

*(96) Adult Sunday School Class
Zechariah, chpts. 1-14
Prophets, pp. 403-419*



We are continuing the study on the three post-exilic prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi), and today we will cover the Book of Zechariah (not to be confused with Zephaniah who was a pre-exilic prophet). Zechariah's ministry takes place during 520-518 BC.

The book of Zechariah is unique in that it contains both prophetic and apocalyptic language. While most of the OT prophets stressed covenant theology and judgment, Zechariah focuses also on the future when the Messiah will come and restore His people. Like Haggai, Zechariah is concerned with rebuilding the Temple, but also like Ezekiel (an exile era prophet), he also points to the future to something of much greater significance beyond the Temple.

Zechariah is shown eight consecutive visions and in each vision an angel accompanies him and explains the vision. These visions intent seem to be on assuring the Jews that God is watching over them and that better days are ahead for Jerusalem and the entire Jewish nation. He also writes about the anticipation of the heavenly King and delivers more prophecies about Jesus in just 14 chapters than any other book in the Old Testament, except for Isaiah's book (but it is 66 chapters long). He describes this coming King as someone with great power, who will bring about great restoration, and yet coming in great humility. But also prophesies about the people rejecting this Shepherd followed by a later climatic day of repentance, restoration, and God's forgiveness of His people and judgment for God's enemies.

In addition to the numerous prophetic references to the Messiah, Zechariah gives us many guidelines for our day-to-day living. He points out that the important accomplishments of life are done by God's Spirit. He also reminds us of the close association between God's Holiness, His Presence, and His power made available to us. The book of Zechariah is a reminder for us to lift our heads in anticipation of our redemption when "the Lord will be King over all the earth. On that day there will be one Lord – His name alone will be worshipped" (14:9).