

STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

ZECHARIAH

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Visions, and messages of exhortation, and encouragement, chapters 1-8
 - . Call to repentance, 1:1-6
 - . Eight visions and their interpretation, 1:7 - 6:8
 1. The rider and horsemen among the myrtle trees, 1:7-17
 - a. The date, v. 7.
 - b. The vision: the horsemen among the myrtles, vv. 8-11.
 - c. Jehovah's promise of mercy on Zion, vv. 12-17.
 2. The four horns and the four smiths, 1:18-21.
 - a. This vision of the horns and smiths, vv. 18-20.
 - b. Every hostile nation has its match in Jehovah, v.21.
 3. The man with the measuring line, Chapter 2.
 - a. The vision of the man with the measuring line, vv. 1-5.
 - b. The prophecy: the people will return to Zion, vv. 6-13.
 4. The trial and acquittal of the high priest, Joshua, Chapter 3.
 - a. The accusation, acquittal, and cleansing of the high priest, vv. 1-5.
 - b. Prophetic address: significance of the symbolic action, vv. 6-10.
 5. The golden lampstand and the two olive trees, Chapter 4.
 - a. The vision of the lampstand and the two trees, vv. 1-3.
 - b. The prophet's questions and the angel's explanations, vv. 4-14.
 - (1) The first question and explanation, vv. 4-10.
 - (2) The second question and explanation, vv. 11-14.
 6. The flying roll, 5:1-4.
 - a. The vision of the flying roll, vv. 1,2.
 - b. The prophetic significance: the curse: sinners and their houses will be swept away, vv. 3,4.
 7. The woman in the ephah, 5:5-11.
 - a. The vision of the ephah and the woman, vv. 5-7.
 - b. The significance: wickedness transported out of the land, vv. 8-11.

8. The four chariots and horses of various colors, 6:1-8.
 - a. The vision of the chariots and horses, vv. 1-3.
 - b. The prophet's question and the angel's explanation, vv. 4-8.
- . Symbolic crowning of the high priest, Joshua, 6:9-15.
 1. Children of captivity provide the gold and silver for the crown, vv. 9-11.
 2. Explanation: symbolic of the Branch, crowned king and priest, vv. 12-15.

II. The question of fasting, and Jehovah's answer, Chapters 7,8.

- . The fast-days of Israel, and obedience to the word, 7:1-7.
 1. The occasion of the prophecy, vv. 1-3.
 2. Fasting not essential, but hearing is, vv. 4-7.
- . The first half of the Lord's answer to the question of fasting, 7:8-14.
 1. What Jehovah had required of the fathers, vv. 8-10.
 2. The refusal of the fathers to hearken - the lesson that should have been learned, vv. 11-14.
- . The second half of the Lord's answer - the promise of restoration to His favor, Chapter 8.
 1. The time of redemption draws nigh, vv. 1-8.
 2. Message of encouragement and admonition, vv. 9-17.
 3. Fasting to be changed into rejoicing, vv. 18-23.

III. World powers and the kingdom of God, Chapters 9-14.

- . First oracle - judgment! Destruction of heathen powers over Israel, Chapters 9-11.
 1. Fall of the heathen world, and deliverance and glorification of Zion, Chapters 9,10.
 - a. Judgment - fall of heathen world, 9:1-7.
 - b. The Messianic King and His reign, 9:8-10.
 - c. Complete victory of the sons of God over the sons of Greece, 9:11-17.
 - d. Complete redemption of the people of God, Chapter 10.
 2. Allegories of the good and foolish shepherds, Chapter 11.
 - a. Lamentation of the humiliated land, vv. 1-3.
 - b. Allegory of the good shepherd, vv. 4-14.
 - (1) The shepherd's loving care, vv. 4-6.
 - (2) The people's lack of appreciation, vv. 7,8.
 - (3) Withdrawal of the good shepherd, vv. 9-14.

- c. Allegory of the foolish shepherd, vv. 15-17.
 - (1) Conduct of the foolish shepherd, vv. 15,16.
 - (2) Overthrow of the foolish shepherd, v. 17.

