

3/5/17

Intro To Zechariah

Zechariah the prophet is the eleventh Minor Prophet of the twelve, the second post-captivity prophet, the first being Haggai, the third and last being Malachi.

The main criteria for determining a Minor prophet among the scholars is the length of the book, yet Zechariah contains fourteen chapters while the book of Daniel contains only twelve chapters, but is categorized as a Major prophet.

* So much for logic and reason for the category.

Zechariah is apocalyptic in nature dealing with signs, symbols, and visions as the book of Daniel and Ezekiel, but Zechariah is the only post captivity prophet that is apocalyptic, the other two Daniel and Ezekiel are during the captivity.

* These deal much with the end times and the establishing of the Kingdom Age.

In the New Testament we have the book of Revelation, which really is a composite of the Old Testament apocalyptic prophecies dealing with the last days senerio accompanied by greater detail and clarity.

Many have seen great difficulty with the book of Zechariah, but if we keep in mind that he is dealing with Jerusalem and the covenant people as Haggai and according to Haggai's promise to bless them from

the time of the obedience, it fit appropriately. Hag. 2:15-19

Another important element is that an angel of God gives the interpretation to the visions, so that we really are not left to our own speculations or opinions.

I. The prophet Zechariah.

- A. The prophet Haggai is the tenth of the twelve Minor prophets.
 1. There are six Minor Prophets prior to the captivity of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria in 722 B.C.
 - a. Obadiah 845 B.C.
 - b. Joel 835 B.C.
 - c. Jonah 765 B.C.
 - d. Amos 760 B.C.
 - e. Hosea 740 B.C.
 - f. Micah 735 B.C.
 2. There are three contemporary Minor Prophets prior to the captivity of the Southern Kingdom by Babylon from 606-586 B.C.
 - a. Nahum. 660-650 B.C. (some have placed him from 616-613 B.C.)
 - b. Zephaniah 625 B.C.
 - c. Habakkuk 608 B.C.
 3. There are three Minor Prophets after the return from captivity of Babylon from 536-425 B.C.
 - a. Haggai 520 B.C.
 - b. Zechariah 520 B.C.

c. Malachi 430 B.C.

B. The name of the prophet is significant.

1. Zechariah means “the Lord remembers”.
Zech. 1:1
 - a. The Lord had remembered His people after the seventy years of captivity.
 - b. The Lord had remembered the next kingdom to reign, Medo-Persia.
 - c. The Lord had remembered that habit of His people to complacency and compromise.
2. He is believed to be the Zechariah, which Jesus accused the fathers of slaying between the temple and altar. Matt. 23:35
3. His contemporary was Haggai and was younger than he. Zech. 2:4

C. The family line of the prophet.

1. He is the son of Berechiah which means “the Lord blesses.”
2. He is the grandson of Iddo the prophet whose name means “his witnesses”, but some say “the appointed time.” Zech. 1:1
* Some identify him with the priest that returned from exile under Zerubbabel and Joshua in 536. B. C.? Neh. 12:3, 4, 12, 16; Ezra 5:1; 6:14
3. Zechariah was not only a prophet, but a priest; of the family of Aaron, the only one of the Minor prophets that we know for sure.

4. How fitting that one man both priest and prophet would join together the passion and proclamation of the coming King.
5. Jeremiah and Ezekiel were also priest and prophet, but are Major prophets. Ezra 5:1; 6:14; Neh. 12:4, 12, 16
6. If we combine the meaning of the three names they declare the message of the book, “The Lord remembers and the Lord blesses at the appointed time.”
* In other words God is right on time with His program and He is never late.

This is the prophet Zechariah!

II. The book of Zechariah.

A. The nature of the book of Zechariah.

1. The book is poetic in many places.
2. The book is symbolic with signs, visions and symbols, that for the most part are interpreted for us by an angel. Zech. 1:9, 19; 4:6, 14; 5:3, 8; 6:5
3. The book is apocalyptic in nature and language, expressing the ultimate conquest of God and the setting up of His Kingdom.

