

ZECHARIAH STUDY

Zechariah began ministering to the Jews who had returned from captivity (70 years) in Babylon. He was a prophet and a priest.

Zechariah- “YAWEH has remembered”

Son of Berechiah- “Blessing of YAWEH”

Grandson of Iddo- “The appointed time”

He spoke more of what he saw more than what he heard.

Message- “Repent and turn to God so that you will be restored”

To Whom- He prophesied to the “Remnant” (those who were left after the purge/exile)

○ In order to study and understand Zechariah you must have first referenced Haggai.

○ **Apocalyptic Language-** Discloses end time meaning with great vision, symbolic language or symbolic parallels. When one uses symbolic imagery, and the expectation of an imminent cosmic cataclysm in which God destroys the ruling powers of evil and raises the righteous to life in a messianic kingdom

○ **Recommended Reading-** “*Plowshares & Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy & Apocalyptic*” by D. Brent Sandy ISBN# 9780830826537

Haggai was called to rebuild the temple *after exile*. Zechariah was summoned to tell the people *to repent and return to him*.

What is the “fear of the Lord?”

(Haggai 1:12)

feared

וַיִּירָאוּ (way-yî-rə·'ū)

Strong's Hebrew 3372: 1) to fear, revere, be afraid 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to fear, be afraid 1a2) to stand in awe of, be awed 1a3) to fear, reverence, honour, respect 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) to be fearful, be dreadful, be feared.

The Call to Rebuild the House of the Lord:

God asks the question?

“Why are you living in such luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins” **(Hag. 1:3)?**

Problem?

“You have planted much but harvested little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes” **(Hag. 1:6).**

What is missing?

They are selfish and centered on rebuilding their homes, their lives, and their families instead of putting God’s house first. They were in disobedience.

God tells them to put Him first and THEN what they were working for and hoping for would be given unto them. **(Hag. 1:6-11)**

Outcome?

Focus on God's instruction (**Matthew 6:33**) first and THEN all these things will be added unto you. The anointing will be upon you in that place.

Prophetic Parallel:

"The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies" (**Hag. 1:9**)

God asks questions about defilement in 2:10-17 through the prophet Haggai. God rebukes their sin 2:14 "Everything they offer is defiled by their sin. Look at what was happening to you before you began to lay the foundation of the Lord's Temple. Even though the Lord sent hard times, the people were stubborn and refused to repent."

- God is promising to build a more glorious temple. The latter will be greater than the former.
- The prophet Haggai is giving the people the same message that we hear today in 1 Timothy 4:7-10 "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."

The overall message of Haggai was to rebuild the temple and focus on God's house first. He called the people to repentance and prepared them to learn how to worship God all over again because they had been in exile.

Prophetic Cycles-

Sin- God's people sin and finally God has enough and warns them to repent or else!

Servitude- God's people wind up in captivity until their punishment is up.

Supplication- God's people cry out to Him while enslaved, begging for His rescue.

Salvation- God's people are rescued by him and restored to their original state or better.

1. Original Application- return to God and rebuild the ruins (physical house)
2. Prophetic or future application- Looks forward to *Christ's coming and the building of his spiritual house.*

The Jews understood this prophetic parallel but they still missed the greatest message!