. The future of the people of Jehovah; judgment by which sifted and refined, Chapters 12-14.

- 1. Israel's conflict and victory, conversion and sanctification, 12:1 - 13:6.
 - a. Marvelous deliverance of Judah and Jerusalem, 12:1-9.
 - (1) Conflict of nations and Jerusalem; destruction of the new nations, vv. 1-4.
 - (2) Strength by which to overcome, vv. 5-9.
 - b. Spirit of grace and of penitential lamentation, 12:10-14.
 - c. A fountain of grace for salvation, 13:1-6.
- 2. Judgment of refinement for Israel, and glorious end for Jerusalem, 13:7 - 14:21.
 - a. Fate of the shepherd's flock by which refined, 13:7-9.
 - b. Judgment and deliverance, 14:1-5.
 - c. Complete salvation, 14:6-11.
 - d. Destruction of enemy nations, 14:12-15.
 - e. Conversion of the heathen nations, vv. 16-19.
 - f. Everything unholy removed; all is holy to Jehovah, vv. 20,21.

INFORMATION ON THE BOOK

DATE WRITTEN

There are definite marks in the text of the book which date the prophecy. What are they? 1:1,7; 7:1

Chapters eight and nine are not dated, but it appears that chapters 1-8 may have been written **during** the building of the temple, and chapters 9-14 **after** the temple was complete.

THE MAN

The name Zechariah means _____. This was a common name in the Old Testament. About 30 men are noted in the Old Testament with this name. We know that his grandfather was a priest from reading Nehemiah 12:4 & 16. Thus, his father would also be a priest. What would that make him? _____ . His family was among the exiles who returned from Babylon in 536 B.C. under Zerubbabel.

MAIN THEME

There are **four purposes** of the book which are:

1. Bring about spiritual renewal. What was the **first** message of the Lord to the Jews? 1:2,3 _____

2. Finish the temple. What does the Lord say that would indicate this? 1:16; 4:9

3. Comfort and console the people. What kind of *words* did the Lord speak? 1:13

4. To reassure them of the coming Messiah. There are more prophecies about Christ in Zechariah than every other prophetic book except _____.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 520 B.C., when God began revealing His will to Haggai, Zechariah was ministering to the Jews as a Priest. Then, two months later, Zechariah was called by God to a similar task. This made him a prophet-priest, like his predecessors Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

The main task Zechariah and Haggai shared was to exhort the Jews to finish rebuilding the Temple. This project was discontinued in 534 B.C., fourteen years before the prophets began their work. **In what year was the Temple completed?** Ezra 6:14,15 _____.

While Haggai's chief task was to rouse the people to the *outward* task of building the Temple, Zechariah kept urging the people to examine their *hearts* and be right with God. The only difference was **emphasis**. Another difference is that Zechariah preached a great deal about the Messiah to come. Haggai focused on the completion of the Temple.

QUESTIONS ON HAGGAI

- I. Visions, and messages of exhortation, and encouragement, chapters 1-8
- A. Call to repentance, 1:1-6
1. With whom was God displeased, and what had God done about it? 1:2,4 _____

2. Compare the thoughts in 1:3 with James 4:8a, and explain the meaning. _____

3. Explain the contrast between 1:5 and 1:6. _____

- . Eight visions and their interpretation, 1:7 - 6:8
1. The rider and horsemen among the myrtle trees, 1:7-17
- a. The date, v. 7.
4. What is the date of this part of the prophecy, and what is the equivalent in our Gregorian calendar? 1:7 _____

- b. The vision: the horsemen among the myrtles, vv. 8-11.
5. This is the **first** of **eight** visions which the prophet received in one night. In what way do *visions* differ from *dreams*? _____

6. What does the prophet ask the angel of the Lord on the red horse? 1:9 _____

7. What does the angel say these riders represent? 1:10 _____

8. Explain their report in 1:11. _____

c. Jehovah's promise of mercy on Zion, vv. 12-17.

9. What was the question the angel asked God? 1:12 _____

10. How did the prophet describe the words which the Lord spoke to the angel? 1:13 _____

11. How did God feel about Jerusalem and Zion? 1:14 _____

12. How did God feel about the nations and why? 1:15 _____

13. What does God propose to do for Jerusalem? 1:16,17 _____

2. The four horns and the four smiths, 1:18-21.

a. This vision of the horns and smiths, vv. 18-20.

