

Through the Bible at 30,000 Feet

Zechariah | Coming to Jesus

North Center | May 22, 2022

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CONTEXT

- Contemporary with Haggai.
 - The Word of the Lord comes to Zechariah two months after Haggai
- God's people are back home, but (for years) they have neglected the worship of God.
 - Lack of support. Lack of encouragement. Lack of resources. Fear of threats.
- And Haggai has just given them a convicting message about their priorities.
 - **Themes:** *“Don't waste your life” & “Jesus is better than anything you leave behind. Whatever the cost, Jesus is worth it.”*
- Through the preaching of Haggai, the Lord encouraged Zerubbabel and the people to trust in Him, to obey His command, and to prioritize the worship of God over the temporary comforts and pleasures of this life.
- And so, the people are fired up to obey.

And now, through the message of **Zechariah**, God is continuing to encourage His people as they commit their work and their lives to Him – and obey Him whatever the cost.

OUTLINE

- **1 – 6** || **Eight Visions:** visual reminders of what God has done in the past and what God has promised to do in the future.
- **7 – 8** || **Four Messages:** *“The word of the Lord came...”* || leading the people from rebuke & repentance to the promise of restoration and future rejoicing.
- **9–14** || **Two Burdens:** God speaks in detail of the judgment on the nations that would come against the people of God.

In **CHAPTERS 1–6** | Eight Visions:

1. Horses (1:7–8ff)
2. Horns (1:18ff)
3. Measuring line (2:1ff)
4. High Priest (3:1ff)
5. Lampstand & olive trees (4:1–3ff)
6. Flying scroll (5:1ff)
7. A woman in a basket (5:5–7ff)
8. Four chariots (6:1ff)

In these series of visions, God comes to His people with “**good and comforting words**” (**1:13**).

These visions are full of mystery, but they are even more full of hope! There are things in these visions that seem strange, mysterious, bizarre, and we're not immediately sure how to interpret them or what they mean. (1) This is why Bible Study is so important, and (2) even if there are things in here that we don't understand, God gives clear words of comfort & hope to His people.

1. God has a future of **HOPE** for His people.

Again proclaim, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts:
“My cities shall again spread out through prosperity;

The Lord will again comfort Zion,
And will again choose Jerusalem.”¹

~ *Zechariah 1:17*

- No matter what lies in the shadows of your past, God has a future of glory for His people.

2. God **DELIGHTS** in His people.²

For thus says the Lord of hosts:
He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you;
For he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

~ *Zechariah 2:8*

- Our sin & rebellion doesn't change the way God sees us.

3. God will **STRENGTHEN** His people through His Spirit.

So he answered and said to me:
This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:
Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.
Says the Lord of hosts.

~ *Zechariah 4:6*

- Our relationship with God is not dependent on our own strength or willpower; it is dependent on the Spirit of God – which has been poured out on all His children.

¹ See also 2:4–5.

² See also 1:14.

4. God is committed to **FINISHING** the good work that He started.

Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple,
His hands shall also finish it...
~ *Zechariah 4:9*

- God never starts something that He will not also finish. If He has caused the foundation of His temple to be laid, He will see the temple finished. If He is building His church, then even the gates of hell can't stand against it. And if He has authored the story of faith in your life, He will also finish it.
 - Your failures aren't the end of your story.
 - Your mistakes aren't the end of your story.
 - Your sin isn't the end of your story. JESUS IS.

We are confident of this very thing,
That He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
~ *Philippians 1:6*

Because...

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
~ *1 John 4:4*

5. God has a way of turning **SMALL BEGINNINGS** into glorious endings.

For who has despised the day of small things?...
~ *Zechariah 4:10*

In His perfect, omniscient vision, God sees the work of your hands, and He rejoices in “the day of small things.”

- Changing your baby's diapers...
- Washing the clothes...
- Prayer meeting with 6 people...
- Being faithful in your job (*Joseph*)
- Opening your home... (*George Muller*)

6. God will see to it that **EVERY NATION** is represented in the worship of God.

Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the Lord...

~ *Zechariah 6:15*

- Global discipleship is at the core of our mission as a local church because it has always been the trajectory of God's heart.

7. God will work glory through the **OBEDIENCE** of His people.

Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the Lord.

Then you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.

And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God.

~ *Zechariah 6:15*

- The kingdom of God here on earth is not built with gold or stones or politics or campaigns or church programs... it's built on obedience.

Now, instead of focusing on the visions, messages, and burdens here in this book, I want to spend the rest of our time focusing on the trajectory of Zechariah. **Where is His book pointing?**

You know the answer to that question!

Though Zechariah lived over 500 years before the dawning of NT, **he was pointing to Jesus.**

THE TRAJECTORY OF ZECHARIAH: JESUS.

Jesus said that all of the prophets were speaking of Him.³

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life;

And these are they which testify of Me.

