

Minor Prophets
Zechariah
Introduction

I. Zechariah,

A. The Man,

i. Who He Was,

- a) the first verse identifies the author of this book,
- b) Zechariah- His name means “The Lord Remembers”
 - Zechar- YAH
 - To Remember, or to Mark (as in remind) and the the Lord.
 - After all that had happened to the nation, one may wonder if the Lord remembered.
 - There may be times in our lives that we go through areas where we wonder if God, hears, sees or even remembers.
 - But the word is still true, He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us: **Hebrews 13:5 & Deuteronomy 31:6**
 - **Psalm 94:13** “For the LORD will not cast off (Leave) his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.”

c) The Son of Berechiah,

- It is entirely possible the man Berechiah died very early, and was not the one responsible for the raising of Zechariah.
- He is the son of Iddo,
- **Ezra 5:1 & 6:14** calls Iddo the father of Zechariah.
 - This is not that unusual in the custom of the Hebrews.
 - Especially if the father were no longer living, and the responsibilities fell to the grandfather.
 - It is also possible that Iddo was a more prominent person, and that was just their way of identifying who they are.
 - For instance, in certain places I am not John East, I am the son of Donald, the son of Patricia, the Brother of Donnie, Tony, Rocky, or even the Husband of Kim.
 - It is just a way of identifying who I am, from others who may have the same name.
 - Zechariah was a popular name, it was used by at least 29 others in the Old Testament, and possible a couple of more depending if you think some of them were the same or not. (one account I read separated them into 32 people)

d) Zechariah was most likely associated with the priest, if not a priest himself,

- He was a prophet, and the speculation is that Iddo was the head of the priestly family,
 - He is referred to as: Iddo the seer **II Chronicles 9:29; 12:15**
 - Referred to as the prophet Iddo in **II Chronicles 13:22 Zechariah 1:7** (text)
- Not only was he most likely part of the priestly family, he showed an interest in the temple and priesthood according to the Chronicles, from Iddo's teachings.

ii. When He Lived, and Prophesied

- a) 8th month of the 2nd year of Darius, **Vs.1**

- this is about 520 B.C.
 - It is also about one month before the final message of Haggai,
 - so their ministries overlapped.
- b) He comes on the scene after the rebuilding is resumed,
- It is believed that Haggai was a older person than Zechariah.
 - But they both were doing what they were called of God to do.

II. The Ministry,

i. Individual Callings,

- a) The calling of Zechariah was slightly different form that of Haggai,
- Haggai was to get the nation back to work, and then keep them working by focusing on their relationship with God,
 - Zechariah was going to have the ministry of teaching that God accepts all who come to Him,
 - That God desires true worship from the heart, and Desires dedication from His followers.
 - You can almost see the pattern of a lot of churches in this,
 - not every pastor is called to build a church from the ground up, that is focus on evangelism, and starting a church.
 - Some are called to that, and are very good at it.
 - Others are called to take an existing church and minister to them, and watch them grow in wisdom, understanding and in the character of God,
 - this should produce Christians that are interested and equipped to evangelism.
 - Neither is better than the other, just different,
 - and if the wrong one is in the wrong place it can lead to disappointment and frustration.
 - But when they are were God wants them to be, He can use them, and they thrive.
 - I Corinthians 3:6-8 “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.⁷So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.⁸Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.”

ii. Continue, and Continue.

- a) Haggai brought them this far, Now it was going to Be Zachariah's job to lead them further.
- It is our job to continue on where the last left off.
 - It is in the footsteps of the previous generation that we are able to travel a little further.
 - Think about that in the idea of mission work, there was one that entered into the country to begin, and that opened the door for more. And so on.

III. The Message

A. The Book of Zechariah is split into two sections,

i. Section one,

- a) deals with historic characters such as: Zerubbable, Joshua, Zechariah
- b) it is designed to continue the work of rebuilding and reestablishing the temple worship.

- Continue on with what Haggai preached.
- c) He also uses this section to deliver 8 visions.
 - 1st- Horses in the Myrtles (**1:7-17**)
 - 2nd- Horns and Craftsmen (**1:18-21**)
 - 3rd- A Measuring Line (**2:1-13**)
 - 4th- The High Priest (**3:1-10**)
 - 5th- Lamp-stand and Olive Trees (**4:1-14**)
 - 6th- A Flying Scroll (**5:1-4**)
 - 7th- Wickedness Dealt With (**5:5-11**)
 - 8th- 4 Chariots (**6:1-8**)
 - these are used to reestablish temple worship,
 - establish that God is Sovereign,
 - God both desires and provides the means for a relationship.
- d) Some of the key verses in the first section are:
 - **Zechariah 1:3** “Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.”
 - **Zechariah 7:13** “Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:”

ii. The Second Section,

- a) the second section of the book extends from **ch.9-14**,
 - it is very different from the first **8 chapters**,
 - so much so, that some have called into question if it was the same author.
 - But, it may very well be, that the 2nd half of the book was written earlier than the first half.
 - The second half no longer mentions people like Zerubbable, Joshua,
 - it doesn't mention the time when it was written either.
 - But if a man of God was working on it, and God then told him to deliver a message to the people, it is easy to see that he may start with the message he did, then turn to the second section,
- b) This section contains prophecies about the future of Israel, and all man.
 - It speaks of God's Deliverance (**9:1-11:17**)
 - then it speaks about the deliverance of Jerusalem, (**12:1-14:21**)

iii. New Testament usage of the book,

- a) **Zechariah 2:10-12** “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.¹¹ And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.¹² And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.”
- b) **Matthew 1:23** “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
- c) **Zechariah 3:8&9** “Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they *are* men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.⁹ For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone *shall be* seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”

d) **Luke 20:17&18** “And he beheld them, and said, **What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? 18**Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. :”

• See Also **Zechariah 6:12&13 & Isaiah 11:1**

e) **Zechariah 12:10** “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.”

f) **John 19:33-37** “But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:³⁴But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.³⁵And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.³⁶For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.³⁷And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.”

iv. Practical Application,

- a) God expects sincere Worship
- b) God expects a godly lifestyle, reflecting the character of Jesus in the Christian life.
- c) There are no favorites of God, He expects us to reach out to “ALL” with the gospel