

## 15. Zechariah

### I. Background and Context

- A. Zechariah was a member of a prominent priestly family who returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel. He was a contemporary of Haggai's, and many of his prophecies in chapters 1-8 share thematically with the prophet Haggai. Zechariah 9-14 was most likely written at a later time, and shares thematic elements with Malachi.
- B. Like Haggai, Zechariah's prophecy functions to encourage the Israelites to press on in their work of rebuilding the temple, knowing that God remained in control of the universe (1.8-11).
- C. The final chapters of Zechariah point forward to a future time when an ultimate David would fulfill the office of king and good shepherd by reigning over the people. Because of his prophecies of the Messiah's coming, there are many references to Zechariah in the New Testament: 8.16 in Eph. 4.25, 9.9 in Matt. 21.5 and John 12.15, 11.12-13 in Matt. 27.9-10, 12.10 in John 19.37, and 13.7 in Matt. 26.31 and Mark 14.27.<sup>1</sup>

### II. Outline

- A. Oracles and Visions (1.1-8.23)
  - 1. Introduction: return to me and I will return to you (1.1-6)
  - 2. Eight night visions and a sign-act (1.7-6.15)
    - a) Vision one: the Lord's hidden horsemen (1.7-17)
    - b) Vision two: Judah's oppressors oppressed (1.18-21)
    - c) Vision three: Jerusalem unwallled (2.1-13)
    - d) Vision four: the reclothing of Joshua (3.1-10)
    - e) Vision five: the olive trees and the lampstand (4.1-14)
    - f) Vision six: the flying scroll—wickedness judged (5.1-4)
    - g) Vision seven: the flying ephah—wickedness removed (5.5-11)
    - h) Vision eight: the Lord's army on the move (6.1-8)
    - i) A sign-act: the crowning of Joshua (6.9-15)
  - 3. From fasts to feasts (7.1-8.23)
    - a) Ritual or reality (7.1-14)
    - b) The promise of the future (8.1-23)
- B. The Return of the King (9.1-14.21)
  - 1. The first burden: leaders and their people (9.1-11.17)
    - a) The return of the king (9.1-17)
      - (1) The divine warrior comes (9.1-8)
      - (2) The king enters Jerusalem (9.9-11)
      - (3) The king's enemies are destroyed and his people redeemed (9.12-17)
    - b) The shepherds and the flock (10.1-11.17)
      - (1) Judgment on Judah's shepherds (10.1-5)
      - (2) The restoration of the flock (10.6-12)
    - c) The shepherds and the one shepherd (11.1-17)
      - (1) Judgment on Judah's shepherds (11.1-3)
      - (2) A sign-act: the shepherd rescues his flock but is rejected (11.4-17)
  - 2. The second burden: the people and their leaders (12.1-14.21)

---

<sup>1</sup> *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 1749-50

- a) The restoration and renewal of God's people (12.1-13.6)
  - (1) Jerusalem's triumph and the nation's doom (12.1-9)
  - (2) Mourning for sin (12.10-14)
  - (3) Cleansing from sin and idolatry (13.1-6)
- b) Judgment and transformation (13.7-14.21)
  - (1) The shepherd struck and the flock scattered (13.7-9)
  - (2) Jerusalem's judgment, deliverance, and exaltation (14.1-11)
  - (3) The nations humbled and brought into submission (14.12-21)<sup>2</sup>

### III. Key Passages

#### A. Similarities with Haggai

- 1. God calls his people to repent and return to him (1.3).
- 2. A promise of prosperity accompanies God's command to rebuild his temple (1.16-17, 8.11-12).
- 3. The reason for Israel's suffering is established: to cause them to return to God (2.9, 13.8-9).
- 4. God again chooses Israel as his people (2.12, 8.7-8, 13).
- 5. Zerubbabel and Joshua are called to lead the people in rebuilding (4.6-7, 6.11-12).
- 6. Zechariah encourages the people to be resolute in their task (8.9).

#### B. The coming Messiah prophesied

- 1. The coronation of Joshua the High Priest points forward to Christ who combines not only the offices of Priest and King, but also that of Prophet (3.6-10, 6.11-13).
- 2. The coming Savior will be humble and mounted on a donkey, and his blood will set the prisoners free (9.9-11; cf. Matt. 21.5, John 12.15).
- 3. God will gather his people together (10.8-9, 12).
- 4. The cornerstone shall come from Judah (10.3-4a).
- 5. Zechariah's wages are set at thirty pieces of silver (11.12-13; cf. Matt. 27.9-10)
- 6. This Savior will be pierced (12.10; cf. John 19.37).

---

<sup>2</sup> *ESV Study Bible*, 1751-2.