. The Lord promised that a future attack on Jerusalem by a coalition of nations will be thwarted by His physical arrival at the Mount of Olives (14:1-8).
6. The Lord promised that He will reign as King over the earth, defeating His enemies and ruling His people from Jerusalem (14:9-21).