

Zechariah 1:1-17

A little history of the book of Zechariah: minor prophet, 11th of the 12 so-called Minor Prophets. As far as the Word of God is concerned, there are no Minor Prophets, but they are just talking about the physical length of the book. It's the most messianic, prophetic book of the Old Testament. It tells us more about Christ, his work and his glory than all the other minor prophet books. The first part of Zechariah deals with the time when he is writing his book; the last part deals with the end times, the future to him, our time. We're living in a time when Israel came back into existence, and it's now a key player in the matters of the world.

Setting: Nebuchadnezzar has conquered the known world. He took the Jewish people and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. The Jews spent 70 years of slavery under the Babylonian empire. Then Nehemiah let the Jews return and rebuild their temple. Haggai the Prophet lived at the same time as Zechariah, and his book is right before Zechariah's. He had a long message of hope. He was born into a priestly family.

Vs1: in the 8th month, November 2, 2500 years ago, the Lord came to Zechariah.

Vs2: The Lord tells Zechariah that He is very displeased with Zechariah's fathers.

Vs3: Lord of Hosts (warfare, strength, or service). Most of the time in the Bible 'Hosts' means 'a general in command of power.'

Vs4: The Lord wants him to remember the mistakes of his fathers and keep his eye, meaning his focus and attention, on the Lord, and He will be Zechariah's strength and guide. God is giving him hope.

Vs5-6: God asks Zechariah, where are your fathers now? They're all gone! God tells Zechariah, your people have been in slavery for 70 years, your city and temple is destroyed; now quit making the same mistakes and follow me. God says 'Remember what I said would happen to you, happened. Now stop making the same mistakes and listen to me, do as I say.' You're going to reap what you sow.

Vs7: Feb 24, here's father, son, and grandfather. There is a reason these 3 names are mentioned. The name Zechariah means 'God remembers'. A vision is received when a person is fully awake; dreams come when man is sleeping.

Vs8: all these visions have to deal with the nation of Israel. The first vision is a man riding a red horse and standing in a ravine between bunches of myrtle trees (green shiny leaves). Myrtle trees represent the nation of Israel, red means war. The man is Christ. It means Christ is there protecting Israel. Behind him there are red horses, speckled, and white.

Vs9: God will interpret this vision through an angel.

Vs10: these horsemen are the angelic patrol, walking to and fro through the earth, seeing and checking on what man is doing, gathering a status report for God.

Vs11: The angelic patrol comes back after touring the earth and tells Jesus that the Earth is at peace, that there is no warfare going on anywhere. Right now there are 70 different wars going on all over the world, but at the time of this angelic patrol, there are no wars going on.

Vs12: The angels ask, Lord, how long is it going to be before you bless the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel? They are beaten down and lying in ruins. How long will you withhold your blessings?

Vs13: God tells the angels some words of encouragement. 'After these 70 years, I'm getting ready to do some good for the nation of Israel.'

Vs14: The angel says Jerusalem belongs to God.

Vs15: God says He is very angry at the gentile nations, sitting in peace while Israel lies in ruins. God had let Israel be punished for misbehavior by bringing their enemies here to punish them, but the enemies went overboard and destroyed everything, and now God's mad at the enemies. God allows man to truly show his true nature.

Vs16: God says 'This is my city, I am measuring it out, I am going to rebuild, and I am mad that you all destroyed it.'

Vs17: God makes the statement that Jerusalem belongs to Him, period. He is marking the border, the property line, and you all stay out of it.

Psalms 122:6: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Psalms132:13-14: For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. 'This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.'