

Zechariah – Lift up your eyes, above the turmoil! Minor Prophets Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2024

Main point: when we are in discouraging circumstances - such as living in a crumbling society - God melts our discouragement by calling us to lift up our eyes to see His coming kingdom.

Summary of the Book of Zechariah:

Zechariah, our eleventh minor prophet presentation in our ‘God-theater,’ is consistent with the theme of all 12 minor prophets – ‘judgment unto restoration.’ The book is concerned with Jerusalem, the cleansing of the community, the inclusion of the nations, the continuing significance of the earlier prophets, the restoration of the land’s fruitfulness, the renewal of the people’s covenant with God, the ingathering of the exiles, the outpouring of God’s Spirit, and the central role of the coming Anointed One of God. The first half of the book, chapters 1-8, helped the original audience to view their discouraging current situation in a new way, with a bright hope in God. The second half of the book, chapters 9-14, pointed the reader to the redeeming work of God in the world through a significant individual being humiliated yet shining with glory, undergoing suffering yet showing greatness, being rejected yet accepted by God, being conquered yet conquering, and becoming a victim yet ending the victor.

Quick review of 5 themes of The Minor Prophets, repeated yet again in Zechariah:

1. The Sovereignty of God. The phrase “*The LORD of hosts*” 50 times in Zechariah!
2. God’s judgment of sin. Zech. 14:13, “...*a great panic from the LORD will fall...*”
3. God’s amazing love. Zech. 10:6, “*I will bring them back b/c I have compassion...*”
4. Our urgent need to get right with God. Zech. 1:4, “*Return from your evil ways...*”
5. Christ is coming! Zech. 14 repeats “*on that day,*” tells what His coming will be like.

Keys to understanding the Book of Zechariah:

Zechariah is quoted often in the NT! Refresh your walk with God. Bizarre pictures.

Longing for God in a time of discouragement. a) broken walls b) unfinished temple c) new and unstable local leadership d) new and unstable world leadership. Jerusalem came under new, distant management. The big change that Cyrus brought: religious respect. Ezra 1:1-4, The Cyrus Cylinder. God on the move - through Cyrus?

Unexpected disappointments in coming home. Darius appointed a ‘son of David’ as local ruler. Problems with re-constructing the temple.

Backdrop for the visions and oracles of Zechariah.

Renewal of God’s people, and establishing God’s kingdom

Outline of Zechariah:

The call of Zechariah. (1:1-6).

Longing for the peace of God: the vision of the horseman. (1:7-17).

Longing for the justice of God: visions of the horns and blacksmiths. (1:18-21).

Longing for the presence of God: the vision of the man with a measuring line. (2:1-13)

Longing for the righteousness of God: visions of the high priest, pure vestments. (3:1-10)

Longing for the purposes of God: visions of the golden lampstand, 2 olive trees. (4:1-14)

Longing for the authority of God: visions of flying scroll, woman in the basket. (5:1-11)

Longing for the victory of God: vision of the 4 chariots. (6:1-8)

Crowns, Priests, Branch, Temple. (6:9-15)

From Fasting to Feasting. (7:1-8:23)

The Coming King. (9:1-11:3)

The Rejected Shepherd. (11:4-17)

The Pierced One. (12:1 – 13:9)

The Final Renewal. (14:1-21)

Zech. ch.9-14 = most freq. quoted OT in suffer/death Jesus

Examples: - thirty silver pieces Z.11:12-13, Mt. 26:15

- ride donkey Z.9:9,Mt.21:5// - pierced Z.12:10,Jn.19:34,37

- strike the shepherd. Z.13:7, Mt. 26:31