

**Bible Synthesis IV**  
(Bible Survey)

**INTRODUCTION TO  
ZECHARIAH**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Haggai's task was that of rousing the people to the *outward* work of rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah sought to lead the people to *spiritual* change. Haggai's prophecy is centered primarily around the local situation in its historical setting, while that of Zechariah is universal in scope and eschatological and apocalyptic in outlook. Zechariah was younger than Haggai (Zech. 2:4), and his mission was to encourage. This he did by predicting, in glowing terms, the glory ahead for Israel in the ages to come. God's method of encouragement is to take our eyes off the sad present and put them on the glorious future. The book of Zechariah is full of the most impressive visions to be found in the entire Old Testament.

Rather than being a book of fulfilled prophecy, Zechariah is mostly one of unfulfilled predictions, and some predictions which on the surface seem to have been a fulfillment were only partially fulfilled.

**2. AUTHOR**

The Prophet Zechariah ("Jehovah remembers") — 1:1, 7; 7:1, etc. He was the son of Berechiah ("Jehovah blesses") and grandson of Iddo ("His time"). [*He is called "the son of Iddo" (Ezra. 5:1; 6:14), and the "son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo" (Zech. 1:1). There is no contradiction. It probably was that his father died during his infancy, and his grandfather Iddo reared him.*] Combine the three names and the result is "Jehovah remembers and He blesses in His time." This is a truth which applies to God's people of every age.

Zechariah, the prophet of Restoration and Glory, was probably born in Babylon. He was *priest as well as prophet*. He was a contemporary of Haggai (Ezra 5:1; 6:14). Their two postexilic Prophecies supplement each other.

Zechariah is a common name which was given to more than 20 persons in the Old Testament.

- (1) Apparently Zechariah was a young man when he wrote (2:4). This Hebrew term means "boy," "lad," or "youth." The time of his writing was 18 years after the first year of Cyrus when the Israelites returned from Babylonian captivity under Zerubbabel, so he must have been quite young when he was brought back to the land.
- (2) His grandfather Iddo was a priest who also returned from Babylonian exile with Zerubbabel and Joshua (Neh. 12:4).
- (3) Zechariah is mentioned three times outside his own book (Ezra 5:1; 6:14; Neh. 12:16).

**3. RECIPIENTS**

- (1) All the people of Israel who had returned from the Babylonian captivity — 1:2, 4; 7:5, etc.
- (2) Some of it was written to Joshua the High Priest — 3:8
- (3) Some was written to Zerubbabel the governor — 4:6

#### 4. DATE

From the second to the fourth year of King Darius — 1:1; 7:1. This would be 520 – 518 B.C. It is believed by many that chapters 9 – 14 were written by Zechariah at a much later date.

#### 5. PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

Zechariah spoke of Israel in a world context. Also, he gave a number of predictions concerning the future.

- (1) To encourage the people to build the Temple — Ezra 4:23 — 5:1; 6:14; Zech. 1:16; 4:8–9, etc.
- (2) His was a message to *encourage* Israel, while Haggai’s was a message of *rebuke*.
- (3) Zechariah’s message sought to bring about a spiritual change in the people.
- (4) He revealed many future events concerning Israel, the Gentile world powers, and especially the Messianic revelation — 3:8; 9:9; 14:4; etc.

#### 6. THEME

The two advents of the Messiah, Israel’s Great Deliverer — 3:8; 6:12; 9:9; 12:10; 14:3–4

#### 7. KEY PASSAGES

Zechariah 9:9–10

#### 8. KEY TERMS

“The Word of the LORD” (also “my Words,” etc.) — 14 times

“The LORD of hosts” — 52 times (18 times in chapter 8)

[For “LORD of hosts” see note on I Samuel 1:3 in the Scofield Reference Edition of the Bible. This appears in both the New Scofield as well as the older edition.]

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**OUTLINE OF**  
**ZECHARIAH**

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|--|---------------------|
| <b>1. Call to Repentance</b>   | <b>—1:1–6</b>       |
| <b>2. A Series of 8 Visions to Comfort Jerusalem</b>                                       | <b>—1:7 — 6:15</b>  |
| <b>3. The Delegation from Babylon Concerning Fasting</b>                                   | <b>—7:1 — 8:23</b>  |
| <b>4. Prophecies Concerning the End of Israel's Age and the Return and Reign of Christ</b> | <b>—9:1 — 14:21</b> |

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**Outline #2**

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| <b>1. APOCALYPTIC</b>                        | <b>— ZECH. 1 — 8</b>  |
| (1) An Earnest Call to Repentance            | —1:1–6                |
| (2) The Eight Visions of Zechariah           | —1:7 — 6:15           |
| (3) Questions Concerning Observing the Fasts | —7:1 — 8:23           |
| <b>2. BURDENS ABOUT THE FUTURE</b>           | <b>— ZECH. 9 — 14</b> |
| (1) The First Burden                         | —9:1 — 11:17          |
| (2) The Second Burden                        | —12:1 — 14:21         |

