

THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
INTRO-GOD'S PLANS AND PURPOSES
ZECHARIAH 1:1-6

The **Old Testament** book of *ZECHARIAH* was written around **520 B.C.**

The name *ZECHARIAH*, means "**THE LORD REMEMBERS.**" He came from the **TRIBE OF LEVI**. He was a **PRIEST**, born in **BABYLON**. So, like **JEREMIAH** and **EZEKIEL**, *ZECHARIAH* was both a **PRIEST** as well as a **PROPHET**.

ZECHARIAH contains a tremendous revelation regarding the **NAME OF GOD**. The **NAME OF GOD** that is used most frequently by him is "**THE LORD OF HOSTS**" which occurs approximately **50 times**. In fact, it appears **3 times in 1:3!**

We are going to see as we journey through this book that *ZECHARIAH* wrote in great detail about various aspects of **ISRAEL**.

1. **ISRAEL'S RESTORATION** is discussed **19 times!**
2. **ISRAEL'S FUTURE FORGIVENESS** is mentioned **7 times!**
3. **9 times** it says that the **LORD** will dwell in the midst of **HIS PEOPLE!**

There are also other striking repetitions of terms:

1. The words "**NATIONS**," "**PEOPLES**," and related terms appear **24 times!**
2. The words "**JERUSALEM**," "**ZION**," and other references to the city of **JERUSALEM** appear **44 times!**
3. References to the **MESSIAH**, **JESUS**, as the "**STONE**," "**HEADSTONE**" or "**CORNERSTONE**" appear **5 times!**

In the **PROPHECY** of **HAGGAI**, we read that **ZERUBBABEL** was the governor in charge during the **REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE**.

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By finishing the **TEMPLE** at that time, **ZERUBBABEL** serves as a hidden pointer to **JESUS**, the **AUTHOR** and **FINISHER OF OUR FAITH!** (*Cf. Haggai 2:23*)

1. **At least 12 times** it is written that the **LORD** will reign over the entire world in the future, that **HE** has **HIS** eye on all of the nations, and that **HE** is their **JUDGE!**
2. **6 times** we read that **ISRAEL WILL KNOW THE LORD and WILL REPENT!**
3. **5 times** we read about the **LORD'S RETURN!**

Together with **HAGGAI** and **MALACHI**, *ZECHARIAH* belongs to the three **PROPHETS** who are known as the "**POST-EXILE PROPHETS**" or "**PROPHETS OF THE RETURN.**"

ZECHARIAH belonged to a group of 42,360 people (*Ezra 2:64*) who returned to **JERUSALEM** from **BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY** through the decree of **PERSIA'S KING CYRUS** (*Ezra 1:2-4 and Isaiah 44:28*). **EZRA**, **ZERUBBABEL**, **JOSHUA**, and **NEHEMIAH** also belonged to the number who returned.

ZECHARIAH was a contemporary of the **PROPHET HAGGAI** (*Ezra 5:1 and 6:14*). He began his **MINISTRY** as a **PROPHET** only two months after **HAGGAI'S** first message (*cf. Haggai 1:1 and Zechariah 1:1*).

HAGGAI rebuked and admonished the **JEWISH** people in **JERUSALEM** not to be negligent in rebuilding the **TEMPLE**, but **ZECHARIAH'S** message is more one of glad tidings regarding the future.

The **PROPHETS** presented two quite different, yet complementary, messages, and both were important and necessary for the people.

HAGGAI only wrote 2 chapters; **ZECHARIAH** wrote 14 chapters.

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ZECHARIAH, like **JEREMIAH**, was called to be a **PROPHET** as a very young man (*Zechariah 2:4, also see Jeremiah 1:6-7*).

On the other hand, we understand that **HAGGAI** was probably older.

While **HAGGAI** only prophesied for a few months, **ZECHARIAH'S** ministry is believed to have lasted 30 or more years.

