

Bible Reading Notes
Zechariah

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Zechariah 1-2

1:1 – November, 520. Zechariah’s first prophetic word occurred in the midst of Haggai’s ministry in Haggai 2.

1:1 – Zechariah – The name means “the Lord remembers.” The Lord has not forgotten his people.

1:2-6 – This is a similar message to Haggai 2:10-17. Building the temple is good, but repentance is necessary.

1:21 – God will bring judgment against the nations that were oppressing and scattering his people.

2 – The vision of chapter 2 conveys that the Lord is going to once again bring great blessing to his church. Those who remained in Babylon are urged to return to Jerusalem and experience blessings.

Zechariah 3

3:1-5 – Satan is accusing Joshua of not being fit to do his work. The Lord cleanses Joshua and gives him clean clothes. This is a picture of justification as sin is taken away and the righteousness of Christ is imputed.

3:8 – Branch – The work has been done for us by the Branch – Christ who did so in his work as Messiah.

Zechariah 4

4:6 – but by my Spirit - Accomplishments in the kingdom of God do not come about by human strength and power, but through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

4:14 – two anointed ones – This is the answer to the question of v. 4. However, the Lord does not specifically tell us who these two are. Most commentators believe it is a reference to Zerubbabel and Joshua.

Zechariah 5

5:1-4 – The scroll is an indictment listing all the sins of faithless Israel. God prepares to “clean out” all those who have broken covenant with him.

5:5-11 – This vision is that of God removing the wickedness from among his people.

5:11 – Shinar – is an older name for Babylon.

Zechariah 6

6:1-8 – The vision of the four chariots communicates that the Lord’s army is operating throughout the world and through them the sovereign rule of the Lord is being accomplished. Here the focus is on the Lord’s rule in the north (Babylon).

6:9-15 – Joshua, the high priest, is to be crowned as a forerunner to the Branch. The Branch (3:8) is the coming Messiah who will rule over his kingdom and function as the perfect high priest.

Zechariah 7

7:1 – This is December 7, 518 BC.

7:8-9 – This is a summary of covenantal faithfulness much like we see in Micah 6:8.

Zechariah 8

- 8** – This chapter is a look into the future concerning the blessings God has in store for his covenant people. These will be fully realized in heaven.
- 8:2** – **jealous for her** – God’s jealousy for his people and their good will compel him to act in their behalf.
- 8:16** – This verse is reflected in Ephesians 4:25 describing how the people of God are to live.
- 8:19** – **fast** – These were fasts that Israel kept to commemorate the fall of Jerusalem. In the future these will be times of great joy rather than sorrow.

Zechariah 9

- 9:1-8** – Zechariah declares the judgment of the Lord against Israel’s enemies. This was accomplished through Alexander the Great around 333 BC.
- 9:9-17** – In contrast to her enemies, Israel will experience salvation through a coming king.
- 9:9** – This is quoted in Matthew 21:5 as being fulfilled in Jesus’ triumphal entry.
- 9:10** – A donkey was a king’s ride during times of peace. Christ will come not to wage war but to usher in peace for his people.

Zechariah 10

- 10** – Though the Lord had once rejected his people due to their sin, he promises restoration for them in the language of a shepherd who brings his flock together again.
- 10:3** – Israel’s rulers failed to shepherd the people, so the Lord will do so himself. This is fully realized in Christ, the good shepherd (John 10).

Zechariah 11-14

11 – Zechariah continues the language of shepherd and sheep. This is a very difficult chapter to understand. Zechariah is appointed by God to represent a good shepherd who nevertheless is rejected by God's people.

11:8 – **three shepherds** – Zechariah never defines who these are.

11:12 – **thirty pieces of silver** – Matthew mentions this as the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus (Matthew 27:9-10).

Zechariah 12

12:1-9 – Part of God's salvation of his people, will be the destruction of the church's enemies.

12:10-13:6 – The Lord will work his grace to give his people repentance through the work of the Holy Spirit. Their repentance will result in their cleansing (13:1).

12:10 – This verse is quoted in relation to the piercing of Jesus' side (John 19:37).

Zechariah 13-14

13:7 – Jesus quoted this verse to Peter in describing Peter's upcoming denial of Jesus (Matthew 26:31).

14:1-8 – The final Day of the Lord will come and will include creation being undone as the Lord appears to judge his creatures.

14:9-21 – But after the judgment, the people of God will spend eternity in the new heavens and new earth.