

ZECHARIAH

GOD IN THE RUINS | ZECHARIAH 1-14, WITH FOCUS ON 6:12; 9:9; 11:12; 12:10; 13:7
APRIL 5, 2020 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."
(Zechariah 4:6)

Seeing through the Mist: Introducing Zechariah

Eight Visions about God's Purposes (Zechariah 1-8)

- Visions 1 & 8: Four Horsemen announcing peace and rest for the earth (1:7-17 & 6:1-8)
- Visions 2 & 7: Four Horns and a Woman in a Basket referring to Israel's past sin and exile (1:18-21 & 5:5-11)
- Visions 3 & 6: A Man with a Measuring Line and a Flying Scroll depicting the rebuilt and purified new Jerusalem (2:1-13 & 5:1-4)
- Visions 4 & 5: The high priest, Joshua, in clean clothes and two olive trees by a golden lampstand symbolizing new leadership (3:1-10 & 4:1-14) – images of Messiah

The True King is Coming with an Everlasting Kingdom (Zechariah 9-14)

- Section 1 (9-11): The humble king and the Lord as Shepherd
- Section 2: (12-14): The purification of God's people and God's arrival as King

Jesus the True King and the Purposes of God (Matthew 21:1-11; Revelation 21:1-5)

- Jesus the True (and Humble) King
- The Purposes of God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This week, we continue our series, "God in the Ruins: The Message of the Minor Prophets," by looking at the prophet Zechariah. Begin your study by praying that God would speak to you through His Word.
2. Read Zechariah 1:1 and 1:7. Background: Zechariah was a prophet long after the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC), at the time when God's people were returning from their exile in Babylon. These two verses tell us Zechariah's prophetic ministry began around 520-518

BC, during the reign of Darius. Zechariah was from a priestly line and his prophetic ministry overlaps with that of Haggai. The book of Zechariah has two parts: (1) a series of visions with a prophecy related to fasting (chs 1-8) and (2) apocalyptic writings about God's kingdom (chs 9-14).

3. Read Zechariah 1:1-6. How would you summarize the prophet's first word to the people? How do the people respond?
4. Chapters 1-8 include a series of 8 visions that run in a parallel, or chiasmic, structure. Each pair describes an aspect of God's preparatory work for reestablishing His people. Read each set of parallel visions and describe their significance:
 - Visions 1 & 8: Four horsemen announcing peace & rest on earth (1:7-17 & 6:1-8)
 - Visions 2 & 7: Four horns (1:18-21) and a woman in a basket (5:5-11) referencing Israel's past sin and exile
 - Visions 3 & 6: A man with a measuring Line (2:1-13) and a flying scroll (5:1-4) depicting the rebuilt and purified new Jerusalem
 - Visions 4 & 5: The high priest, Joshua, in clean clothes (3:1-10) and two olive trees by a golden lampstand (4:1-14) symbolizing new leadership
5. Zechariah 7 and 8 respond to a specific question about fasting, leading the people to consider what God really wants. Read 7:13-14; 8:16-17; and 8:23. What would you say God is asking of His people?
6. Zechariah spoke at a time of instability similar to our own time. Why do you think it might be helpful to know what God requires in unstable times?
7. The last half of Zechariah contains two groupings of prophetic apocalyptic: chapters 9-11 and 12-14. We will explore some sections of this. Read 9:9-13. What do you think the significance of this passage was in Zechariah's day?
8. Read 14:1-21. What would you say is the main point of this passage?
9. What do you think this means: "the LORD will be king over the whole earth" (14:9)?
10. When the Gospel writers depict Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, they reference significant parts of Zechariah's prophecy. Read Matthew 21:1-11. How do Zechariah's words help us understand Jesus?
11. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study of Zechariah? If you are on your own, write that down. If you are in a small group, discuss your answers with one another. Close in prayer. Choose one person in your life who you will share something you have learned about God through this study.

TAKE IT WITH YOU

This week, allow God's message through Haggai to sink into your life with this verse: *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." (Zechariah 4:6)*