

Sermon, November 13, 2011
“The Messiah”, Zechariah 14:3-9
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The Books of Prophecy

- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, **Zechariah**, Malachi

Overview of Zechariah¹:

- The prophet Zechariah is the likely author, “the LORD remembers”.
- The time of the writing is 520-470 BC.
- Longest book of the Minor Prophets.
- In 538 B.C., Cyrus the Persian freed the captives from Israel to resettle their homeland (cf. Ezra 1:1-4) and about 50,000 returned from Babylon.
- They immediately began to rebuild the temple (cf. Ezra 3:1-4:5), but opposition from neighbors, followed by indifference from within, caused the work to be abandoned (cf. Ezra 4:24).
- Sixteen years later (cf. Ezra 5:1,2), Zechariah and Haggai were commissioned by the Lord to stir up the people to rebuild the temple. As a result, the temple was completed 4 years later in 516 B.C. (Ezra 6:15).
- Haggai’s primary purpose was to rebuild the temple; his preaching has a tone of rebuke for the people’s indifference, sin, and lack of trust in God. He was used to start the revival, while Zechariah was used to keep it going strong with a more positive emphasis, calling the people to repentance and reassuring them regarding future blessings.
- Prophecy was soon to be silent for more than 400 years until John the Baptist, so God used Zechariah to bring a rich, abundant outburst of promise for the future to sustain the faithful remnant through those silent years.
- **Overall Outline of Zechariah:**
 - I. Call to Repentance (1:1-6)
 - II. Eight Visions (1:7-6:8)
 - III. The Crowning of Joshua the High Priest (6:9-15)
 - IV. Fasting and the Future (7:1-8:23)
 - V. The Advent and the Rejection of the Messiah (9:1-11:17)
 - VI. The Advent and the Redemption of the Messiah (12:1-14:21)

Major Themes of Zechariah:

- Zechariah sought to encourage the people to build the temple in view of the promise that someday Messiah would come to inhabit it. The people were not just building for the present, but with the future hope of Messiah in mind.
- He encouraged the people with the reality that the Lord remembers His covenant promises to them and that He would restore and bless them. Thus the name of the book (which means “The LORD remembers”).
- The prophet reminded the people that Messiah had an immediate and long-term commitment to His people.
- This book is the most messianic, apocalyptic, and eschatological in the OT.
- Primarily, it is a prophecy about Jesus Christ.

The message of Zechariah is the Messiah to come.

1. In a passage concerning the judgment of Israel’s enemies, we learn of the coming of a humble King bringing salvation.

Zechariah 9:9

- The great majesty of an earthly king pales in comparison to the King to come...Messiah...who would be just (righteous, blameless), and therefore endowed (able to deliver) with salvation.
- The King would not bring with Him great earthly majesty, but would be humble (lowly, afflicted). Not riding on a great warhorse, but a donkey (beast of burden).
- **Matthew 21:1-5**

¹MacArthur, John Jr: *The MacArthur Study Bible*. electronic ed. Nashville : Word Pub., 1997, c1997, Zechariah

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2. **The Shepherd King would be struck down and His sheep scattered, Zechariah 13:**
 - Jesus used this prophecy after the Last Supper while walking to the Mount of Olives.
 - **Matthew 26:30-31** ³⁰ *After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'*

3. **He would be betrayed, Zechariah 11:12-13**
 - The context of this prophecy is from a section of Zechariah dealing with the Messiah's rejection.
 - Judas would fulfill what Zechariah had prophesied.
 - **Matthew 26:14-15**
 - **Matthew 27:9-10**
 - Judas betrayal opened the door for evil to appear to triumph.

4. **On the cross they would look upon God Himself who was pierced, Zechariah 12:10**
 - The work of the Christ, Messiah, Jesus, was on the cross, securing salvation to those who believe.
 - The King, who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey just days before to the exultation of the crowd, hailed as Messiah, was now upon a cross.
 - **John 19:34-37**
 - Did evil indeed triumph?
 - Zechariah foretold of a King to come, but THIS kind of King???

5. **Yes, THIS King would subdue all nations! Zechariah 12:8-9**
 - The body of Christ on the cross would be the same body buried, the same body resurrected, the same body glorified and ascended into heaven!
 - The body of Christ on earth would be empowered by the Holy Spirit and continue the mission of Jesus the Christ.
 - His kingdom will have no end.

6. **THIS King would establish His kingdom forever Zechariah 14:5-9**
 - Living waters will flow throughout the world, will continue throughout eternity, and there will be one people under one King, Jesus Christ!

Conclusion:

- Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the building of the temple where the presence of God would once again reside.
- Haggai told of the Glory of God to come, Zechariah gave us an understanding of the Messiah to come
- The Christ would come humbly, in righteousness and able to deliver salvation; He would be struck down and His sheep scattered, Messiah would be betrayed, hung on a cross and pierced. BUT... His kingdom would subdue all nations and have no end
- Jesus Christ came to be a sacrifice for our sins, sufficient for all, effective for those who believe and are born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit of God. The gospel message of Zechariah is not the message the world would devise.
- **1 Corinthians 1:21-25**
- **God's plan of redemption, salvation and eternity would BE!**
- **Luke 1:30-33** ³⁰ *The angel said to her, ... ³² "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."*
- ***The message of Zechariah is the Messiah to come.***