14. What did the prophet see in this vision? 1:18 _____

15. What do "horns" symbolize in prophetic writing? _____

16. What is the significance of the number "four" in prophecy? _____

17. What had the "horns" done to Judah, Israel and Jerusalem? 1:19 _____

18. There are another FOUR characters introduced to the vision. What are they? 1:20 _____

b. Every hostile nation has its match in Jehovah, v.21.

19. What is the purpose of the four introduced in 1:20? 1:21 _____

3. The man with the measuring line, Chapter 2.

a. The vision of the man with the measuring line, vv. 1-5.

20. What did the man have in his hand, and what was it to be used for? 2:1,2 _____

21. Four characters are present at this point in this vision. Name the four characters. 2:3 _____

22. Who is the "young man" mentioned here? 2:4 _____

23. In what way is the Jerusalem mentioned in 2:4,5 different from the Jerusalem of old? _____

b. The prophecy: the people will return to Zion, vv. 6-13.

24. What is the "land of the north" and what are the people of God to do? 2:6,7 _____

25. Explain the significance of touching the apple of His eye? 2:8 _____

26. What is meant by the phrase, "I will shake my hand against them?" 2:9 _____

27. Who is the "daughter of Zion?" 2:10 _____

28. What does the Lord promise He will do? 2:10,11 _____

29. Explain the significance of the "holy land" and what God will do "again." 2:12 _____

30. Compare 2:13 with Habakkuk 2:20 and relate it to this context. _____

4. The trial and acquittal of the high priest, Joshua, Chapter 3.
- a. The accusation, acquittal, and cleansing of the high priest, vv. 1-5.
31. Who is pictured as being involved in a conflict? 3:1 _____

32. What did the Lord say to Satan? 3:2 _____

33. Explain the meaning of the "brand plucked from the fire?" 3:2 _____

34. What is symbolized by the filthy and the clean clothing on Joshua? 3:3-5 _____

- b. Prophetic address: significance of the symbolic action, vv. 6-10.
35. Upon what condition would the Lord allow Joshua to have charge of God's people? 3:6,7 _____

36. Of what are Joshua and the other priests a sign? 3:8 _____

37. There is a divergence of opinion on the meaning of the "stone" here. What explanation best suits this context? 3:9 _____

38. What is the "day" here and what is the meaning of the symbology? 3:10 _____

5. The golden lampstand and the two olive trees, Chapter 4.
- a. The vision of the lampstand and the two trees, vv. 1-3.
39. How had the intensity of these visions affected the prophet? 4:1 _____

40. What did the prophet see? 4:2,3 _____

- b. The prophet's questions and the angel's explanations, vv. 4-14.
 (1) The first question and explanation, vv. 4-10.
41. Did the prophet understand what these things meant? 4:4,5 _____

42. To whom is this addressed, and what does it mean? 4:6 _____

43. What is the great mountain? 4:7 _____

44. What promise did God make concerning Zerubbabel? 4:9 _____

45. Explain the use of the number seven in 4:10. _____

(2) The second question and explanation, vv. 11-14.

46. What did the prophet see next? 4:11,12 _____

47. Whom did the angel say they were? 4:13,14 _____

6. The flying roll, 5:1-4.

a. The vision of the flying roll, vv. 1,2.

48. What did the prophet see in this vision? 5:1,2 _____

b. The prophetic significance: the curse: sinners and their houses will be swept away, vv. 3,4.

49. How did the angel explain the meaning of the flying scroll? 5:3,4 _____

7. The woman in the ephah, 5:5-11.

a. The vision of the ephah and the woman, vv. 5-7.

50. What is a ephah, and what did he observe in the middle of it? 5:5-7 _____

b. The significance: wickedness transported out of the land, vv. 8-11.

51. What did the angel say was the meaning of the ephah? 5:8 _____

52. What happened to the ephah? 5:9 _____

53. Where were they taking the ephah? 5:11 _____

- 8. The four chariots and horses of various colors, 6:1-8.
 - a. The vision of the chariots and horses, vv. 1-3.