HAGGAI proclaimed more practical application of **GOD'S WORD**. His message focused on the **ISRAELITES** negligence in rebuilding the **TEMPLE**.

ZECHARIAH spoke more about **PROPHECY**, dealing with **ISRAEL'S FUTURE** and her **SPIRITUAL RESTORATION**.

Regarding **ISRAEL'S FUTURE**, **ZECHARIAH** says more in his 14 chapters than any other **PROPHET**.

This, however, does not mean that **HAGGAI'S** message was not **PROPHETIC**; nor does it mean that **ZECHARIAH'S** message was without instruction or correction.

The book of **ZECHARIAH** is described as the most **MESSIANIC**, **APOCALYPTIC** and **ESCHATOLOGICAL** of all **OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES**; therefore, **ZECHARIAH** is the most **CHRIST-CENTERED PROPHET** of the **OLD COVENANT**.

He speaks more about **CHRIST, HIS WORK** and **GLORY** than all of the other **MINOR PROPHETS** combined. **SCOFIELD** says that no **PROPHETIC BOOK** in the **OLD TESTAMENT** contains so many **PROPHECIES** concerning **CHRIST, ISRAEL** and the **NATIONS**, in such a short amount of space as **ZECHARIAH**.

With regard to the person of **CHRIST**, **ZECHARIAH** writes about **THE BRANCH** who will come as the crowned **PRIEST** and **KING**.

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We also find a vision of **JESUS'** entry into **JERUSALEM** on a donkey, which combines the **FIRST and SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!**

We see **HIM** as the **ONE WHO WAS PIERCED** on the **CROSS**, the **ONE WHO** was **SMITTEN BY GOD**.

We see **HIM** as the **TRUE SHEPHERD**, in contrast to the foolish shepherd, who is a picture of the **ANTICHRIST**.

JESUS is portrayed as the **ONE WHO** will return to the **MOUNT OF OLIVES** for the **SALVATION** of **HIS PEOPLE**.

ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECIES concern **JESUS' FIRST and SECOND COMINGS**, including **HIS FUTURE RULE, HIS PRIESTHOOD, HIS KINGSHIP, HIS HUMANITY, HIS DIVINITY, HIS BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE, HIS COMING IN HUMILITY, HIS BRINGING OF PEACE, HIS REJECTION and RE-ACCEPTANCE, HIS BETRAYAL** for thirty pieces of silver and other things.

Further, in his general **PROPHECIES**, **ZECHARIAH** describes the last attack of **JERUSALEM** by the **NATIONS**, the initial victory of the enemies, the division of the **MOUNT OF OLIVES**, the defense of **JERUSALEM** through the **LORD'S RETURN, HIS JUDGMENT** upon the **NATIONS** and the changing of the earth's surface in the land of **ISRAEL**.

He also describes the **GLORY OF THE LORD** that fills the **TEMPLE**. He explains the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES** in the **MILLENNIUM OF PEACE**, in which other **NATIONS** will be joined to **HIS PEOPLE**. And finally, he explains that **LIVING WATER** will flow from the **TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM**.

He **PROPHECIES** that all **ISRAEL'S SINS** will be **FORGIVEN** and speaks of the ultimate **HOLINESS** of **JERUSALEM** and the **JEWS**.

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So, we shouldn't be surprised that there are over 40 quotations and references to **ZECHARIAH** in the **NEW TESTAMENT**. Also, this could be one of reasons why that the **JEWISH RABBIS** do not know what to do with this book.

For instance, *Abrabanel*, a great **JEWISH** exegete and author of many commentaries, confessed that he was not capable of explaining **ZECHARIAH'S VISIONS**.

This is no wonder, considering that he denies that **JESUS OF NAZARETH** is the **MESSIAH!** **PETER** said in *Acts 2:36*—“*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*”

Solomon ben Yarchi, another exegete that is highly esteemed by the **JEW**s, declared that “**ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY** is very hard to understand because it contains dream-like **VISIONS**, the interpretation of which is not available to us, so we shall never be able to find its true exegesis until the **TEACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** comes.”

