

Directions:

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Introduction:

The name Zechariah means "the Lord remembers." Zechariah prophesies in 520 B.C. to the remnant in Jerusalem, two months after Haggai began his prophecy. Zechariah's mission is to encourage the captives to rebuild the temple. But Zechariah uses a different method to encourage the people. While Haggai encouraged the people by rebuking them, Zechariah encouraged the people by showing them the future importance of the temple. Zechariah writes most of his book in apocalyptic writing. Zechariah often uses symbols that are not found in any other book of the Bible. Apocalyptic writing can be difficult to understand, but the prophecy will be easier to understand if the student remembers that this book is written to encourage the captives. Thus Zechariah encourages the people to rebuild the Lord's temple. As you study, be sure to understand the meaning of each vision.

Read through Zechariah in one sitting, noticing the themes and headers in your Bible. Write down some of the key themes and words you see:

ZECHARIAH

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is God's call to the people (1:3-4)?

2. What is the message of this first prophecy (1:3-6)?

3. Explain the meaning of the vision of the four horsemen (1:8-11). What is their purpose (1:10-11)?

4. What is the message of the second prophecy (1:12-17)?

5. What is the meaning of the measuring line being stretched out over Jerusalem (1:16)?

6. What is the meaning of the vision of the four horns and the four craftsmen (1:18-21)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is the meaning of the vision of a man with a measuring line in his hand (2:1-5)?

2. What is the message of the prophecy in 2:6-12?

3. What will happen "in that day" (2:10-11)?

4. Explain verse 13. Why is silence necessary as the Lord rouses himself? Explain.

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is Satan doing? What do we learn about his purpose?
2. What is wrong with Joshua? Who does Joshua represent in this vision?
3. What does God do to correct the problem Joshua has? What lessons do we learn from this? What do we learn about God?
4. What must Joshua do that he has clean clothes placed on him (3:7)? What lessons do we learn?
5. Who is the Branch (3:8)?
6. What does God promise to do (3:9-10)? What do these things mean?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is the meaning of the lampstand and two olive trees vision (4:1-7)? What is God going to do? What is being promised concerning Zerubbabel?

2. What is promised concerning Zerubbabel (4:8-9)?

3. What is the meaning of the two olive trees and lampstand (4:11-13)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is the meaning of the vision of the flying scroll (5:1-4)?
2. What is the meaning of the vision of the basket (5:5-8)?
3. What is the meaning of the vision of the two women taking the basket (5:9-11)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What do the four chariots do (6:1-8)? What is their purpose?

To understand the four chariots with their horses better, see Revelation 6. Their colors stand for the kind of mission they are on. To understand the winds better, see Jeremiah 49:36; 51:1; Daniel 7:2. These winds are used to fulfill God's purpose in the earth.

2. List the five things the Branch would do (6:9-15)? Then show the New Testament fulfillment.

3. Explain the meaning of the image of the crown in 6:11.

4. What is unusual about the offices that the Branch was to hold? Name another man in the Bible who held both offices.

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What message is God communicating to his people (7:1-7)?

2. What does God desire (7:8-10)? What lessons do we learn?

3. What was the sin of the people (7:11-12)? So what was God's response (7:13-14)? What lessons do we learn?

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Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. How does God describe himself (8:1-2)? Why is he this way? Why is this encouraging to the people (8:3-5)?
2. What does God promise to do (8:6-8)?
3. What does God encourage the people to do (8:9-13)?
4. What does God desire of his people (8:14-17)?
5. What does God promise will happen in the future (8:18-23)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Explain the phrase in 9:7, "I will take away its blood from its mouth and its abominations from between its teeth."
2. What world conqueror fulfilled the prophecy found in 9:1-8.
3. What is significant about the coming Messiah riding on a donkey? Where is this prophecy fulfilled?
4. Describe the characteristics of the messianic kingdom from 9:10.

Background Information:

"A persecution began in 198 B.C. when Antiochus III finally defeated the Ptolemys and Judea became part of the Seleucid Empire. Antiochus III was received by the Jews as a liberator, but their joy was short-lived. His successor Antiochus IV proved to be a veritable despot. He appointed as high priest one Jason who was a leader of Hellenistic sympathizers in Jerusalem. An order came from Antiochus at Jason's request for the establishing of Greek institutions like those of the Decapolis in Jerusalem itself.

Unhappy with Jason for the slowness with which the Hellenizing of Judea was proceeding, Antiochus replaced him with Menelous. Menelous proceeded to get to the core of the matter. Jehovah was made one with the Greek Zeus and sacrifices were offered to them according to the Greek practice rather than the Jewish law. Such shocking practice brought predictable consequences. The majority of the Jews swung to the Chasidim, or anti-Hellenist party. Antiochus IV declared himself Epiphanes or "God made manifest."

