

# Zechariah 1

## **Introduction:**

### **Who is the Author?**

- Zechariah
- Referred to in *1.1* as the son of Berechiah
- However, he is referred to in *Ezra 5.1* and *6.14* as the son of Iddo
- It is believed today that Zechariah's father (Berechiah) died before Iddo did, and Zechariah became known as the son of Iddo.
- Beacon Bible Commentary*, V, 337 carries a list of men referred to as the sons of their grandfathers (or as the heads of the families or tribes)
- According to *1.1* Zechariah began his writing in November 520 B.C. This phase lasted until December 578 B.C. (7.7)
- Not much else is known of Zechariah, except that he was a fellow prophet of Haggai.

### **Setting:**

- The Jews had returned under Zerubbabel in 536 B.C, but because of the hostility of the Samaritans, the Persian government stopped the work on the temple. The work stayed stopped until 520 B.C. then Haggai and Zechariah urged the people to get back to work. Zechariah specifically called the people to repent.

## **Zechariah 1.1-6**

### **V1 – What was the source of Zechariah's message? God**

### **V2 – What attitude did God have with the fathers of these Jews? God was angry with them**

- Why?** Their worship of idols
- How did God punish the Jews of this generation?** Sent them into Babylonian captivity

### **V3 –What was Zechariah to preach to the people? To return to God**

- What promise does God always make with people?** If they will return to Him, He will return to them!
- Notice the phrase "Lord of hosts" three times in v 3

### **V4 –Who had preached to the former generations? The former prophets (Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.)**

- What is the purpose of v 4?** A reminder that captivity could come again if the people do not repent

### **V5 – Maybe the Jews who returned from captivity thought that the punishment had been paid so they were free to live anyway they wanted to**

- How does Zechariah shake them up?** Your fathers are all dead (died in captivity) even the prophets are dead
- In other words, you are not going to live forever

### **V6 – Concerning what the prophets said would happen, what happened? Exactly what they said would happen**

- In other words, you had better listen to Haggai and me (Zechariah)

-A good reminder that all people are to subject themselves to God

## **Zechariah 1.7-11** - The beginning of the 8 visions of Zechariah (1.6 – 6.8)

Remember the 5 visions of Amos

1. Locust Swarm
2. Consuming Fire
3. Plumb Line
4. Basket of summer fruit
5. Lord standing beside the alter

-So also Zechariah had a series of visions (8 total)

### **V7** – 1st vision: The Four Horsemen

-Remember the four horsemen in *Revelation 6* (conqueror, war, famine, death)

-V 7 - the date of the vision

### **V8** – **When did this vision take place?** At night

-**What did Zechariah see?** The Four Horsemen

-**What color were the horses?** Red, speckled, two white horses

### **V9** – Zechariah questioned God about these horses

-**Who was going to explain it to Zechariah?** The angel beside Zechariah

-This is very similar to the book of *Revelation*

### **V10** – **Who spoke next?** The man on the lead horse

-**What was the job of the four horsemen?** To patrol the earth

### **V11** – **Had they finished their job of patrolling the earth?** Yes

-**What was their conclusion?** The earth was at peace

-True (After the Babylonian captivity ended, and the Medes and Persians gained power)

## **Zechariah 1.12-17**

**V12** – The angel thought that it was time for God to help His people (as prophesied by Jeremiah – 70 years of captivity)

-**What was the site among the people in Jerusalem?** They were discouraged – maybe felt that God had deserted them (remember the site in the book of *Haggai*?)

### **V13** – **What was God's attitude as He answered?** Very gracious, kind, gentle,

-The message: God was on their side – very different from God's attitude in 586 BC

### **V14** – **According to the second angel, what was God's attitude toward Jerusalem?** He was jealous for the city (it was his city)

### **V15** – **What was God upset about?** The other nations God

-**Why?** They had helped in the destruction of Jerusalem and had rejoiced over its downfall

-We are not to rejoice over the misfortune of other people – See Prov. 17.5, 24.27, Obadiah 12

**V 16** – **What therefore did God promise?** The temple would be rebuilt in Jerusalem  
-“Measuring line” – surveyors would be working there

**V 17** – **What else would happen in Jerusalem?** Prosperity to return  
-Summary of first vision: God: “I’m on your side. I’m pulling for you”  
-Like cheering for the home team; at least, God was on the side of the Jews in Jerusalem

## **Zechariah 1.18-20**

**V 18** –**What did Zechariah see next?** Four horns. Most people are afraid of horns on animals

**V 19** – *Beacon Bible Commentary*, V, 350 = four horns = horns on all four sides. Message: there had been no escape for Israel  
-**What had the four horns done?** Scattered the Jews in the Babylonian captivity

**V 20** – **What did God show Zechariah next?** Four craftsmen and carpenter  
-**What are these men going to do?** Repair the damage done by the four horns  
-**Message of the second vision?** Things would be repaired in Jerusalem (because God would be with them)  
-Remember *Romans 8.31-39 (If God is for us, who can be against us?)*  
-So the first two vision were meant to encourage the Jews under Zerubbabel in Jerusalem

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