

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)

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

Call for Justice (7-8)

- A. Messengers from Bethel come to entreat favor of YHWH (7:1-3)
- B. YHWH denounces meaningless fasts (7:4-7)
- C. YHWH's priority is social justice (7:8-10)
- D. YHWH sent His people into exile (7:12-14)
- E. YHWH will restore Jerusalem (8:1-3)
- F. YHWH will bless the remnant (8:4-6)
- D' YHWH will bring back the exiles (8:7-8)
- F' YHWH will bless the remnant (8:9-13)
- E' YHWH will restore Jerusalem (8:14-15)
- C' YHWH's priority is social justice (8:16-17)
- B' YHWH will reverse fasts into feasts of joy (8:18-19)
- A' Many nations will come to entreat favor of YHWH (8:20-23)

Oracles of Coming Kingdom (9-11, 12-14)

Restoration: 'King is coming, He'll speak peace' (9-10)

(1) Enemies defeated, land secured, 9:1-8

(2) Israel's king arrives (after defeat), 9:9-10

(3) Exiles delivered, 9:11-12, 10:8-11:3

(4) Enemies defeated, 9:13-15, 10:3c-7

(5) Blessing restored, 9:16-10:3b

Covenant
Blessings

Rejected: 'Their shepherds have no pity on them' (11)

**Shepherds denounced, prophet as shepherd-detested,
people given over, worthless shepherd, pre- or post-exilic?

Oracles of Coming Kingdom (9-11, 12-14)

Repel: 'I'll destroy all coming against Jerusalem' (12:1-9)

Creator intervenes! Zion will be an intoxicating drink, immovable rock, Judah will be a devouring fire – YHWH will deliver her from all her enemies!

Return: 'They will call on Me, I'll answer them' (12:10-13:9)

YHWH prompts repentance, removes idols, false prophets

Rule: 'Then YHWH my God will come with His holy ones' (14)

Initial defeat, conqueror comes, worldwide rule, worship

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). Confirming His plans for restoration, He renews His call for social justice, not empty rituals (7-8). In the two concluding oracles (9-14), God speaks of Zion's initial suffering yet tells of a coming conqueror who will deliver her. YHWH will purify Jerusalem, drawing all people to worship Him there!