

The “Never Wrong”

Prophet Zechariah

Part 1

Overview of the book of Zechariah: The prophet Zechariah is the author of the book bearing his name, as indicated in the first verse (Zechariah 1:1).

Zechariah 1:1 AMPC

*1 In the eighth month, in the second year [of the reign] of Darius, **came the word of the Lord to Zechariah** son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, **the prophet**, saying,*

2 The Lord was very angry with your fathers.

Zechariah 1:1-2 KJV

*1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came **the word of the Lord unto Zechariah**, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,*

2 The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers.

Part of the twelve Minor Prophets, the book of Zechariah is placed just before the final Old Testament book. Zechariah was penned during the reign of King Darius of Persia, during the time the Israelites’ were rebuilding their temple in Jerusalem. Haggai was a contemporaneous prophet.

The book of Zechariah contains warnings and encouragement for the returned exiles. It also includes messianic prophecies that point toward a coming king who would also be a priest (Zechariah 6:9–13). Similar to Daniel, Ezekiel, and Isaiah, Zechariah had symbolic visions that form a major aspect of his message.

Zechariah 6:9-13 AMPC

9 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

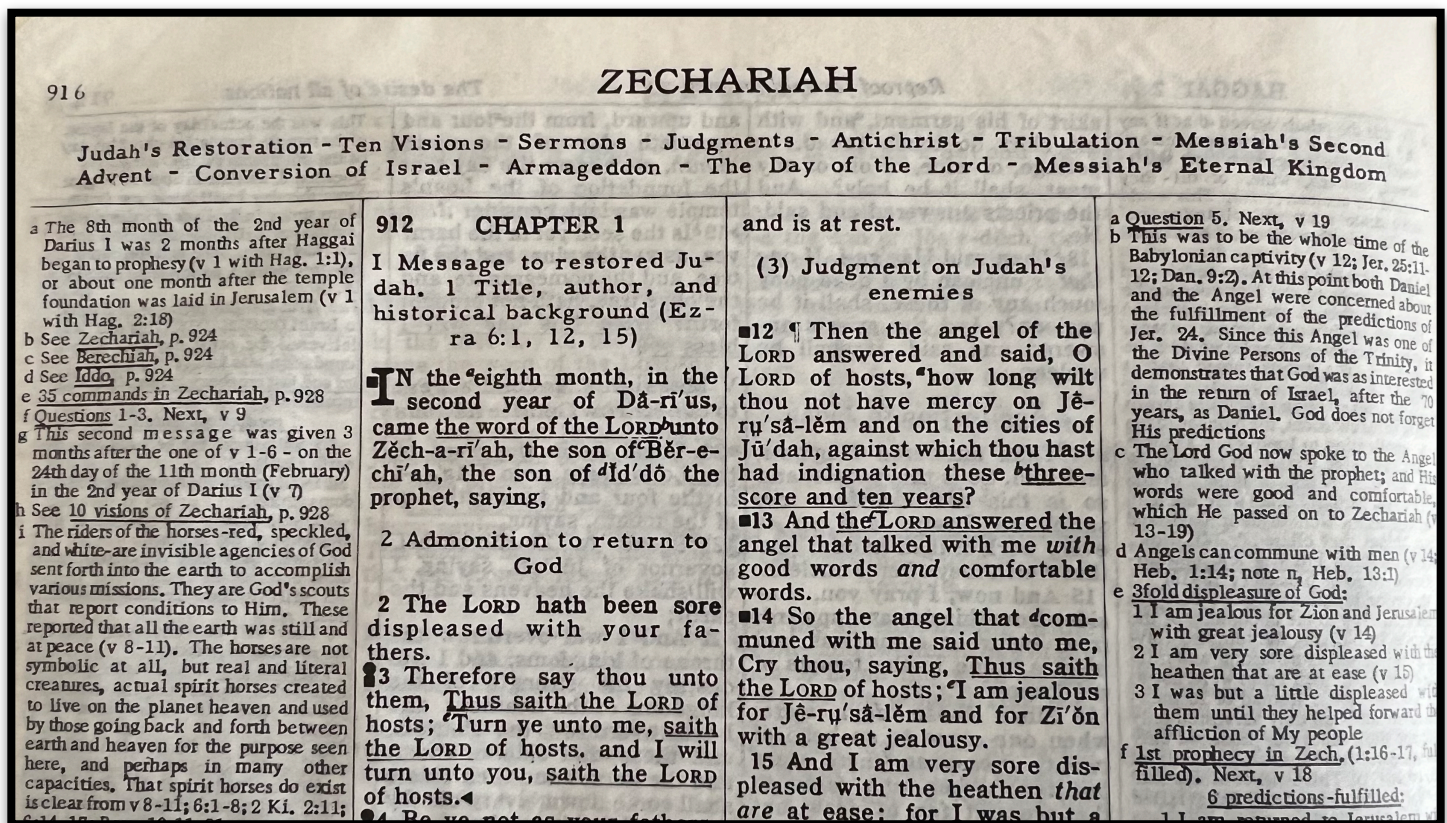
10 Accept donations and offerings from these [as representatives of the] exiles, from Heldai, from Tobijah, and from Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon; and come the same day and go to the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah.

