

ZECHARIAH 1

Intro. Author. Grandson of Iddo, Neh 12:4. Came from Babylonian captivity with Zerubbabel. Father, Berechiah, prob died young since not mentioned in Neh and Zech mentioned as immediate successor, Ezra 5:1;6:14.

Date. Began 2nd yr of Darius Hystaspes, 520 BC, 2 months after Haggai. Prob young man then, 2:8. Chpt 9-14 later maybe until 489. or even after 480.

Background. About 50,000 returned under Cyrus' decree in 538, 2 Chron 36:22, Ezra 1:1-4. Laid foundation of temple in 536, Ez 3:11-13 but Samaritans opposed, Ez 4:5 and work stalled 14 years. Darius came to Persian throne 521 and confirmed original decree of Cyrus, but Jews that delays meant God not in work. Haggai and Zech tried to stir and temple completed in 516.

INTRODUCTION: CALL TO REPENTANCE, 1:1-6.

The book is one of consolation and hope, begins with call to repent so Is won't have any false security.

A. Circumstances, 1:1.

1. Date. Note-dated acc to Gentile king, Lk 21:24.

2. Author. Jehovah Remembers.

B. Call, 1:2-3. Very emphatic, v 2--angry with great anger (v 15 means little while). cf Neh 2:12-15.

V 3 assures God will give favor if they will turn.

C. Concern of Prophet, 1:4-6. Pay attention to Word bec unlike fathers and prophets who perish, it abides. Proof it endures: Word overtook them and punished. e.g. Amos and Assyrian captivity. Learn lessons of past

Section I - Visions 1:7-6:15

I. Vision of Horses and Riders, 1:7-17. Among Myrtle trees

A. Time. Feb. 720. 5 mo elapsed since building resumed.

3 months after 1:1-6 call. In meantime Hag 2:10-24 spoken. People had repented during these 3 months.

B. Vision, 8. Man on red horse among myrtle trees beside river. Other horses, red, speckled, white with riders on.

C. Explanation, 9-11. By rider on red horse who is angel of Lord. Horsemen reconnoitered earth and found it at peace. Actually not true of first of Darius. Why this report?

D. Explanation and application, 12-17. (1) Thru ans to prayer, 12-13. (2) Question, 12. Why not merciful when our 70 yrs of captivity has expired? Why still angry. 70 yrs is Babylonian cap tho some take it to Zech's time. Cap=606-538. Zech=586-516 (when temple finished).

(3) Answer, 13-17. Jealous for Jer, 14, angry with nations, 15 merciful to Is, 16, temple, 16, prosperity, 17, exaltation of city of Jerus, 17. Partly fulfilled immediately, but full awaits coming of X. Temporary then, permanent in M.

II. Vision of 4 horns and 4 workmen, 1:18-19.

A. The horns, 18-20. Symbol of power, Jer 48:25, Amos 6:3.

Some say Gentile nations from 4 corners of world.

Some, 4 powers of Dan 2. Prefer Assyria, Egypt, Babylonia, Medo-Persia ²⁰⁻²¹ bec, have scattered, 19. Whole nation, 19.B. The Smiths. ²⁰⁻²¹ Lit. workmen in wood, stone, metal. Here latter

Represent human agents who overthrew enemies of Is.

Fray-cause to be panic-stricken.

Example of Gen 12:3.

III. ⁴ Vision of Surveyor or Man with Measuring Line, 2:1-13.

A. Actors. Surveyor, interpreting angel, 3; another angel, 3

B. Action, 1-4a.

1. Measuring, 1-2. MAN is ^{Maybe not} prob^{ly} angel in human form, 1.

To see if Jerus will be big enuf to hold everybody.

2. The Cessation of Measuring, 3-4a. Angel gives him a message and content of it shows no need for measuring

C. Assurances, 4b-13.

1. Population explosion, 4.

2. Protection, 4-5. No walls needed bec Lord will be there, Ezek 11:23, Hab 2:14 (fuld in M).

3. Punishment on Babylon, 6-9. Land of N-Babylon, Jer 1:14 6:22. Had been scattered; now invited to return, 7. Punishmt on Babylon imminent, 8-9. Happened in 5th yr of Darius (3 yrs later) when were 2 insurrections in Babylon and city twice taken. On stone of Behistun.

