

Zechariah

Visions of Victory, Call for Justice,
Oracles of Coming Kingdom

Introduction

Zechariah: זְכַרְיָה, 'YHWH remembers'

Date: late 5th c. B.C. (520-518, ch. 1-8)

Setting: Post-exile (cf. Ezra 5-6)

Theme: Visions of Victory (1-6), Call for Justice (7-8)

Oracles of a Coming Kingdom (9-14)

Message: YHWH will restore His people, rescuing them from their enemies and redeeming them from sin!

Visions of Victory (1-6)

Call: 'Return to Me, and I will return to you' (1:1-6)

Returned to land but not to YHWH (Joel 2:12, Mal. 3:7)

Learn from ancestors: repent –restored, rebel –ruin!

Visions of Victory (1-6)

YHWH will rebuild the Second Temple (1:7-17)

YHWH will repay the enemies who scattered Judah (1:18-21)

Judeans return to Jerusalem from Babylon, nations (2)

Joshua cleansed/commissioned to serve until Branch (3)

Zerubbabel commissioned to rebuild the Temple (4)

Judeans (sin/sinners) returned to Babylon (5)

YHWH will bring peace (repay enemies) upon earth (6:1-8)

The Branch (Joshua) will rebuild the temple (6:9-15)

Bock, Bateman, Johnston, *Jesus the Messiah*, 192

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#1 Rebuild: 'I saw a man riding a red horse' (1:7-17)

Patrol (horsemen) finds earth at rest (no activity, Zion in ruins). Angel asks how long no mercy? YHWH stresses His love for Zion, His plan to restore temple (Ezra) and city (Nehemiah).

Visions of Victory (1-6)

#2 Repay: 'The horns that scattered Judah' (1:18-21)

Horns symbolize power of nations responsible for the exile(s), craftsmen are agents of divine destruction

#3 Return: 'I saw a man with measuring line' (2)

Zion will be w/o walls (multitude), YHWH will protect, dwell in her (3x, Exodus); plunderer will be plundered; many nations will be drawn into God's people

Visions of Victory (1-6)

#4 Commission: 'I saw Joshua, Satan accusing him' (3)

Like a stick plucked from fire, YHWH cleansed Joshua (clothes), commissioned him to serve as a sign of better days - coming of Branch (shift!), purity & prosperity.

#5 Commission: 'Two olive trees by the lampstand' (4)

YHWH commissions His anointed ones (Zerubbabel) to finish temple by His Spirit (not human strength)

Visions of Victory (1-6)

#6-7 Return: 'flying scroll, woman in a basket' (5)

*With scroll, YHWH promises judgment. Thieves and those who swear falsely (Decalogue) would be banished!
Lesson — post-exilic remnant must also obey Law!*

*With woman in a basket, Judah's sin is personified.
The basket is flown to Babylon, warning remnant that continued disobedience would result in a return to exile!*

Visions of Victory (1-6)

#8 Repay: 'Brought My spirit rest/satisfied My anger' (6)

YHWH sends out divine agents (chariots) throughout earth to establish peace by repaying enemies (cf. Eccl. 10:4).

Rebuild: 'Make a crown, set it on Joshua's head' (6:9-15)

YHWH commands crowning Joshua (symbolic, 3:5, Jer. 33), to rule, oversee temple building, combines king/priest!

Typology implied, already (Joshua), not yet (Messiah, 12).

Summary

With visions of victory, YHWH promised to rebuild the temple through His instruments, Joshua and Zerubbabel. He will destroy those who scattered Judah, bring back the remaining exiles & banish sinners from Judah (1-6).