11 Yes, take from them silver and gold, and make crowns and set [one] upon the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest,

12 And say to him, Thus says the Lord of hosts: [You, Joshua] behold (look at, keep in sight, watch) the Man [the Messiah] whose name is the Branch, for He shall grow up in His place and He shall build the [true] temple of the Lord.

13 Yes, [you are building a temple of the Lord, but] it is He Who shall build the [true] temple of the Lord, and He shall bear the honor and glory [as of the only begotten of the Father] and shall sit and rule upon His throne. And He shall be a Priest upon His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between the two [offices—Priest and King].

Below is an image from my Bible of the book of the Prophet Zechariah.



Major and Minor Prophets: Using the terms Major Prophets and Minor Prophets is simply a way to divide the Old Testament prophetic books. There are five Major Prophets: the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel. There are twelve Minor Prophets: the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The Minor Prophets are also sometimes called The Twelve.

Prophet defined by 1828 Webster's Dictionary:

- 1. One that foretells future events; a predictor; a foreteller.**
- 2. a person illuminated, inspired or instructed by God to announce future events; as Jeremiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel etc.**

A prophet who foretells, by definition is never wrong. Proven that what they have said came true.

A Prophet is NEVER WRONG!

The Major Prophets are described as “major” because those books are longer, generally speaking, and their content has broad, even more global implications. The Minor Prophets are described as “minor” because those books are shorter, for the most part, and their content is generally more narrowly focused. That does not mean the Minor Prophets are any less inspired than the Major Prophets or less important. It is simply a matter of God choosing to reveal more to some prophets than He did to others.

The Major and Minor Prophets are among the least read books of the Bible for Christians. On one level, this is understandable, as the prophets often employed symbolic language, **obscure allusions**, and harsh warnings. Their many condemnations against individuals and nations do not make for light reading.

Allusions defined:

an expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference

Note: Just like the book of Revelation, the Prophets make reference to “things” or passages in God’s Word assuming the reader or intended listen is aware of has studied the scriptures. God’s Word and the understanding of it, is built line up line and there are not short cuts to transformation without the revelation of the information.

Still, the Major and Minor Prophets should not be ignored. There is much to be learned in this portion of Scripture, and a study of the Major and Minor Prophets is certainly rewarding.

2 Timothy 3:16 AMPC

16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God’s will in thought, purpose, and action),

We read of Christ’s birth in Isaiah and Micah. We learn of Christ’s atoning sacrifice in Isaiah. We read of Christ’s return in Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah. Jonah presents the mercy of Christ, and Hosea illustrates His steadfast love. Habakkuk proclaims a truth quoted twice in the New Testament, that “the just shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11). God’s holiness, wrath, grace, and forgiveness—it’s all included in the Major and Minor Prophets.