In 168 B.C. Antiochus was defeated by the Ptolemaic Pharaoh Ptolemy, and Jerusalem received the mistaken report that he had been killed. Their celebration was cut short by Antiochus himself appearing on the scene. Convinced that the Jews had been responsible for his failure in Egypt, Antiochus slaughtered thousands of them, robbed the temple, restored Menelaus whom the Jews had deposed and rededicated the temple to Zeus. He ordered the destruction of the altar, replaced it with a Greek altar and then committed the ultimate blasphemy by sacrificing a pig on it! Jews were forced on pain of death to eat pork so sacrificed. Jerusalem was razed by flames and the Jewish population was sold into slavery. The entire reign of Antiochus Epiphanes was, and still is, known as "the abomination of desolation," in Jewish historical writings.

During all this, the Chasidim preached guerrilla resistance. Among those who went underground was one Mattathias of the house of Hasonai of the tribe of Aaron, and his five sons Judas, Simon, Eleazar, Jonathan, and Johanan Caddis. Mattathias began the active revolt by killing a Jew who was approaching the altar to offer a swine, and shouting, "Whoever is zealous for the Law, and wishes to support the covenant, let him follow me." He had set the stage for every Jewish Zealot from then until now. Upon Mattathias' death, leadership of the revolt passed to Judas who was called Maccabee, "the hammer." Judas was a saint in prayer and a terror in battle. Against great odds he defeated the Greek mercenaries at Emmaus. The victory complete, yet Antiochus was not convinced. He sent an even larger force to wipe out the rebels. These were in turn wiped out at Mizpah. In 164 B.C. Judas cleansed and rededicated the temple and restored the priestly services."

— Gill, Clinton R., "Minor Prophets," Bible Study Textbook Series p. 330-331.

5. Verses 13-16 foretell the period of time of Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabean revolt, which is summarized above. This passage shows that God would be with Israel during a serious persecution and threat to the nation. During that period though, there was no revelation or miracle performed and yet God delivered. What lesson can we learn from this?

6. What does God promise he will do (9:14-17)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What does God ask the people to do (10:1-2)? Why?
2. Who is God angry with (10:3)? Why?
3. Who or what is being spoken of in 10:4?
4. What does God promise to do (10:6-7)?
5. What previous deliverance is being pictured (10:11)? How is this to encourage the people (10:8-12)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Considering the location of the places mentioned in 11:1-3, this is a picture of judgment on what nation?
2. Who is the "flock doomed to slaughter" in 11:4?

Special Note

There are over 40 different interpretation of the meaning of the three shepherds in 11:8. It may be easiest to consider the three shepherds as those leaders of God's flock who failed to measure up to their duties.

3. Notice 11:12 carefully. The shepherd calls upon his people to pay him the wages he is due for being their shepherd. Turn to Exodus 21:32 to find what they considered the Lord to be worth. Also comment on the New Testament fulfillment of this verse.
4. Who is represented by the foolish shepherds that God would raise up in 11:16?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Notice the description God gives of himself in 12:1. Why does he use this description of himself here? What message does God want to communicate?
2. What will God do with Jerusalem "on that day" (12:2-9)? What is the prophesying about?
3. How will the people "look on him whom they have pierced" (12:10)? Note how this is quoted in Revelation 1:7. Explain.
4. What else will happen "on that day" (12:11-14)?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What else will happen "on that day" (13:1)? What "day" is this referring to, considering what Zechariah has prophesied here and in the last chapter?
2. What two things will happen "on that day" (13:2)? Why is this important to know today?
3. What else will happen "on that day" (13:3-6)?
4. Explain the prophecy in 13:7-9. What is the New Testament fulfillment?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. There are many views taken to explain chapter 14. Some explain this chapter to be referring the physical destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Once the physical nation is destroyed, then the spiritual nation can begin, now refined by the fire. On the other hand, many explain this chapter to be referring to a spiritual Jerusalem and a spiritual kingdom and it being assaulted by the world. After carefully reviewing this chapter, what do you think is the meaning of this chapter? Be able to support your answer.
2. Explain the phrase in 14:7, "for at evening time there shall be light."
3. What two seas are referred to in 14:8?
4. Explain the meaning of 14:13-15.
5. In 14:20, notice the contrast between what horses were normally used for in those days and what this verse says they will be used for.

ZECHARIAH



A SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville