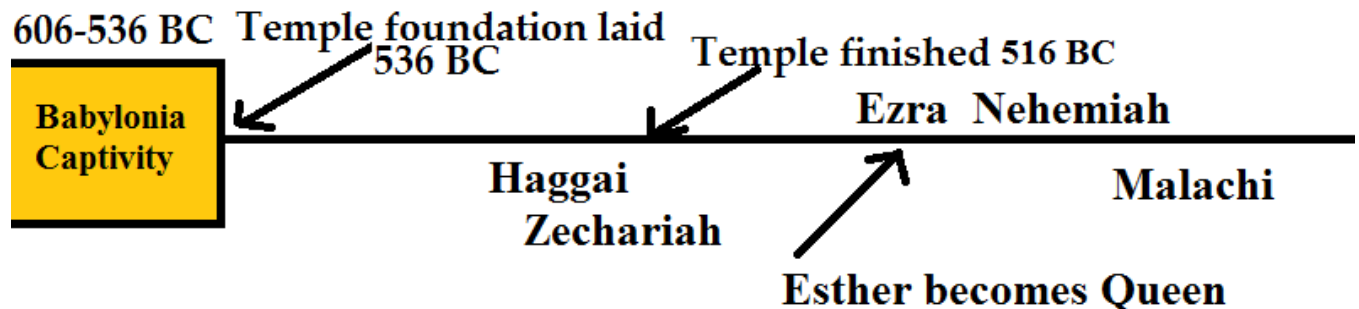




Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

Course Text: Zechariah

The prophet Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai, and started his work about four months after Haggai. These two prophets were working during the same period of time, Haggai presenting the facts, and Zechariah presenting the vision of hope and direction for the future of the Jewish people. This book is very much like our book of Revelation, and has much information that compares with the book of Revelation. While this book is full of symbols and visions of the events to come, in this study we will not try to search all the meanings or times as that would require a much more detailed study. We will simply try to see the general picture and the vision of hope that is probably the primary purpose for the book anyway.



This book, like the book of Haggai begins with a precise statement of time, so we know with great accuracy the events surrounding this work. Perhaps the most important lesson of the whole book is 'the word of the Lord came'. The concept is the most repeated declaration of the book. The first six chapters consist of a group of visions that are word pictures showing God involved with his people. I will not try to make a list of these, but we will seek to emphasize that in each the power and authority of the Lord is always taught. The Lord promises to again make the streets flow with milk and honey. Man is also directed to be still and provide pure worship to Jehovah.

Read Zechariah and answer the questions on the following pages.

Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on the page 9. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Zechariah.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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ZECHARIAH Chapters 1 to 5

Please read Zechariah Chapters 1 through 5 and answer these questions:

Chapter 1 - Call to Repentance * Horses in the Myrtle Trees * Four Horns * Four Craftsmen

[1A] How long did the prophets live? _____

[1B] What was the purpose of the horsemen? _____

Chapter 2 – God's Favor to Zion * A Surveyor with a Measuring Line

[2A] Where was the man with the measuring line going? _____

[2B] Who is to be silent when the Lord is aroused? _____

Chapter 3 – Joshua, the High Priest's Garments * The Branch

This chapter states that obedience is to be required of those to whom the Lord will give the government.