Habakkuk 2:4 AMPC

*4 Look at the proud; his soul is not straight or right within him, but the [rigidly] **just and the [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness.***

Habakkuk 2:4 KJV

*4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but **the just shall live by his faith.***

Habakkuk 2:4 GNT

*4 And this is the message: 'Those who are evil will not survive, **but those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God.**'*

James 2:26 AMPC

26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.

Romans 1:17 AMPC

17 For in the Gospel a righteousness which God ascribes is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed through the way of faith that arouses to more faith]. As it is written, The man who through faith is just and upright shall live and shall live by faith.

Romans 1:17 KJV

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:17 GNT

17 For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is through faith from beginning to end. As the scripture says, "The person who is put right with God through faith shall live."

Just defined:

righteous; religious; influenced by a regard to the laws of God; or living in exact conformity to the divine will; Innocent; blameless; without guilt.

Justification defined:

remission of sin and absolution from guilt and punishment; or an act of free grace by which God pardons the sinner and accepts him as righteous, on account of the atonement of Christ.

Galatians 3:11 AMPC

11 Now it is evident that no person is justified (declared righteous and brought into right standing with God) through the Law, for the Scripture says, The man in right standing with God [the just, the righteous] shall live by and out of faith and he who through and by faith is declared righteous and in right standing with God shall live.

Galatians 3:11 KJV

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:11 GNT

11 Now, it is clear that no one is put right with God by means of the Law, because the scripture says, “Only the person who is put right with God through faith shall live.”

The Major and Minor Prophets should be considered essential reading for the followers of Jesus Christ or the Word. They contain “things” God wants us to know, because...

2 Peter 1:20-21 AMPC

20 [Yet] first [you must] understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of any personal or private or special interpretation (loosening, solving).

21 For no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it [to do so—it never came by human impulse], but men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21 GNT

20 Above all else, however, remember that none of us can explain by ourselves a prophecy in the Scriptures.

21 For no prophetic message ever came just from the human will, but people were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they spoke the message that came from God.

Back to the “Overview of the book of Zechariah”: The book of Zechariah is divided into two sections. The first part is filled with symbolic visions, following a general call to repentance. These eight visions are all geared toward encouraging the people in the building of the temple. Like Haggai, Zechariah emphasizes the rebuilding of the temple and the restoration of Jerusalem. The central vision portrays the coronation of Joshua, the high priest, symbolizing the Priestly King called the Branch.

Zechariah 6:11-14 AMPC

11 Yes, take from them silver and gold, and make crowns and set [one] upon the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest,

*12 And say to him, Thus says the Lord of hosts: [You, Joshua] behold (look at, keep in sight, watch) **the Man [the Messiah] whose name is the Branch**, for He shall grow up in His place and He shall build the [true] temple of the Lord.*

13 Yes, [you are building a temple of the Lord, but] it is He Who shall build the [true] temple of the Lord, and He shall bear the honor and glory [as of the only begotten of the Father] and shall sit and rule upon His throne. And He shall be a [a]Priest upon His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between the two [offices—Priest and King].

14 And the [other] crown shall be [credited] to Helem (Heldai), to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to the kindness and favor of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, and shall be in the temple of the Lord for a reminder and memorial.

The second part of Zechariah carries messianic significance...

Zechariah 9:9 AMPC

9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you; He is [uncompromisingly] just and having salvation [triumphant and victorious], patient, meek, lowly, and riding on a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Of all the minor prophets, Zechariah has the highest number of messianic prophecies, leading many to view him as a miniature Isaiah. Some scholars also view Ezekiel as a potential influence on Zechariah.

The name Zechariah, meaning “Yahweh remembers,” encapsulates the book’s main theme. Despite the past and future sin of the people, God remains faithful. Israel had paid a hefty price for their persistent rebellion, but God always remembers His promises. **His promises will ultimately be fulfilled in the Branch, Jesus Christ.**

Zechariah was a priest as well as a prophet and was a contemporary of Zerubbabel and the prophet Haggai. He lived during the time of Judah’s restoration, when the exiles had returned from Babylon and were rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, around 520 to 470 BC. Zach 1:1 says he is the son of Berekiah, the grandson of Iddo. However, Ezra 5:1 and 6:14 identify him as the son of Iddo. This is not a contradiction, as son can simply mean “descendant.”

