

INTRO REMARKS:

Zechariah

*Interpretation of Prophecy

- Note the historical background of each prophecy, and relate the setting to the message
- When the prophecy cannot be fully accounted for in its immediate setting, then a future fulfillment is to be sought.
- In the case of Zechariah, he is post-exilic, prophesying after the exile. This limits the field of possible fulfillments, thus, the prophecies cannot have their fulfillment in the return from exile.

a. Outline

Preparation for the Messiah

- Each section begins historically with the time of Zechariah and moves out to the time of 2nd Advent & start of the Millennium.

1. Visions (1-6)

- 8 night visions
 - o Given for the comfort of the post-exilic remnant of Israel who returned from Persia to the land promised to Abraham.
 - o They were to anticipate the Messiah's return.

¹ Notes prepared with help of The Master's Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

- o Some of the visions have been fulfilled, some will be at the 2nd coming
- o #1 - Man among the myrtle trees (1:7-17): God promises future prosperity to Israel
- o #2 - 4 horns & 4 craftsman (1:18-21): God judges the nations who harmed Israel
- o #3 - Man w/ a measuring line (2:1-13): God rebuilds Jerusalem
- o #4 - Cleansing the High Priest (3:1-10): God purifies priest and people
- o #5 - Golden lampstand & 2 olive trees (4:1-14): God rebuilds the temple
- o #6 - The flying scroll (5:1-4): God removes sin & idolatry
- o #7 - The woman in the basket (5:5-11): God removes false religion
- o #8 - The 4 chariots (6:1-8): God brings peace to Israel

2. Questions (7-8)

- culminate in millennium when fasts become feasts (Isa 61:2-3), when Israel is light to the world (Isa 2:2-3; Ps 122).

3. Burdens (9-14)

- Chs 9-14 culminate in overthrow of Gentile world powers and establishment of millennial kingdom
- 9 -11:
 - stops at 1st coming of Messiah
 - Chs 9-11 emphasize 1st Advent and rejection of Messiah
- 12-14:
 - stops at the 2nd coming of Messiah
 - Chs 12-14 emphasize 2nd Advent and acceptance of Messiah

b. Major Themes

- 1) "The Lord of Hosts" (52x)

2) The Need for Repentance (1, 7, 8, 9)

1:2-4 "The LORD was very angry with your fathers. ³ "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Return to Me," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I may return to you," says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ "Do not be like your fathers...

3) Yahweh's Control of the Nations (1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 14) -

4) Yahweh's Future Restoration of Israel (1, 2, 8, 9-14)

8:1-9 Then the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, ² "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.' ³ "Thus says the LORD, 'I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.' ⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. ⁵ 'And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.' ⁶ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?' declares the LORD of hosts. ⁷ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; ⁸ and I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God in truth and righteousness.' ⁹ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Let your hands be strong, you who are listening in these days to these words from the mouth of the

prophets, those who spoke in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, to the end that the temple might be built.

8:13 'It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.'

8:22-23 'So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.' ²³ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." ' "

5) The Coming Shepherd/King and Priest (4:14; 6:12, 13; 9:9-11; 10:2; 11:12-13; 12:10; 13:7; 14:1-9)

9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

14:3-4 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. ⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

14:9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

14:12 Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while

they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.

- c. Purpose: Yahweh remembers the nation of Israel and will yet bring blessing on it through the Messiah and his Millennial Kingdom.
- d. Bibliography
 - 1) Charles Feinberg, *God Remembers* (premil)
 - 2) Merrill Unger, *Zechariah: Prophet of Messiah's Glory*. (premil)
 - 3) John MacArthur, *Zechariah: God Remembers* (premil)
- e. Selected Interpretive Problems
 - 1) "The Worthless Shepherd" (11:17) [MSB, 1353-4]
 - a) Alcimus, the High Priest who betrayed the Maccabees (163-159 B.C.)
 - b) Herod the Great (40-4 B.C.)
 - c) The Roman Titus [MMP]
 - d) The Antichrist (cf. 2 Thes. 2:1-12; Rev. 13:1-10) [Unger; Feinberg; FMP; EBC; BKC]
 - 2) "Wounds between your arms" (13:6) [MSB, 1338, 1355]
 - a) The Messiah [Unger]
 - b) A False Prophet [Feinberg; FMP; MMP; EBC; BKC]
- f. Preaching/Teaching Zechariah
- g. Commentaries
 - John Macarthur - Zechariah