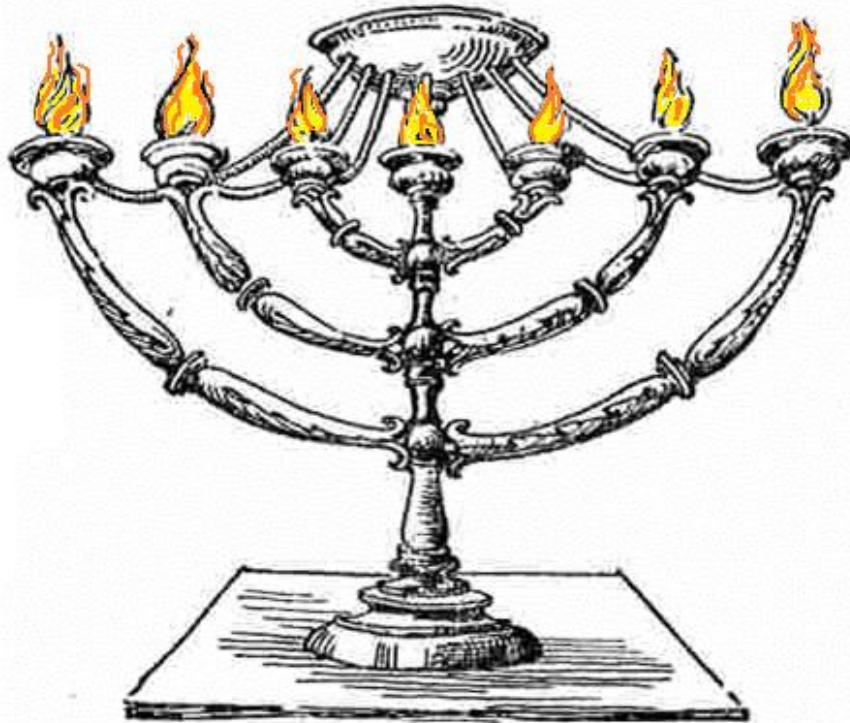
[3A] Who accused Joshua? _____

[3B] What promise does the Lord write on a stone? _____

Chapter 4 – Golden Lamp Stand * Two Olive Trees * Great Mountain * Stone of Grace

[4A] How many lamps were in the lamp stand? _____

[4B] Who would finish the house he started? _____



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Chapter 5 – The Flying Scroll * The Woman and the Basket (Ephah = Bushel Basket)

In the latter part of the 5th chapter we see a great evil being sent to rest in Babylon.

[5A] What was a curse going out over the face of the whole land? _____

[5B] What was inside the Ephah, that is to say, the basket? _____

ZECHARIAH Chapters 1 to 5

[1A] How long did the prophets live? Not forever Zc 1:5

[1B] What was the purpose of the horsemen? To patrol the earth Zc 1:10

[2A] Where was the man with the measuring line going? To measure Jerusalem Zc 2:1-2

[2B] Who is to be silent when the Lord is aroused? Every living thing Zc 2:13

[3A] Who accused Joshua? Satan Zc 3:1

[3B] What promise does the Lord write on a stone? To remove our sin Zc 3:9 iniquity = sin

[4A] How many lamps were in the lamp stand? Seven Zc 4:2

[4B] Who would finish the house he started? Zerubbabel Zc 4:9

[5A] What was a curse going out over the face of the whole land The flying scroll Zc 5:1-3

[5B] What was inside the Ephah, that is to say, the basket? A woman Zc 5:8 (Ephah = Bushel Basket)



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Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and roused me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep. He said to me, “What do you see?”

Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.

ZECHARIAH Chapters 6 to 9

Please read Zechariah Chapters 6 through 9 and answer these questions:

Chapter 6 – Four Chariots * Crowning of Joshua

[6A] What were the four chariots representing? _____

[6B] What was the requirement for people far off to come and build the temple of the Lord?

Chapter 7 – Hearts like Flint - The Question of Fasting

Chapter 7 is one of the most teachable lessons explaining the goals of righteousness that God has for man. The emphasis is justice and mercy instead of feasting and fasting. Please read Zechariah Chapter 7 and answer these questions:

There are four commandments listed as having come from the former prophets. What are they?

(7A) _____

(7B) _____

(7C) _____

(7D) _____

How did God's people respond to these four commandments?

(7E) _____

(7F) _____

(7G) _____

(7H) _____

Chapter 8 – From a Curse to a Blessing * Peace & Prosperity of Zion *Gentiles Seek the Lord

Chapter 8 continues with the emphasis of speaking the truth to one another, and promises that the Lord will be present and bless his people.

[8A] What will Jerusalem come to be called? _____

[8B] From where will God save His people? _____

Chapter 9 – Enemies of Israel * Messiah of Power * Messiah of Humility

Chapter 9 thru the end of the book is a selection of Messianic prophecies that speaks in visions of the time when Jesus will come, and the power and wonder of that time. The word pictures seem to be intended to show us those times thru the eyes of the Lord. In this way we may learn much about the wonder and purpose of the time, yet the visions may not be readily interpreted through our eyes. This section of the book can be a tremendous encouragement for us to be faithful to the Lord, yet if we try to build doctrines from it we may only create problems.

[9A] What did Tyre have plenty of? _____

[9B] What will God do for the flock of His people who are sparkling like jewels in a crown?

ZECHARIAH Chapters 6 to 9

[6A] What were the four chariots representing? The four spirits of heaven Zc 6:5

[6B] What was the requirement for people far off to come and build the temple of the Lord?