His ministry was among those who returned from the exile and their descendants as they resettled the land. **Zechariah calls them to repentance and spiritual renewal in a time when they seemed to be despairing, spiritually apathetic, and tempted to continue some of the sins of their forefathers before the exile.**

The prophecies in the book of Zechariah cover about two years’ time, but it appears that Zechariah continued to have a ministry among the people until the temple was rebuilt, even though no prophecies are recorded from that time period (Ezra 5:1–2).

Ezra 5:1-2 AMPC

1 Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah son [grandson] of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, Whose [Spirit] was upon them.

2 Then rose up Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel [heir to the throne of Judah] and Jeshua son of Jozadak and began to build the house of God in Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of God [Haggai and Zechariah], helping them.

The Old Testament gives no indication about how Zechariah might have died. However, in Matthew 23:34–36, Jesus mentions Zechariah in His condemnation of the first-century Jewish leaders:

Matthew 23:34-36 AMPC

34 Because of this, take notice: I am sending you prophets and wise men (interpreters and teachers) and scribes (men learned in the Mosaic Law and the Prophets); some of them you will kill, even crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue and persecute from town to town,

*35 So that upon your heads may come all the blood of the righteous (those who correspond to the divine standard of right) shed on earth, **from the blood of the righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah**, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar [of burnt offering].*

36 Truly I declare to you, all these [evil, calamitous times] will come upon this generation.

Zechariah 1:1 AMPC

1 In the eighth month, in the second year [of the reign] of Darius, **came** the word of the Lord to **Zechariah son of Berechiah**, the son of Iddo, **the prophet**, saying,

The “Never Wrong” Prophet Zechariah ministered to the Jewish people, supporting their task of rebuilding the temple and challenging their spiritual condition until the temple was completed. At some time after Zerubbabel’s temple was finished, it seems that Zechariah continued to ruffle feathers until some of his hearers could take it no longer and killed him in the very temple that he had urged the people to complete.



Revelation 6:1-10 AMPC

*10 They cried in a loud voice, O [Sovereign] Lord, holy and true, how long now before You will sit in judgment and **avenge our blood upon those who dwell on the earth?***

Revelation 16:6 AMPC

*6 **Because they have poured out the blood of Your people (the saints) and the prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. Such is their due [they deserve it]!***

Revelation 6:1-10 AMPC

*1 Then I saw as the Lamb broke open one of the seven seals, and as if in a voice of thunder I heard one of the **four living creatures call out, Come!***

*2 And I looked, and saw there a **white horse** whose rider carried a bow. And a crown was given him, and he rode forth conquering and to conquer.*

3 And when He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature call out, Come!

4 And another horse came out, flaming red. And its rider was empowered to take the peace from the earth, so that men slaughtered one another; and he was given a huge sword.

5 When He broke open the third seal, I heard the third living creature call out, Come and look! And I saw, and behold, a black horse, and in his hand the rider had a pair of scales (a balance).

6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice from the midst of the four living creatures, saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius [a whole day's wages], and three quarts of barley for a denarius; but do not harm the oil and the wine!

7 When the Lamb broke open the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature call out, Come!

8 So I looked, and behold, an ashy pale horse [black and blue as if made so by bruising], and its rider's name was Death, and Hades (the realm of the dead) followed him closely. And they were given authority and power over a fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword and with famine and with plague (pestilence, disease) and with wild beasts of the earth.



9 When the Lamb broke open the fifth seal, I saw at the foot of the altar the souls of those whose lives had been sacrificed for [adhering to] the Word of God and for the testimony they had borne.

10 They cried in a loud voice, O [Sovereign] Lord, holy and true, how long now before You will sit in judgment and avenge our blood upon those who dwell on the earth?

Zechariah 6:1-5 KJV

1 And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came **four chariots** out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass.

2 **In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses;**

3 **And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses.**

4 Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord?

5 And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, **which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.**



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