

**Return Period:
The Prophet Zechariah *Zechariah 1:1- 14:21***

Zechariah "*Jehovah Remembers*" was one of two prophets that were instrumental in the restart of the rebuilding of the temple during the Return Period. He was a young man compared to Haggai (See **2:4**).

He was born in Babylon but wrote in Jerusalem. (See **Neh 12:1, 16**) He was the son of Berechiah and Grandson of Iddo the priest. He was both a priest and a prophet.

Zechariah contains more Messianic prophecy than any other minor prophet does. In fact Zechariah is more messianic, eschatological and apocalyptic than any of the other writings of the Old Testament. It is often said that Haggai had his feet on the ground and Zechariah had his in the clouds. We find there are a lot of visions in Zechariah as well as events of both the First and Second Advent (coming) of Christ.

Outline:

- I- Visions of Zechariah. *Zech 1:1-6:15***
- II- The Questions about Fasting. *Zech 7:1-8:23***
- III- Prophecies of the Advents of Messiah. *Zech 9:1-14:21***

I- Visions of Zechariah. *Zech 1:1-6:15*

First there was a call to repentance by Zechariah. **1:1-6**. This happened upon the return of him and Haggai from Babylon in November 521 BC.

There are a total of eight visions that Zechariah had in one night. Reese dates it as Feb. 24, 521. These visions relate to the nation of Israel.

- a- Rider on a Red Horse. **1:7-17**

Many Bible scholars believe this rider on the red horse is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The other riders on the other horse are identified as angels. **1:10** Some see this visions meaning as God's anger against the nations and blessing on restored Israel.

- b- Vision of the Four horns and Four Artisans (craftsmen). **1:18-21**.

These four horns represent the four Gentile world powers, which scattered Israel. They are Assyria, Babylon, Persia (which plotted against Israel in Esther) and Rome, which came and scatter her later.

The four Artisans may be a reference to the four sealed judgments of **Rev 6:1-8**.

- c- Vision of Man with a Measuring Line. **2:1-13**.

Most see this as the measuring of Jerusalem during the Millennium. (see **Ezek 40:1-5; 48:30-35**) **2:4-23** tells of the promised prosperity of Israel during this time.

- d- Vision of Changing Raiment. **3:1-10**.

Joshua the high priest is cleansed in this vision. This shows our need of cleansing and the blood being applied. Here it speaks of Israel future cleansing.

- e- Vision of Gold Lampstand and Two Olive Trees. **4:1-14**.

This vision portrays Israel as the light of the world under Messiah's King-Priest reign.

- f- Vision of Flying Scroll. **5:1-4**.

This scroll symbolizes the curse of the law against mankind and especially the Israelites. Man has broken the entire law of God.

g- Vision of the Flying Basket (ephah). **5:5-11.**

The ephah was a Hebrew unit of dry measure. This woman is probably the commercial Babylon of **Rev 18**. She wants out of the basket to escape judgment.

h- Vision of Four Chariots. **6:1-8**

This vision pictures the divine judgment upon the Gentile nations.

The visions end and are followed with the crowning of Joshua. Zechariah is told that soon three men would come with gifts for the temple of gold and silver. He is to make a crown and place it upon the head of Joshua to symbolize the future crowning of the Messiah. When He comes He will build the temple and minister as priest and be crowned King.

II- The Questions about Fasting. Zech 7:1-8:23

A group of Jews came to Jerusalem with questions concerning fasting. They wanted to set aside the traditional days of fasting and mourn a day in August. This fast was observed in observation of the destruction of Jerusalem.

God makes it plain here that it does not matter what we do if our hearts are not right.

There is also a reminder of the restoration because God tells them that their feast days will turn to days of joy and singing. (**8:3,4,5,8,22,23.**)

III- Prophecies of the Advents of Messiah. Zech 9:1-14:21

Remember that Zechariah is a very Messianic book. He spoke of the First Advent and of the Second Advent. He gave us prophecy that has come to

pass and some that is yet to be fulfilled when Messiah returns.

a- First Advent Prophecy

1- He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem. **9:9**

This was fulfilled *in Matt 21:1-11*. Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what has come to be called Palm Sunday. They laid palm branches in His path and shouted Hosanna.

2- He would come to feed the flock of Israel. **11:7**

3- He would be rejected by Israel's leaders. **11:8** We certainly see this was true by His rejection by the Sanhedrin.

4- He would set aside the Nation of Israel. **11:10. Matt 11:19-25** records the nation of Israel rejection of their Messiah. His blood has certainly been upon them and their children.

5- He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. **11:12. Matt 26:15** records this when Judas sold Him for the price of slave who had been gored by an ox according to the law of Moses. (see **Ex. 21:32**) Also of note was that it would be cast unto the potter. Remember the money was used to buy the field for burying the dead.

6- He would be crucified. **12:10**

b- Second Advent Prophecies.

1- Israel will accept the Anti-Christ. **11:15-17**

Remember they rejected the true Shepherd but will embrace the false shepherd just prior to the Second Advent. **11:16** gives us the cruel reign of the Anti-Christ. You will remember this was also spoken of by Daniel.

2- City of Jerusalem to be taken. **14:2**

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This event will be during the great tribulation of the Revelation.

3- 2/3's of Jews to perish. **13:8.** The great tribulation will be a time of great loss of life on earth.

4- Christ will return to Mount of Olives **14:4,8.** This was from where He ascended back into heaven and where He will return. **Acts 1:11** records the angels saying, "**Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**"

5- The great battle of Armageddon will be fought (**12:3; 14:2,3**) and God's enemies will be destroyed. (**12:4,9; 14:12-25**)

6- Israel will recognize their Messiah. **12:10-14.**

Application to Life's Steps:

- 1- God has a plan for the ages and will see it comes to pass. We can trust Him.
- 2- We can trust the Word of God because only He knows the beginning from the end and declares it by His prophets.
- 3- Our sincere heart is what God wants and not simply a form of religion.
- 4- Jesus Christ fulfilled the prophecies given by Zechariah and is surely the Messiah.
- 5- The fact that all these things came to pass concerning His first coming should excite us because this shows the things

prophesied about His second coming are certainly true.

6- We should live our lives in preparation for Him to come at any moment.

Retracing our Steps:

- 1- The name Zechariah means? _____

- 2- Who was Zechariah? _____

- 3- How many visions were there given in one night? _____
- 4- Who was crowned as a priest anticipating the coming of the true Priest King? _____
- 5- What is the one prophecy of the First Advent do you find most amazing and faith building for you? _____

- 6- What is the one prophecy of the Second Advent do you find most amazing and exciting? _____

