

Zechariah

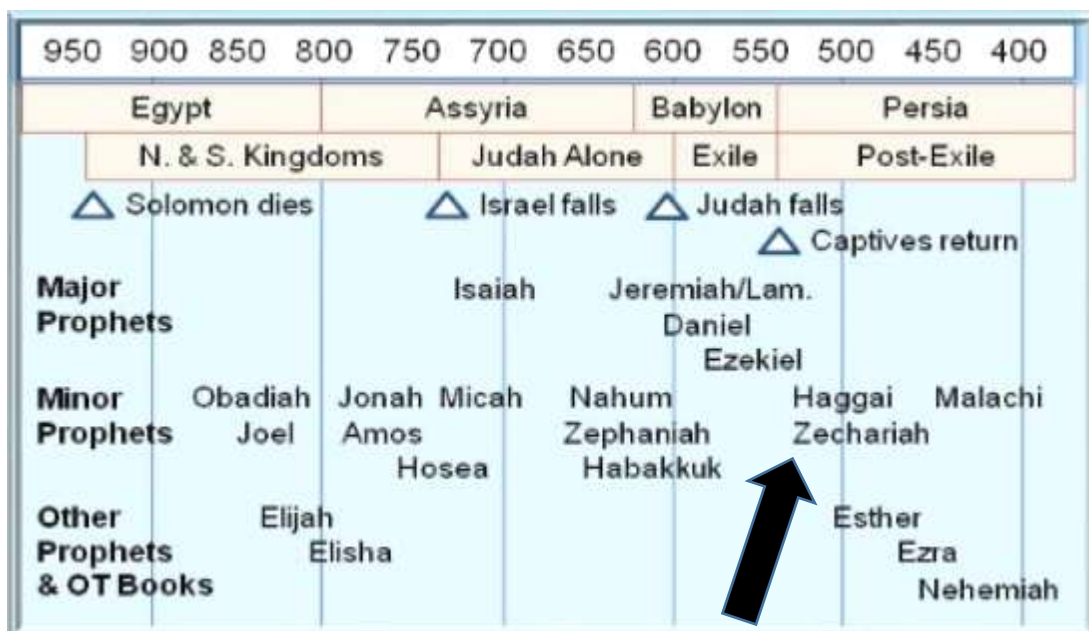
The prophet Zechariah calls Israel to return to God, and records prophetic visions that predict the rebuilding of the temple, and the coming of Christ.

Author: Zechariah, from the tribe of Levi, both a priest and prophet.

In Zechariah – Jesus is the Messiah Pierced for us

Zechariah 4:6

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'
says the LORD Almighty."



TEACHER: 14 CHAPTERS

As you can see from the chart above, Zechariah is post-exilic. You can also see he was a contemporary of Haggai. Remember the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin are taken into captivity to Babylon. Persia conquers Babylon under Cyrus the Great. Cyrus dies, and Darius takes over and is a shrewd, wise leader of the Persian Empire. Darius allows the people to return and rebuild their homeland. Zechariah and Haggai are among the 1st to return. Most suspect Zechariah is both priest and prophet because of his interest in the temple, and his Grandfather Iddo (Ezra 8:17) was asked by Ezra to help with the temple workers and servants.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

In the eighth month of the second year that Darius was emperor of Persia, the LORD gave this message to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah and grandson of Iddo. ²The LORD Almighty told Zechariah to say to the people, "I, the LORD, was very angry with your ancestors, ³but now I say to you, 'Return to me, and I will return to you. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁴Do not be like your ancestors. Long ago the prophets gave them my message, telling them not to live evil, sinful lives any longer. But they would not listen to me or obey me. ⁵Your ancestors and those prophets are no longer alive. ⁶Through my servants the prophets I gave your ancestors commands and warnings, but they disregarded them and suffered the consequences. Then they repented and acknowledged that I, the LORD Almighty, had punished them as they deserved and as I had determined to do.” (GNT)

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TEACHER:

You will find this pattern throughout God’s word. The need to reconcile your past to your present condition. God asks 3 questions over and over in scripture. Some version of these.