Complete obedience to God Zc 6:15

(7A) Dispense true justice. Zc 7:9

(7B) Practice kindness and compassion each to his brother. Zc 7:9

(7C) Do not oppress the widow of the orphan. Zc 7:10

(7D) Do not plan evil in your hearts against one another. Zc 7:10

(7E) Refused to pay attention Zc 7:11

(7F) Turned a stubborn shoulder Zc 7:11

(7G) Stopped their ears from hearing Zc 7:11

(7H) Made their hearts like flint Zc 7:12

[8A] What will Jerusalem come to be called? City of Truth Zc 8:3

[8B] From where will God save His people? The east and the west Zc 8:7

[9A] What did Tyre have plenty of? Gold and silver Zc 9:3

[9B] What will God do for the flock of His people who are sparkling like jewels in a crown?

Save them Zc 9:16



THE VISION OF THE FOUR CHARIOTS

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. (Zechariah 6:5) (63)

ZECHARIAH Chapters 10 to 14

Please read Zechariah Chapter XX and answer these questions:

Chapter 10 – Messiah, the Shepherd

[10A] Where does each the rain come from? _____

[10B] Why did the people wander like lost sheep? _____

Chapter 11 – The Messiah Rejected, the Staffs Broken, the Flock Slaughtered and Scattered

[11A] What happened to the forests of Lebanon and Bashan? _____

[11B] What were the names of the two staffs which were cut in pieces? _____

Chapter 12 – The Nations Judged and Cleansed * The Pierced One

[12A] What was to be made into a cup? _____

[12B] In the day of the Lord what will happen to all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Chapter 13 – Scattered Sheep * Idolatry Ends * False Prophecy Ends

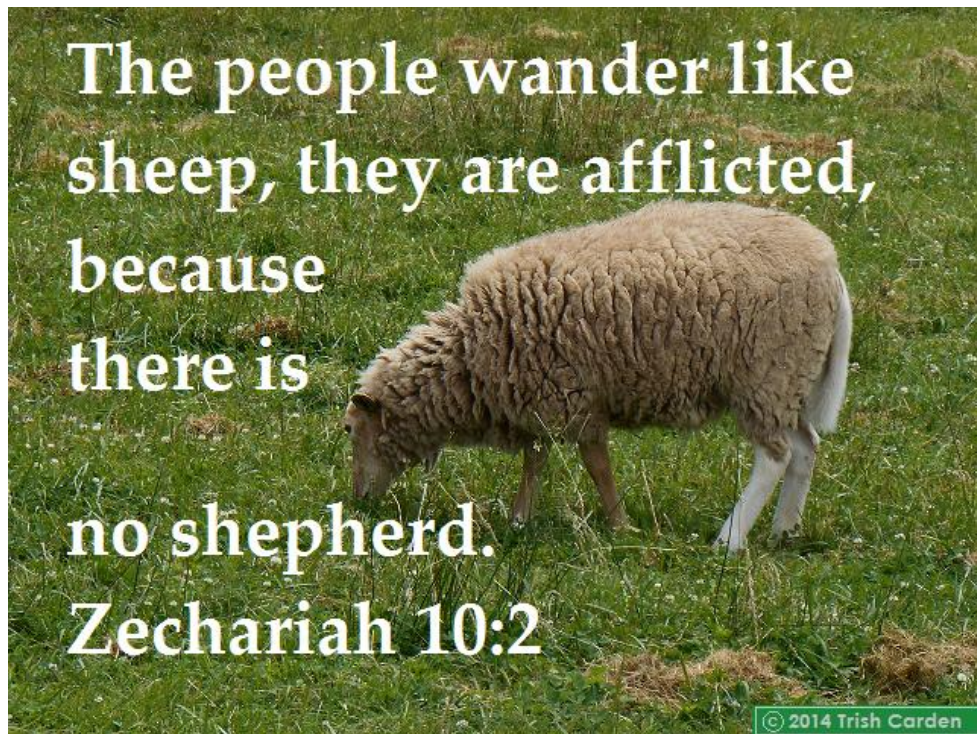
[13A] What will no longer be remembered? _____

[13B] What will happen after His people are tested and refined by the fire? _____

Chapter 14 – The Messiah's Kingdom

[14A] What is going to happen to the Mount of Olives? _____

[14B] What will be written on the horse's bells? _____



ZECHARIAH Chapters 10 to 14

[10A] Where does each the rain come from? God gives it Zc 10:1

[10B] Why did the people wander like lost sheep?

