

Zechariah

The Twelve Minor Prophets · Biblical Prophets

Zechariah, a priest and prophet contemporary with Haggai, received his first oracle in 520 BC and continued prophesying into the early fifth century.

Note: Zechariah's book contains the most Messianic prophecies of any minor prophet. The eight night visions (chapters 1-6) include: the horsemen among myrtles, four horns and four craftsmen, the man with a measuring line, Joshua the high priest cleansed, the golden lampstand and olive trees, the flying scroll, the woman in the ephah, and the four chariots. The stark stylistic shift between chapters 1-8 (dated, specific, hopeful) and 9-14 (undated, apocalyptic, depicting conflict) has led some scholars to propose multiple authorship, though conservative scholarship maintains unity. Dead Sea Scroll evidence and New Testament citations (attributing 11:12-13 and 12:10 to 'Zechariah the prophet') support single authorship.

His book divides into two distinct sections: chapters 1-8 contain eight night visions and prophetic oracles encouraging the temple rebuilders, while chapters 9-14 present apocalyptic prophecies of Messiah's coming and Israel's ultimate restoration.

Zechariah's Messianic prophecies are remarkably detailed and frequently quoted in the New Testament: the Branch who is both priest and king, the king entering Jerusalem 'lowly, and riding upon an ass,' the thirty pieces of silver cast to the potter in the LORD's house, the pierced one upon whom Israel shall look and mourn, the smitten shepherd whose sheep scatter, living waters flowing from Jerusalem, and the LORD becoming king over all the earth.

The New Testament applies these prophecies to Christ's triumphal entry, Judas's betrayal, the crucifixion, and the Second Coming. More than any other prophet, Zechariah bridges the testaments, his visions illuminating Christ's work in both advents.

Key Verses

Zechariah 4:6

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son.

Zechariah 13:7

Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Zechariah 14:9

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.