1. Where were you?
2. Where are you?
3. Where are you going?

Why would God ask you any questions? He knows everything. Same reason a school teacher asks a student what $2 + 2 = ?$ Because that is what the teacher wants the student to think about. God wants us, JUST LIKE He wanted Israel, to think about where we have been. Our history. How we ended up here. This is what God is doing with Israel. Letting them see the big picture that He sees.

Zechariah has a vision from God of 4 horses with angelic riders on them who were to ride the world and report on their findings.

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STUDENT:

“We have been all over the world and have found that the whole world lies helpless and subdued.”

¹²Then the angel said, “Almighty LORD, you have been angry with Jerusalem and the cities of Judah for seventy years now. How much longer will it be before you show them mercy?”

“I have a deep love and concern for Jerusalem, my holy city, ¹⁵and I am very angry with the nations that enjoy quiet and peace. For while I was holding back my anger against my people, those nations made the sufferings of my people worse. ¹⁶So I have come back to Jerusalem to show mercy to the city. My Temple will be restored, and the city will be rebuilt.” (GNT)

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TEACHER:

From this passage we know the Temple hasn’t been built yet. But God is ready, after 70 years of exile, to open up shop. The vision is followed by another, furthering the previous vision.

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STUDENT:

¹⁸In another vision I saw four ox horns. ¹⁹I asked the angel that had been speaking to me, “What do these horns mean?”

He answered, “They stand for the world powers that have scattered the people of Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.”

²⁰Then the LORD showed me four workers with hammers. ²¹I asked, “What have they come to do?”

He answered, “They have come to terrify and overthrow the nations that completely crushed the land of Judah and scattered its people.” (GNT)

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TEACHERS:

God calls His people home.

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CH. 2

STUDENT:

⁶⁻⁷ The LORD said to his people, "I scattered you in all directions. But now, you exiles, escape from Babylonia and return to Jerusalem. ⁸ Anyone who strikes you strikes what is most precious to me." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Next we see the calling of the gentiles and many nations.

STUDENT:

When this happens, everyone will know that the LORD Almighty sent me.

¹⁰ The LORD said, "Sing for joy, people of Jerusalem! I am coming to live among you!"

¹¹ At that time many nations will come to the LORD and become his people. He will live among you, and you will know that he has sent me to you. ¹² Once again Judah will be the special possession of the LORD in his sacred land, and Jerusalem will be the city he loves most of all.

¹³ Be silent, everyone, in the presence of the LORD, for he is coming from his holy dwelling place. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 3 a beautiful picture of salvation.



CH. 3

STUDENT:

In another vision the LORD showed me the High Priest Joshua standing before the angel of the LORD. And there beside Joshua stood Satan, ready to bring an accusation against him. ² The angel of the LORD said to Satan, "May the LORD condemn you, Satan! May the LORD, who loves Jerusalem, condemn you. This man is like a stick snatched from the fire." ³ Joshua was standing there, wearing filthy clothes. ⁴ The angel said to his heavenly attendants, "Take away the filthy clothes this man is wearing." Then he said to Joshua, "I have taken away your sin and will give you new clothes to wear." ⁵ He commanded the attendants to put a clean turban on Joshua's head. They did so, and then they put the new clothes on him while the angel of the LORD stood there. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 4 we hear of a familiar vision. Both on earth and in Heaven. A golden lampstand.

STUDENT:

The angel who had been speaking to me came again and roused me as if I had been sleeping.

² "What do you see?" he asked. "A lampstand made of gold," I answered.

"At the top is a bowl for the oil. On the lampstand are seven lamps, each one with places for seven wicks. ³ There are two olive trees beside the lampstand, one on each side of it." ⁴ Then I asked the angel, "What do these things stand for, sir?"