Because the shepherds (leaders) did not do their jobs. Zc 10:2-3



[11A] What happened to the forests of Lebanon and Bashan? They were destroyed Zc 11:1-2

[11B] What were the names of the two staffs which were cut in pieces. Favor & Union Zc 11:7, 10, 14

[12A] What was to be made into a cup? Jerusalem Zc 12:2

[12B] In the day of the Lord what will happen to all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

They will be destroyed. Zc 12:9

[13A] What will no longer be remembered? The names of the idols Zc 13:2

[13B] What will happen after His people are tested and refined by the fire?

They will say, "The Lord is my God." Zc 13:9



[14A] What is going to happen to the Mount of Olives? It will be split in two parts Zc 14:4

[14B] What will be written on the horse's bells? Holy to the Lord Zc 14:20

(1) Read Zechariah 7:9-12. There are four commandments listed and four responses. Which of these commandments do you find it most difficult to obey? Why?

Think & Pray _____

(2) Zechariah 8:6 asks the question, "Will it also be too difficult in My sight?" What problems do you have that are too difficult for God?

Think & Pray _____

(3) Compare Matthew 27:3-10 with Zechariah 11:12-13. Do you think Zechariah is a prophecy fulfilled in Matthew, a foreshadowing or type of what happened in Matthew, or that the two passages are unrelated? Why?

Think & Pray _____

(4) How would you describe Zechariah to someone who has not read it?

Think & Pray _____

(5) What did you learn while reading Zechariah that you might apply to your own life?

Think & Pray _____

(6) What questions do you have for your classmates?

Think & Pray _____

(Question 1) **FOUR COMMANDS – FOUR RESPONSES:**

I see the 4 commands as these:

- I. Dispense true justice
- II. Practice kindness and compassion each to his brother
- III. Do not oppress he widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor
- IV. Do not devise evil in your hearts against one another

I see the 4 responses as theses:

- I. Refused to pay attention
- II. Turned a stubborn shoulder
- III. Stopped their ears from hearing
- IV. Made their hearts like flint

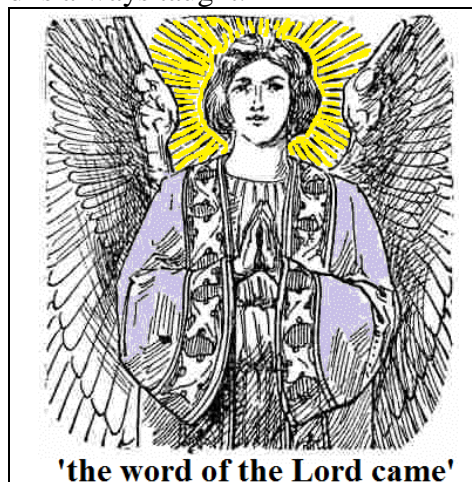
For me I see evil around me and start planning to "dispense true justice" but I'm too lazy or busy to actually do anything, and it degenerates into "devising evil in my heart" against them. I hope I am better about this than I used to be, but I still have a long way to go.

(2) **TOO DIFFICULT FOR GOD:** It is kind of a trick question. We all know very well that nothing is too difficult for God, but like Peter walking on the water, we often pay too much attention to our circumstances and not enough to our Savior. The question is designed to make us stop and think about that for a minute.

(3) **ZECHARIAH AND MATTHEW:** At first glance it seems they must be related because Matthew is quoting Zechariah, but then when you look closer the quote is attributed to Jeremiah, not Zechariah. What is going on here? Well, there are several possibilities. Perhaps Matthew didn't correctly recall which prophet it was, but that seems very unlikely. In the Greek the difference between Jeremiah and Zechariah is small; so it could have been a copyist error early on. Some scholars believe Matthew was originally written in Hebrew, where the difference in the names is even less, and then translated into Greek. For some, such minor problems in the text of the Bible is a major problem to their faith. For me, it confirms the Bible. The copyists who transmitted the Bible forward in time are sometimes accused by unbelievers of having changed things to make the Bible consistent or to make it appear as if prophecies have been fulfilled. Little minor discrepancies like this; which have nothing to do with any doctrine; show that the copyists did a faithful and honest job, otherwise they would have "fixed" this little problem long ago. The Bible is remarkably consistent and accurate.

(4) **Zechariah Summary:** Our hope for the future should rest in Him. We are also directed to be still and provide pure worship to Jehovah. If we will be still and wait on Him, His word will come to us..

(5) **Life Application:** The prophet Zechariah presents a vision of hope and direction for the future of the Jewish people. This book is very much like our book of Revelation, and has much information that compares with the book of Revelation. Perhaps the most important lesson of the whole book is 'the word of the Lord came'. The concept is the most repeated declaration of the book. Throughout the book the power and authority of the Lord is always taught.



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