54. Describe what the prophet saw in this vision. 6:1-3 _____

- b. The prophet's question and the angel's explanation, vv. 4-8.

55. What did the angel say was the meaning of this vision? 6:4-8 _____

. Symbolic crowning of the high priest, Joshua, 6:9-15.

- 1. Children of captivity provide the gold and silver for the crown, vv. 9-11.

56. What was Zechariah to do with the gold he took from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah? 6:9-11 _____

- 2. Explanation: symbolic of the Branch, crowned king and priest, vv. 12-15.

57. God sets forth **five things** concerning the "man whose name is the Branch. What are they, and how do they apply to Christ?

1. 6:12; Isaiah 53:2; 52:13 _____

2. 6:12,13; 1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:21; Hebrews 3:6 _____

3. 6:13; 2 Samuel 7:11-14; Isaiah 9:6,7; Psalm 2:6,7; 110:1; 1 Kings 2:12; 1 Chronicles 29:23

4. 6:13; Genesis 14:18; Psalm 110:4; Acts 2:29-31; Hebrews 1:3,13; 1 Corinthians 15:25,26; Revelation 20:11-15 _____

5. 6:13; Isaiah 9:6,7; Micah 5:5; Ephesians 2:14,17 _____

58. What will the crown be to the ones who supplied the materials? 6:14 _____

59. Who will be included in the building of the temple under the Branch? 6:15 _____

II. The question of fasting, and Jehovah's answer, Chapters 7,8.

. The fast-days of Israel, and obedience to the word, 7:1-7.

1. The occasion of the prophecy, vv. 1-3.

60. What year did this portion of the prophecy take place? 7:1 _____

61. The American Standard Version and New American Standard version have the following in Zechariah 7:2 "Now {the town of} Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regemmelech and their men to seek the favor of the {Lord}." What do we know about the town of Bethel at this time in history? 7:2

62. For what purpose were Sherezer and Regem Melech and his men, sent to the house of God? 7:2,3

63. What was the purpose of fasting and weeping in the fifth month? 2 Kings 25:8-10; Jeremiah 52:12-14

2. Fasting not essential, but hearing is, vv. 4-7.

64. How does God perceive the motives behind their fasting for the past seventy years? 7:5,6

65. What did God want instead of their self-imposed fasting? 7:7

. The first half of the Lord's answer to the question of fasting, 7:8-14.

1. What Jehovah had required of the fathers, vv. 8-10.

66. Below are listed the things which Jehovah God required of their fathers as they went into the captivity. Consider each and be prepared to discuss them in class:

1. **Execute true judgment** _____

2. **Shew mercy and compassions, every man to his brother** _____

3. **Oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor** _____

4. **Let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.** _____

2. The refusal of the fathers to hearken - the lesson that should have been learned, vv. 11-14.

67. How had their forefathers reacted to God's instructions through the prophets? 7:11,12 _____

68. How did God react to them? 7:12b-14 _____

. The second half of the Lord's answer - the promise of restoration to His favor, Chapter 8.

1. The time of redemption draws nigh, vv. 1-8.

69. In spite of the way they had treated Him, how did God feel about His people? 8:2 _____

70. What does God promise to do, and what is the complete fulfillment of this? 8:3 _____

71. Explain the significance of 8:4,5 in this context. _____

72. What is the purpose of the question asked in 8:6? _____

73. To what do the words in 8:7,8 point? _____

2. Message of encouragement and admonition, vv. 9-17.

74. To whom does Zechariah refer in 8:9? _____

75. What had the conditions been prior to this time, and who was responsible for it? 8:10 _____

76. In what ways had this situation changed and why? 8:11,12 _____

77. Two "houses" are mentioned in 8:13. Who are they and how is this fulfilled? _____

78. Why are they told not to fear? 8:14,15 _____

79. What does God tell them to **DO** and how do these things relate to the Law of Moses? 8:16,17 _____

3. Fasting to be changed into rejoicing, vv. 18-23.

80. What is to become of the fasts they had imposed on themselves and what are they to love? 8:19 _____

81. To what is the prophet referring in 8:20-23? _____

III. World powers and the kingdom of God, Chapters 9-14.

. First oracle - judgment! Destruction of heathen powers over Israel, Chapters 9-11.

