

Zechariah 1-3 – 16 July 2026

“Envisioning God’s Unstoppable Plan: Part 1”

Introduction

*Zechariah is the 2nd of 3 post-exilic prophets, prophesying at the same time as Haggai

*Persian King Cyrus authorized Israel’s return and the building of the Temple in 536 BC

*Israel stalled in rebuilding the Temple from 536-520

*But these accounts of Haggai/Zechariah pick up in 520 BC in the 2nd year of Persian King Darius

*Haggai challenged them to prioritize Godly things

*Zechariah begins with a call from God for the people to accept the unstoppable nature of His plan

Read 1:1-3

1. In our exchange with God, the only time we are called to be the initiator, is to initiate repentance
 - a. Come let us reason together
 - b. Come to Me all that labor & are heavy laden

2. If God isn't w/ us, it's not on His part, but ours
 - a. Our sins distance us from Him (Isa 59:1-2)

Read 1:4-6

1. Don't be like the Jews before the Babylonian Captivity that were called to return & didn't listen
2. Vs 6 makes it clear that when their *will* came face to face with God's *Word*, God's ways won
 - a. In Captivity they acknowledged their sin
3. Don't wait until we're suffering to turn
4. God's plan of redemption is unstoppable

Today, we see the 1st 4 of 8 visions given by God that show His unstoppable plan to bring salvation

1st Vision – Four Men On Horses: Providing For Israel's Reestablishment (Chap 1:7-17)

Read 1:7-10

1. We speculate of the horse colors, but don't know
 - a. Could it be descriptive of the angel's rank

2. Myrtle trees are only used 3 other times in the Bible – it's a fine tree but nothing special
3. Yes, these are heavenly horsemen like the 4 horsemen of Rev 6
 - a. But these don't align in color or purpose
 - b. We'll get to the 4 chariots in Zec 6 that align better with the 4 horsemen of Rev 6 later
4. Rev 6 horses' mission was *judgement*, here the mission is *reconnaissance*
5. Just as Satan goes thru the earth, God's angels do the same

Read 1:11-12

1. Angel's point - God *still hasn't relieved* Israel's burden of 70 years of punishment
2. (Read) Jer 25:11 prophecy of the 70 years
 - a. Daniel thought it was ending in his day (537 BC), he was right
 - b. But it's also ending in Zechariah's day (518 BC) – we'll see this in Zec 7
 - c. Daniel's is the end of *servitude* to Babylon & Zechariah's is the end of the land's *desolation*

Read 1:13-17

1. Babylon, that God allowed to judge Israel, destroyed > God asked them to (see Jer 50)
 - a. Therefore, they'll also be judged of God
2. Answer comes in - God *will* comfort Jerusalem
 - a. The Temple will be built and finished soon
 - b. God's goodness will return to the city soon

2nd Vision – Four Horns & Craftsmen: Protection From The Enemy (Chap 1:18-21)

Read 1:18-19

1. The horn is an animal's power
 - a. Symbolic of a king or kingdom of power
 - b. We see this in Dan 7,8,11 & Rev 12,13,17
2. What four king(dom)s have scattered Judah?
 - a. There were 6 Babylonian kings, so we must need to take a wider look at this
 - b. There were also more than 3 other foreign nations supporting Babylon in scattering Judah
 - c. But there's only 4 nations that scattered them

- i. Syria (II Kings 10:32), Assyria (II Kings 17), Babylon (II Kings 25) and Rome

Read 1:20-21

1. The very ones that judged & scattered Israel would themselves be terrified and thrown out
 - a. Syria was thrown out by Assyria
 - b. Assyria was thrown out by Babylon
 - c. Babylon was thrown out by the Persians
 - d. Rome was destroyed in many ways
2. This is a show of God's protection for Israel
 - a. They should never see a foreign power as unstoppable
 - b. They should remember God is sovereign over all nations

3rd Vision – A Man With A Measuring Device: Preparing For The Influx Of People (Chap 2:1-13)

