

A LOOK AT THE BOOK ZECHARIAH

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AUTHOR, DATE AND BACKGROUND

The author of the book is identified as Zechariah, a contemporary prophet of Haggai.

Therefore, the historical setting is the same as that of Haggai.

They worked together to motivate those who returned to Israel under the edict of Cyrus to build the temple.

Zechariah extends to a later period than Haggai.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The meanings of the names of his genealogy recorded in 1:1 combine to reveal the message of the book:

<i>Zechariah</i>	=>	"Yahweh remembers"
He is the son of <i>Berechiah</i>	=>	"Yahweh will bless"
He is the grandson of <i>Iddo</i>	=>	"His appointed time"

From these names can be drawn the message of the book: "*Yahweh remembers His people and will bless them in His appointed time.*"

The prophecy is given to encourage the people to rebuild the temple.

It contains a detailed description of the judgment of the nations and the resultant blessings for Israel.

The book also calls the attention of the people to God's covenant program.

Yahweh has remembered Israel and is instituting a program which will climax in the fulfillment of the covenants, the millennial kingdom.

They are at a turning point in Israel's history.

They have been judged and are starting a new generation, a new relationship to God, a new challenge and a fresh renewal of the promises.

God has turned back to Israel.

Therefore, they should repent and submit to his authority, in order to experience the blessings He has promised them.

Zechariah emphasizes God's program for Israel, while Daniel emphasizes God's program for gentiles in the same period.

APPLICATION

What lessons do we learn about our lives today from this prophecy?

ZECHARIAH

"Yahweh Remembers!"

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EIGHT VISIONS 1-6	FOUR MESSAGES 7-8	TWO BURDENS 9-14
Divine Program for Israel	The Question of the Fasts	Divine Program for Gentiles
<p>Call to Repentance 1:1-6</p> <p>Historical introduction 1 Prerequisite for blessing 2-6</p> <p>Eight Night Visions 1:7-6:8</p> <p>Man among the myrtle trees 1:7-17 Recognition of Israel's state and promise of deliverance.</p> <p>Four horns and four smiths 1:18-21 God will use 4 gentile powers to subdue Israel but will raise 4 deliverers.</p> <p>Man with the measuring line 2:1-13 Jerusalem will be restored.</p> <p>Cleansing of Joshua 3:1-10 The nation will be cleansed and restored to their chosen position.</p> <p>Candlestick and the olive trees 4:1-14 Their function as lights will be performed by the power of the Spirit under Messiah.</p> <p>Flying roll 5:1-4 Sin must be the judged.</p> <p>Woman in the kettle 5:5-11 False religious system is removed.</p> <p>Four chariots 6:1-8 Judgments will bring them to confession.</p> <p>Coronation of Joshua 6:9-15 Picture of the coming priest-king.</p>	<p>First Message 7:1-7 Inquiry 1-3 Should the fasts be continued?</p> <p>Rebuke 4-7 They were misusing the purpose of the fasts.</p> <p>Second Message 7:8-14</p> <p>Requirements of God 8-10</p> <p>Response of the nation 11-12 Rejection</p> <p>Results for the nation 13-14 Judgment</p> <p>Third Message 8:1-17</p> <p>Promise of restoration 1-8</p> <p>Conditions for restoration 9-17</p> <p>Fourth Message 8:18-23</p> <p>Promise of future celebration 18-19</p> <p>Results of future celebration 20-23</p> <p>God doesn't care about your fasts. Your motives have been wrong. Decide in the light of what God is going to do for you. He will bless you and you will forget your suffering.</p>	<p>First Burdensome Message 9-11 Divine judgment on gentiles and its effect on Israel.</p> <p>Judgment on surrounding nations 9:1-8</p> <p>Arrival of Israel's Messiah 9:9</p> <p>Blessing for Israel at Messiah's coming 9:10-10:12</p> <p>Rejection of true Messiah 11:1-17</p> <p>Second Burdensome Message 12-14 Movement of gentiles against Israel that will force them to confession and repentance.</p> <p>Deliverance of Israel 12-13</p> <p>Physical/Political 12:1-9</p> <p>Spiritual 12:10-13:6</p> <p>Return of Christ 13:7-14:21</p> <p>Review: Preparative events 13:7-9</p> <p>Realization of His return 14:1-5</p> <p>Results of His return 14:6-21</p>