B. The division of the book of Zechariah.

1. Prophecies before the building of the temple, all dated. Zech. 1-8, 1:1; 7, 7:1
 - a. These first eight chapters deal with building the temple and vision

- prophecies, during the building of the temple.
- b. The immediate concern for the remnant in the land is the focus.
 - c. The simple divisions are four.
 - 1) The call to repentance. Zech. 1:1-7
 - 2) The night visions. Zech. 1:8-6:8
 - 3) The crowning King. Zech. 6:9-15
 - 4) The feast and fasting. Zech. 7-8
2. Prophecies after the building of the temple, undated. Zech. 9-14
- a. These last six chapters deal with two burdens, regarding the Gentile and Israel, vocal prophecies, not visions.
 - b. The future concern for Israel and the Gentile nation is the focus.
 - * These have and are regarded by modern critics as non-genuine, due to language and style, but once again they have been and are wrong.
 - c. The simple divisions are two.
 - 1) The burden against the Gentile. Zech. 9-11
 - 2) The burden against Israel. Zech. 12-14
3. The number of the visions of Zachariah are interpreted different.
- a. Some only see seven visions, distinguishing between normal prophecy and when declared “vision”.
 - b. Then some make chapter five all one, instead of two, while others see two ending up with eight visions.

- c. Still others break them all up and end up with ten visions, taking every new imagery as a vision.
4. The seven visions.
- a. The first vision of the four horses reveals the jealousy of God for Jerusalem and was ready to punish the nations for the abuse of His people beyond what He intended. Zech. 1:7-17
 - 1) Their enemies come to put fear in them when they returned.
 - 2) All the visions are related to the first and expand on it.
 - b. The second vision of the four horns and smiths reveal the four that scattered Israel, the four smiths are the four are the agencies God will use to punish those nations. Zech. 1:18-21
 - c. The third vision of the measuring line reveals the expansion of Jerusalem as God calls back the Jews and judges the nations. Zech. 2
 - d. The fourth vision of the reclothing of Joshua reveals the past chastening of his people, now as high priest cleansed a type of our high priest Jesus in the Kingdom Age. Zech. 3
 - e. The fifth vision of the golden candlestand reveals the enabling of God’s leaders and remnant to accomplish the new work of God. Zech. 4
 - f. The sixth vision of the flying scroll, ephah and woman reveals the false religions of

Babylon that tolerated theft and false swearing, but God could not tolerate the unholy. Zech. 5

- g. The seventh vision of the four chariots reveals the watchers of God carrying out the will of God. Zech. 6:1-8
 - h. The crowning of Joshua is not a vision, they are over, the coronation of Joshua typifying Jesus in the Kingdom Age. Zech. 6:9-15
 - 1) All seven visions and the one prophetic message came in one night, Feb. 24, 520 B.C. Zech. 1:7
 - 2) Five months after the rebuilding of the temple was resumed. Hag. 1:15
* The seven visions look beyond the immediate local time to the end times of the Second Coming. Zech. 2:10-13; 3:8-10; 6:12-14
5. The four prophetic messages, Dec. 4, 518 B.C. Zech. 7:1
- a. The rebuke of the Jews from Babylon for their their ritualistic fasting and mourning instead of obedience. Zech. 7:1-7
 - b. The call to righteous living, not like their fathers who were judged for their unrighteousness. Zech. 7:8-14
 - c. The future blessing on Zion and people in the streets of Jerusalem was to be believed, living in truth and peace. Zech. 8:1-17

- d. The future Kingdom Age of truth and peace would be joyous in the midst their Messiah and many nation will seek Him. Zech. 8:18-23
* Twenty-five months after the seven visions. Zech. 1:1

- D. The key verses and phrases of the prophet's book.
1. The key versus.
 - a. The first is comprised of three verses. Zech. 1:14-16
 - b. The second is comprised of three versus. Zech. 8:1-3
* God is jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.
 2. The key word Jerusalem.
 - a. Six times. Zech. 1:12, 14, 16, 17, 19
 - b. Three times. Zech. 2:2, 4, 12
 - c. One time. Zech. 3:2
 - d. One time. Zech. 7:7
 - e. Six time. Zech. 8:3, 4, 8, 15, 22
 - f. Two times. Zech. 9:9, 10
 - g. Eleven times. Zech. 12:2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
 - h. One time. Zech. 13:1,
 - i. Eleven times. Zech. 14:2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21
* Jerusalem is mentioned a total of forty-two times in the fourteen chapters.
 3. The key phrases,
 - a. The phrase, "the Lord of Host", appears fifty-four times.

4. God desired repentance to cleanse sin. Zech. 1:3; 3:4
5. The Kingdom Age would be established. Zech. 8:1-23; 11-14
6. The Messiah's First Coming in humiliation and the Second in glory are distinct.
 - * Zechariah has more Messianic prophecies than all the Minor prophets put together, ranking with the Palms and Isaiah. Is. 3:8; 6:12-13; 12:10; 13:7; 14:1-5, 9

These were the times of Zechariah!

