

Small Group Guide: Zechariah 4-6



Introduction

This passage takes us through a series of vivid prophetic visions given to Zechariah during the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. These visions are layered with meaning, pointing both to the immediate historical moment and to future events surrounding the coming of the Messiah. Use this guide to reflect on what these ancient visions reveal about God's character, his plan for redemption, and what it means to live faithfully in light of that plan.

Key Takeaways

- God accomplishes his purposes not through human strength or military power, but by his Spirit. The rebuilding of the temple was not going to succeed because of political maneuvering or military victory, but because God was behind it.
- Scripture often contains near and ultimate fulfillments of prophecy. What was partially true in Zechariah's day finds its complete expression in Jesus Christ and in the events surrounding his return.
- The name Yeshua, shared by both Joshua the high priest in Zechariah's vision and Jesus of Nazareth, is not coincidental. Zechariah 6 presents one of the most direct

prophetic portraits of Jesus in the entire Old Testament, describing him as both king and priest.

- Babylon throughout Scripture represents the city of man in rebellion against God. The vision of the basket carried to Shinar points toward a final reckoning with wickedness when Christ returns.
 - Jesus is the Branch who shoots up from the stump of Jesse. He builds the true temple, bears the glory, and sits as both king and high priest, the only figure in history who could fulfill both roles.
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Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Think about a time when a task felt impossible because of outside pressure or opposition. What helped you push through, or what caused you to stop? Share briefly with the group.

Digging Into the Text

1. In Zechariah 4, the angel tells Zerubbabel that the temple will be rebuilt "not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit" (Zechariah 4:6). What does it look like practically to rely on God's Spirit rather than human strength when facing an overwhelming task? Where does that line get blurry in your own life?
2. The lampstand in Zechariah's vision was constantly fed by olive oil from two trees, representing a continuous, uninterrupted supply of what was needed to keep the light burning. What does that image communicate to you about how God sustains his people in their calling?
3. The flying scroll in chapter 5 represents divine justice going out over the whole earth, holding people accountable to God's law. How does this vision sit with you? Does the idea of God's thorough and complete justice bring you comfort, conviction, or both? Why?
4. The vision of the woman in the basket being carried to Babylon is one of the stranger images in this passage. The pastor connected it to the final judgment of wickedness described in Revelation. What does it mean to you personally that God does not leave wickedness unaddressed forever?
5. The four chariots in chapter 6 are described as "the four spirits of heaven" going out to bring God's judgments across the earth. What does this vision suggest about the

relationship between what happens in the spiritual realm and what happens in the physical world?

6. In Zechariah 6:12-13, the Branch is described as one who will build the temple, bear glory, sit on a throne, and serve as a priest. The pastor noted that only Jesus fits all of those descriptions. How does seeing this prophecy in the Old Testament strengthen or deepen your confidence in who Jesus is?
7. The pastor drew a connection between Nimrod at the Tower of Babel and the Antichrist, both representing the effort to unite the world in opposition to God. What patterns do you see in the world today that echo that kind of rebellion? How should that shape how Christians engage with culture?

Reflection Questions

8. Zechariah kept asking the angel questions even when he did not get an immediate answer. He circled back and pressed for understanding. What does that persistence tell us about how we should approach Scripture and prayer when we do not immediately understand what God is doing?
9. The pastor pointed out that the apostles continued to participate in temple worship even after the resurrection of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit. What does that tell us about continuity, reverence, and the importance of not discarding things God has not discarded?
10. The final verse of the passage says that the coming of the Messiah to build the glorious temple "shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of your Lord God." What role does obedience play in your own walk with God right now? Is there an area where God is calling you to step forward in obedience even when the outcome feels uncertain?

Practical Applications

- Identify one area of your life where you have been relying on your own strength or strategy rather than seeking God's Spirit. Bring that area before God in prayer this week and ask him to lead you.
- Read Isaiah 11:1-10 on your own this week. Notice how the description of the Branch connects to what Zechariah reveals and to what you know of Jesus from the Gospels. Write down two or three observations and bring them to share with the group next time.

- Spend time this week reading Hebrews 4:14-16, which describes Jesus as our great high priest. Reflect on what it means that the one who sits on the throne is also the one who intercedes for you. Let that shape how you approach God in prayer.
- If there is a task or calling in your life that has stalled because of opposition or discouragement, take a concrete step forward this week. Let "not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit" be the posture you bring to it.
- Consider memorizing Zechariah 4:6 this week. Discuss with your group at the next meeting how it has shaped your thinking or your decisions since you began carrying it with you.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your time together by praying along these lines:

- Thank God that his purposes cannot be stopped by human opposition.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to be the source of strength and light in your individual lives and in your life together as a group.
- Pray for eyes to see Jesus clearly in the whole of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments.
- Ask God for the courage to obey his voice even when the path forward feels uncertain.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Visions of Zechariah: God's Spirit, Justice, and the Coming King



Day 1: Not by Might, But by My Spirit

Reading: Zechariah 4:1-7

Devotional: The people of God stood before an overwhelming task. The temple lay unfinished, enemies surrounded them, and the odds seemed impossible. Yet God's word to Zerubbabel cut through every fear with startling clarity: the victory would not come through military strength or human ingenuity, but through the Spirit of the Lord. This is the pattern of God's work throughout all of Scripture. He does not call the equipped; He equips the called. Whatever mountain stands before you today, God is not asking you to move it through sheer willpower. He is asking you to remain faithful, to keep the plumb line in your hand, and to trust that His Spirit is more than sufficient for what He has asked you to build.

