

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-4-12 PM NOTES
ZECHARIAH
#40 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV) "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Amos 4:11b-12 (NKJV) "Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the Lord. ¹²"Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

Haggai 1:4-5 (NKJV) "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" ⁵ Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways!"

I. The Purpose of Zachariah (Chapter 1-6)

A. Repentance (1:2-6)

B. Encouragement (1:7-6:15)

- The Four Horses (1:7-17)
- The Four Horns (1:18-19)
- The Four Craftsmen (1:20-21)
- The Man With the Measuring Line (2:1-13)
- Joshua the High Priest (3:1-7)
- The Branch (3:8-10)
- The Lampstand and the Olive Trees (4:1-7, 11-14)
- The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
- The Basket (5:5-11)
- The Four Chariots (6:1-8)

1. The Four Horses (1:7-17)

2. Joshua, the High Priest (3:1-7)

Revelation 12:10 (NKJV) "Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.'"

Philippians 3:9 (NKJV) "and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith."

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.*

—Edward Mote (1832)

3. Encouragement to Zerubbabel (4:1-7)

II. The Prophecies of Zechariah (Chapter 9-14)

A. Prophecies Concerning the First Coming of Christ

1. The Humility of the Coming Messiah (9:9-10)

Matthew 21:1-5 (NKJV) “Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, ‘Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. ³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.’ ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ ‘*Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’*”

2. The Betrayal of the Messiah (11:12-13)

Matthew 27:3-7 (NKJV) “Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*’ ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.’ ⁷ And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in.”

3. Scenes from His Arrest (13:6-7)

Matthew 26:31 (NKJV) “Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: *‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’*”

4. The Type of Death (12:10)

B. Prophecies Concerning the Second Coming of Christ

1. The Final Battle (12:1-9; 14:1-3)

Revelation 16:16 (NKJV) “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”

2. The Salvation of the Jews (12:10-14)

Romans 11:25-27 (NKJV) “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: *‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’*”

“The whole Jewish population will mourn as they gaze, like Saul of Tarsus, on the One they pierced. In Zechariah 12:12-14, the Holy Spirit emphasized the reality of this national repentance; family by family, house by house, one by one, all will mourn. The mourning will not be mass hysteria, but conviction born of the Holy Ghost.”

—John Phillips

3. The Return of Christ to the Mount of Olives (14:3-5)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-4-12 PM
ZECHARIAH
#40 in Series, “The Glory of God in the Old Testament”

Zechariah fits in the broad category of the Minor Prophets (the last 13 books of the Old Testament). They are called “minor” prophets simply because of their length and not because of their importance. Zechariah is also a part of a sub-group within the Minor Prophets called “The Post-exilic Prophets”. Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were all three written after the Southern Kingdom (Judah) had been exiled to Babylon and now a remnant of them have returned to the land. Haggai (last weeks study) and Zechariah both sought to motivate God’s people to action. Experts tell us that there are two types of motivation. First, there is extrinsic (means “from the outside”) motivation. This type of motivation appeals primarily to the emotions. It often uses shame and guilt. It often offers a visible stimuli or reward if you act a certain way. Extrinsic motivation is often an “in your face” type of motivation. A second type of motivation is intrinsic motivation. This type of motivation is often more subtle and less “in your face”. It seldom uses shame or guilt. It appeals more to the mind and uses encouragement more than guilt. Let me give you some illustrations from the world. In the realm of coaching (to go back a few years) these two types of motivation would be represented by Bobby Knight (basketball at Indiana) and Tom Landry (longtime coach of the Dallas Cowboys). Bobby Knight was “in your face”, loud, and heavy on guilt trips. Tom Landry, on the other hand was tough as nails, but he appealed to the player’s mind more than their emotions. In the military, I think of General Patton and General Eisenhower. I think that you get the idea. Which kind of motivation is best? There are times and circumstances where extrinsic motivation is needed and times and circumstances where intrinsic motivation works best. God, through His prophets uses both types. God says through Isaiah in **Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)** “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’” That’s intrinsic motivation. Through Amos God said in **Amos 4:11b-12 (NKJV)** “‘Yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the Lord. ¹² ‘Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!’” I would call that extrinsic motivation. In the first two of the post-exilic books we see Haggai using primarily extrinsic motivation as he seeks to motivate the remnant of the Israelites who have returned to Jerusalem from Babylon to get busy and rebuild the temple like God has instructed them to do. Haggai is “in their face” and really exposes their guilt. He shames them in **Haggai 1:4-5 (NKJV)** “*Is it* time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple *to lie* in ruins?” ⁵ Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Consider your ways!’” Zechariah was prophesying to the same people as was Haggai, but we will see that he primarily (not exclusively) uses intrinsic motivation – an appeal to the mind and to reason, and he is heavy on encouragement. This is a good lesson for those in leadership to learn. A strong leader (whether it is a parent leading their children, a ministry leader leading those involved in their ministry, a supervisor, teacher, a Pastor leading his church, or a business owner leading his or her employees) uses both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in leading others.

