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Zechariah

Last time we were in Zechariah, we looked at some background to the Book Of Zechariah. Zechariah is one of the Minor Prophets. Not minor because of what he has to say, but just in the size of the book, compared to the Books of the Major Prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah & Lamentations and Ezekiel.

Zechariah is known as a Post Exilic book—meaning written after Babylonian Captivity. (explain history)

Zechariah begins during the Second Year in the Reign of Darius of Persia. Haggai wrote to the people of Jerusalem at the same time. Parts of the Book of Daniel take place at the same time.

The Book of Zechariah deals with ten visions, that the LORD gave Zechariah.

Visions are revelatory experiences that manifest before the visionary God's will, plans, and/or perspective.

A vision is also: Witnessing something supernatural that is not visible to the naked eye. A vision may be related to God's working in the present or the future and may involve the ability to see spiritual entities at work in the physical world. Visions are often connected to or synonymous with prophecy or prophetic dreams.

(speak about visions in the scriptures)

A. Abram [Genesis 15](#)

[Genesis 15:1-6](#) “1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

2 But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

3 Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!”

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”

5 Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”
God show and gives Abram before GOD changes his name to Abraham; a promise of a son. The son of promise, Issac.

As the vision progresses God promises to give Abram the land which will become Israel. Abram asks God how he will know that he and his descendants through Isaac; who is not yet born will inherit it.

God makes a covenant with Abram. Covenant means to cut.

(explain how a covenant would work— both parties.)

God tells Abram about the captivity in Egypt in advance; and the length of time — four hundred years.)

(Explain about the smoking oven and burning torch.)

Unilateral— God made— Abram’s role and God’s role.

Has God broken this promise?

B. Samuel [1 Samuel 3](#)

(Recount the story of Samuel’s calling & dedication to the LORD and God’s plan to judge Eli and his family)

15 So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.”

(Explain how God brought about the details of the vision to pass)

C. Isaiah [Isaiah 6](#)

[Isaiah 6:1](#)

“1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.”

Isaiah was given a vision of God’s throne room after King Uzziah died. Why did it take King Uzziah’s death to see this vision? Could King Uzziah have been an idol in the eyes of Isaiah?

Isaiah also saw seraphim which is a rank of angel.

(Describe what they looked like — six wings

Two wings covered the face, two wings covered the feet and it flew with two wings.)

What did the seraphim say?

[Isaiah 6:3-4](#)

“3 And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!””

“4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.”

What did Isaiah say when he saw the LORD’s throne room?

[Isaiah 6:5](#)

“5 So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.””

Isaiah response is what our response would be when we would see the Holiness of God.

(Share my experience when I realized the Holiness of God)

D. [Daniel 7](#) Vision of the Beasts

[Daniel 8](#) Vision of the end times explained

E. Revelation John on the Island of Patmos. The vision that the LORD gave John in Chapter 4 is the same glimpse of Heaven given in [Isaiah 6](#) and [Ezekiel 1](#).

[Acts 2:17](#) “17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.”

This passage in Acts was a fulfillment to the prophet Joel; found in [Joel 2:28](#).

Does God speak through visions today? Yes.

(share story about Children’s artwork before Sept 11th)

(share story about a friend’s mentor during Ehud Barak)

(Share about the vision the LORD gave regarding our Children’s Ministry area.)

(Dreams of JESUS to Muslims around the world)

All visions and dreams are not of GOD. (explain)

As we study Zechariah, we will be looking at 10 visions that he had, all in one night.

1. Riders under the Myrtle Trees (1:7-17)
2. Four horns (1:18-19)
3. Four smiths (1:20-31)
4. Man with a measuring line (Chapter 2)
5. Joshua & Satan (3:1-7)
6. The Branch (3:8-10)
7. The lampstand and two olive trees (Chapter 4)

8. Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
9. Woman in the Ephah (5:5-11)
- 10.. Four Chariots (Chapter 6)

The rest of the book breaks down as the following:

II. Historic Interlude (Chapters 7-8)

III Prophetic Burdens Chapters 9-14

A. First burden — prophetic aspects of JESUS’S First Coming (Chapters 9-11)

B. Second burden — prophetic aspects of JESUS’S Second Coming (Chapters 12-14)

The messages that Zechariah delivers in Chapters 1-8 were given during the building of the temple. The messages of Chapters 9-14 were given after the temple was completed.

Let’s begin.

[Zechariah 1:1-6](#)

“1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

2 “The Lord has been very angry with your fathers.

“3 Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the Lord of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts.

4 “Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.”’ But they did not hear nor heed Me,” says the Lord.

5 “Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

6 Yet surely My words and My statutes, Which I commanded My servants the prophets, Did they not overtake your fathers? “So they returned and said: ‘Just

(explain the importance of walls around a city.)

Nehemiah set the men to rebuild the walls in front of each family's home. The enemy was trying to discourage the work, but Nehemiah had the men work with one hand and in the other.

(share story about scooters at UWW)

What do you think the result would be by having each family rebuild the walls near their home? Do you think the work was sloppy or not good?

No, the fathers would want to work hard to build a defense for their families. The Holy Spirit tells us that the walls were rebuilt quickly because the men had a mind to work.

