



Zechariah

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

The Minor Prophets

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28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

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- **Zechariah**, like **Jeremiah** & **Ezekiel**, was a priest as well as a prophet.
- His ministry coincided with that of the prophet **Haggai**.
- They both spoke to the people who had returned to Jerusalem from captivity.

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- **Haggai** was direct and practical in encouraging the people to finish rebuilding the Temple.
- **Zechariah's** prophecies are filled with symbolic visions predictions pointing to **Jesus Christ**.

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

- Zechariah makes **more references** to the coming Messiah than all of the other Minor Prophets combined.
- In response, New Testament authors reference him **at least 40 times**.

The Structure of Zechariah

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- Chapters 1-6: Eight Night Visions
- Chapters 7-8: Four Messages
- Chapters 9-14: Two Oracles
 - An *oracle* is a divine utterance or pronouncement.
 - The Hebrew word can also be translated “burden”, indicating the weight of the message upon the prophet who spoke it.

The Effects of Zechariah

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- As we study the book of **Zechariah** consider the following:
 1. The prophecies of Zechariah (and Haggai, the previous book) motivated the people to build – to finish their work.
 2. How does the Lord still use such Bible prophecy to speak to us today? **How are we to be motivated?**

Zechariah Key Passages

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- **1:1-17** God will have mercy upon Jerusalem.
- **2:10-13** The Lord will dwell in Zion, ruling over the nations.
- **2:12** **Holy Land** This is the one place in the Bible where this phrase is used.

Zechariah Key Passages

- From the Gordon-Conwell Center for the Study of Global Christianity (2013):
- In 1970, 41.3% of all Christians were from Africa, Asia, or Latin America. By 2020, this figure is expected to be 64.7%.
- In 1980, Christians in the global South exceeded those in the North for the first time in 1,000 years.
- At present, Christians in Latin America and Africa combined total 1 billion people.

Zechariah Key Passages

- **3:1-5** Satan accuses Joshua the high priest, but the Lord declares him clean.
- **4:6-10** God's Spirit can do what human strength cannot.
- **Zerubbabel** will complete the Temple.
- **5:5-11** Wickedness will be sent off to a house built in Shinar – another name for Mesopotamia or Babylon.

Zechariah Key Passages

- **6:11-13** The **Branch** shall rule as both **Priest** and **King**.
- **7:8-10** God's will is to create a just society.
- **8:1-8** Jerusalem's future glory
- **9:9-10** Christ's entry as King over Jerusalem.
- Part is fulfilled already; part is yet to come.

Zechariah Key Passages

- **11:12-13** A prophecy about Christ's betrayal
- **11:15-17** A prophecy pertaining to Antichrist
- **12:10** Israel's future repentance

Zechariah Key Passages

- **13:6-7** Jesus, the Shepherd who was wounded
- **14:1-4** The Second Coming
- **14:16-19** Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in the Messianic Age

Zechariah Fulfillment in Christ

- **John 19:34-37** (ESV)

³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken” [from **Psalms**] ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced” [from **Zechariah 12:10**]

Zechariah Fulfillment in Christ

- **Revelation 1:7**

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

- Earlier we pointed out,
 1. The prophecies of **Zechariah** (and **Haggai**, the previous book) motivated the people to build – to finish their work.
- Then we asked,
 2. How does the Lord still use such Bible prophecy to speak to us today? **How are we to be motivated?**

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

Some thoughts:

- Prophecy reminds us that God is moving history toward ends over which he has complete control.
- We might say that God is writing a very long, complex story.

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Some thoughts:

- **Jesus Christ** is the main character. Both the Bible and human history are mainly about him.
- In the days of **Zechariah**, that messianic hope was completely in the future.
- We now find ourselves at a time in which we see partial fulfillment.

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

Some thoughts:

- We each have a unique part to play in that story.
- God is building a temple for worship, gathering a church, preparing a bride for her wedding.
- How we respond to the Bible matters.

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Some thoughts:

- We need to collectively build.
- What we do in our day and time matters – as we look forward to Christ's return.

Messianic Hope for Weary Builders

Some thoughts:

- A Final Passage: **1 Peter 2:1-12**