

Zechariah 1 Pt 1

Jesus

- **Back from 70** years captivity in Babylon to rebuild destroyed temple
- **Discouraged:** Remembered former Glory of Solomon' Temple
 1. 150,000 workers/3000 superintendents
 2. Unlimited money...Temple now just rocks unable to be moved
- **Prophet Haggai on scene**
 1. **Encourages** to build
 2. **Rebukes:** Paying more attention to comfortable homes than Temple

Zechariah is on scene at same time
Encourages/Rebukes/Calls them to return to God or be Judged again

Introduction

- **Author** Prophet Zechariah **The LORD Remembers**
- **Father** Berechiah **The LORD Blesses**
- **Grandfather** Iddo **At the Appointed Time** Returned 16 yrs. previous

Certainly this cluster of names with such rich meanings is suggestive of the encouragement given to the remnant that had returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. **God remembers and blesses at the appointed time** [JVM]

- **Jesus** speaks of fate of the Author/Prophet Zechariah...

Matthew 23:35 [you murdered prophets] ... from the blood of righteous Abel to the **blood of Zechariah**, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

- Author Zechariah is last prophet of OT that is martyred [apart from J the B]
- **Out of 28+** Zech's/Zach's Scripture...
 1. **King Zechariah:** 14th King of Israel for 6 months
 2. **Prophet Zechariah** centuries later [Author/Martyr]

500 years after this book: Priest Zacharias

- **Zach/Liz praying for a child. Zach is in the Temple...**

Luke 1:13 [After 400 years of silence God remembers] the angel said... "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. [John the Baptist forerunner of Messiah]

- **Date Written:** 520 BC same time as Haggai. Tag team upon return from Babylon

Ezra 5:1 Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the [grand]son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.

- **Setting:** Zechariah among remnant from Babylon in Israel [Only 50,000]

In Babylon the Jews left the agrarian life they enjoyed in Israel to tasting the Commercial life of Babylon. A new god emerges in their hearts, greed. This is the reason MOST Jews stayed in Babylon

- **Remnant back to build 2nd Temple after Neb destroyed first...**

Ezra 6:14 So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of **Haggai** the prophet and **Zechariah** the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

[Zechariah] was called to encourage and mobilize God's people to accomplish a task that they had begun yet **lost the momentum for completion**. He encouraged them indirectly by telling them about God's care for them and by keeping the presence of the Messiah very much in their minds. He worked with others, notably Haggai, Zerubbabel, and Ezra. He warned them of the consequences of neglecting God's work and emphasized [God's will] to do a work through His people. [Guzik]

- **Obvious similarities** Ezekiel/Daniel/Zechariah/Revelation
- **Dan/Ezekiel:** Born in Israel...Penned their books outside Israel
- **Zechariah born in Babylon...**Penned his book within Israel

IOWs: Of the Apocalyptic books [Apocalypse lit. to reveal/unveil but not always impending catastrophe] ...of Ezekiel/Daniel/Zechariah/Revelation...**Only Zechariah written in Israel.**

- **Interesting:**
 1. **More Messianic** prophecies any minor prophet [smaller in length]
 2. **Clearest insight of any** minor prophets re. Jesus 1st and 2nd coming
 3. Zechariah will receive **10 prophecies** in one evening!

Zechariah vs Haggai...Tag Team Prophets

Haggai had been preaching 3 months and the Temple work had already started when Zechariah began. Haggai's total recorded ministry lasted a little less than 4 months; Zechariah's about 2 years. No doubt they were on hand the entire 4 years exhorting and helping. [Halley]

- Similar yet **different** messages...

If all we had was Haggai to go by, we might conclude that all God was really interested in was the temple. Zechariah gave us more to the story, and showed how God is interested in the lives of His people, not only buildings. [Guzik]

Like Haggai, Zechariah's message is **one of encouragement**. But he was aware that **not all the returned remnant were fully sincere** in their desires to serve God, and he therefore counseled them to repent of sin and return to God with all their hearts and minds. [Boice]

- **Visions/Pictures/Symbols**

Haggai lays down the mind of God to the people more plainly in direct and downright terms; **Zechariah flies at a higher pitch**, abounding with types and visions; and is therefore worthily reckoned among the...profoundest penmen of Holy Scripture... We pass from dark prophecies to that which is much more dark [Trapp].

- **Zechariah Outline:** Matthew Henry
 1. **Ch. 1:1-5** Practical sermon outlining scope of the book
 2. **Ch. 1:6 to end of Ch. 6:** Visions/Instruction from Heaven
 3. **Ch. 7 to end of 8:** Duty of present /Encourage to Hope God's Grace
 4. **Ch. 9 and 12:** Two more Sermons, Burdens of Lord preached later...