4. ^{Presence} Prosperity, 10-13.a. In dwelling in temple. ¹⁰ Partial ful in 2nd temple.

b. In conversion of heathen, 11.

c. Exaltation of Is, 12.

d. Exaltation of Lord, 13. Rouses from silence and judges and blesses.

IV. Vision of Joshua the High Priest, 3:1-10.

A. The Condition of J. 1-3.

1. Circumstances, 1-2. Accused, 1. By Satan bec priesthd polluted, Ez 22:26. Defended, 2. By Lord. Plucked out of fire of Babylonian capt.

2. Clothing, 3. Filthy before Ang of Lord.

B. The Change in Joshua, 4-5. Others there are inferior angels. New clothes represents forgiveness and reinstatement of priesthood. Mitre is turban on which plate with "Holiness to the Lord" by which sanctuary cleansed, Ex 28:38.

C. The Charge to J, 6-7. If do duties, judge, honest courts, then access ^{with} angels of God to God. Communion with God.

D. The Certification(Promise)to J, 8-10.

1. A Servant, 8. "wondered at"-men who are a sign. Branch, Isa 4:2; Jer 23:5. Servant, Isa 42:1;52:13, Acts 4:27. Humanity and humility.
2. A Stone, 9. Psa 118:22. Foundation of temple. 7 eyes are wisdom of God, graving is beautiful finish.
3. A Savior, 9. 1 day=Day of Atonement when temple finished & Calvary.&? Isa 66:8.
4. A Security, 10. or Sufficiency or Sustenance. In security of M. Macah 4:4.

V. Vision of Golden Lampstand, 4:1-14.

- A. The Vision, 1-3. Lampstand, Ex 25:31. Bowl on top (not so with Tab lampstand)(for oil to feed it). 7 lamps, 7 pipes to each lamp=49total. Pipes from bowl to each lamp. Abundant supply of oil. 2 olive trees on each side of bowl (1 on each side). 11-12 give details-trees bore fruit and oil emptied directly into bowl.

B. The Messages, 4-9. ^{10a} 1. Concn power to build, 8-6. Just as lamp fed without human resources so temple built by power of HS bec Jews were small and feeble (Neh. 4:2). Oil=HS

2. Concn obstacles, 7. Mt-like obstacles become plain, Ezra 1:1; Hag 1:14. Zer would put on capstone. People would call down grace on it.

3. Concn completion, 8-9. Zer will do it.

C. The Meaning, 10-14. Don't despise small beginning, Hag 2:3. Plummet-plumbline. 7 lamps represent eyes of Lord that see everything. Man's eyes saw small Jews; God's saw temple completed.

2. Olive trees are anointed ones, lit, sons of oil. May be Zer and Joshua, rel and civil leaders. Or maybe angelic agencies HS uses to accomplish purposes. Pebb Zer and Joshua, anointed prince and priest.

VI. Vision of the Flying Scroll, 5:1-4.

A. The Vision, 1-2. Flying scroll 30x15ft. Judgmt from heaven and swift.

B. The Verity, 3-4. Represents words of God's curse to individuals and nation. Judgmt before blessing. Stealing (2nd table) and false swearing by God's name (1st table) of law. Curse-Deut 27:15ff; 28:15ff.

VII. Vision of the Woman in the Ephah, 5:5-11.

A. The Ephah, 5-6. 22 litres. 4 gal, 63/4 pints.

"their resemblance"==their sin mentioned in scroll above.

B. The Woman, 7-8. Talent of lead=circle of lead=cover. Women in ephah=wickedness of whole land. Put back in and lid on.

C. The Two women, 9-11. Take ephah and woman to Babylon. If these 2 angels, only place feminine. Gen 11:2 for 1st rebellion in Babylon ag. God. Too, place of captvty. Symbol of promise of Zech 3:9. These 2 ^{visions} together = judgment among people but removal of sin supernatural.