~ *John 5:39*

Then He said to them,

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures

the things concerning Himself.

~ *Luke 24:25–27*

³ Luke 24:25–26; 1 Cor 15:3–4; 1 Tim 3:16–17; Heb 1:1–2; 1 Pet 1:10–12.

If you trace the themes in Zechariah, you see that:

- God will save His people⁴
- God will restore His people⁵
- God will protect His people⁶
- God will fight for His people⁷
- God will draw all nations into His people⁸

AND you will see that **ALL** these themes are **pointing (unmistakably) to Jesus!**
So, let's look together.

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Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion!  
For behold, I am coming, and I will dwell in your midst, says the Lord.  
Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people.  
And I will dwell in your midst.  
Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.  
~ Zechariah 2:10-11

Q. When Jesus comes, what is He going to do?

A. Ultimately, He going to take away the sin of His people.

Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying,  
"Take away the filthy garments from him."  
And to him He said,  
"See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."<sup>9</sup>  
~ Zechariah 3:4

- Jesus took our sin upon Himself, and He clothed us with the rich robes of His righteousness instead.<sup>10</sup>

And then Zechariah looks (with prophetic eyes) to that Holy Week when Jesus would take away our sin forever.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation,  
Lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
~ Zechariah 9:9-10

- And it happened | *Matt 21:4-5*

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<sup>4</sup> Zechariah 10:6

<sup>5</sup> Zechariah 9:12

<sup>6</sup> Zechariah 9:8; 12:8

<sup>7</sup> Zechariah 14:3

<sup>8</sup> Zechariah 1:17; 2:4, 11; 8:20-23; 14:8-9, 16

<sup>9</sup> See also Zechariah 3:8-9, "...and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day."

<sup>10</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:21; see also: Rom 4:7; Col 3:3.

Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered...  
~ *Zechariah 13:7*

- And it happened | *Matt 26:31, 56, 67*

Then I said to them,  
“If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.”  
They weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.  
And the Lord said to me,  
“Throw it to the potter – that princely price they set on me.”  
So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.  
~ *Zechariah 11:12–13*

- And it happened | *Matt 27:3–10*

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
the Spirit of grace and supplication;  
Then they will look on Me whom they pierced.  
Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son  
and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.  
In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem...<sup>11</sup>  
~ *Zechariah 12:10–11*

- And it happened | *John 19:34–37*

In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David  
and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem,  
For sin and for uncleanness.  
~ *Zechariah 13:1*

- And it happened | *John 3:16*

And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem,  
Half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea;  
In both summer and winter it shall occur.  
And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.  
In that day it shall be – “The Lord is one,” and His name one.  
~ *Zechariah 14:8–9*

- And this is happening!

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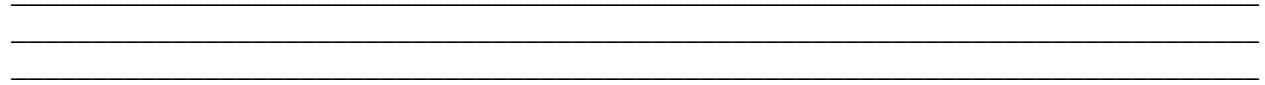
<sup>11</sup> The Shepherd would be struck, and the sheep would scatter (13:7). On that day, the lights would diminish (14:6).

Q. How does the story end?

A. It ends in Holiness!

In that day “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” shall be engraved everywhere...

~ Zechariah 14:20–21



Zechariah’s message for God’s people **THEN**...

- Live your life for the glory of God... no matter the cost.
- What you are investing your life into today (for the glory of God) will one day be more glorious than you can possibly imagine.
- As you seek to live in obedience to God, keep your eyes on the promised Messiah.
- He’s coming!
- Keep holding on. Keep trusting. Keep believing. Keep obeying.
- God has always been faithful, and He won’t abandon His promises now.
- Our King is coming!

Zechariah’s message for God’s people **NOW**...

- Look, Jesus fulfilled every single one of these promises.
- He came...just as He promised!
- In a single day, He washed away our sin forever (**Zech 3:9**)
- He was sold for the price of a slave. He was pierced. He was abandoned.
- Salvation flowed in all directions (through all the seasons) from Jerusalem’s cross
- He is drawing all nations to Himself.
- And He is coming back! Our King is coming back... just as He promised.

So keep holding on. Keep trusting. Keep believing. Keep obeying. And keep coming to Jesus.

*Come you weary heart now to Jesus; Come you anxious soul now and see  
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears; Rest here in His wondrous peace*

*Come find what this world cannot offer; Come and find your joy here complete  
Taste the living water, never thirst again; Rest here in His wondrous peace*

*Come and find your hope now in Jesus; He is all He said He would be  
Grace is overflowing from the Savior’s heart; Rest here in His wondrous peace*

*Oh the goodness of Jesus...*