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## Zechariah

- Zechariah, the son of Iddo, was a member of a family of Jews who first returned to Jerusalem in 537 BC (Neh. 12:4). He likely served as both a priest and a prophet, and like Haggai, begins his ministry in 520 BC during the reign of the Persian king, Darius.
- Thus, as contemporaries, the historical background for Zechariah is identical to the one spelled out in Haggai.
- Zechariah is divided into three main sections: 1) an introduction highlighting the people's repentance along with eight night visions promising the Lord's blessing on rebuilding the temple and Jerusalem (1-6) 2) an inquiry into exilic rituals and an exhortation to show compassion and justice (7-8) and 3) future-oriented description of the cosmic restoration of Israel and the coming of God's Kingdom to earth.

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## Zechariah

### • Main Themes

- The necessity of repentance
- The gravity of spiritual leadership
- The cosmic victory of God

### • Role in the Twelve

- Zechariah extends the scope of Yahweh's restoration, while emphasizing the importance and role of Jerusalem in accomplishing that task.

### • Textual Connection to the NT

- Zech. 9:9-10 is fulfilled in Matt. 21:5 and John 12:15 as direct prophetic fulfillments, one at the first coming of Christ, and the other at the second.
- Zech. 11:12-13 is typologically fulfilled in Matt. 27:9-10.
- Zech. 12:10 is typologically fulfilled in John 19:34, 37.
- Zech. 13:7 is typologically fulfilled in Matt. 26:31/Mk. 14:27

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## Zechariah

- Application in Light of Christ

- God's complete sovereignty in history
- God's hatred of sin and concern for holiness
- God's redemption "wins"

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## Malachi | Historical and Critical Info

- Although Malachi lacks any superscription or references to particular kings, its content strongly suggests that it was written very close in timeframe to Zechariah and Haggai and therefore, is set against the background of Nehemiah and Ezra during the Persian period as we have already discussed. A date of around 450-430 BC is most likely.
- Meaning "my messenger," Malachi closes not only the Minor and Major prophets, but the entire Old Testament canon, paving the way for the coming Messiah.
- Malachi is broken up into a series of disputations that all follow a pattern of an assertion by God and an objection from the people, often in the form of a question.

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