

# Overview of the Book of Zechariah

## 1. Historical Background

In 586 BC, the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple and carried many Jews into exile. About 50 years later, the Persian Empire conquered Babylon. The Persian king Cyrus the Great allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1). But the return was disappointing. Jerusalem was still in ruins. Enemies opposed them. The people were discouraged. The rebuilding of the temple stalled for years. This was the world into which God sent Zechariah.

## 2. Author

Zechariah was both a prophet and a member of a priestly family (Zech. 1:1; Neh. 12:16). He ministered around 520–518 BC alongside the prophet Haggai. While Haggai's message was more direct and practical, Zechariah's message was more visionary and hope-filled.

The name Zechariah means, "Yahweh remembers."

## 3. Theme of the Book

The central theme of Zechariah is that **God remembers His covenant promises and will restore His people through cleansing, the work of His Spirit, and the coming Messiah.**

Although God's people were discouraged and surrounded by ruins, God assured them that He had not forgotten them. He would rebuild His city, purify His people, empower them by His Spirit, send His promised King, and ultimately establish His kingdom.

## 4. Structure of the Book

- 1) The Eight Night Visions and Messages of Encouragement (Chapters 1–8)
- 2) The Coming King and Final Restoration (Chapters 9–14)

## 5. Major Messianic Prophecies

- 1) **The Branch (3:8)** – A coming priest-king who will remove the iniquity of the land in a single day.
- 2) **Riding on a Donkey (9:9)** – Fulfilled in Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- 3) **Thirty Pieces of Silver (11:12–13)** – Connected to Judas' betrayal of Jesus.
- 4) **"They Will Look on Me Whom They Have Pierced" (12:10)** – A prophecy associated with the crucifixion and future repentance.
- 5) **The Shepherd Struck (13:7)** – "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." Jesus quoted this passage before His arrest.

## 6. Why Does the Book of Zechariah Matter?

Zechariah is one of the most important bridges between the Old Testament and the New Testament, between prophetic hope and Messianic fulfillment, and between present discouragement and future glory.

If you feel spiritually exhausted, if you are rebuilding after failure, if you wonder whether God still sees you, or if you struggle to trust God's long-term plan, this book is for you. May God bless our five-week study through the Book of Zechariah as we discover newly that God remembers His people, restores them by His grace, and reigns as their coming King.