⁵ "Don't you know?" he asked me. "No, I don't, sir," I replied.....

^{10b} The angel said to me, "The seven lamps are the seven eyes of the LORD, which see all over the earth." ¹¹ Then I asked him, "What do the two olive trees on either side of the lampstand mean? ¹² And what is the meaning of the two olive branches beside the two gold pipes from which the olive oil pours?" ¹³ He asked me, "Don't you know?" "No, I don't, sir," I answered. ¹⁴ Then he said, "These are the two men whom God has chosen and anointed to serve him, the Lord of the whole earth." (GNT)



CH. 4



TEACHER:

Who do you think the 2 men are? I believe there are 2 meanings that are obvious, and a million others we could talk about all night. In the immediate, the 2 men are Zerubbabel the Governor of Judah, and Joshua the High priest. The prophetic meaning may be the 2 prophets in the book of Revelations. Those men most scholars link to Enoch and Elijah. Neither of those 2 men died, and it is appointed unto men, once to die, then the judgement. (Hebrews 9:27)

He sends a message to Zerubbabel.

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STUDENT:

The angel told me to give Zerubbabel this message from the Lord: "You will succeed, not by military might or by your own strength, but by my spirit. 7 Obstacles as great as mountains will disappear before you. You will rebuild the Temple, and as you put the last stone in place, the people will shout, 'Beautiful, beautiful!'" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 5 Zechariah has visions of a flying scroll that curses everyone who lies under oath. Then a vision of a woman who is referenced later in Revelations.

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STUDENT:

⁵ The angel appeared again and said, "Look! Something else is coming!"

⁶ "What is it?" I asked.

He replied, "It is a basket, and it stands for the sin of the whole land."

⁷ The basket had a lid made of lead. As I watched, the lid was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman!

⁸ The angel said, "This represents wickedness." Then he pushed her down into the basket and put the lid back down. ⁹ I looked up and saw two women flying toward me with powerful wings like those of a stork. They picked up the basket and flew off with it.

¹⁰ I asked the angel, "Where are they taking it?"

¹¹ He answered, "To Babylonia, where they will build a temple for it. When the temple is finished, the basket will be placed there to be worshiped." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Who is the woman? Mystery Babylon the Great. (Revelation 17) In chapter 6, another vision. 4 chariots.

STUDENT:

I had another vision. This time I saw four chariots coming out from between two bronze mountains. ² The first chariot was pulled by red horses, the second by black horses, ³ the third by white horses, and the fourth by dappled horses. ⁴ Then I asked the angel, "Sir, what do these chariots mean?"

⁵ He answered, "These are the four winds; they have just come from the presence of the Lord of all the earth."
(GNT)



TEACHER:

Then the order of the Lord to crown Joshua.

STUDENT:

The LORD gave me this message. ¹⁰ He said, "Take the gifts given by the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, and go at once to the home of Josiah son of Zephaniah. All of them have returned from exile in Babylonia. ¹¹ Make a crown out of the silver and gold they have given, and put it on the head of the High Priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak. ¹² Tell him that the LORD Almighty says, 'The man who is called The Branch will flourish where he is and rebuild the LORD's Temple. ¹³ He is the one who will build it and receive the honor due a king, and he will rule his people. A priest will stand by his throne, and they will work together in peace and harmony.' ¹⁴ The crown will be a memorial in the LORD's Temple in honor of Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Josiah."

¹⁵ Men who live far away will come and help to rebuild the Temple of the LORD. And when it is rebuilt, you will know that the LORD Almighty sent me to you. This will all happen if you fully obey the commands of the LORD your God. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 7 condemns fasting without a sincere heart.

CH. 6

CH. 7

STUDENT:

The people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regemmelech and their men to the Temple of the LORD Almighty to pray for the LORD's blessing ³ and to ask the priests and the prophets this question: "Should we continue to mourn because of the destruction of the Temple, by fasting in the fifth month as we have done for so many years now?"