...to reprove for sin...threaten God's judgments against the impenitent and to encourage those that feared God with assurances of the mercy God had in store for his [people], and especially of the **coming of the Messiah and the setting up of his kingdom in the world.**

I. Call to Repentance

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.**

Practical Sermon vv 1-5

- **Timeline**
 1. Based on Darius Medo-Persian King 522-486 BC. 8th month of 2nd year
 2. As Persia conquered Babylon/Small remnant of Jews set free to Israel
 3. Between Haggai's 1st and 2nd Message/One month after start on Temple
 4. **It is at this time that...**

The Word of the LORD came to Zechariah the Prophet
The LORD has been **very angry with you fathers**

- **Why was the LORD angry** with Israel leading to their captivity?
 1. **Did not** keep land Sabbath previous 490 yrs. [Owed God 70 Years]
 2. **Idolatry.** Repent of Wood/Stone but find others [Pride/Greed]

3 Therefore...

Since LORD has been very angry with you fathers...
I.e. He said don't...they did and were judged...and here we are

3b... 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?**

Return to Me/I will Return to You Message of the Ages to All People

God is always waiting for man to come to Him...God has done all that He will do to save you... All the initiating to provide the way. [Smith]

- **What does it mean to return:** Hate what God hates/Love what God loves
- Where are those who don't heed God's warnings?
 1. Where are you fathers or False prophets who said to fight Babylon
 2. **V6** My command did not **"take hold"** of them/Paid the price
- Where are those in **our lives** that were warned and neglected? Did they live forever?

Everybody's a tuff guy when things are good... i.e. before things go sideways

Now it's your time to choose...New Beginning Offered

- **End of Practical Sermon:** People take responsibility

6b... "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.**' " " "

Some say because God is sovereign man has no choice
God is sovereign and He sovereignly gives man choice/freewill

- **Your time to choose:** Did you learn from your fathers?
- **Exciting Times? Attitude Adjustment...**
 1. Your back in Land!
 2. The Temple can be rebuilt...God is ready to bless

Why does Zechariah even need to encourage them to return to God?

1. **Became content** in their misery
2. **Became discontent** w/things of God...**despised His goodness**

Zechariah 4:9 "[We have...] laid the foundation of this temple [we] shall also finish it. Then you will know That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. 10 For who has **despised the day of small things?**

- **Ungrateful/Unthankful**
- **Unexcited/Useless...**hard to think about. Ever have to listen to someone like this

Sad Attitude of the Small Returning Remnant

Why did Ezra/Nehemiah/Zechariah/Haggai have to encourage/prod to work after Babylon?

- **Settled** with the ways/things of the world/Ways of Babylon

1 John 2:15 Do not **love the world** or the **things in the world**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the lust of the eyes, and the **pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.

- Settled
- **Whining:** Miserable/Moping. Grieving the God who just set them free

Philippians 2:14 Do all things **without complaining and disputing**, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **shine as lights** in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Easily offended/pampered/thin skinned/not light/not warriors/not forgivers
No one would recognize them as those who knew the Living God. Creeps into church

- Settled/Whining and...
- **Ungrateful** for what God was doing right before their eyes...

Freed from Bondage. Temple being built. God is on the move!
People were split: Some praising God loudly/Some whining just as loud...

Ezra 3:11b... Then all the **people shouted with a great shout**, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, **wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple** was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³ so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the **noise of the weeping of the people**, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.

- **Choice of Attitude:** Attitude adjustment needed?
 1. Thankful or Ungrateful for what God is doing?
 2. Thankful for the Day of Small things.
 3. Is anything the Creator does for us a small thing?

During the 500 Years from Zechariah to Jesus

- **No King in Judah/Israel** till Puppet King Herod who would add this 2nd Temple
- **Pharisees/Sadducees:** Begin/solidify hell-bound works-based religion/Kill Zech
- **Jesus the true King** would be rejected by most Jews/Accepted by the dogs
- **End up losing their Nation** for last 2000 years...**Can't say they were not warned**

Don't know what you got till it's gone
Return to God and Live: Universal Message not to be Taken Lightly

Bad stuff happens when an individual, society, nation turns from God

Q. What happens? A. Insanity Happens

- **Romans 1:18-28** Digression beginning by turning from God
 1. Know Truth/Suppress Truth/Deny the obvious Truth
 2. Denying Creation thus denying their own Creator.
 3. Futile Thoughts/Foolish Hearts growing darker as denial continues
 4. Professing wisdom but fools. Trying to convince self of being right
 5. Giving glory to idols: Everything/Anything apart from Living God
 6. Given up to uncleanness: Desiring filth abhorring purity
 7. Exchanging Truth for the Lie [Lie? That there is no truth]
 8. Given up to vile passions: Sexual Perversion

9. Given over to a **debased mind**

- **Debased** Def. Rejected/Not standing the test/Unable to prove itself as it ought
IOWs Everybody knows its wrong/ungodly but does it anyway...

Romans 1:32 ...who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also **approve of those who practice them.**

- **Practical Sermon vv 1-6:** Outlining Scope of Book of Zechariah. Return and Live
Jews did not heed the message but killed the messenger
- **Missed Jesus First Coming...Yet there is a bigger picture in this book**
Zechariah will give hope for Israel's Future in the Kingdom of God
They will embrace the Messiah they rejected the first time...and they will live

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the **tribes of the earth will mourn** because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Zechariah 12:10 And I will **pour on the house of David** and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the **Spirit of grace...**

Next: Zechariah receives 10 Visions in just one night