

Zechariah

Synthetic reading 2008290000

Zechariah, like Haggai, prophesied to people who had returned after the 70 years of Babylonian exile. Persia had risen to prominence, Babylon had fallen, and the remnant who were held captive had returned to the land of Judah and to Jerusalem. Ezra 5:1 & 6:14 share that both Haggai and Zechariah prophesying together helped the people to build and to prosper.

Zechariah is the longest book of the Minor Prophets. It is referenced or quoted in the New Testament a number of times. It is also filled with more than a dozen dreams or vivid imagery. The collection of dreams includes horse riders, horns, a builder, the clothing of a priest, a woman in a basket, a flying scroll, 2 trees, and a crown. Some of the visions look back in time to unveil meaning while others look ahead.

The major block of these dreams (1:7 – 6) sit between 2 bookends (chapters 1:1-6 & chapters 7-8). In these bookends, Zechariah challenges the remnant to learn from the example of their ancestors who were punished because they rebelled against God and contravened the covenant. Zechariah's prophetic challenge is to respond willingly and with a tender heart towards God. We see in chapters 7-8 that walking in worship with God means also walking in justice with the people (8:14-19). Additionally, the justice of God still is key as God confronts covenant people or non-covenant nations.

The 3 people of special note in this book are Zerubbabel, the governor and descendent in the line of David; Joshua, the high priest; and Zechariah, the prophet.