⁴ This is the message of the LORD that came to me. ⁵ He said, "Tell the people of the land and the priests that when they fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during these seventy years, it was not in honor of me. ⁶ And when they ate and drank, it was for their own satisfaction." (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 8 God promises to restore Jerusalem. Among the words penned here, prophecies concerning the world's powers coming to Jerusalem to worship. A prophecy we see fulfilled today. Let's read some excerpts.

CH. 8

STUDENT:

The LORD Almighty gave this message to Zechariah: ² "I have longed to help Jerusalem because of my deep love for her people, a love which has made me angry with her enemies. ³ I will return to Jerusalem, my holy city, and live there. It will be known as the faithful city, and the hill of the LORD Almighty will be called the sacred hill. ⁴ Once again old men and women, so old that they use canes when they walk, will be sitting in the city squares. ⁵ And the streets will again be full of boys and girls playing. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁶ "This may seem impossible to those of the nation who are now left, but it's not impossible for me. ⁷ I will rescue my people from the lands where they have been taken, ⁸ and will bring them back from east and west to live in Jerusalem. They will be my people, and I will be their God, ruling over them faithfully and justly.

¹⁶ These are the things you should do: Speak the truth to one another. In the courts give real justice—the kind that brings peace. ¹⁷ Do not plan ways of harming one another. Do not give false testimony under oath. I hate lying, injustice, and violence." (GNT)

STUDENT:

²⁰ The LORD Almighty says, "The time is coming when people from many cities will come to Jerusalem. ²¹ Those from one city will say to those from another, 'We are going to worship the LORD Almighty and pray for his blessing. Come with us!' ²² Many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to worship the LORD Almighty and to pray for his blessing. ²³ In those days ten foreigners will come to one Jew and say, 'We want to share in your destiny, because we have heard that God is with you.'" (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 9 is a clear Messianic prophecy.

CH. 9

STUDENT:

Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion!
Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem!
Look, your king is coming to you!
He comes triumphant and victorious,
but humble and riding on a donkey—
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (GNT)

STUDENT:

The LORD will appear above his people;
he will shoot his arrows like lightning.
The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet;
he will march in the storms from the south.
¹⁵ The LORD Almighty will protect his people,
and they will destroy their enemies.
They will shout in battle like drunk men
and will shed the blood of their enemies;
it will flow like the blood of a sacrifice poured on the altar from a bowl. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁶ When that day comes, the LORD will save his people,
as a shepherd saves his flock from danger.
They will shine in his land like the jewels of a crown.
¹⁷ How good and beautiful the land will be!
The young people will grow strong on its grain and wine. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The Lord shares the current state of affairs of His People.

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STUDENT:

CH. 10

Ask the LORD for rain in the spring of the year. It is the LORD who sends rain clouds and showers, making the fields green for everyone. ² People consult idols and fortunetellers, but the answers they get are lies and nonsense. Some interpret dreams, but only mislead you; the comfort they give is useless. So the people wander about like lost sheep. They are in trouble because they have no leader. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The Lord takes ownership of His people, and His readiness to avenge them.

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STUDENT:

The LORD says, "I am angry with those foreigners who rule my people, and I am going to punish them. The people of Judah are mine, and I, the LORD Almighty, will take care of them. They will be my powerful war-horses. ⁴ From among them will come rulers, leaders, and commanders to govern my people. ⁵ The people of Judah will be victorious like soldiers who trample their enemies in the mud of the streets. They will fight because the LORD is with them, and they will defeat even the enemy cavalry. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 11 has a strong pastoral message. It is for the leaders, pastors, and teachers of the flock. Zechariah is to play the role of a good shepherd ^{1st}, and then a bad shepherd. After playing the good shepherd he is paid well.

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CH. 11

STUDENT:

So they paid me thirty pieces of silver as my wages.

¹³ The LORD said to me, "Put them in the Temple treasury." So I took the thirty pieces of silver—the magnificent sum they thought I was worth—and put them in the Temple treasury.