VIII. Vision of the 4 chariots, 6:1-8.

A. The Picture, 1-3. 4 chariots bet 2 mts (prob Moriah or Zion and Olivet; i.e. in valley of Jehosaphat).

Red, black, white, gray and strong (lit for bay).

B. The Purpose, 4-8.

1. Stated, 4, 8. Winds or spirits who do God's work in order to quiet His spirit (8)=His anger, by executing judgment.

2. Specified, 6-8. Black and white go north (to Babylon the east from Pal had to go N to reach it). Gray to South (Egypt). Strong or supply red ones go to and fro. North mentioned again, 8, bec 5th yr Darius Babylon revolted and was defeated and depopulated.

IX. Climax==Crowning of Joshua, 6:9-15.

A. Means of crowning, 9-11. Jews who remained in exile but who came to Jerus for a visit. Take gifts and make a crown. Called by other names in v14. Crowns (pl) means composite crown bec sing. vb in 14.

B. Meaning of crowning, 12-13. Points to Messiah who unit kingly and priestly offices. Called branch (lowliness, Isa. 53), from native land (out of His place), build temple (M, Ezek 40), King-Priest after Mel, Psa 110:4), and perfect harmony bet 2 offices and/or in earth as Messiah reigns.

C. Memorial, 14. Put in temple as memorial of piety of these exiles.

D. The Message, 15. Far off includes Gentiles who will come in M to build temple, Isa 60:10-11.

Section II--Questions Concerning FASTS, 7:1-8:23

I. The Fast, 7:1-3.

1. Time, 1. 4th yr, 518. Nov.
2. The Questioners, 2. Delegation from Bethel.
3. Purpose, 2+3. Seek blessing at temple in Jer and ask ?.
4. Question, 3. Should keep Aug. fast which commemorated burying of Jerus by Neb, Jer 52:12-13. Not commanded in Word, but instituted from good motives but still manmade

II. The Failure, 7:4-14.

1. The Problem, 4-12.

- a. Self-righteousness, 4-6. Not doing it to God but to satisfy selves. 2 Kg 25:1, 34-89, 23-25 for reasons for fast. If forsook sins wouldn't need fasts.
- b. Stubbornness, 7. Didn't listen to prophets when Is was prospering, Isa 58:3-7; so calamity of Babylon.
- c. Sin, 8-10. Dishonesty, 9; unkindness, 9; oppression, 10; plotting evil, 10.
- d. Stubbornness, 11-12. Offered a stubborn shoulder, -Neh 9:29. Put fingers in ears. Adamant stone-diamond-hard hearts. Note HS and prophets had part in giving message.

2. The Punishment, 13-14.

- a. Wrath, 12b.
- b. God turned away, 13.
- c. Scattering, 14. Maybe also looks to future dispersion among all nations as well as Baby and Assy.
- d. Land desolate, 14. 2 Kg 25.

III. The Future, 8:1-23.

- A. For Jerusalem, 1-5. 1. Its new names, 3.
2. Its prosperity, 4. 3. Its security, 4 -old people safe in it. 4. Its happiness, 5. Partly fulfilled in Macabbean age but not fully nor permanently.
- B. For Jews, 6-8. 1. Their condition-6-small remnant.
2. Their regathering, 7-8. cf. Amos 9:14-15.
- C. For immediate temple, 9-13. 1. Exhortation, 9.
2. Remembrance of past, 10, before decided to rebuild. Affliction=adversary, Ezra 4:4. 3. Present blessing, 11-12. Material prosperity.
- Interlude, 14-17. Certainty of promise & condition for fulfillment
- D. For the Fasts, 18-29. Original ?. Will bec feasts.
- E. For Foreigners, 20-23. Isa 2. God delights to bless, not to blast. v.23 cf Gen.12:3.

Section III--The Burdens of the Word of Lord concern the Future, 9:1-14:21. Written later but prophecy

General subject of ch 9--the Coming of the King.