Let me set the context. The ministry of Haggai and Zechariah overlap. They both prophesied to the Jews who returned to Jerusalem after an edict given by King Cyrus (as God had prophesied through Isaiah, even giving the King’s name years before he was born). As we saw last week, their priority task when they arrived at Jerusalem was to rebuild the temple that the Babylonians had torn down. The people started well, but when they faced opposition they quit for 15 years. The message of both the older prophet Haggai and the younger man Zechariah was, “Get busy and build the temple like God told you to do”. Zechariah focused more on dealing with the people’s discouragement. The focus of Zechariah was primarily to the future and all that God was going to do in and through Israel.

Zechariah is not a simple book that is easy to understand. It has some very complex prophecies. We will not look in depth at all of the visions and prophecies because of the length of the book (it was almost too long to be called a minor prophet). Some have called Zechariah “The Old Testament Apocalypse” (the Greek word for Revelation). This book does contain many prophecies of both the first and second

comings of Christ. It is good to study it alongside the book of Revelation in the New Testament. It makes a good introduction to the book of Revelation that we will begin our verse by verse study of in just a few weeks (January 6, 2013).

I. The Purpose of Zechariah (Chapter 1-6)

Zechariah wanted to motivate the people to obey God and rebuild the temple. He focused on the obstacle of the discouragement of the people and he knew that the thing that would encourage them would be to see the big picture of God's plan for the temple and the future of the Jewish people.

A. Repentance (1:2-6)

The fathers (ancestors) had ignored God's calls to repentance and they ended up facing God's judgment. Notice the tenderness of God's call to repentance in **Zechariah 1:3 (NKJV)** "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Return to Me,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord of hosts.'" That's a good example of that intrinsic motivation we talked about earlier. Instead of threatening them with judgment, God tells them that He desires to draw close to them and walk with them and be their God. Think on this. When we turn away from God, He calls us to repentance because He saved us to glorify Him by walking in close intimate fellowship with Him. So much of what Zechariah says in this book is a call to repentance and a close walk with Him.

B. Encouragement (1:7-6:15)

In this section of the book, we have 10 visions that God gives Zechariah:

- The Four Horses (1:7-17)
- The Four Horns (1:18-19)
- The Four Craftsmen (1:20-21)
- The Man with the Measuring Line (2:1-13)
- Joshua the High Priest (3:1-7)
- The Branch (3:8-10)
- The Lampstand and the Olive Trees (4:1-7, 11-14)
- The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
- The Basket (5:5-11)
- The Four Chariots (6:1-8)

Time does not allow us to go over these visions, but they are very similar to some of the visions that John had some 600 years later when he was exiled to the Isle of Patmos. Their purpose was primarily to encourage a downtrodden people. Let me just briefly point to a couple of these visions.

1. The Four Horses (1:7-17)

That is an encouraging vision to a group of discouraged Jews! I'm not going to give a detailed exposition of the visions that we look at, but notice the main message. The horsemen had been riding to and fro on the earth and found that the nations were quite unconcerned about Jerusalem being trodden down. God, however, is very concerned and He promises to take action. He assures these discouraged people that He is not through with Jerusalem.

2. Joshua the High Priest (3:1-7)

Here we see Satan in his role as the accuser of the brethren (**Revelation 12:10b (NKJV)** "...the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.""). Joshua stands before the Lord in filthy robes (a picture of our own righteousness), but God takes the initiative and puts clean robes on him and now there is nothing more for the enemy of our souls to accuse. Those clean robes picture the righteousness of Christ. He changed the filthy robes of our self-righteousness for the clean robes of Christ's righteousness imputed to us. Now the accuser of the brethren has nothing more to accuse. What a beautiful Old Testament illustration of **Philippians 3:9 (NKJV)** "and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith'.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,

*O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.*

- Edward Mote (1832)

3. Encouragement to Zerubbabel (4:1-7 Read Verse 6-7)

This is a part of the vision of the lampstand and the olive trees. Do you remember Zerubbabel from Haggai? He was the governor of the people. He was the one ultimately over the rebuilding of the temple. The task seems impossible! There were so many obstacles. The Lord says this to Zerubbabel in Zech 4:6: “Zerubbabel, it is an impossible task for you; but you are not to accomplish it on your own. It will be done not by your might and power, but by the power of my Holy Spirit”. That is what He is saying to us in the impossible task of getting the Gospel to the world, overcoming addictions, healing from the grief you’ve gone through, and fulfilling a ministry you don’t see how you can go on with. This is a description of what is revealed in the New Testament as the Spirit filled life. Mountains in Scripture often represent obstacles (Verse 7a). No obstacle to the plan of God, the will of God, or the command of God can stand before the power of God’s Holy Spirit.

