

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the background to the prophecy of Zechariah.
2. Understand the visions revealed.

Introduction: The name Zechariah means “the Lord remembers.” Zechariah prophesies in 520 B.C. to the remnant in Jerusalem, two months after Haggai began his prophecy. Zechariah’s mission is to encourage captives to rebuild the temple. But Zechariah uses a different method to encourage the people. While Haggai encouraged the people by rebuking them, Zechariah encouraged the people by showing them the future importance of the temple. Zechariah writes most of his book in apocalyptic writing. Zechariah often uses symbols that are not found in any other book of the Bible. Apocalyptic writing can be difficult to understand, but the prophecy will be easier to understand if the student remembers that this book is written to encourage the captives. Thus Zechariah encourages the people to rebuild the Lord’s temple. As you study, be sure to understand the meaning of each vision.

The Survey Chart:

Take your Bible and skim through the book of Zechariah, looking at the subheadings of each paragraph in each chapter. Record a few main events from each chapter on the diagonal lines of the survey chart.

1. As you fill out your survey chart, what themes do you see in the book?

1:1-17 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

2. What are the horsemen symbolic of? (Verse 10 is the key to the answer.)
3. Explain the image of the measuring line (surveyor’s line, NKJV) in 1:16.

1:18-2:5 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. What is meant by the statement that Jerusalem would not have walls?

2:6-13 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

5. Explain what is happening in 2:13.

6. Looking back through chapter 2, note and comment on the verses that would give encouragement to the people to rebuild the temple.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "My cities shall again overflow with prosperity." (1:17)
2. "For I will be a wall of fire all around it, says the Lord, and I will be the glory within it." (2:5)

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Recognize what the comfort is to the people.
2. Understand the visions revealed.

3:1-10 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Who does Joshua the high priest represent and why is he wearing filthy clothes?
2. Why is Satan standing next to Joshua?

Life Application:

3. What lessons can we learn from this chapter?

4:1-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. What does the "mountain" refer to in 4:7?

5. What does the number “seven eyes” symbolize?

6. What problem does the Lord correct in 4:10?

7. Explain meaning of the answer given in 4:14.

5:1-4 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

8. What part of the tabernacle corresponds exactly to the size of the scroll?

5:5-11 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

6:1-8 In the space below, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

*To understand the four chariots with their horses better, see Revelation 6. Their colors stand for the kind of mission they are on. To understand the winds better, see Jeremiah 49:36; 51:1; Daniel 7:2. These winds are used to fulfill God's purpose in the earth.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "I am going to bring my servant the Branch." (3:8)
2. Take off the filthy clothes and put on clean apparel. (3:4-5)

6:9-8:23

ZECHARIAH

Lesson 3

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Recognize the foretelling of the Messiah.
2. Understand the encouragement Zechariah gives.

6:9-15 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. List five things that the Branch would do and then show the fulfillment of it in the New Testament.

2. Explain the meaning of the image of the crown in 6:11.

3. What is unusual about the offices that the Branch was to hold? Name another man in the Bible who held both offices.

7:1-7 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. What is the main point Zechariah is making in this passage?

Life Application:

5. Considering your answer in question four, what lessons can we learn from this?

7:8-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

6. What point is Zechariah making in this passage?

8:1-17 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

7. List all things Zechariah says that would be an encouragement to the people.

8. What is contrasted in 8:9-13? Explain this contrast in light of what you have learned in Haggai.

8:18-23 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "Here is a man whose name is Branch: for He shall branch out in His place, and He shall build the temple of the Lord." (7:12)
2. "I have purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem...." (8:15)

9:1-11:3

ZECHARIAH

Lesson 4

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Recognize the foretelling of the Messiah.
2. Understand the background the prophecies given.

Special Note: Before you begin your study, examine the survey chart. Note that we have come to the main division in the book. What is being spoken of in the rest of the book?

9:1-17 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Explain the phrase in 9:7, "I will take away its blood from its mouth and its abominations from between its teeth."
2. What world conqueror fulfilled the prophecy found in 9:1-8.
3. What is significant about the coming Messiah riding on a donkey? Where is this prophecy fulfilled?
4. Describe the characteristics of the messianic kingdom from 9:10.

Background Information:

"A persecution began in 198 B.C. when Antiochus III finally defeated the Ptolemys and Judea became part of the Seleucid Empire. Antiochus III was received by the Jews as a liberator, but their joy was short-lived. His successor Antiochus IV proved to be a veritable despot. He appointed as high priest one Jason who was a leader of Hellenistic sympathizers in Jerusalem. An order came from Antiochus at Jason's request for the establishing of Greek institutions like those of the Decapolis in Jerusalem itself.

Unhappy with Jason for the slowness with which the Hellenizing of Judea was proceeding, Antiochus replaced him with Menelous. Menelous proceeded to get to the core of the matter. Jehovah was made one with the Greek Zeus and sacrifices were offered to them according to the Greek practice rather than the Jewish law. Such shocking practice brought predictable consequences. The majority of the Jews swung to the Chasidim, or anti-Hellenist party. Antiochus IV declared himself Epiphanes or "God made manifest."