Read 2:1-5

1. God is preparing to bring His people back to the land & sees if it can contain the blessing

2. This isn't speaking of the current rebuilding
 - a. Nehemiah comes shortly to build walls
 - b. It speaks of the end days (Read Eze 38:11)
3. Only protection that Israel needs is the Lord

Read 2:6-7

1. God has prepared a place for them & now calls for them to come out of and to leave the evil ones
 - a. Same call to the Church (Read Eph 5:14)
 - b. This will be the call to the Trib believers also to come out of the Babylonian world system (Read Rev 18:4)

Read 2:8-9

1. It gives God glory (it is good) for the wicked to be brought low for their evil against Israel
2. God calls Israel the apple (pupil) of His eye
 - a. Precious & it necessitates protection
 - b. God protects Israel as we protect our eyes

Read 2:10-13

1. Like home decorators "measuring the drapes" in preparation for God to bring His people home

- a. See it'll be home for many more than Israel
- b. Read John 10:16 – Gentiles enter the family
2. We've joined ourselves to the Lord whom Israel, as the natural vine branches, already knew

4th Vision – The High Priest & Branch: Exalted Rule (Chap 3:1-10)

Intro to the Chiastic Structure

1. These 8 visions are in a chiastic structure pointing to the middle for emphasis
 - a. These 8 mirrors toward the middle
 - b. The highlight is the center point
2. Example of chiasm in Gen 6-9 with Noah
 - a. Gen 6:10-22 – **A** - Noah told to build ark
 - b. Gen 7:1-9 – **B** – They enter the ark
 - c. Gen 7:10-16 – **C** – Flood begins
 - d. Gen 7:17-24 – **D** - Waters rise
 - e. Gen 8:1 – **E** - “But God remembered Noah”
 - f. Gen 8:2-5 – **D** - Waters recede
 - g. Gen 8:6-14 – **C** - The earth dries
 - h. Gen 8:15-19 – **B** - They leave the ark
 - i. Gen 8:20-9:19 – **A** - Noah worships God

Read 3:1-3

1. The Lord chides Satan for Satan's intention to destroy Israel & Jerusalem
 - a. Another demonstration that Satan is always working behind the scenes to stop God's plan
2. Joshua, as representative of the people, doesn't have any holiness or ability to stand on his own

Read 3:4-5

1. The cleansing from iniquity & giving of a clean standing (clothes) is from the Lord
 - a. There's nothing Joshua can contribute
 - b. This is the Lord's doing and it's marvelous
2. So, it's not just giving of right standing but also removing the shame of the old sinful clothing

Read 3:6-7

1. If then statement - Obedience will bring reward
2. Some say, I don't have to perfectly obey God to be saved – correct but misguided
 - a. We *want to* obey God for the blessing & reward that it brings

- b. We *want to* obey God for the reward of being close to Him

Read 3:8-10

1. Chap 3-4 being the middle chapters of this chiastic structure
 - a. Chap 3:8-10 is the middle verses & words of this chiastic structure
 - b. And they're all about our *Lord Jesus Christ*
2. Jesus is the Branch symbolizing, fruitfulness, production and continuing life
 - a. This symbolism is prophesied in Isa 4, 11, 53, Jer 23 & 33 as well as again in Zec 6
 - b. Jesus then uses this of Himself in John 15
3. Now the stone with 7 eyes is Jesus
 - a. Jesus is often pictured as a stone or rock – speaking of strength and provision
 - b. Jesus is also pictured as having 7 eyes in Rev 5 picturing full knowledge & awareness
 - c. There should be no trouble combining these 2 images – our strong all-knowing God
4. So in the day that Messiah comes all Israel will be once again at peace

Conclusion

Next time, we'll get the last 4 of Zechariah's visions to finish the culmination of God's unstoppable plan

So, the 1st four...

1. Providing for reestablishment (Control Situation)
1. Protected from the enemy (Overthrow Enemy)
2. Preparing for the influx of people (Prepare People)
3. Promotion of the Branch Jesus (Exalt God)