1. Fall of the heathen world, and deliverance and glorification of Zion, Chapters 9,10.

a. Judgment - fall of heathen world, 9:1-7.

82. Name and discuss the cities/lands enumerated in 9:1,2. _____

83. What had Tyre done, and what would God do to her? 9:3,4 _____

84. Who would observe these things and what would happen to them? 9:5 _____

85. Who is mentioned in 9:6,7 and what would happen to them? _____

b. The Messianic King and His reign, 9:8-10.

86. What is God promising them in the words of 9:8? _____

87. Who fulfilled the prophecy contained in 9:9? _____ Where is it recorded? _____

88. How was the prophecy in 9:10 fulfilled? _____

c. Complete victory of the sons of God over the sons of Greece, 9:11-17.

89. What sort of "prisoners" does the prophet speak of and what is to happen to them? 9:11,12 _____

90. How are Judah and Ephraim pictured in 9:13 and what does this mean? _____

91. Explain the significance of the symbols used in 9:14,15. _____

92. To what are God's people likened, and what is to become of them? 9:16,17 _____

d. Complete redemption of the people of God, Chapter 10.

93. What are they told to ask for, and what will be the results? 10:1 _____

94. Something was missing from the people of God. What was it, and what had they been substituting for this? 10:2 _____

95. Who are the "shepherds" in 10:3, and how does God feel about them? _____

96. What does the Lord say was to come from Judah? 10:4 _____

97. "The house of Joseph" stands for what group of people and how do they figure in the Lord's victory? 10:5,6 _____

98. What is to happen to those of Ephraim? 10:7 _____

99. Explain what God is saying about Ephraim in 10:8-12. _____

2. Allegories of the good and foolish shepherds, Chapter 11.

a. Lamentation of the humiliated land, vv. 1-3.

100. What is the meaning of the word picture painted in 11:1,2? _____

101. To what does the analogy point in 11:3? _____

- b. Allegory of the good shepherd, vv. 4-14.
- (1) The shepherd's loving care, vv. 4-6.
102. Who is to feed the flock, and who are the "owners?" 11:4,5 _____

103. What does God propose to do, and to whom is it to be done? 11:6 _____

- (2) The people's lack of appreciation, vv. 7,8.
104. Explain the meaning of the two staffs held by the shepherd. 11:7 _____

105. What was done in one month? 11:8 _____

- (3) Withdrawal of the good shepherd, vv. 9-14.
106. What is the meaning of the prophet's actions described in 11:9-11? _____

107. Explain the meaning of the wages they chose to pay him. 11:12; Exodus 21:32 _____

108. What did the prophet do with the wages? 11:13 _____

109. Of what event was this a prophetic foreshadowing? _____

110. What was the second symbolic act the prophet engaged in, and what does it mean? 11:14 _____

- c. Allegory of the foolish shepherd, vv. 15-17.
 - (1) Conduct of the foolish shepherd, vv. 15,16.
111. What are the "instruments" or "implements" of a shepherd, and how might these vary from that which might be used by a foolish shepherd? 11:15 1 Samuel 17:40; Judges 5:16 _____

112. How does God describe the work of the foolish shepherd, and how does it relate to the people of God? 11:16 _____

- (2) Overthrow of the foolish shepherd, v. 17.
113. What does God pronounce on the foolish shepherd? 11:17 _____

- . The future of the people of Jehovah; judgment by which sifted and refined, Chapters 12-14.
 - 1. Israel's conflict and victory, conversion and sanctification, 12:1 - 13:6.
 - a. Marvelous deliverance of Judah and Jerusalem, 12:1-9.
 - (1) Conflict of nations and Jerusalem; destruction of the new nations, vv. 1-4.
114. To whom does this "burden" pertain, and how does God identify Himself? 12:1 _____

115. How would those who went up against spiritual Judah and Jerusalem be affected? 12:2 _____

116. What will God make Judah and Jerusalem like, and what will happen to those who come up against them? 12:3 _____

117. Explain the significance of God opening His eyes on the house of Judah, and how this will affect any who strike out against them. 12:4 _____

(2) Strength by which to overcome, vv. 5-9.