IV. The message of Zchariah.

- A. The prophecies before the building of the temple. Zech. 1-8
 - * All of these are dated!
 1. The introduction and call to repentance. Zech. 1:1-6
 2. The night visions. Zech. 1:7-6:15
 - * Some see 8 in number, others see 7, Chapter 5 being one. All are received in one night, five months exactly after the rebuilding of the temple was resumed. Hag. 1:15
 - a. The vision of the horseman is the first vision. 1:7-17
 - b. The vision of the horns is the second vision. Zech. 1:18-21
 - * In Hebrew text chapter two begins here.

- c. The surveyor line third vision of a man with a measuring line. Zech. 2:1-13
- d. The clothing of Joshua the High Priest is the fourth vision. Zech. 3:1-10
- e. The lampstand and olive trees is the fifth vision. Zech. 4:1-14
- f. The flying scroll, ephah and the woman is the sixth vision. Zech. 5:1-11
 - a. Some divide them into two visions.
 - b. Remember all the visions from chapter one through six came to Zechariah in one night 520 B. C. Feb. 24. Zech. 1:7-6:8
- g. The four chariots is the seventh vision. Zech. 6:1-8
- h. The crowning of Joshua is not a vision, they are over. Zech. 6:9-15
- i. Obedience preferred to fasting and feasts, Dec. 4. 518 B.C. Zech. 7:1-8:23
 - 1) The delegation from Babylon to inquiry of God regarding fasting. Zech. 7:1-3
 - 2) God's first answer revealed a rebuke that it had become pure ritual and formality to serve their own purposes God wanted obedience. Zech. 7:4-7
 - 3) God's second answer revealed the call to righteous living, not like their fathers who were judged for their unrighteousness. Zech. 7:8-14
 - 4) God's third answer, repentance leads to restoration and blessing. Zech. 8:1-17

- 5)) God told them their ritual would be turned into joyous feast to love truth and peace. Zech. 8:18-19
- 5)) God's future Millennium, men will seek the Lord in Jerusalem and pray and the Jews will be looked up to and sought out by the nations. Zech. 8:20-23

B. Prophecies after the building of the temple, undated. Zech. 9-14

1. These last six chapters deal with two burdens regarding the Gentile and Israel, vocal prophecies, not visions.
2. The future concern for Israel and the Gentile nation is the focus.
3. The simple divisions are two.
 - a. The burden against the Gentile, dealing with the First Coming of Christ. vs. 9-11
 - b. The burden against Israel, dealing with the Second Coming of Christ. vs. 12-14
 - 1) Both sections are depicted by the phrase "burden" implying judgment.
 - 2) All undated, some have guessed about 480 B. C.?
4. The Judgment on Israel's enemies under the phrase "the burden" which means judgment. Zech. 9:1-8
 - * Chapters 9-11 center on the Messiah's First Coming and rejection with inferences to His Second Coming.
5. The coming king. Zech. 9:9-10

- * The verses predict the First and the Second Coming of Jesus as many Old Testament prophecies contain a twofold fulfillment. Is. 61:1-3
 - a. Traditionally called "The Triumphal Entry" but it was anything but that, more like the "Tragic Rejection." Zech. 9:9
 - * Matthew quotes it, but only in its partial fulfillment. Matt. 21:4-5; Lk. 19:37-40; Mk. 11:2; Jn. 12:14-15
 - b. The complete fulfillment will be at the Second Coming. Zech. 9:10; Is. 9:6-7
- 6. The king's blessing of Israel. Zech. 9:11-10:12
- 7. The desolation of Israel. Zech. 11:1-3
 - * The results of Israel's rejection of Jesus in His First Coming was that Israel was desolated by Titus in 70 A. D.
- 8. The Good Shepherd and false shepherd. Zech. 11:4-14
- 9. The foolish and idle shepherd. Zech. 11:15-17
- 10. The final siege and deliverance of Jerusalem. Zech. 12:1-9
 - a. Chapters 12-14 center on the Messiah's Second Coming and enthronement with inferences to His First Coming under the heading "The burden over Israel". Zech. 12-14
 - b. These last three chapters are all to be fulfilled during the seven years of Great Tribulation and the Kingdom Age, with a few exception. Zech. 12:10; 13:6-7

11. The repentance and conversion of Jerusalem. Zech. 12:10-14
12. The cleansing and purification of idolatry. Zech. 13:1-6
13. The smiting of the Shepherd. Zech. 13:7-9
14. The Lord's intervention for Israel. Zech. 14:1-8
15. The Lord as King. Zech. 14:9-15
16. The Lord's iron rule. Zech. 14:16-21

This is the message of Zechariah!