Fathers, you have an important job to do in the training and protection of your families. Most of what our children learn about following the LORD is caught and not taught. Do we realize that there are little eyes watching our every move?

Are our children seeing the importance of the LORD in our lives?

[Proverbs 20:7](#)

“7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.”

Two areas to show where a person's is in relation to the LORD, the calendar and the checkbook.

[Proverbs 22:6](#)

“6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Ray comfort's devotional says the following:

“Nothing dissipates respect in children like hypocrisy in their parents. Children are not fooled by parents who lack integrity: They're watching to see if what they hear the preacher say on Sunday translates into the other six days of the week.

Do they see a husband who honors his wife, or do they see fighting between them? Does their father teach his children the WORD of GOD, pray with them, and train them up in the way they should go? Or is he too busy to care about the eternal salvation of his children? Is their father honest, temperate and God fearing?

If he is then his children will be blessed after him.”

Gentlemen this is a tough standard, but not impossible to obtain. We need JESUS to be able to live up to this level of standard.

Berechiah and Iddo were these types of men. Zechariah was following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

[Zechariah 1:2](#)

“2 “The Lord has been very angry with your fathers.”

The word angry in verse 2 mean to be displeased with. The LORD through Zechariah is calling the Nation to repentance for their sins. He was angry with the father of the Children of Israel due to the idolatry and disobedience. The word of the LORD came to Zechariah to call the Nation back from these sins to a true worship of GOD.

[Zechariah 1:3](#)

“3 Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the Lord of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts.’”

The LORD is calling HIS people to repentance. (This is also an invitation to the back slider)

Explain (Condemnation vs conviction)

(Explain committing the unpardonable sin of Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.)

[1 John 1:7](#) “... and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

[Psalm 103:12](#)

“12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

(difference between north and south vs east and west)

[1 John 1:9](#)

“9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

[Zechariah 1:4](#)

“4 “Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.”’ But they did not hear nor heed Me,” says the Lord.”

We will see in chapter 2 that Zechariah was a young man; like Jeremiah when he was called by GOD.

He is here reminding them of the history of the nation by rejecting God’s warning when he sent the prophets. They did not listen to Jeremiah or Isaiah and so they went into captivity. Tough message for a young man to deliver; similar to the boldness that Samuel had to exhibit when he told the vision that he had to Eli.

Zechariah had a tough message to deliver; but he was faithful to deliver what the LORD had spoken to him; just as we need to be faithful when we share the WORD of the LORD with those around us.

Fast forward 550 years to the time when JESUS and JESUS shares a similar message with the Pharisees.

[Matthew 21:33–39](#) “33 “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.

35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.

37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'

39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him."

What was the response of the Pharisees; repentance and acceptance of JESUS, for who he was? No

[Matthew 21:45](#)

"45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them."

JESUS used this parable to show the leadership; that HE was who HE claimed to be; and just like the prophets before HIM; who were in fact pointing to JESUS.

As JESUS walked and ministered to the people around him; HE did many miraculous things, when he touched and healed people. Things that the Messiah would do.

Many times, the people tried to take JESUS and make HIM king by force; after he performed a miracle; but JESUS would not allow it; because HIS hour had not yet come.

When HE raised Lazarus from the dead, did the religious leadership receive this miracle with joy?

[John 11:47-53](#)

"47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs.

48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”

49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all,

50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.””

“51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,

52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.”

(Recount Steven’s testimony to the Sanhedrin in [Acts 7](#).

Whole history of the nation from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses—golden calf, the prophets etc.)

The results:

[Acts 7:51–53](#)

“51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,

53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.””

(Explain the outcome: Steven’s Death —JESUS)

We are living in very polarizing days. As the events are unfolding in Israel, things are becoming more clear. There is not a lot of grey areas anymore. We are living in a time when some people do not want to hear the truth and may persecute those who are sharing it.

[Zechariah 1:5](#)

“5 “Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?”

At the time Zechariah was writing; Isaiah, Jeremiah and others including their fathers were dead.

Death is a door that we all will most likely pass through someday; unless the rapture happens.

We will not live on this Earth forever. (Share about being young and feeling invincible.)

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone. (Expiration dates and God’s offer of salvation as a free gift.)

[Zechariah 1:6](#)

“6 Yet surely My words and My statutes, Which I commanded My servants the prophets, Did they not overtake your fathers? “So they returned and said: ‘Just as the Lord of hosts determined to do to us, According to our ways and according to our deeds, So He has dealt with us.’ ” ’ ””

(Explain about visit to Masada in Israel scrolls found and what Masada stood for)

Warren Wieserbe said in his commentary on Zechariah,

“By calling the people to repent, Zechariah was preparing them for the messages he would give them. For unless our hearts are right with God, we can’t hear HIS WORD with true spiritual comprehension.

We occasionally hear evangelists calling lost sinners to repent, and this is good and Biblical.

But we rarely hear preachers calling God’s people to repent, even though this was the message of the prophets; John the Baptist, and JESUS.

‘The last word of our LORD to the church is not the Great Commission, said Vance Havner.

The Great Commission is indeed our program to the end of this age, but our LORD's last word to the Church is "Repent." It's one thing to ask GOD to bless us; but quite another to be the kind of people HE can bless!"

Let's pray.