I. First Burden, 9:1-11:17. (2nd 12:1-14:21)

A. Victories of Alexander Gt, 9:1-8.

1. In North, 1-2a. Burden is a threatening prediction. ^{Syria}
Hadrach, city near Hamath on Orontes. Alex conquered all incld Dam. v2 "Hamath which borders on it; i.e. Dam" In 333 BC

2. In Phoenicia 2b-4. Alex used ruins of old Tyre to build causeway out to fortified island and took. He "ordered the houses to be set on fire" Sec. his

3. In Philistia, 5-8. 4 of 5 major cities mentioned (Gath not). Ashdod would lose native pop. and have mixed one (Bastard), 6. Idolatrous sac and blood to stop (Ez 33:25, Lev 17:10, 12) and Philistines would be incorporated into Judaism (Ekron=Philistines as a Jebusite who were merged into Is, Josh 15:63).

Vs 8 is a promise that Alex would not conquer Jerus. and looks forward to M when forever safe. When Alex came to Jerus saw HP in garments, bowed, worshipped, spared Jews. Said had seen such an one in dream who urged him to take Persia. Was shown prophecies re Greece

B. Coming of the King, 9, 10

1. 1st in meekness in cf to Alex Gt. Mt 21:5.

2. 2nd in righteous rule. Ephraim=10, Jerus=2.

a. Put down war for Jews.

b. Peace to nations.

c. Worldwide rule. River=Euphrates.

NC. Victories of Maccabees, 11-17.

1. Promises, 11-12. On basis of cov at Sinai.

a. To deliver from waterless pits=cisterns used or regular dungeons where water withheld, 11

b. Double blessing, 12.

2. Pictures, 13-17. Maccabean victories picture of final M victory of Messiah. (2nd c BC)

a. Of victory, 13-16. Enemy is ^{son of} Greece (Antiochus Eph). Supernatural aid, 14. Complete, 15. Corners of altar= vast carnage.

b. Of goodness, 16-17. Spiritual deliverance, 16.

Stones of crown-delight to Lord, 16. Prosperity, 17.

Commitments

Ch. 10--the ~~Commandments~~ of the King.

D. Blessings from Messiah, 10:1-12.

1. Source of blessings, 1-4.

a. Answered prayer for latter rain (March-Apr). Former in Autumn. Link with prosperity in 9:17.

Contrast--idols who only speak lies. Leaders of people who lead nation astray punished, 3.

b. Coming of Messiah, 4. Out of him--Judah. Called Cornerstone, nail-peg, bow, and Victorious ruler. (no oppressor can stand against).

2. Substance of blessing, 5-

a. Victory, 5.

b. Regathering, 6.

c. Joy, 7.

d. Multiplication, 8. hiss-whistle

e. Scattering, 9.

f. Regathering, 10+11. Every obstacle removed, 11.

g. Under care of God in everything, 12.

E. Rejection of the Shepherd, 11:1-17.

Ch 11--The Crucifixion of the King.

1. The Call, 1-3. (to judgment).

a. Means--an invasion from north. Prob Roman.

b. Extent. Lebanon, 1. Bashan, 2 (E of Sea Galilee) Jrodan valley, 3.

c. Consequences. Destruction of land and leaders, 3.

2. The condition, 4-11. (of people)

a. due to leaders, 4-5. They got rich; people poor.

b. due to God, 6-11. Not spared, 6.

But offered them X first, 7. Beauty=Grace. Bands=Union. Don't know who 3 shepherds are, 8. So broke staffs after rejection. All of 1st advent of X.

c. in remanant, 11. Knew what was happening and signifi

3. The Consequences, 12-17.

a. To Shepherd, 12-13. Value of Good Shep, 30 silver. Ex 21:32, Mt 27:3-9. Cast to potter bec wanted to show how worthless 30 pices were.

b. To nation, 14: union of nation broken. Fulfd 70 AD

False shepherd allowed to appear. Could refer to any of many false rulers of Is and culminates in antix. Judged in 17 and that of beast in view too, Rev. 19:20.

Chapter 12-- The Care of the King.

II. Second Burden, 12:1-14;21.

A. Care for Jerusalem, 12:1-14.

1. Physically, 1-9.
 - a. Speaker, 1. Almighty Lord.
 - b. Situation, 2-3. Peoples (note pl in 2,3,4,6) try to fight her. Final battles leading to Armageddon.
 - c. Success, 4-9. Over horses, 4. Over enemy states, 6. To country areas before cities, 7 (so city can't boast). To people, 8 cf 2 Sam 17:8. Over all who seek to destroy, 9.