From such statements we see that the **OLD TESTAMENT** remains closed to all who do not possess **THE KEY**—**THE KEY** is **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

For instance, remember how the **ETHIOPIAN** eunuch was unable to understand **ISAIAH 53** because he did not know **JESUS!** (*Acts 8:30-39*)

ZECHARIAH'S message contains **GOD'S PLANS FOR ISRAEL'S FUTURE** and relevant **PROMISES** for the **FUTURE SALVATION OF THE JEWS**. This is why **ZECHARIAH** is also called “**THE GREAT PROPHET OF RESTORATION.**”

Four men are named in *Ezra 5:1-2* who played main roles in the rebuilding of the **TEMPLE**: *Zerubbabel the governor, Haggai the prophet, Joshua the son of Jozadak the high priest and Zechariah the prophet.*

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They are a **PICTURE of JESUS CHRIST** as **HE** is presented in the four **GOSPELS** in their **PROPHETIC PORTRAYAL**.

1. **ZERUBBABEL** was the **GOVERNOR and RULER OF ISRAEL!** He is a **PICTURE** of the **LORD JESUS** as **HE** is portrayed in **MATTHEW'S GOSPEL** account. **HE** is **GOD'S ANOINTED KING**, to whom the future power as **RULER** in **ISRAEL** is given!
2. **HAGGAI** was a **SERVANT and PROPHET**, and so is he is a **PICTURE** of the **LORD** in **MARK'S GOSPEL** account: **JESUS, THE HUMBLE SERVANT OF GOD!**
3. **JOSHUA** was the **HIGH PRIEST**. He presents **JESUS** as we see **HIM** in **LUKE'S GOSPEL** account: **THE SINLESS SON OF MAN, HIGH PRIEST and MEDIATOR** between **GOD** and man.
4. **ZECHARIAH** the **PROPHET** particularly emphasizes **JESUS' DIVINITY!**

So, he is a **PICTURE** of **JESUS** as shown in **JOHN'S GOSPEL** account: **JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WHO** came to this earth!

What can we learn from these sketches?

1. As **NEW TESTAMENT KINGS AND PRIESTS**, we should be bearers of the **REVELATION OF JESUS' NAME! HE IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD!**

In *Acts 4:12*, **PETER** said: “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*”

2. Understand that **GOD**, in **HIS WISDOM**, places young and old beside one another in **HIS SERVICE!** If **GOD** speaks to your **HEART** to **SERVE HIM**, then you are old enough! (*Cf. Samuel in 1 Samuel 2*)

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3. We learn that all diverse **GIFTS** and **TASKS** come from **GOD**,
THE GIVER OF ALL GIFTS!
ZECHARIAH could have hounded **HAGGAI** to **PREACH** more on
PROPHECY and **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**.

HAGGAI could have ragged **ZECHARIAH** about **PREACHING**
too much on the **FUTURE** and tried to get him to **FOCUS** more on
what the people needed to **BUILD THE TEMPLE**.

But they did not quarrel. They both **FULFILLED THEIR TASKS**
FAITHFULLY and with **ENDURANCE**, just as **GOD** had
COMMISSIONED them.

The **BOOK OF ZECHARIAH** also stresses the importance of a **CHRIST-**
CENTERED LIFE and of a message and work, that point people to **HIM!**

We need to be like the **APOSTLE PAUL** in *1 Corinthians 2:2*—"*For I
determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him
crucified*".

We must be aware that without **JESUS**, the **BIBLE** is a sealed book.
This is especially true with regard to **ISRAEL**. Only **THE SPIRIT OF**
JESUS, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, can guide us into all **TRUTH!**
(John 16:13-14)

Finally, we learn that **WE MUST NOT LOSE OUR VISION OF THE**
FUTURE. The **DAY IS COMING** when **JESUS WILL RETURN** and
THE LIGHT OF HIS KINGDOM will surpass everything we have ever
seen!