In 168 B.C. Antiochus was defeated by the Ptolemaic Pharaoh Popilius, and Jerusalem received the mistaken report that he had been killed. Their celebration was cut short by Antiochus himself appearing on the scene. Convinced that the Jews had been responsible for his failure in Egypt, Antiochus slaughtered thousands of them, robbed the temple, restored Menelaus whom the Jews had deposed and rededicated the temple to Zeus. He ordered the destruction of the altar, replaced it with a Greek altar and then committed the ultimate blasphemy by sacrificing a pig on it! Jews were forced on pain of death to eat pork so sacrificed. Jerusalem was razed by flames and the Jewish population was sold into slavery. The entire reign of Antiochus Epiphanes was, and still is, known as "the abomination of desolation," in Jewish historical writings.

During all this, the Chasidim preached guerrilla resistance. Among those who went underground was one Mattathias of the house of Hasonai of the tribe of Aaron, and his five sons Judas, Simon, Eleazor, Jonathan, and Johanan Caddis. Mattathias began the active revolt by killing a Jew who was approaching the altar to offer a swine, and shouting, "Whoever is zealous for the Law, and wishes to support the covenant, let him follow me." He had set the stage for every Jewish Zealot from then until now. Upon Mattathias' death, leadership of the revolt passed to Judas who was called Maccabee, "the hammer." Judas was a saint in prayer and a terror in battle. Against great odds he defeated the Greek mercenaries at Emmaus. The victory complete, yet Antiochus was not convinced. He sent an even larger force to wipe out the rebels. These were in turn wiped out at Mizpah. In 164 B.C. Judas cleansed and rededicated the temple and restored the priestly services."

--Gill, Clinton R., "Minor Prophets," Bible Study Textbook Series p. 330-331.

Life Application:

5. Verses 13-16 foretell the period of time of Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabean revolt, which is summarized above. This passage shows that God would be with Israel during a serious persecution and threat to the nation. During that period though, there was no revelation or miracle performed and yet God delivered. What lesson can we learn from this?

10:1-11:3 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

6. Who or what is being spoken of in 10:4? Be able to support your answer.

7. What is meant by the phrase in 10:11, "pass through the sea of distress?" (NRSV)

8. Considering the location of the places mentioned in 11:1-3, this is a picture of judgment on what nation?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "Lo, you king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (9:9)
2. "Out of them shall come the cornerstone, out of them the tent peg, out of them the battle bow, out of them every commander." (10:4)

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Visualize and grasp the imagery given in chapter 11.
2. Understand the images of the blessing upon Jerusalem.

11:4-17 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Who is the “flock doomed to slaughter” in 11:4?

Special Note: There are over 40 different interpretation of the meaning of the three shepherds in 11:8. It may be easiest to consider the three shepherds as those leaders of God’s flock who failed to measure up to their duties.

2. Notice 11:12 carefully. The shepherd calls upon his people to pay him the wages he is due for being their shepherd. Turn to Exodus 21:32 to find what they considered the Lord to be worth. Also comment on the New Testament fulfillment of this verse.

3. Who is represented by the foolish shepherds that God would raise up in 11:16?

12:1-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. Comment on the phrase in 12:1, “who forms the spirit of man within him.”

5. Notice 12:10. In what sense are the people looking on him “whom they have pierced?” Compare this to the New Testament application of this verse in John 19:37.

6. Explain what is meant by the mourning occurring in 12:11-14.

13:1-6 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

7. Explain the meaning of 13:1-6.

Life Application:

8. What lessons can we learn from the meaning of 13:1-6?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. “So they weighed out as my wages thirty shekels of silver.” (11:12)
2. “And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” (12:10)

GOAL OF THE LESSON:

1. Visualize and grasp the imagery given in chapter 14.

13:7-9 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. What is the meaning of the phrase in 13:7, “the man who is my companion?”
2. What was the fulfillment of 13:8-9 in the New Testament?

Life Application:

3. Compare Zechariah 13:9 and 1 Peter 1:6-7. What applications can we make from this?

14:1-21 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. There are many views taken to explain chapter 14. Some explain this chapter to be referring the physical destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Once the physical nation is destroyed, then the spiritual nation can begin, now refined by the fire. On the other hand, many explain this chapter to be referring to a spiritual Jerusalem and a spiritual kingdom and it being assaulted by the world. After carefully reviewing this chapter, what do you think is the meaning of this chapter? Be able to support your answer.

5. Explain the phrase in 14:7, "for at evening time there shall be light."

6. What two seas are referred to in 14:8?

7. Explain the meaning of 14:13-15.

8. In 14:20, notice the contrast between what horses were normally used for in those days and what this verse says they will be used for.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is my companion." (13:7)
2. "See, a day is coming for the Lord." (14:1)