2. Spiritually, 10-14. Sends repentance. Means, 10- spirit of grace=HS eventually.

Message, 10-realize they pierced X, Jn 19:37.

Manifestation, 10-14. Mourning--like only son or firstborn, 10, like when Pharaoh Necho slew godly Judean king Josiah, (at Megiddo, 2 Ch 35:24-25). Universal, Kings (David and Nathan), Levi and son (Num 3:17). Individual bec husbands and wives separate.

B. Cleansing of Jerusalem, 13:1-9.

Chapter 13--The Cleansing of the King.

A. Means, 1. Fountain=Calvary, Rom 11:26.

2. Message, 2-7.
 - a. Idolatry uprooted, 2.
 - b. False prophecy ceases (and spirit of Devil behind it), 2-6. If one should claim to be a prophet his parents will put him to death, 3. Should a false one be questioned, he will say he is a farmer, 5. Will lie about scars which were self-inflicted in performing office of prophet, 1 Kg 18:28. Will say got marks somewhere else. No ref to X.

3. Manner, 7-9.

- a. Basis--Death of X, 7. God putting to death Son. Sheep scatter but lambs (remnant) cared for. Shepherd is equal to Father. Deity of X. Mt 26:31.
- b. Procedure, 8-9. At 2nd coming. 2/3 must be cut off as unbelievers. 1/3 purified then called My people. These will enter M in earthly bodies.

C. Coming to Jerus. Chpt 14--The Coming of the King.

1. The Conflict, 1-3.

- a. Time. 2nd Day of Lord.
- b. Participants, 2- All nations.
- c. Outcome, 2. Devastated and looted.
- d. Defense, 3. Lord will undertake battle when looks darkest.

2. Coming of X, 4-8. ⁷ a. Effect on Mt Olives
 way of escape from Jerus. Azal prob a suburb
 on east outskirts of Jerus. No mention of earthquake
 in days of Uzziah except here and Amos 1:1. Must have
 been a good one. Saints=holy ones. 1 The 3:13. Angels.
 and saints included in word.
- b. Effect on ~~makere~~ heavens, 6⁷. Day darkened and
 cycle all upset. Rev 8:12.
- c. Effect on nature, 8. Water so land will prosper.
3. Kingdom of X, 9-21
- a. Water. c. above, 8.
- b. World ruler, 9.
- c. Remade land, 10. Land a plain or plateau but Jerus
 elevated. Queen city. Geba, n border in Ben-
 jamin. Josh 21:7. Rimmon S, Josh 15:21.
 Benjamin's gate in N wall of city Corner gate NW.
 Old gate, NE. Tower of Han-N, King's winepresses, S.
- d. Secure Jerus, 11.
- e. Enemies judged. Thru plague, 12¹⁵, thru battle, 13-14.
 Same plague on animals, 15
- f. Worship of Lord est. 16-21.
- JJerus center. Fest of Tabernacles or booths. In
 autumn and thanksgiving for harvest. All come, if don't
 then no rain and no cause for thanks next year.
 Everything belongs to Lord, even bells on horses, 20.
 and pots in temple, 21. No Canaanite, 21, means
 no ungodly practices in land. All will be holy.

C.S. Lewis, Christian Reflections, Walter Hopper, ed., 1967, ~~pp. 152-166~~

Essay, "Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism" from this book, pp. 152-166.

"Whatever these men may be as Biblical critics, I distrust them as critics. They seem to me to lack literary judgment, to be imperceptive about the very quality of the texts they are reading."
p. 154.

Lewis had little patience with the critic who insists that certain incidents in the gospel records are legend or romance. Referring to the gospel of John, regarded by some critics as "spiritual romance" or "a poem, not a history," he speaks of the extraordinary reality of its dialogues and narratives and then says:

"I have been reading poems, romances, vision-literature legends, myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know that not one of them is like this." p.155.