

The Minor Prophets - Zechariah

- Introduction
 - Zechariah (זְכַרְיָהּ chag-gay) zə-car-yah) means “Yahweh remembers”.
 - According to the Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia there are 32 Zechariah’s in the Bible.
 - This Zechariah is the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo.
 - Like Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Zechariah was a prophet of priestly lineage.
 - Dating coincides with Haggai [Zech 1:1].
- Observations from the Text
 - Yahweh remembers and wants Israel to remember the ministries of the former prophets [1:1-6].
 - This message recalls a former repentance of the people and calls for repentance now.
 - This message fits well between Haggai’s 2nd and 3rd message.
 - The rest of Zechariah’s messages come after Haggai’s final word.
 - Zechariah had eight night visions.
 - A red horse rider leads angels scouting the earth to learn of God’s anger toward the nations and promises of blessings for Israel [1:7-17].
 - Four horns and four craftsmen show that Israel’s time of oppression would be taken away so that they would be able to rebuild [1:18-21].
 - The man with the measuring line shows the glories of Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom [2:1-13].
 - Joshua the High Priest highlights the angelic conflict and redemption [3:1-10].
 - Branch is one of Jesus Christ’s titles [3:8; 6:12; Isa 4:2; 11:1; 53:2; Jer 23:5-6].
 - This Branch Messianic priesthood message [3:8] parallels the Messianic kingship promises to Zerubbabel [Hag 2:20-23].
 - The golden lampstand and olive trees point to the Millennial reign of Christ [4:1-14].
 - A rebuilding of the temple by Zerubbabel points to the rebuilding of the Millennial temple [4:6-9].
 - The olive branches describe the anointing of priests and kings – typology of Jesus Christ who is both Priest and King.
 - The flying scroll calls out thieves and false witnesses [5:1-4].
 - This has application in Zechariah’s day.
 - This will see ultimate fulfillment in the Millennium.
 - The ephah of wickedness and two women gives a description of commercial and religious Babylon during the Tribulation [5:5-11; Rev 17-18].
 - The four chariots and horses are angels used by the Lord to direct earthly affairs [6:1-8].
 - The horses sound similar to the ones described in Rev 6, but this vision has chariots and no riders are mentioned, so they should not be equated.
 - These four angels are mentioned elsewhere as being involved in activities on earth [Jer 49:36; Dan 7:2; Rev 7:1].

- After his final vision, Zechariah constructs a crown for Joshua the high priest pointing to the unification of Priest and King in the person of Jesus Christ [6:9-15].
- A message was given calling out the people and priests for men-centered fasts [7:4-7].
- A message was given reminding them of man-centered ritual leading to captivity [7:8-14].
- A seven-fold “Thus says the Lord” message was given promising Israel a return from dispersion and peace in the land [8:1-17].
- A three-fold “Thus says the Lord” message tells of the future joy of the fasts [8:18-23].
 - The 4th month fast marked the breaching of the city walls by Nebuchadnezzar [2 Kgs 25:3-4; Jer 39:2].
 - The 5th month fast marked the burning of the city and the temple [2 Kgs 25:8-10].
 - The 7th month fast marked the murder of Gedaliah [2 Kgs 25:25; Jer 41:2].
 - The 10th month (10th day) fast marked the start of the siege [2 Kgs 25:1-2; Jer 39:1].
- The remainder of Zechariah contains two oracles/burdens [9:1; 12:1].
- The first oracle is against the Gentile nations, but highlights Israel’s rebellion [Zech 9-11].
 - Chapter 9 includes prophecies of Alexander the Great [Zech 9:1-8] and Jesus Christ the Humble [Zech 9:9-17].
 - Chapter 10 contrasts false-shepherds with the Great Shepherd who will bring victory for Israel.
 - Chapter 11 features two shepherding acts that Zechariah performs.
 - Shepherding a flock doomed to slaughter [Zech 11:4-14].
 - A foolish/worthless shepherd [Zech 11:15-17].
- The second oracle is directed against Israel, but highlights Israel’s acceptance of Messiah [Zech 12-14].
 - Chapter 12 teaches a world war against Jerusalem [Zech 12:1-9] and Israel’s repentance towards the Messiah they crucified [Zech 12:10-14].
 - This repentance will spark a national purging of the false prophets [Zech 13:1-6].
 - Chapter 13 also presents the necessity for the striking of Jesus Christ [Zech 13:7] and the striking of His people [Zech 13:8-9].
 - Chapter 14 portrays the eschatological warfare against Jerusalem [Zech 14:1-8] and the glorious victorious reign of Jesus Christ [Zech 14:9-21].

- Applications for Today
 - “Return to me” is the loving invitation to prodigal nations [Zech 1:3; Joel 2:12; Mal 3:7], and prodigal sons [Luke 15:18-20].
 - The angels patrol the earth and report back to the Sovereign God of the universe [Zech 1:10-11; 4:10; 6:5-8; Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2; Ps 104:4; Dan 4:17,25; 10:13,20-21].
 - Clean garments are a grace gift in terms of salvation [Zech 3:1-5; Eph 5:26-27], but it is our responsibility to see that they stay clean [Jas 1:27; 2 Pet 3:14; Rev 19:7-8].
 - Our service must be for Christ’s sake and on His terms [Zech 7:5-6; Matt 15:8,9; John 4:24; Col 2:18-22].
 - Faithlessness and worthlessness on our part is a sellout [Zech 11:12-13,15,17] in a tragic betrayal of our Lord [Matt 16:26; Titus 1:15-16; 2 Pet 2:13,15].
 - Humility [Zech 9:9] is rewarded with glory [Zech 14:9] and we are given the imperative to humble ourselves [Matt 23:11-12; Jas 4:10; 1 Pet 5:5-6].