Reflection: What task or challenge in your life feels like an unmovable mountain? In what specific ways have you been relying on your own strength rather than the Spirit of God?

Practical Application: Identify one area of your life where you have been striving in your own power. Spend time in prayer today surrendering that specific burden to God and asking Him to work through His Spirit rather than through your efforts alone.

Day 2: The Eyes of the Lord Are Watching

Reading: Zechariah 4:8-10; Proverbs 15:3

Devotional: Zechariah describes the seven eyes of the Lord scanning to and fro throughout the whole earth. Seven, the number of completeness in Scripture, speaks to the total and unhindered vision of God. Nothing escapes His sight. No act of faithfulness goes unnoticed. No small beginning is beneath His attention. The question is posed directly in the text: who has despised the day of small things? God rejoices when His servants are faithful in the ordinary, unglamorous work of obedience. The plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand was not a grand gesture. It was a carpenter's tool. And God's eyes were fixed on it with delight. Your faithfulness in small things matters deeply to the God who sees everything.

Reflection: Do you find it difficult to remain faithful when the work feels small, slow, or unrecognized by others? How does knowing that God's eyes are fully upon your obedience change the way you approach daily faithfulness?

Practical Application: Choose one small, consistent act of faithfulness this week, whether prayer, Scripture reading, or serving someone quietly. Do it as an act of worship, knowing that the eyes of the Lord are watching with pleasure.

Day 3: The Curse and the Cover

Reading: Zechariah 5:1-4; Romans 3:19-23; Romans 8:1-4

Devotional: The flying scroll in Zechariah's vision is a sobering image. It travels across the entire earth, and written on both sides are the consequences of breaking God's law. The thief is judged. The one who swears falsely is judged. The scroll does not discriminate. It enters every house. This vision confronts us with a truth that the whole of Scripture confirms: every human being stands under the righteous judgment of God's law. No one has lived up to its standard. But the same God who authored that law also sent His Son to fulfill it perfectly on our behalf. The curse that the scroll carries was absorbed by Christ on the cross. For those who are in Him, there is no condemnation.

Reflection: How seriously do you take the reality of God's justice? Does your understanding of His holiness deepen your gratitude for the grace found in Christ?

Practical Application: Read Romans 8:1 slowly and deliberately. Write it down and place it somewhere visible today. Let the weight of what it means to be free from condemnation settle into your heart throughout the day.

Day 4: Wickedness Contained, Victory Secured

Reading: Zechariah 5:5-11; Revelation 18:1-8; Isaiah 46:9-10

Devotional: The vision of the woman in the basket is one of the stranger images in Zechariah, but its meaning is anchored in a profound hope. Wickedness, personified and sealed beneath a heavy lead cover, is carried off to Babylon. It does not roam free forever. It does not win. God's plan from the beginning has always included the final containment and judgment of evil. From the Tower of Babel to the final Babylon described in Revelation, Scripture traces a consistent story: man's rebellion against God has a closing chapter, and God writes it. The same God who called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees calls His people out of the systems of this world and into a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

Reflection: In a world where evil often seems to go unchecked, how does the biblical promise of God's final justice strengthen your faith? Are there areas of your life where you are still entangled with the values of the world's system?

Practical Application: Spend time today meditating on the sovereignty of God over history. Journal a prayer of trust, acknowledging that God's purposes will not be thwarted and that His justice will ultimately prevail over every form of wickedness.

Day 5: Behold the Man Whose Name Is the Branch

Reading: Zechariah 6:9-15; Isaiah 11:1-5; Hebrews 4:14-16; John 19:5

Devotional: When the crown was placed on Joshua's head, it was not ultimately about Joshua. It was a prophetic portrait of the one whose Hebrew name he shared, Yeshua, Jesus. The Branch who would shoot up from the stump of Jesse. The one who would bear glory, sit on a throne, and serve as both King and High Priest simultaneously. No human being in history has ever held both offices. No one could. The law kept them separate. But Jesus is the fulfillment of both. He rules with authority and He intercedes with compassion. He is the sovereign King who knows what it is to suffer, and the merciful High Priest who holds all power. This is the one Zechariah saw in shadow. This is the one we know by name.

Reflection: What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is both your King and your High Priest? How does His dual role change the way you approach Him in prayer and in worship?

Practical Application: Come before God today in both reverence and boldness. Bring one area of your life to Jesus as King, submitting it to His authority and lordship. Then bring one

burden or struggle to Him as High Priest, trusting that He sympathizes with your weakness and intercedes on your behalf.