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to me, "Once again act the part of a shepherd, this time a worthless one. ¹⁶ I have put a shepherd in charge of my flock, but he does not help the sheep that are threatened by destruction; nor does he look for the lost, or heal those that are hurt, or feed the healthy. Instead, he eats the meat of the fattest sheep and tears off their hoofs. ¹⁷ That worthless shepherd is doomed! He has abandoned his flock. War will totally destroy his power. His arm will wither, and his right eye will go blind." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 12 The Lord tells of a miraculous deliverance for Jerusalem.

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CH. 12

STUDENT:

This is a message about Israel from the LORD, the LORD who spread out the skies, created the earth, and gave life to man. He says, ² "I will make Jerusalem like a cup of wine; the nations around her will drink and stagger like drunks. And when they besiege Jerusalem, the cities of the rest of Judah will also be besieged. ³ But when that time comes, I will make Jerusalem like a heavy stone—any nation that tries to lift it will be hurt. All the nations of the world will join forces to attack her. ⁴ At that time I will terrify all their horses and make all their riders go crazy. I will watch over the people of Judah, but I will make the horses of their enemies blind. ⁵ Then the clans of Judah will say to themselves, 'The LORD God Almighty gives strength to his people who live in Jerusalem.' (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 13 tells how God will purify His people.

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CH. 13

STUDENT:

"When that time comes," says the LORD Almighty, "a fountain will be opened to purify the descendants of David and the people of Jerusalem from their sin and idolatry. ² At that time I will remove the names of the idols from the land, and no one will remember them any more. I will get rid of anyone who claims to be a prophet and will take away the desire to worship idols. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Another Messianic prophesy quoted by Jesus in Matthew 26:31.

"Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

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STUDENT

The LORD Almighty says, "Wake up, sword, and attack the shepherd who works for me! Kill him, and the sheep will be scattered. I will attack my people ⁸ and throughout the land two-thirds of the people will die. ⁹ And I will test the third that survives and will purify them as silver is purified by fire. I will test them as gold is tested. Then they will pray to me, and I will answer them. I will tell them that they are my people, and they will confess that I am their God." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Then to close the book, Zechariah prophesies about the Battle of Armageddon.

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CH. 14

STUDENT:

The day when the LORD will sit in judgment is near. Then Jerusalem will be looted, and the loot will be divided up before your eyes. ²The LORD will bring all the nations together to make war on Jerusalem. The city will be taken, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half of the people will go into exile, but the rest of them will not be taken away from the city. ³Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past. ⁴At that time he will stand on the Mount of Olives, to the east of Jerusalem. Then the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west by a large valley. (GNT)

STUDENT:

Half of the mountain will move northward, and half of it southward. ⁵You will escape through this valley that divides the mountain in two. You will flee as your ancestors did when the earthquake struck in the time of King Uzziah of Judah. The LORD my God will come, bringing all the angels with him.

⁶When that time comes, there will no longer be cold or frost, ⁷nor any darkness. There will always be daylight, even at nighttime. When this will happen is known only to the LORD.

⁹Then the LORD will be king over all the earth; everyone will worship him as God and know him by the same name. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Don't get upset, this is just an observation. How do we know this hasn't been fulfilled? The last sentence.

STUDENT:

When that time comes, there will no longer be any merchant in the Temple of the LORD Almighty. (GNT)

NEXT LESSON MALACHI

*"Return to me, '
declares the LORD Almighty, '
and I will return to you, '"*

Zechariah 1:3b

The Tomb of the Prophet Zechariah, Next to Israel's King Benei Hezir, and Near Absalom's tomb.



**1870 photo by Felix Bonfils showing the Tomb of Zechariah to the right of the Tomb of Benei Hezir.
(This is close to the tomb of Absalom. Hezir is mentioned 2x in the Bible. 1 Chron. & Neh. 10.)**

