

The Church of the Servant King

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Prophecy Series

(Proph_Zechariah_Messianic Prophecies)

This is not intended to be an exhaustive or complete study of the book of Zechariah. The purpose of this particular study is to continue our review of prophetic passages in the Hebrew Scriptures so as to establish a base frame of reference and understanding of the Hebrew mindset that formed the basis of the Gospel narratives and the doctrinal developments of the 1st Century A.D. with the advent of a new dispensation. In addition, these Old Testament prophecies help us better interpret New Testament prophecies, especially those found in the book of Revelation.

Some Historical Background for Zechariah's Ministry and Writing

Zechariah was one of three prophets along with Haggai and Malachi who ministered to the Babylonian exiles who returned to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and the temple. These exiles returned and viewed the ruins of a city filled with history and at one time much splendor. There was sadness and discouragement, but Zechariah offered hope and encouragement with visions of judgment on Israel's enemies and of the restoration of the city of Jerusalem. Zechariah also offered predictions of a coming Redeemer King – the Messiah who would bring eternal salvation and the promised eternal kingdom.

Zechariah's name means "Yahweh Remembers." He was of the priestly tribe Levi, so he served as both a prophet and priest. Zechariah began his prophetic ministry in the second year of the Persian king Darius (522-486 B.C.) and his last dated prophecy was given two years later in 518 B.C.

When the exiles initially returned to the land in 537-6 B.C, they began work on the temple and the city walls. The enemies of the Jews presented so much opposition to the rebuilding effort that the rebuilding of the temple was abandoned until 520 B.C. During the sixteen year period, the Jews lost their vision and spiritual purpose. Their procrastination resulted in some divine discipline (Hag 1:11; 2:17). In 520 B.C., Haggai called for the Israelites to recognize their spiritual priorities and rebuild the temple. Zechariah began his ministry just two months after Haggai.

Zechariah's Prophetic Passages

Zechariah prophesies regarding the First and Second Advents of the Messiah. In doing so, he uses different terminology that emphasizes different aspects of the Messiah's ministry.

- The Messiah is called the "Branch" (3:8)
- The Messiah is called "God's Servant" (3:8) and God's "Shepherd" (13:7)
- There is allusion to the Messiah's ministry as the Priest-King (6:13 cf. Heb 6:20-7:1).
- The Messiah is predicted to enter Jerusalem on a colt (9:9 cf. Matt 21:4,5; Jn 12:14-16)
- The Messiah is betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (11:12-13 cf. Matt 27:9, 10)
- The Messiah has His hands and feet pierced (12:10 cf. 19:37)
- The Messiah's death provides cleansing from sin (13:1 cf. Jn 1:29; Titus 3:5)
- The future conversion of all of Israel (12:10-13:1, 9 cf. Rom 11:26)
- Israel's enemies are destroyed at His Coming (14:3, 12-15 cf. Rev 19:11-16)
- The Messiah rules and reigns from a new Jerusalem (14:9, 16 cf. Rev 20:4-6).

Chapters 9-14 of Zechariah are the most quoted section of the Prophets in the narratives of the Gospels.