118. What is the source of strength in Judah and Jerusalem? 12:5 _____

119. To what does He liken the governors of Judah, and what is the significance of this likeness? 12:6

120. What is the purpose of saving the tents of Judah first? 12:7 _____

121. How will the feeble among the inhabitants of Jerusalem appear to those who come up against it? 12:8 _____

122. What are God's plans for *all* who come up against His spiritual Jerusalem? 12:9 _____

b. Spirit of grace and of penitential lamentation, 12:10-14.

123. Explain the meaning of the "spirit of grace and supplication." 12:10 _____

124. What three things does He say they will do as a result of the outpouring of the spirit of grace and supplication? 12:10 _____

125. Why are various families mentioned in 12:11-14, and what will they do? _____

c. A fountain of grace for salvation, 13:1-6.

126. For what purpose was the "fountain" to be opened, and to what does this refer? 13:1 _____

127. What *three* things would cease to be when this fountain was opened? 13:2 _____

128. How would one who claimed to be a prophet be considered "in that day?" 13:3,4 _____

129. Whenever the prophecies of the false prophets *fail*, how will they try to defend themselves? 13:5

130. Explain the meaning of the wounds in 13:6. _____

2. Judgment of refinement for Israel, and glorious end for Jerusalem, 13:7 - 14:21.
- a. Fate of the shepherd's flock by which refined, 13:7-9.
131. What is said of the good shepherd and His relationship to God that would make Him unique? 13:7

132. What was the sword to do to the good shepherd? 13:7 _____

133. Prepare to discuss the meaning of 13:8,9 and how it might be related to the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 7:13,14. _____

- b. Judgment and deliverance, 14:1-5.
134. In *whose* midst would *whose* spoil be divided? 14:1 _____

135. What does the Lord say He will do in "His day?" 14:1,2 _____

136. Seeing that there was no "remnant" left in the literal city of Jerusalem after the assault of 70 A.D., what do you suppose the prophet is speaking of in 14:2? _____

137. When the world attacks God's people, what does He promise to do for them? 14:3 _____

138. How does the physical relationship between the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem relate to the statement in 14:4? _____

139. For what purpose does the mountain split and how does it relate to the lesson of this prophecy? 14:4,5 _____

140. Where else do we read about the Earthquake in the days of Uzziah? 14:5 _____

141. Relate the following passages to the fulfillment of this portion of the prophecy:
 Acts 8:1-4 _____
 Matthew 24:30,31 _____
 Revelation 19:11-21 _____
- c. Complete salvation, 14:6-11.
142. What is meant by the absence of light and the diminishing light in 14:6? Joel 2:2,10; Isaiah 13:10 _____

143. How does the prophet express *hope* in 14:7? _____

144. Where else might we read about "living water" and what does it mean in this passage? 14:8 _____

145. Over what will Messiah reign, according to 14:9? (*cf.* 9:9,10) _____

146. What is the significance of the picture painted for us in 14:10? _____

147. Of what are the inhabitants of Spiritual Jerusalem assured in 14:11? _____

- d. Destruction of enemy nations, 14:12-15.
148. What will happen to all who try to fight against God's Spiritual kingdom? 14:12-15 _____

149. Explain the significance of Judah joining the fight at Jerusalem. 14:14 _____

- e. Conversion of the heathen nations, vv. 16-19.
150. What will the remnant of the nations do? 14:16 _____

151. Of what significance is the Feast of Tabernacles to the period under consideration in the prophecy? 14:16 _____

152. Explain the significance of the absence of rain in the nations who do not worship God. 14:17 _____

- f. Everything unholy removed; all is holy to Jehovah, vv. 20,21.
153. What is the point of "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" being engraved on the bells of the horses in that day? 14:20 _____

154. Compare the idea of *no* "Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts," and what was found during the days of the physical Temple in Jerusalem. 14:21 _____