That is only three of the ten visions of encouragement. We see the purpose of the book then is to call the people to repentance and to give encouragement to finish the task God has given them.

II. The Prophecies of Zechariah (Chapter 9-14)

After an historic interlude in chapters 7-8 where some questions the people had about fasts were answered, Zechariah in chapters 9-14 turns to prophecies about events in the future. Let me share just a few of the prophecies that point to the first and second comings of Christ.

A. Prophecies Concerning the First Coming of Christ

Some of the prophecies actually deal with both the first and second coming of Christ. As I have shared before in this Sunday night series, the church was a mystery to the Old Testament prophets. A mystery in the Bible was something that was unknown until God chose to reveal it. From their vantage point the peak of the first coming and the second coming looked like they were together. As we get closer, we see that they are separated by at least 2,000 years.

1. The Humility of the Coming Messiah (9:9)

The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in **Matthew 21:1-5 (NKJV)** “Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, ‘Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. ³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.’ ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ ‘*Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’*” We focus on this on what the church calls “Palm Sunday” on the week before Easter. The Jews were expecting a Messiah on a white charger, coming with pomp and pride, but Zechariah said that He would come riding on a donkey. Think of it, the King of glory riding on a lowly donkey. Verse 9 says that He comes “having salvation” He is salvation! Salvation is not in a code or a creed; it is in Christ alone. At His first coming, He brings peace to hearts and at His second coming He brings peace on earth.

2. The Betrayal of the Messiah (11:12-13)

This prophecy was of course fulfilled by Judas. It happened just as Zechariah said it would 500 years before it happened in time. The 30 pieces of silver we are told the book of Exodus is the price of a slave that had been gored by an ox. The Jewish religious leaders felt Jesus was worth the price of a crippled slave. In verse 13 we are told that the betrayer returned the money and the leaders used it for a potter’s field. We see the fulfillment some 500 years later in **Matthew 27:3-7 (NKJV)** ^{Mt 27:3 (NKJV)} “Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*’ ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed,

and went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.' ⁷ And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in." Notice to what amazing detail this prophesy was fulfilled.

3. Scenes from His Arrest (13:6-7)

Jesus quoted verse 7 in **Matthew 26:31 (NKJV)** "Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: *I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.*'" Not only were the disciples scattered, but in 70 AD when the Roman General Titus destroyed Jerusalem, the whole nation was scattered all over the world.

4. The Type of Death (12:10)

We'll look at this verse more in a moment, but 500 years before Christ's death, Zechariah foretold that He would be pierced which describes His death on a cross.

B. Prophecies Concerning the Second Coming of Christ

1. The Final Battle (12:1-9; 14:1-3)

That is a prophesy of the final battle that takes place when Jesus returns. We see that same battle prophesied in the New Testament book of **Revelation 16:16 (NKJV)** "And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon." **Revelation 19:11-21 (NKJV)** ^{Rev 19:11 (NKJV)} "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh." Toward the end of 7 years called "The Great Tribulation" the armies of the world are drawn to Jerusalem to wipe out Israel. At the right time Jesus returns and slays these armies who are intent on killing the Jews.

2. The Salvation of the Jews (12:10-14)

We are also told of this day in **Romans 11:25-27 (NKJV)** ^{Ro 11:25 (NKJV)} "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: *'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'*" When it seems that all hope is lost and Israel will finally be destroyed as their enemies even today desire for them, the Messiah will come and the Jews will see Him whom they crucified and there will be a mass turning to Christ (one by one). Listen to this great quote from John Phillips describing that day: "The whole Jewish population will mourn as they gaze, like Saul of Tarsus, on the One they pierced. In Zechariah 12:12-14 the Holy Spirit emphasized the reality of this national repentance; family by family, house by house, one by one, all will mourn. The mourning will not be mass hysteria, but conviction born of the Holy Ghost" [John Phillips, *Exploring the Minor Prophets*, Page 298].

3. The Return of Christ to the Mount of Olives (14:3-5)

I believe that this prophesy will be fulfilled literally. During the lifetime of many of us, scientists have discovered the existence of a giant fault beneath the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Think of it, the very tectonic plates and fault lines have been prepared for the fulfillment of Bible prophesy!

CONCLUSION

I am encouraged! I thank God for all the prophesies fulfilled in the first coming of Christ and I wait for the literal fulfillment of those that will be fulfilled at His second coming. The Lord Jesus will return. Are you ready?